

Sewickley Township JPG Park

Westmoreland County, PA

Project Description:



In the spring of 2001, several members of a small village of Lowber, located within Sewickley Township, began to discuss and recognize the need to provide recreational opportunities to the residents that lived in the close knit village. Working with the township supervisors and a local business, plans began to renovate and improve the veteran's wall and design and develop a playground area and passive area for the community to enjoy.

Through the leadership and commitment of at the time Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Sewickley Township and an employ of Basic Carbide, the project began to develop. The township received an offer of land donation from Basic Carbide to assist with the development of the playground area. In 2001, the township applied to DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program for assistance with the project. The township planned to utilize the land donation as a match to the project. This was very important to the project because Lowber is primarily an older population of low to moderate income. So having a local business donate the land was very important to allow them to leverage actual dollars to purchase and install playground equipment.

This project evolved into truly a community project. Approximately 20 residents volunteered their time to develop and build the playground area. The township workers also did extensive labor for the project. Bankson Engineers donated their professional services to design the project. Additionally, the community was able to raise approximately \$5,000 in cash donations toward the project. With all these in-kind, volunteer, professional services and cash donations in place, the township was awarded a DCNR

Keystone grant of \$ 47,000 in 2002 and an additional \$5,000 was amended to the contract in 2003.

"This truly was a community effort. We can not thank DCNR enough for their partnership to make this happen and specifically, I Thank you Kathy for believing in us, the community and the project. Without your and DCNR support this never would have happened. It is amazing how everyone pitched in and did there part. It was a group working together for a common goal. Thanks, also needs to go to the Executives at Basic Carbide for their donation of the land and commitment to providing recreational opportunities to the community. People come from all over Westmoreland County to use the playground or just sit and relax, because is it a safe, clean place to be."

*Jared Filapose, Past Chairman,
 Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors*



The community began the project in April 2004 with the land, which is approximately 0.46 acres, being donated to the township from Basic Carbide. The appraised value of the land was \$34,000. Over the next month they organized themselves and coordinated the purchase and construction of the playground. The project was built within two days, two rainy days. It was a community effort, everyone did their part.

People come from all over Westmoreland County because of the quality of the equipment at the site. Young people come to play and the older folks come to sit and relax and enjoy their day. When the project was



nearly complete the county recognized the project and contributed \$24,000 to provide safety fencing. This public/private partnership did not end after the

construction of the site. To this day the employs at Basic Carbine empty the garbage and make sure the site is clean.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

2002-2003 : \$47,500 Keystone funding

2003-2004 : \$ 5,000 Keystone funding

Matching Funds: Basic Carbine- land donation- (\$34,000)
Bankson Engineers, Inc. -(\$ 2,720.00
In-kind services - (\$ 3,624.00)
Volunteer services - (\$ 2,110.00)
Cash donations- (\$ 5,000)
County of Westmoreland (\$24,000)