



Brownsburg Park
Upper Makefield Township

Bucks County, PA

Project Description:

Upper Makefield Township, located near both Interstate 95 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Bucks County, has long been feeling intense development pressures and subsequent recreational needs. According to the 2000 Census, the township's population increased by over 20 percent in one decade. Escalating development pressures caused the township to locate temporary soccer fields at the state's Washington Crossing Park and to create multi-use flat-field sports, including fields for softball, lacrosse and soccer.

Following a Township Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan update in 1998, the township received a grant from DCNR to develop a master site plan for Brownsburg Park, the #1 priority recreation location identified in the township's Plan. The Master Site Plan recommended the development of soccer fields, lacrosse field, pavilion, basketball courts, trail system, loop road, wetland infiltration basin, tennis courts and tot lot on the 37.6 acre township park property located along the Delaware River.

Installing fields at the township's Brownsburg riverfront park became especially urgent when the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission indicated to the Township that Washington Crossing Historic Park could no longer be used to house the temporary soccer fields after 2004. This meant that

soccer fields needed to be constructed in a new location within a short transition time period.

A partnership between business, community volunteers and sports leagues and adjacent municipalities contributed to the request to DCNR for funds to construct new fields at Brownsburg Park. Upper Makefield Township agreed to contribute \$738,000; Pulte Homes donated \$225,000 for paving in the Park; Rock Hill Builders contributed \$31,500 for a new field; the Upper Makefield Girls Softball League, Upper Makefield Boys Baseball League and Upper Makefield Boys Soccer League all participated in the planning for the new park and agreed to provide significant volunteer time for

seasonal field maintenance. Newtown Township, Newtown Borough and the Council Rock School District supported the project which would offer facilities and accessibility for their residents and children.

A DCNR Keystone grant of \$200,000 was awarded to support construction of the top priority Phase I of the Brownsburg Park Master Plan, which included six multi-use fields and connecting loop road. Plans are to develop the remaining facilities in Phase II of the park's development.



"The township was very excited to open Brownsburg Park this spring for soccer and lacrosse play. We have plans to have a pavilion with snack stand, covered picnic area and restrooms as well as an innovatively designed playground completed for next spring. This will be a true community park for all residents to enjoy. We are grateful to DCNR for the grant money that helped make Brownsburg Park possible."

Sue Marvel, Upper Makefield Township Parks and Recreation Board Chair



Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

- 2004: \$200,000 Keystone funding
- Matching funds - \$1,081,500
 - Upper Makefield Township - \$825,000
 - Pulte Homes - \$225,000
 - Rock Hill Builders - \$31,500