

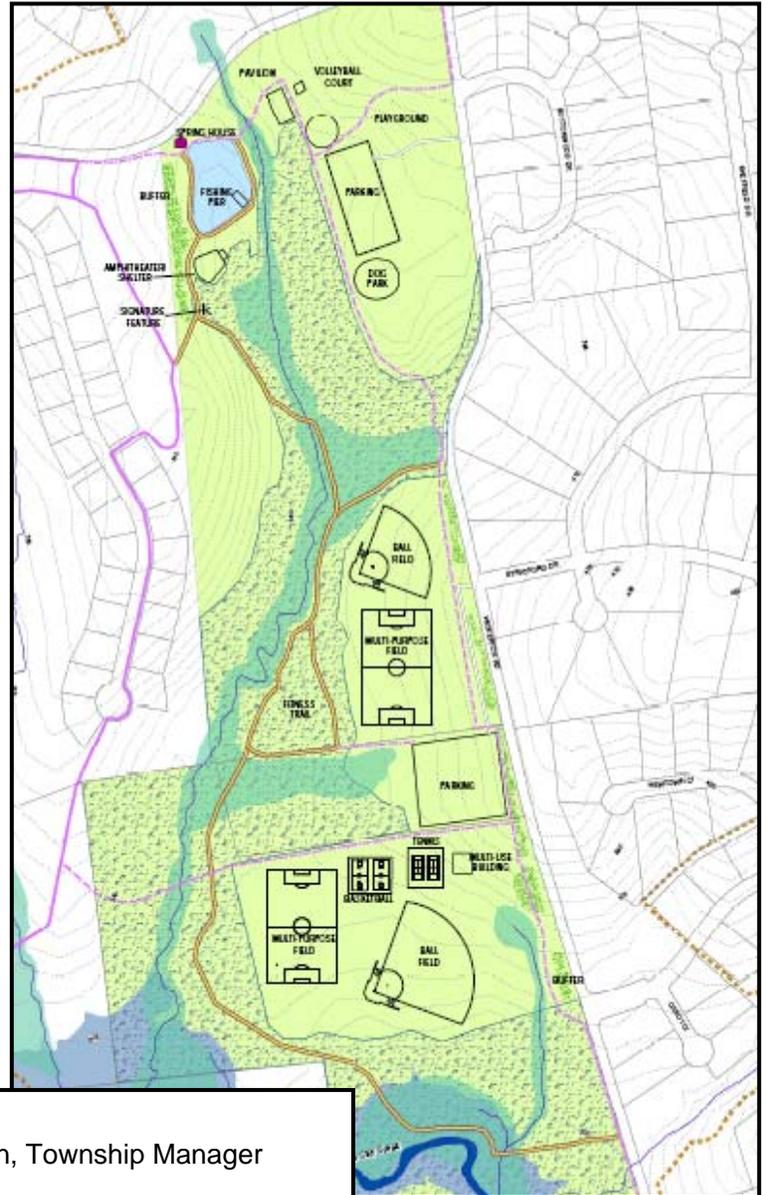
London Grove Township Community Park
London Grove Township
Chester County, PA

Project Description:

By acquiring three adjacent land parcels totaling 86 acres, London Grove is addressing its need for a community park. The park, recommended in the 1992 Open Space Plan, will become a major destination among an interconnected trail network that is also being planned. London Grove Township has experienced a population increase of almost 70 percent in the last decade, with new families with children making up the majority of the rise. This has accentuated the need for a park, and with the acquisition of a large amount of land, it was the opportune time for the Township to plan a sizeable park. The park will also address an environmental need, as the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek will flow through the park. This creek was recently designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System, but was also noted as having 77 percent of its waters considered as “stressed”. The park will help protect this creek from becoming further strained.

With a \$35,000 planning grant from DCNR, matched equally by Township funds, London Grove Township undertook a Master Site Plan for the 86-acre park. Two baseball fields, two multipurpose fields, tennis and basketball courts, an amphitheatre, a multipurpose building, and trails are laid out in the plan. Not only will the park feature brand new facilities, but they will be built so as to make a minimal impact on the area. They will be building around the bog turtle habitats, a designated PNDI site, and using state of the art stormwater management practices.

On the buildings themselves they are actively trying to make them self sufficient in terms of energy use, and using recycled wood (i.e. from an old barn) to make park benches. The township also acquired a 40 acre parcel directly to the south of the park, and plans on adding it to the park but kept in its natural state. This allows passive recreation by users via a



Quote: Steven Brown, Township Manager

“The community is very excited about the park as it will be our first. We want it to be a feature in the Township that has something for everyone to enjoy.”

trail that will run along its eastern edge.

As expected, the plan garnered much support from the local community,

who were actively engaged in the planning process. As one homeowner put it, “the park will be of such benefit to so many of our mothers, fathers, and children.”

Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2005: \$35,000 Keystone Grant
 Matching Funds: \$35,000 - London Grove Township