

Outreach and Public Relations:

- Assisted with the publication of two "Guideposts," the Bureau's main marketing piece, which was distributed to over 60,000 households via the *Tribune-Review*.
- Overall park programs continue to attract very large numbers of County residents. Attendance at all park special events was near event capacities. Large special events such as Super Fun Day at Mammoth, the Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland, the August Fun Fest at Cedar Creek Park and the Arts and Heritage festival at Twin Lakes all attracted between 7,500 and 20,000 people per day. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has concentrated on developing family-oriented, low-cost events that offer a wide range of attractions for various age groups and the residents of the County have responded by attending in ever-increasing numbers.

Acquisition:

- Acquired the forty-five acre Dillon Tract on the west side of Twin Lakes Park to serve as a buffer area for the active recreation facilities being developed in 2007 and to provide land to allow for the future recreation needs of County residents. A survey and field marking of the property was conducted to clearly mark the boundaries of this new addition.

Park and Trail Improvements:

- Replaced the restrooms at Pavilion's 1 and 2 in both Twin Lakes and Cedar Creek Parks with new state of the art accessible units with technology that evaporates 75% of the waste into the air and removes the odor from the facility. This project was funded by a Community Development Block grant in the amount of \$140,000.
- GAI Consultants completed the design plans and specifications for the extension of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail from Delmont to Saltsburg, a distance of nine miles. The plans, specifications, and bid documents are now being reviewed by PENNDOT in anticipation of going out to bid on the Saltsburg to Slickville section of this project in December for construction in 2007.
- Two bridges were constructed on the Coal and Coke Trail, which connects Mount Pleasant and Scottsdale. The materials for this project were funded by a PENNDOT Transportation Enhancements Grant in the amount of \$50,000. The design was donated by a local engineer. Coal and Coke Trail Chapter volunteers combined with County work crews to construct the bridges. Our partners in this project are the Regional Trail Corporation, East Huntington and Mount Pleasant Townships, and Mount Pleasant and Scottsdale Boroughs.
- The Coal and Coke Trail was also fine graded and rolled and the edges were trimmed back in preparation for trail construction. Design plans and specifications for the trail were prepared by Mackin Engineering Company and bid advertisements were conducted in October. This phase of work will take place over the winter and conclude next May and will include drainage improvements, two major road

crossings, and several sections of the trail. The final surfacing of the old rail corridor with crushed limestone is scheduled for summer 2007 with Township and Borough work crews providing the labor and equipment and the material purchase being funded by a Growing Greener II allocation from the Westmoreland County Commissioners.

- J.T. Sauer and Associates was hired in May to complete the plans and specifications for the Twin Lakes Park Expansion project. Plans are now nearing completion with the expectation that the project will be put out to bid in December in preparation for construction in 2007.
 - SITE Design Group, Inc., located in Tempe, Arizona was hired in June to complete the plans and specifications for the Twin Lakes Park Skate Park. SITE specializes in skate park planning and has designed over 160 parks throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Plans are now nearing completion as we prepare for 2007 construction.
 - Worked with students from the Yough and Belle Vernon School Districts to add an Adirondack shelter and signing to the Trekker Campsite located at Cedar Creek Park along the Great Allegheny Passage bicycle trail. This shelter has been a huge hit with trail users, as they no longer need to erect a tent at the site.
 - Installed safety curbing and hardwood mulch at a number of playgrounds throughout the system to reduce the risk of injuries and assist with more efficient maintenance.
 - Installed 2,800' of gas line to connect the Cedar Creek Maintenance Building to a park gas well thus providing free gas and reducing operating costs.
 - Constructed a bike storage building to complement the rental facilities and concession at Cedar Creek Park.
 - Partnered with PENNDOT to install an eight-acre wetland mitigation area at Bridgeport Dam that will include opportunities for education and interpretation.
- Staff Changes:**
- Bert Graham was hired by the Citizens Advisory Board to assist with the annual March for Parks and Green Luncheons.

Westmoreland County Commissioners

Tom Balya, Chair; Tom Ceraso; Phil Light

Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board

Dr. Edward Lewis, Chair	Angela Rose-O'Brien
Jeanne Ashley	Kris Samloff
Barbara Ferrier, Ph.D.	Dr. Nick Senuta
John Framel	Randy Stas
David Hawk	Patty Sutherland
Nancy Kukovich	John Ward, Esq.
Marty Mateer McGuire	



Citizens Advisory Board

2006 Annual Report



Skate Park Illustration by Rogo

2006 Highlights of CAB Accomplishments

Internal Administration:

- Hired Delisi and Associates P.C. to conduct a general audit of all Citizens Advisory Board funds for the years 2004 and 2005 and to make recommendations on the improvement of our internal bookkeeping and tracking system. The auditors found all our books and accounts to be in order and issued an unqualified opinion.
- The Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board was incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania.
- CAB is planning a "Mother's Grotto" in one of our county parks to memorialize the role mothers have played in our County. People will be able to purchase an inscription of their mother's name on the monument. The Grotto will capitalize on the natural beauty of our parks and offer a little retreat center for reflection.
- CAB partnered with the Smart Growth Partnership, County Planning, and the PA DCNR to coordinate and advise the preparation of the Westmoreland County Greenways Plan. Environmental Planning and Design Consultants was hired to lead the project and the first draft is now being prepared for public presentation and comment which is being scheduled for November. The plan will be completed and adopted by the spring of 2007.

Endowment Activity:

- A goal was set to raise a total of \$750,000 for the Twin Lakes Park Expansion Phase I - Regional Skate Park and Amenities and to raise another \$260,000 for the purchase of the Dillon Tract. Both of these goals have now been attained thanks to the support of a large number of foundations, businesses and individuals as well as State, Federal and County governments.
- Continued the growth of the "March For Parks" with the 2006 event grossing over \$37,000 in revenues and netting over \$33,000 after expenses. Planning is now underway for the 2007 event which is scheduled for March 31.
- The Westmoreland Street Park Alliance, formed in the spring of 2005 to assist with the planning and fund raising for the Regional Skate Park, hosted a variety of fundraising events throughout the year. They have now raised over \$16,000 toward their pledge of \$20,000 for the skate park project.
- Continued board and staff solicitations to bring total board and staff gifts to over \$25,000.00.
- Petitioned for and received a 2006 grant of \$2,108 from the PA Partners in the Arts program to support 2006 Music in the Parks programs (Concert Series, Super Fun Day, August Fun Fest).
- Requested and received a \$60,000 grant for trail construction and planning from the Westmoreland County Commissioners Growing Greener II Allocation.

- Submitted a grant application to the PA DCNR in support of the Twin Lakes Park Expansion Phase II in the amount of \$325,000. Phase II includes a winter sports area, pavilions, playgrounds, an addition to the skate park, multi-purpose fields and additional roadway and parking areas.
- Revised our PA DCNR grant for land acquisition to add \$50,000 in Growing Greener 2 funds to our \$67,500 grant and revised the purpose to purchase the Dillon Tract on the west side of Twin Lakes Park.
- Applied for and received matching funds for the Twin Lakes Park Expansion Project from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, the Greensburg Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, the McFeely-Rogers Foundation, the Menasha Corporate Foundation, and the Millstein Charitable Foundation.
- Applied for and received a \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant to support the construction of an accessible restroom as part of the Twin Lakes Park Expansion.
- Applied for and received two Transportation Enhancement Grants for trail construction. Received were grants of \$776,250 for the Five Star Trail Extension and \$552,000 for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Phase I from Slickville to Saltsburg.

Educational Efforts:

- Supported the 2006 Summer Environmental Program. Program coordinators planned and implemented 19 environmental education programs/camps. Total participation has grown steadily each year. Almost 300 people participated in the programs in 2006.
- Partnered with Belle Vernon Girl Scouts to develop a nature trail in Cedar Creek Gorge and publish a full color trail guide for park users.
- Developed a cooperative relationship with California University of PA to conduct bio-diversity studies at Cedar Creek Park to document and identify birds, invertebrates, aquatic life, and wild flowers.
- Partnered with Boy Scouts to have six Eagle Scout projects completed in the park system: Repairs were made to the wagon barn roof and storage area at Historic Hannastown; two walking bridges and a water crossing were installed in Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park; the chinking and wood were repaired on the Blacksmith area at Historic Hannastown; a flagpole was installed at the Cedar Creek Park organized group campgrounds; 50 bird boxes and bat boxes were installed along trails at Twin Lakes Park; the flower garden at the main flag pole site of Northmoreland Park was renovated.

