



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2023

GRANTS, VOLUNTEERS BOLSTER FAYETTE COUNTY PARKS

Uniontown, PA – When Christmas came early for German-Masontown Park, volunteers stepped up to deck the halls appropriately.

Noble Environmental awarded Fayette County a \$2,500 grant through their Christmas In July Program, to be used for park beautification efforts. Located along the Monongahela River, German-Masontown Park is the largest county-owned park, spanning more than 125 acres across both municipalities.

Members of the local United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) used the grant for their community project, which involved spreading new mulch around the park's playground equipment, painting and more.

Fayette County Parks & Trails Director Joe Ambrose said it's "absolutely wonderful" when community members "pitch in to help keep our parks beautiful."

"There's a lot of work that needs done in the parks. We have jobs that we're unable to get to in a timely manner, due to manpower," Ambrose said. "When we have community members willing to volunteer, this allows us to get these projects completed."

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Noble Environmental is the parent company of County Hauling and Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill. Noble awarded \$20,000 in donations to area charities through this year's Christmas in July Program.

"Noble Environmental is committed to corporate citizenship and wants to recognize the good work being done in the communities they serve," a press release from the company states.

Ambrose said German-Masontown Park's restrooms and pavilions were also recently painted using grant funding.

To learn more about the United Mine Workers of America, visit www.umwa.org. To learn more about Noble Environmental, visit www.nobleenviro.com.

Elsewhere in Fayette, another county-owned park will soon move into Phase II of an ongoing upgrade project, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Plans for a new walking trail at Dunlap Creek Park in Menallen Township has been ongoing since 2022, as part of Fayette County's Parks Master Site Plan.

Fayette County Chief Community Development Specialist Art Cappella said the county will contribute \$200,000 in matching funds to the project.

"Because it got to be a bigger project than what we were originally preparing for, we sought additional grant funding. Phase I, thus far, has involved a lot of permitting, it starts on the southern side of the park. It's 2,700 feet long," Cappella said. "This new funding will allow us to go to the northern end of the park, near the main parking area, and construct \$4,500 feet of the walking trail toward the dam. The game plan is to start construction on Phases I and II in 2024, weather permitting."

The project was awarded a similar DCNR grant in 2021, which kicked off Phase I of the project. Once completed, the 9,800-linear-foot perimeter loop trail spanning 8 feet in length will be another major draw for park-goers, on top of the park's new boat dock, renovated pavilions and other features.

Cappella said the county is currently pursuing grant funding for Phase III of the project through the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

"We're really hoping that we get the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program funds, because we'll get better bids from contractors if they're doing the entire trail simultaneously in one complete contract," Cappella said. "We're looking forward to having a groundbreaking because this is a big deal for Dunlap. We know a lot of folks come here to fish, and now they'll be able to come here to use the trail, too. The trail will give the park an added dimension."

For more information about Phase II of the Dunlap Creek Park project, call 724-430-1211 or email acappella@fayettepa.org.

Dunlap, along with Jacobs Creek Park, also benefited from a \$12,000 donation from Academy Mortgage Company of Draper, Utah. Jacobs Creek Park is located along state Route 982 at the northern end of Fayette County.

Ambrose said the county used the donation to place 17 benches around each of the two parks – and much more.

"At the end of August, we did a lot of work at Dunlap – putting new pipes in and also fixing draining along the roadway into the park," he said. "We also installed new signage at the parks and along the Sheepskin Trail. That funding came from a mini grant from GO Laurel Highlands visitors bureau."

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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