Program History & Statistics

We do not stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.~Anonymous,

The mission of the County's Department of Open Space Preservation is to maximize the impact of the County's investment in open space preservation by promoting effective administration and cooperation among Municipalities and the private sector. To maintain and improve the County's open space system, the County and the municipalities have a shared responsibility for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the open space resources. The Municipal Parks Program accomplishes this goal by providing funding and technical assistance to municipalities for the development of open space and park facilities.

Municipal Parks of Chester County

Program History & Statistics

We do not stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.~Anonymous, a landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, believed that the primary purpose of places like parks is to provide the best means of healthy recreation for everyone.

Since 1975, the population of Chester County has doubled. From 2000 to 2004, 25 percent of the population increase for the entire state occurred in Chester County. The increased population and rapid land development caused many to take action to preserve their quality of life by buying and building parks. With overwhelming support approval in 1989, support for this County grant program remains strong.

Municipal Park Grant Program accomplishments through 2006 include:

- 1,208 acres purchased for 93 parks
- 114 parks built in 54 municipalities
- $31 million County fund invested
- Over $60 million dollars leveraged in additional funding

Municipalities and land owners recognized the benefits of open space by applying to fund parks through this program. Sites funded through this program are preserved through a declaration of covenants, conditions, and restrictions recorded with the deed that stays with the land in perpetuity. Each municipality is responsible for scheduling activities at their parks and maintaining the facilities that are funded through this program.

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Chester County Grant Program

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Program administered by Department of Open Space Preservation

622 W.2nd Street, Suite 210
P.O. Box 2747
West Chester, PA 19380
Tel: 610-334-6355
Fax: 610-334-6351
www.chesco.org/openpace

Visit this Web site for the most current version of this brochure, along with charts and maps of all County Grant funds spent in this program.

Township parks 20+ acres and all parks in boroughs and the city are shown in this brochure. Complete local park information is available from the municipality where the park is located (see contact information on other side).

Brochure created by Chester County Planning Commission.

For more information please visit:

www.chesco.org/cparks for County parks
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks for state parks
www.nps.gov/va/vfs for Valley Forge National Park

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