

UPDATE OF THE MILES PARK PROJECT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Drainage improvements for better stormwater Management**
- **Ball field updates and rearranging for improved safety and access**
- **Trails connection from the William Jeanes Memorial Library down Joshua Road to Miles Park**
- **ADA Accessibility**
- **Rain Garden**

After several years of analysis and studies of flooding at Miles Park, feedback from residents and all park users, the Township included in the capital improvement plan for Miles Park to address the following issues: Drainage issues that create a challenge for safe conditions of play, incorrect alignment at one of the ballfields allowing for potentially dangerous playing conditions, stormwater improvement needs, and ADA accessibility. The plans put together by the Township Engineer proposed park improvements to the upper portion (adjacent to Joshua Road) of Miles Park and to one little league baseball field in the middle tier of the park adjacent to the surrounding neighborhood. The improvements to the park will address resident concerns for stormwater management and drainage at highest point in the park. In addition, the improvements will address ADA accessibility, pedestrian walkability, green infrastructure, and athlete safety. The project specifically includes: reconstruction and regrading of fields 1 and 2, realignment of field 3, stormwater management, enhanced access, community linkages, and ADA accessibility.

In planning for this project, the Township applied for two grants – one through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the other through the

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The Township was fortunate to be awarded both grants in the amounts of \$200,000 from DCNR and \$196,000 from DCED. The benefits of the project include the elimination of wet field conditions to improve field conditions, increased number of outdoor recreational opportunities, improved park aesthetic, and decreased park maintenance costs. In addition, the beautification with a rain gardens as part of the stormwater management methods will serve as both a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) but also as part of the park beautification process. The ADA ramp and accessible pathway planned as part of the improvements will provide better connectivity to the Township’s trail and sidewalk network. The new connection will link the park to pedestrian facilities along Joshua Road enhancing access to and from residential neighborhoods surrounding the park and community facilities including the high school and the William Jeanes Memorial Library.

After many public discussions at Board of Supervisors meetings and Parks & Recreation meetings, construction of this project is scheduled to begin in the late Spring, 2018. The project duration is expected to be 4-6 months depending on the weather and growing season for the turf. We anticipate this project being completed by the end of 2018 for public usage in the spring of 2019.

Miles Park is a 25-acre park located at the intersection of Joshua Road and Germantown Pike. Miles Park received a new playground in the summer of 2000 and a tot lot play area in the spring of 2001 with funding assistance from the Patrons of the Whitemarsh Parks.

This park features: Parks & Recreation Building, Playground, Preschool Playground, Swings, Restrooms, 2 softball fields, 5 baseball fields, 2 Basketball Courts, Soccer field, Picnic pavilion, 5/8 Mile exercise path.

The Parks & Recreation Building holds many of the township run programs within the many program rooms located there, including our dance program. Township Day takes place at Miles Park every spring. However, due to the construction scheduled for 2018, Township Day will take place at Victory Fields. You can read more about Township Day on page 4.