

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shippensburg Township Advances Park Master Plan with State Grant Funding

Shippensburg Township, Cumberland County [December 19, 2025] -- The Commonwealth Financing Authority has awarded Shippensburg Township \$25,000 through the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program to support the development of a Master Park Plan for Shippensburg Township Park, the community's only municipal park.

The park, located at 304 Britton Road, serves as a recreational hub for residents and visitors, offering amenities such as softball fields, basketball courts, a playground, splash pad, dog park, picnic pavilions, and nature trails. However, many of these facilities were installed nearly 30 years ago and are now outdated and costly to maintain.

John Knutelsky, Township Supervisor, emphasized the importance of this initiative:

"This planning effort is critical to ensuring Shippensburg Township Park continues to meet the needs of our growing community. By engaging residents and stakeholders, we will create a plan that reflects modern recreational trends and provides safe, accessible, and enjoyable spaces for everyone. We are extremely grateful for the vocal support from Representative Ecker and Senator Rothman. Without their strong advocacy, this project would not have moved forward."

The master park plan will provide a comprehensive vision for future improvements, focusing on ADA accessibility, sustainable design practices, and upgrades to aging infrastructure.

"Well-designed parks are assets to our communities. Thoughtful planning is a sound investment which will ultimately contribute to well-being, provide access to nature, and improved quality of life for the residents of Shippensburg Township," said Senator Rothman.

The planning process, slated to occur next year, will include public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and community surveys to ensure all voices are heard. The park's strategic location at a trailhead for the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail makes this investment particularly impactful, as it will enhance connectivity and recreational opportunities for thousands of users, including Shippensburg University students and local families.

"I was proud to lend my support to the township's efforts to expand recreational offerings. Every resident deserves an accessible, safe place to gather and play, and I commend the township for their vision and proactive planning for the future," said Representative Torren Ecker.

Established by Act 13 in 2012, the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation program funds projects that seek to plan, acquire, develop, or improve public greenways, trails, parks, recreation areas. The program also funds river conservation initiatives, and allows a wide range of applicants including municipalities, institutes of higher education, and for-profit businesses.

For questions or comments, please contact Amanda Courson, Shippensburg Township Park and Recreation Coordinator, at parkandrec@shippensburgtownship.com.