

Harcrest Park Phase II Update – December 2023

12/13/2023

A PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to add additional park features and facilities is in the design and permit phase on the additional 17.85-acre property acquired from the Hartzel family in 2021. This parcel has an additional 300 linear feet of frontage on Three Degree Road. Harcrest Park is now 64.4 acres.

The Penn Township Engineer, HRG, is developing the permit and construction documents with the close collaboration of the Penn Township Park Committee and the Butler County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Construction for the first area of the updated Master Plan will be permitted and bid in early 2024.

The Penn Township Public Works Department (PWD) will perform much of the infrastructure, including grading, stormwater detention, piping and catch basins, underground utilities, landscaping, plantings, roads, and parking areas. This PWD work qualifies for the “local share” of the project costs. The PWD completed these items of work on the Harcrest Park Storage Building located at the South end of Harcrest Park on Brownsdale Road in 2020.

This DCNR grant will fund \$300,000 of the project cost. Penn Township’s “local share” is \$300,000 plus the engineering costs which will be paid from the Traffic Impact Fee and Act 13 Oil and Gas infrastructure funds.

Additional phases will continue as grant and infrastructure funding becomes available.

Penn Township cannot apply for another DCNR grant until the current grant is completed. However, DCNR has indicated that Penn Township can apply for an additional 25% (\$75,000) funding on the current grant. HRG will prepare this additional funding application in early 2024.

The next Park Committee meeting will be held on January 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building meeting room.

Minutes of all meetings are posted on the Penn Township website www.penntownship.org, under “Documents” in the “2023 Park Minutes” folder as soon as they have been approved by the Park Committee.