

Williamsport City's 5 Park Master Plan

Williamsport, Lycoming County, PA

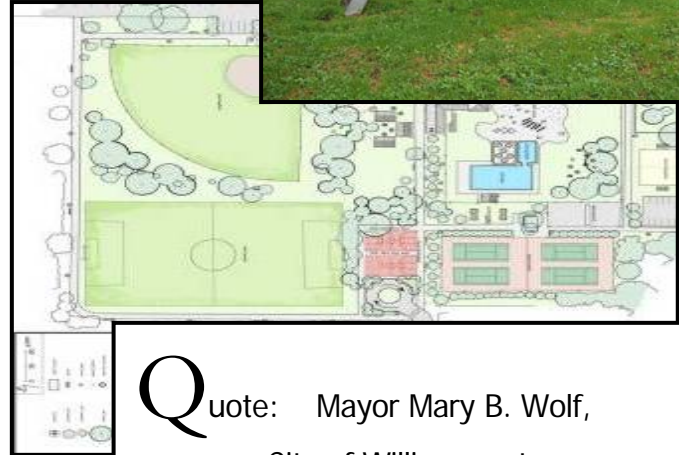
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roject Description:

This is an excellent example of a master site plan that meets a variety of criteria. The parks that were to be upgraded and improved are located throughout the City and situated in neighborhoods. During the planning process, outreach efforts included neighborhood input and participation of a variety of key partners in each neighborhood. This illustrates the importance of working with neighborhoods to meet the needs and address the concerns of the people who live near a facility. One of the most significant results of this process is that it stimulated productive relationships between City Hall, local residents, and local organizations, creating the potential for future partnerships to sustain long-term investments in community building efforts centered around neighborhood parks.

Williamsport is an urban center that is situated along the Susquehanna River, and this project is helpful in achieving the DCNR goal of building and maintaining sustainable and attractive communities and the Keystone Principle of reinvesting in urban centers. This project will enhance the quality of life for a variety of citizens and make for more livable neighborhood and communities. Since each neighborhood is unique, the needs and desires of the residents and the opportunities and challenges were also unique. This project also exemplifies how a community can use a planning grant to look at more large scale impacts on a community as a whole, instead of focusing on one small element.

Several common themes did emerge for each neighborhood, including natural park settings, benches, walking trails, covered pavilions, and picnic tables. There were also some more large scale recommendations for certain neighborhoods, including play structures, courts, safety surfaces and fencing. The community was able to prioritize the



Quote: Mayor Mary B. Wolf, City of Williamsport

“With a planning grant from DCNR, the City of Williamsport prepared comprehensive master site plans for five of Williamsport’s parks. The City partnered with SEDA-COG and Lycoming College who were instrumental in providing opportunities for citizens to become involved in determining the future of their neighborhood parks. The significant level of public input and the collaborative efforts of the partners were the key factors that contributed to the success of this project. The entire process engaged an appropriate mix of City officials, neighborhood residents and park users to develop an overall vision for the City parks that includes site development objectives and action plans. The City administration is now prepared to rehabilitate its parks using the recommendations of the plan including cost estimates, funding sources and project timelines. Not only is Williamsport more than on track for improving its neighborhood parks and facilities, more importantly, we are meeting our citizens’ needs”.

upgrades to each park, tying in with other planned urban development. Using this planning process, the City was able to develop a strategy for funding over the next 10 years, and to plan for maintenance and operation of each facility. This plan outlines a recommended funding strategy that draws on public and private resources, and due to the public nature of this planning process there is a greater sense of “buy in” from numerous public and private partners.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

2005: \$35,000 Keystone funding
 Matching funds. City CDBG Entitlement (\$35,000)
