



Keystone

Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

John O. Green Memorial Park

Providing Kids a Cool Place to Play

Children swing and climb on colorful play equipment.

A game of "Horse" is underway on one side of the adjacent basketball court, while across the half-court line a pickup game begins.



Kids learn rock-climbing basics on the climbing wall, and a rendition of "Happy Birthday" can be heard from a party in the picnic pavilion.

But perhaps best of all, children leap and squeal with delight when four large "spitting frogs" pelt them with water.

Once an unsightly and polluted lot in an economically depressed neighborhood that lacked a safe place for children to play, John O. Green Memorial Park is today a lively public park and vital community resource.

It is also the only park in the Borough of West Chester that offers a water play feature. When the weather gets warm, people from all over the borough gather at the park to keep their children cool.

The effort to create the half-acre park kicked into gear in 1998 when PECO, the landowner at the time, sold the property to the Borough of West Chester for \$1. The simple plan was to create a safe place for play in a neighborhood where children had no outdoor play space except for the sidewalk or street.

First the Borough had to remediate the polluted site. After the Department of Environmental Protection gave the green light for development, it was time for construction. Funds from the Keystone Park, Recreation & Conservation Fund and Borough made the project possible.

The work was done in two phases, the first of which ended in 2007 and the second in 2013, and brought together community members, local officials and religious organizations.

Today the park unites and excites area residents by providing a safe place to run and play and a covered picnic area for family functions. 

Project Spotlight

Keystone investment: \$48,000

Project leader:
Borough of West Chester

Key local partners:
Aqua America, Chester County, PECO

County: Chester

Fun fact: Decades ago, a coal gasification plant occupied the site, contaminating the soil with hydrocarbons. The Borough had to remediate the pollution before the park could be established.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org