



# Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

## Schuylkill Haven Borough's Island Park Field of Dreams

In 2006, floodwaters destroyed a small community's park. The Borough of Schuylkill Haven reacted quickly and with the support of volunteers and the Keystone Recreation Park & Conservation Fund, restored and enhanced the recreational area.



The 21-acre Island Park, nestled between the Schuylkill River and the Reading and Blue Mountain Railroads, is Schuylkill Haven's only remaining open recreational space. Before the flood, the area accommodated a few softball and soccer fields. The community had considered improvements to the park over the years but with the flood damage, they were forced to start from scratch.


Community leaders moved forward with a new vision for enhancing recreation opportunities in the community and surrounding area.

The Keystone Fund provided the means for turning vision into reality. Keystone funded the construction of a state-of-the-art softball field that can be adapted for youth and adult leagues. The park also incorporates accessibility measures to accommodate visitors with disabilities.

Island Park, which was identified in Schuylkill Haven's planning process as one of five key elements for revitalizing the community, brings the community together to enjoy a variety of sports programs and community events.

The park also plays an important role in connecting the community to the outdoors; visitors can walk, jog, bike along the trail and find easy access to the river for fishing and paddling.

The borough is interested in building on the success of the park and hopes to, in the future, add a second ball field, a walking bridge that will connect the park to the downtown, and an amphitheater for hosting outdoor concerts and cultural events.

Schuylkill Haven Borough recognized an opportunity in the devastation of a natural disaster and, with the support of the Keystone Fund, developed a top-notch recreational venue. 

### Project Spotlight

**Keystone investment:** \$57,500

**Total project cost:** \$115,000

**Project leader:**  
Schuylkill Haven Borough

**Key local partners:**  
Schuylkill Haven Borough  
Recreation Department

**County:** Schuylkill

**County:** Nicknamed, the "Little Town That Could", Schuylkill Haven's history was built upon the canal and railroad transportation of coal. Its name comes from a "haven", or point of shipment, and "hidden stream".



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](http://KeystoneFund.org)