



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

### Chambersburg Approves Purchase of New Playground Equipment

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – On March 26, 2018, Council approved the purchase of almost \$400,000 in new playground equipment for seven playgrounds in six parks throughout the Borough of Chambersburg.

The funding to pay for this significant improvement to neighborhood parks all over the Borough was the 2016 Recreation Bond, the same source of funding as the current construction of the Chambersburg Aquatic Center and the upcoming build-out at Nicholson Square Park.

According to Council Member Herb Dolaway, most of the current playground equipment was installed around 1992 and according to industry experts, "...with the new technology, the powder painting of the poles and materials used for the decking were guaranteed for 100 years; the equipment should last for 30 years plus."

In October 2016, Chambersburg issued a Recreation Bond for \$9.7 million. That bond was sold to finance a list of possible capital improvement projects throughout Borough parks. According to Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill, along with the bond, the Borough submitted a project list, approved by Town Council, with 13 different capital projects that could be funded through the bond sale.

Chambersburg Council has earmarked \$7.5 million from that bond sale for the construction of a new Aquatic Center, which is anticipated to open to the public around Memorial Day 2018.

According to Stonehill, in October 2017, Town Council approved the build out of Nicholson Square Park as the second project to be paid by the bond. In addition to using bond funds for Nicholson Square Park, the Nicholson Square Homeowners Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have each generously contributed to this project.

Town Council approved the playground equipment as the third project to use the available 2016 Recreation Bond funds.

According to Julie Redding of the Chambersburg Recreation Department, every park with existing playground equipment, except Mill Creek Acres Park, will see equipment upgraded in 2018. This includes: Mike Waters Memorial Park, Reservoir Hill Park, Memorial Park (which has two playgrounds), Henninger Field Park, Fourth Street Park, and Chambers Park (which is on Orchard Drive).

There was some discussion about how equipment was selected for each facility. Redding pointed out that the Chambersburg Recreation Advisory Committee reviewed the designs and selected the vendor, General Recreation, Inc., of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, from the COSTARS State Contract list of available vendors. Mr. Mike Rideout, Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee, spoke in favor of the project. He said this had to do with the safety of the current equipment.

Council Member Sharon Bigler was supportive of the project although she did say it was a shame that a large tree, in the middle of the playground in Reservoir Hill Park must be removed. Redding said that pursuant to safety concerns, the designers have determined that unfortunately this tree is too close to play equipment and must therefore be removed. Redding also said some of the playgrounds will also get improvements in accessibility in order to insure they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Finally, the Borough of Chambersburg thanked Chuck Strodoski, of YSM Landscape Architects in York, Pennsylvania, who helped design the layouts for the playgrounds and work to obtain the best quotes for the equipment.

If you have any questions about the playground equipment project please email Julie Redding, Chambersburg Recreation Department, at [jredding@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jredding@chambersburgpa.gov) or Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager, at [jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov).

In addition, Council President Heath Talhelm is available for comment by calling (717) 261-3254 and arranging an interview.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)