



Borough of Chambersburg

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNCIL APPROVES NICHOLSON SQUARE PARK PHASE ONE FOR 2017

Chambersburg – On Monday, March 27, 2017, the Chambersburg Town Council voted unanimously to proceed with Phase One development of the Nicholson Square Park on the north end of the Borough. In 2007, the Borough completed a park master plan, which included a concept for Nicholson Square Park. Nicholson Square is a new neighborhood in Chambersburg Borough, north of Woodstock Road and east of Scotland Avenue; roughly a block from Chambersburg Area Middle School North. As a part of the building of this neighborhood, parkland was set aside in the 1990s. An open grass field has sat on Bassett Drive since the park was laid out. In 2017, some ten years after the park master plan, construction will begin on the first phase of a multiphase project to develop the parkland into a recreation space.



Undeveloped Nicholson Square Park as it Appears in 2017

Phase One of the park development will include: a Tot Lot playground, a Youth playground, a Butterfly Garden, handicap accessible parking spaces, and a walkway around the playgrounds. The cost of Phase One is anticipated to be \$318,000 according to the Borough's recreation engineer, YSM of York, Pennsylvania. The Nicholson Square Homeowners Association has pledged a donation of \$50,000 towards this project. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded a Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant to the Borough of Chambersburg for \$150,000 to offset the cost of Phase One. The balance of the funding for Phase One, approximately \$119,000 will come from the 2016 Recreation Bond, which is also the source of funding for the Chambersburg Memorial Park Pool project, which also broke ground this week. The Recreation Bond will be offset by a Recreation Tax, which will begin to be levied in 2018.

Guy Shaul, Superintendent of Recreation, explained that "Nicholson Square Park is important because there are so many young families living in the Borough's First Ward with no nearby recreation facilities. We could not be happier that this long anticipated project will finally begin in 2017. It is our hope to get Phase One constructed as soon as possible."

Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill added "While we are pleased to see Nicholson Square Park get developed, it is important to note that the 2016 Recreation Bond, which is providing funding for the Memorial Park Pool and this project, is also going to help another half dozen or so community recreation projects get built over the next few years all over Chambersburg."

Phase Two of the park development is anticipated in 2018. That phase will include: two half court basketball courts, a multipurpose field for soccer or ultimate Frisbee, and a simple picnic shelter closer to the Clinton Avenue side of the park. To pay for Phase Two, the Borough has applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant, which Council hopes they get awarded later this year.

If you have any questions about the development of the Nicholson Square Park please contact Guy Shaul at (717) 261-3275 or gshaul@chambersburgpa.gov



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