

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**January 18, 2024**

### **Hempfield Township Receives State Grant for Weatherwood Community Park Development**

**Hempfield Township, PA** – Hempfield Township has been awarded a \$225,000.00 grant from the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) for Weatherwood Community Park - Phase I. This project, situated at 889 Weatherwood Lane, is a pivotal component of the broader Hempfield Municipal Complex development, a strategic initiative to enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in the area.

The Department of Community and Economic Development's grant will fund the construction of a new 14.1-acre park in the heart of Central Westmoreland County along the bustling US-30 corridor. With construction commencing in the Summer of 2024 and the park opening slated for the Summer of 2025, Weatherwood Community Park is set to become a cornerstone of local community engagement and outdoor recreation.

#### **Innovative Features for a Modern Community**

The park's design includes contemporary amenities such as:

- An all-ages, inclusive splash pad
- A nature-themed playground
- Outdoor fitness and yoga areas
- A rental pavilion
- A multi-purpose building with restrooms and space for future concessions
- Walking trail loop

#### **Integration with Hempfield Municipal Complex Development**

The Weatherwood Community Park project is more than just a standalone development; it is an integral part of the comprehensive Hempfield Municipal Complex initiative. This broader project aims to revitalize the township, creating a hub that caters to the evolving needs of Hempfield's residents and its thriving business community. The complex is envisioned as a dynamic space that fosters community interaction, promotes healthy lifestyles, and supports economic growth.

#### **Support from State Legislators**

Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward (39th District) and State Representative Eric Nelson (57th District) have been instrumental in advocating for state funding. Their advocacy has been instrumental in securing both the current grant through the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) and the

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R. Douglas Weimer, Chairman | Bill Bretz, Vice Chairman | Jay Anderson, Treasurer | George C. Reese, Supervisor | Tom Logan, Supervisor |  
Aaron K. Siko, Township Manager/Secretary

additional \$2.1 million from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). These funds are crucial in realizing the vision for the Hempfield Municipal Complex and Weatherwood Community Park.

### **A Sustainable and Community-Focused Vision**

The GTRP grant is part of the Marcellus Legacy Fund, established under Act 13 of 2012, which allocates resources for the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open spaces, parks, and beautification projects. This funding underscores the Commonwealth's commitment to enhancing Pennsylvania's green spaces and recreational facilities and supports the short and long-term goals of the 2023 Hempfield Township Comprehensive Plan.

### **A Bright Future for Hempfield Township**

With the development of Weatherwood Community Park, Hempfield Township affirms its commitment to enriching the lives of its residents and neighbors in Central Westmoreland County. The development of Weatherwood Community Park is a testament to this commitment, promising to provide a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable space for recreation, relaxation, and community gatherings.

For more information, please get in touch with Aaron Siko, Township Manager.

For a Project Rendering, visit:

[https://www.hempfieldtp.com/DocumentCenter/View/2117/HFLHMCWeatherwood-Park\\_Illustrative-Plan](https://www.hempfieldtp.com/DocumentCenter/View/2117/HFLHMCWeatherwood-Park_Illustrative-Plan)

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