

*Cedar Creek Parkway*

*A ReDiscovery of the Park*

*The City of Allentown, PA*

*April 2008*

# Allentown's Cedar Creek Parkway

The 109-acre Cedar Creek Parkway, located in the outskirts of the downtown area is a treasured City asset. The park is a natural buffer to Cedar Creek, a high quality trout stream, which traverses the center of the park. Fishing is popular in the park as is walking and jogging on the trails that parallel the stream. Picnicking, swimming, and playing basketball are other favorite park activities. The Rose Garden, Old Fashion Garden, and Muhlenberg Lake are unique and popular attractions that add to the park's scenic setting.

## Why Renovate The Park?

The park is heavily used for special events, drawing crowds of over 10,000 people on a regular basis. The popularity of the park and the special events have taken a toll on it's resources and facilities. In its current condition,

- Park infrastructure lacks the capacity to handle current demands. Sewage and electrical systems are particularly challenged during significant storm events and large special events in the Park.
- Not all park facilities are compliant with ADA accessibility standards.
- Muhlenberg Lake, the ponds at the Rose Garden, and Cedar Creek's eco-

logic health and water quality are suffering from erosion and sediment build-up.

- Activity areas are lacking essential amenities such as restrooms and adequate parking.
- Park facilities are not meeting the recreation demands of the Allentown community, lacking activities for citizens of all ages, interests, and abilities.

## The Park Planning Process

A master plan was undertaken to define needed improvements and explore possible enhancements. Citizen and park staff input was gathered to create a plan that considers the needs of the casual user and sports enthusiasts, as well as special events. A master plan evolved that promotes water quality with planted buffers along Cedar Creek; enhances key features; maximizes activity areas to support active recreation; and introduces new amenities such as a destination playground, skate park, and senior fitness trail. Recreation features are introduced to entice new users and existing features are restored and enhanced in a manner that retains the park's traditional setting.

The following goals were identified for the Cedar Creek Parkway Master Plan to guide the park design:

- Highlight and enhance the park's unique features: The Rose Garden, The Old Fashion Garden, and Muhlenberg Lake
- Provide a diverse variety of recreation opportunities to serve people of differing ages, interests, and abilities.
- Protect and enhance the natural resources of the site.
- Provide trails for recreation and fitness throughout the park and beyond to link to nearby recreation sites.
- Improve the park for special events.



# What will the restoration include?

The First Phase of Development will:

- Add a destination playground with features for children of all abilities.
- Expand and enhance the trail system. Add lighting along the main trail to enhance safety and security.
- Add electrical hook-ups for event vendors.
- Expand picnic opportunities with new picnic pavilions.
- Add trellis and walkways at The Rose Garden.
- Restore the ponds at The Rose Garden.

The master plan is an overall vision for park improvements. Future park phases will include the following renovations and facilities:

- Lake Muhlenberg and Cedar Creek enhancements. A planted buffer is established along Cedar Creek. Lake Muhlenberg is rehabilitated with the removal of the earthen causeway to improve water quality. A trail encircles the lake and plazas and paddle boat concessions are introduced.
- The popular basketball courts are renovated and incorporated into a new sports court complex.
- A skate park is developed.
- A sculpture art walk and children's creek walk will to provide educational opportunities in the park.
- Additional parking, amenities, and infrastructure improvements will be provided throughout the park.



*Cedar Creek Parkway Master Plan*  
City of Allentown, PA

# Cedar Creek Destination Playground

The Cedar Creek Parkway destination playground is envisioned as a dynamic play area with expansive age-segregated play apparatus that will promote active, creative play.

The playground is integrated into the vicinity with multiple gathering areas providing shade, tables, and seating. The playground will be accessible to all and connect in a future phase to Muhlenberg Lake with a Children's Creek Walk.

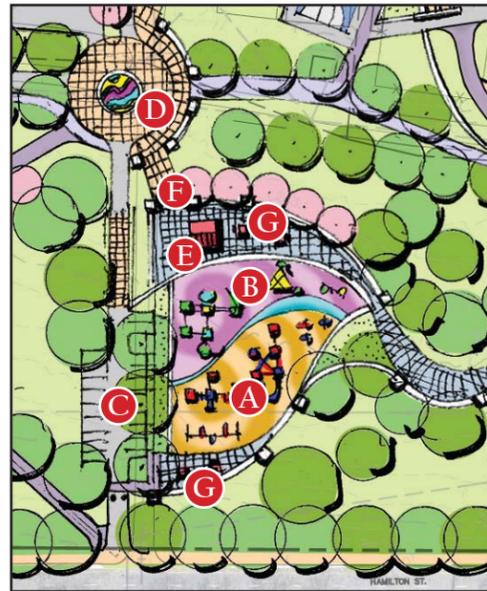
## Did You Know?

A Baylor University College of Medicine study reported that children who do not play develop brains that are 20% to 30% smaller than normal for their age.



## Sponsorship Opportunities

- Memorial Bench - \$1000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$



- A** Youth Playground (ages 5-12)
- B** Tot Lot (ages 2-5)
- C** Parking Area (15 Cars)
- D** Drop-off
- E** Pavilion/Restroom
- F** Gateway
- G** Game Tables and Chairs



Gateway to the Cedar Creek Destination Playground

# Picnic Grove and Community Lawn

The picnic grove in Cedar Creek Parkway has been renovated to provide new picnic pavilions, an age-segregated playground, and a defined parking area.

Trails provide accessible routes to these amenities and connect to trails along Cedar Creek.



- A** Renovated Picnic Pavilions
- B** Age Segregated Playground
- C** Parking Area (68 Spaces)
- D** Community Lawn
- E** Riparian Corridor Enhancements
- F** Restroom

## Sponsorship Opportunities

- Medium Pavilion - \$15,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$



Community Lawn

# Wedding and Special Event Area

The Rose Garden had long been a popular location for wedding photos and celebrations. Improvements have been sensitively introduced to enhance these activities while preserving the charm and beauty of the Rose Garden.

A reception plaza has been introduced to accommodate rental tents for receptions and other events.

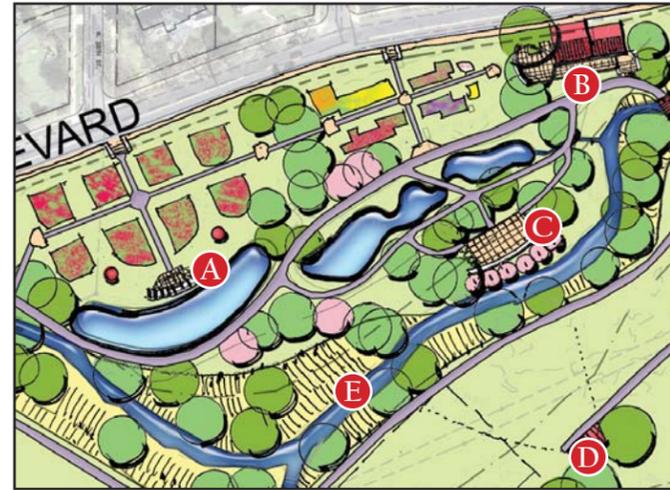


### Did You Know?

In 2007, 35% of all weddings in the United States were held outdoors.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- Medium Pavilion - \$15,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$



- A** Wedding Trellis
- B** Outdoor Cafe
- C** Reception Plaza
- D** Lawn Amphitheater
- E** Riparian Corridor Enhancements

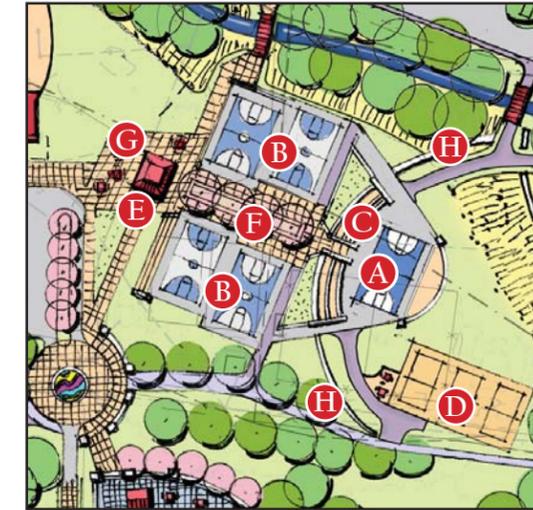


Wedding Trellis at the Rose Garden

# Sports Court Hub and Special Events Arena

The Sports Court Hub is designed to accommodate daily use of the basketball courts and sand volleyball courts while providing amenities important for league and tournament use.

A premiere championship basketball court is developed with spectator seating that can also be used as an arena for special events.



- A** Premier Court
- B** Game Courts
- C** Spectator Seating
- D** Sand Volleyball Courts
- E** Pavilion/Concessions Building
- F** Raised Planter & Seatwall
- G** Game Tables and Chairs
- H** Low Walls

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- Backboard - \$1,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$



Sports Court Hub and Special Events Arena

# Children's Creek Walk Discovery Area

The Children's Creek Walk meanders from the destination playground to Muhlenberg Lake. Fun and educational images reminiscent of a creek bed are part of the walking surface.

Environmental education displays and interpretative signs geared toward children and families are found along the walk.



- A** Creek Walk "Course" with Seating Areas
- B** Intersection with Multipurpose Trail
- C** Muhlenberg Lake Deck
- D** Cedar Creek Destination Playground



Children's Creek Walk Discovery Area

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- Memorial Bench - \$1,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$

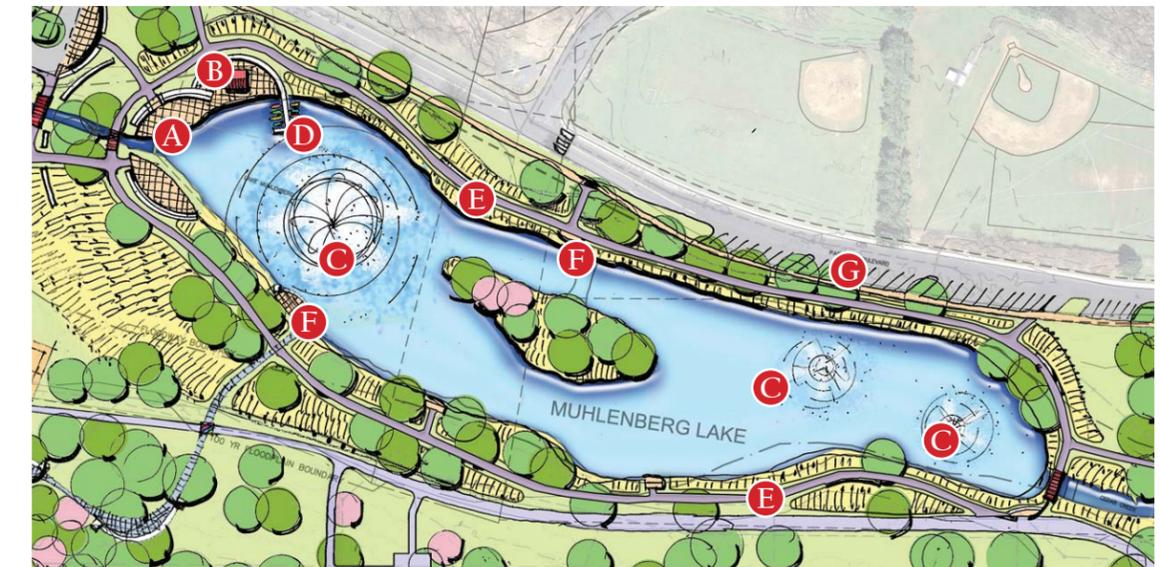
# Muhlenberg Lake

Muhlenberg Lake is enhanced as a destination within the park with gathering areas, paddle boat rental and a trail encircling the Lake.

The aquatic health of the Lake has been improved by removing the earthen causeway to the island and introducing water aerators.



- A** Lake Celebration Plaza
- B** Concession and Rental Pavilion
- C** Fountain
- D** Boat Dock
- E** Loop Trail, 0.6 Mile
- F** Lake Deck
- G** On-Street Parking (70 Cars)



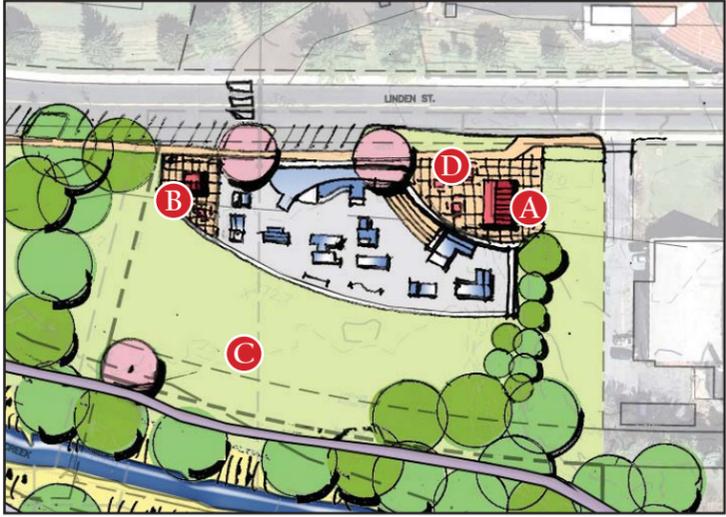
Muhlenberg Lake

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- Memorial Bench - \$1,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$

# The Parkway Skate Park

A Skate Park has been added to the eastern end of Cedar Creek Parkway as a new feature. The Parkway Skate Park is developed as a hybrid street and plaza course with convenient resting areas and overlooking spectator areas.



- A** Pavilion/Restroom
- B** Small Pavilion
- C** Informal Lawn
- D** Spectator Plaza

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

- Ramp - \$5,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \$



The Parkway Skate Park