



The Campaign for Lions Pride Park
A Community Partnership Project of Warrington Township and the Warrington
Lions Club

Case Statement

A Park Designed for Intergenerational Family Fun, Accessibility, and Sustainability

The Campaign for Lions Pride Park is raising \$1.2 million to transform the deteriorated site of the former Twin Oaks Day Camp into a unique, intergenerational public park that is exciting, attractive, and engaging for people of all ages, accessible to people of all abilities, and environmentally sustainable.

Created out of the shared vision of the Warrington Lions Club and Warrington Township, Lions Pride Park has been designed with intergenerational use and accessibility as paramount priorities. The park and its central feature, Kids Mountain, will meet several community-identified needs:

- A recreational area with broad intergenerational appeal – where children of all ages (from 4 to 104!) can interact with each other and connect with nature close to home;
- A fully accessible, barrier-free recreational area for the enjoyment of differently abled people of all ages;
- An environmentally valuable, reclaimed natural area that demonstrates best practices in wetlands and meadow management; and
- A central gathering space for community events and activities.

To make the vision of Lions Pride Park and Kids Mountain a reality, and to leverage funding available from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a community-wide private fundraising campaign is required. Community leaders, businesses, and families are coming together to raise money to realize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Warrington residents.

Features

Lions Pride Park will be situated on nearly 20 acres at 3129 Bradley Road in Warrington. It will convert a dilapidated former day camp site into the crown jewel of the Warrington Township parks and recreation system. This will be the first park design in our community in which accessibility was a guiding principle. The Park will offer a place for visitors to play imaginatively, get fit, walk their dogs, watch birds, enjoy nature, socialize, relax, and get away from it all close to home.

Kids Mountain, an exciting state-of-the-art play area fully accessible to people of all abilities, will include swings, slides, climbing towers, and rope bridges. The topography will lend itself to climbing, sledding, walking, and enjoying the views. In keeping with the Lions Club mission of serving people with vision challenges, interesting features will be created for engagement of people with limited or no sight.

The Grove will offer intergenerational experiences set in scenic beauty, including playing life-size games, playing large-scale, in-tune musical instruments, and enjoying picnics that will build lasting family memories. Seating areas will incorporate benches and tables that will accommodate people with various physical needs.

The Labyrinth, a patterned path that guides the walker into the center and out again, will provide a meaningful, often meditative, experience.

Meadows will be introduced to replace large grass areas, and **Wetlands** will replace the stagnant pond. Both areas will provide additional wildlife, bird, and pollinator habitat and a richer ecosystem in the park. Native trees and shrubs will be planted to create shade, clean air and natural beauty.

Trails will run throughout the park including the wooded areas and will be accessible for people of all abilities including those with blindness and low vision. Regional trail systems will be connected to the park, including links to the proposed east-west cross township trail, the 202 Bicycle Path along the 202 Parkway, and trails along the Neshaminy Creek from Peace Valley Park out to the Delaware River.

Partnering for Greater Impact

Warrington Township and the Warrington Lions Club have partnered to conceive and develop this project and are working together with members of the community to find funding to make it a reality. Several funding opportunities provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will contribute substantially to the implementation of this project, but they require matching funds to be raised from local sources. The result will be a \$1.2 million state-of-the-art recreational facility where moderate private funds leverage more than half of the total costs from state and local government funding sources.

Addressing Critical Needs in Warrington

During the public engagement process for Warrington Township's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, key stakeholders such as local environmentalists, occupational therapists, teachers, maintenance staff, parents, families, children, and senior adults, identified three priority needs: more playgrounds; safe places to walk; and opportunities to connect with nature close to

home. While Warrington has small scale neighborhood parks where one can enjoy an hour or so, there is no play area where people of all ages and abilities can go to spend the better part of a day engaging in a variety of experiences including play, enjoying nature, getting active and fit, socializing, meeting neighbors, walking pets, and watching birds. Currently, Warrington residents are traveling outside of the Township to have these experiences.

While the unique, adventurous design of Kids Mountain will particularly appeal to children and families, including differently abled residents who will enjoy its maximum accessibility, many other features of Lions Pride Park are likely to appeal to the Township's more than 6,000 residents over the age of 55. The beautiful scenery, accessible trails, comfortable amenities, shade, and games will attract these neighbors and engage residents across the generations.

The site selected for Lions Pride Park was originally the site of Twin Oaks Day Camp. While it has been a park maintained by the Township for many years now, the current play area is deteriorated. The facilities include a defunct swimming pool, unusable game courts, and abandoned bunk buildings. The abandoned facilities are in poor condition and unfortunately attract young people in the area. Through this project, the Township and the Lions Club will transform the site from undesirable uses to highly positive uses that the community desires.

With the development that the Township incurred in recent years, the community is placing particular importance on environmental sustainability, conserving natural resources, and improving the beauty and quality of public spaces. This project advances a key community recommendation to adopt sustainable, green practices in all parks and public properties. Storm water management will be addressed in the site planning. Meadows will be introduced to reduce extensive grass areas that require weekly mowing and to provide more habitat and promote greater biodiversity. These practices will be good for the environment and, simultaneously, connect people with natural beauty.

Conclusion

Lions Pride Park will be a tremendous resource to the residents and businesses of Warrington Township – addressing current physical and environmental challenges and providing unique opportunities to improve quality of life and community engagement. Investment of \$1,200,000 in improvements to the site will yield considerable community benefits over the next twenty years, creating a valuable public resource for widespread, intergenerational enjoyment.

In recognition of the generous gifts that make these transformations possible, the Campaign for Lions Pride Park will provide naming opportunities at gift levels ranging from \$500 to \$100,000 and will visibly thank all donors of \$100 or more within the park. For information about the campaign and naming opportunities, please check out our website (www.lionspridepark.org) or contact Barry Luber, Warrington Township Manager at 215 343 9350 ext. 103.