

# Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Upper Macungie Township  
[www.uppermac.org](http://www.uppermac.org)  
8330 Schantz Road  
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## Grange Park Improvements (Awarded 2023)

### SUMMARY

The Grange Park Improvements Project consisted of planting of 30 mature trees, the installation of seven (7) Publication Racks mounted under park pavilions and a large outdoor Message Center. The trees will provide endless benefits to park users and the local habitat. The Message Center and Publication racks will provide an avenue to educate and get information to park users throughout the year. These small park improvements truly enhanced and added beauty to our 165-acre community park, Grange Park.



### CHALLENGE

The township's largest community park, Grange Park, is a highly visible 165-acre park located off the 222 bypass. This land, which was previously used as farm fields, was acquired by the township in 1997 and was identified as the ideal location to create a community and recreational hub. While this 165-acre park is home to many amenities including 12 pickleball courts, a playground, a splash pad, 6 pavilions, walking trails, and a plethora of athletic fields, there are still many needed improvements. Converting open farm fields into a community recreational hub comes with many challenges. One of which is the openness of the park and lack of trees which makes for very windy conditions and provides very little shade for individuals recreating in the park. In addition, the sheer size of the park makes it difficult to get educational information to park users as there is not just one or two high foot traffic areas.

### FUNDING

**Grant Award:**  
**\$10,000**

**Match:**  
**\$12,552.26**

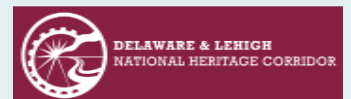
**Total Project Cost:**  
**\$22,552.26**

### PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

The Township's Board of Supervisors were instrumental in making this project happen. In addition, this project helped to create partnerships with TreePennsylvania, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, Owens & Minor, and the Lehigh County Conservation District. All in all, a total of 141 trees were planted in Grange Park in 2023.



## UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP



## SOLUTION

The tree plantings will provide ecological benefits in the park, act as a noise and wind breaker for park users, provide much needed shade, support wildlife, provide stormwater control and improve mental health of park users. The selection of Skyline, Greenspire and Northern Red Oak trees will all require less maintenance because these types of native trees are already adapted to local soils, climate, and conditions. The Message Center and Publication Racks will be used as outlets to educate and provide upcoming program information to all park users. These added amenities will truly benefit all park users for many decades into the future!

## RESULTS

In addition to being the primary facility for all local youth and adult sports, Grange Park hosts over 40 large community events annually including events in partnership with Artsquest, fundraising walks for organizations such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma society, a National Lacrosse tournament, concerts, movies, and so much more. Many of these events can bring 4,000+ people into the park on any given day. The park also saw over 900 pavilion rentals throughout the year in 2023. These statistics show the magnitude of use this park gets and what it means to the community and the area. It is estimated that this park sees over a quarter million visitors each year!

The Publication Racks were strategically installed at each pavilion while the message center was placed near the parks popular Splash Pad and permanent restroom facility. These are highly visited areas which will allow us to connect with the majority of park users. The added trees, message center and publication racks will provide an unmeasurable benefit to all park users who visit Grange Park in the decades ahead.

### Contact



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