



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Construction starts on new \$1 million playground and picnic area at Lower Paxton Township's Brightbill Park**

**(Pictures below)**

**Lower Paxton Township, PA** (Aug. 18, 2023) – Construction started today on a \$1 million inclusive, multi-part playground and picnic plaza at Lower Paxton Township's Brightbill Park, marking the latest improvements to the 41-acre park.

Helping mark the start of construction was state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, whose agency made the project possible with a \$520,000 matching grant.

"We are always proud to support local parks and this project in Dauphin County's largest municipality is no exception," Dunn said. "These upgrades at Brightbill Park help improve the experience for all the park's visitors, regardless of ability. DCNR thanks Lower Paxton for prioritizing outdoor recreation and inclusive experiences at this park."

Earlier this year, Lower Paxton completed work on new bathrooms adjacent to the playground site, and last year finished a \$180,000 replacement of Brightbill's lighted basketball courts, made possible through a \$70,000 grant from the Dauphin County Commissioners. The courts are used by the township's Brightbill Basketball League, which is open to all county residents and boasts more than 800 participants.

"Brightbill is one of our township's jewels, and the work is part of a multi-year, comprehensive plan to improve all of our parks," said Lower Paxton Township Supervisor Chairman Lowman Henry. "We appreciate that our parks are investments in the well-being of our residents, fostering a healthier and happier community."

The Brightbill playground project entails:

- Replacing and expanding the current playground with an inclusive playground with two areas for differing ages that go well beyond the requirements of ADA. The new playground will include sections for children ages 2-5 and another for those ages 5-12.
- A “sound garden” with a variety of outdoor musical instruments allows children to explore various sounds and tones, expanding their sensory play.
- Creation of a small outdoor plaza with new benches and picnic tables, including a wheelchair-accessible table
- Replacing the existing outdoor grills with two new units on a cement pad for easier access.
- Creating a paved path from the parking lot to an existing path in the nearby wooded area.

Lower Paxton’s 16 parks encompass approximately 382 acres and range from lightly developed forest and mountain land to established athletic fields, playgrounds, and ball courts.

- For more information on Lower Paxton’s parks and the township’s comprehensive park plan, visit <https://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/157/Parks-Rec>.

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*Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 15th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit [www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov](http://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov) and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship*







