



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lower Paxton and Bhutanese community team up for Central Pennsylvania's first cricket pitch

Lower Paxton Township, PA (Friday, November 3, 2023) – Construction started today on the region's first regulation cricket pitch in collaboration with the local Bhutanese community.

The cricket pitch -- **in Lower Paxton's Lingle Park (1100 Pleasant Drive, Lower Paxton, PA 17111)** -- represents the collective efforts of the Pennsylvania United Cricket Association (PAUCA), the Bhutanese Community in Harrisburg organization, and the Township.

"This cricket field stands as a testament to the vibrant diversity and spirit of collaboration that thrives within our community," said Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Lowman Henry. "It's not just a field – it's where cultures converge, friendships are forged, and the passion for the game creates a sense of belonging for all."

Henry said he hopes having the permanent cricket pitch will encourage area residents to try the game and join a team – a sentiment echoed by Bhutanese organizers.

"We want everyone to participate, so this effort by the Township can be enjoyed by all," said Nilesh Patel, Director of the Pennsylvania United Cricket Association (PAUCA) board. "Baseball was converted from the British game of cricket, so anyone who ever hit a softball or baseball, they can easily adapt to cricket."

The cricket pitch will be a 110-foot-long and 12-foot-wide strip of poured concrete covered by turf in the center of a 200-foot circle, which is the playing field. Weather

permitting, the pitch will be completed this month – within plenty of time for the 2024 season.

PAUCA started playing cricket matches in Lower Paxton in 2004 and today has 26 teams and more than 500 active players. In recent years, the league used a field in the Township's Kohl Memorial Park, where they would unroll a strip of turf for the pitch.

Cricket matches are played most Saturdays and Sundays from March through October, and teams can reserve time with the Lower Paxton Parks & Recreation Department to practice mid-week.

Patel and Tilak Niroula, Board Chairman of the Bhutanese Community in Harrisburg, said having a permanent, regulation cricket pitch is crucial. Interest continues to grow, and they expect to see additional teams formed.

Niroula said Central Pennsylvania is home to more than 40,000 Bhutanese, many of whom live in Lower Paxton. He said the cricket pitch is especially important to give youth a positive outlet.

"We want our younger generation to get engaged in sport like cricket and soccer and other activities to help our community prosper," Niroula said, adding his organization fields eight teams and expects that number to grow. "We also encourage anyone with an interest to play along and take part."

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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 and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship



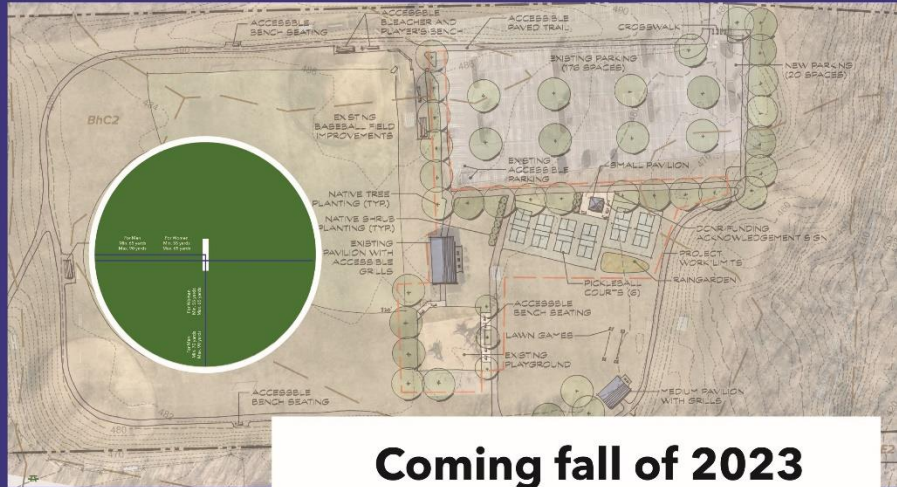
LINGLE PARK

Parks Revitalization Project

Lingle Park Cricket Pitch

New installation of regulation-sized cricket pitch at Lingle Park it will replace existing pitch at Kohl Park.

The Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors is committed to enhancing our expansive park system.



Coming fall of 2023