

TO: Area News Media
FROM: Steve Kusheloff
DATE: August 4, 2011
SUBJECT: NEW PARK ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY IS DEDICATED

Just over 14 months ago, the SEDA-COG Community Resource Center (CRC) completed a master site plan for a new park in the Columbia County town of Bloomsburg. That plan has now become a reality with the dedication of Streater Park, a 55-acre site at the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River.

For now Streater Park includes two soccer fields. However the plan includes football and softball fields, picnic pavilions and trails that would connect it with Bloomsburg Town Park and the Rupert Covered Bridge. More athletic fields will be built after completion of an engineering study.

Trish Carothers, Program Director, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, said, "Streater Park has the potential to become a major destination in Columbia County and a hub in the evolving Susquehanna Greenway. The master plan prepared by SEDA-COG's CRC maintains a balance between recreational resources and the Park's heritage and scenic qualities."

The site was originally a farm, parts of which had been in the Streater family since the 1800s. The foundation of a historic flour mill can still be seen as well as remnants of the Pennsylvania Canal. SEDA-COG's master plan includes interpretive signs to help visitors learn about the site's history.

According to Ms. Carothers, "Other elements of the plan will add to the public's appreciation of the Susquehanna. For instance, a 3,500 foot RiverWalk Natural Trail has been proposed, bordering the River and Fishing Creek, which would allow visitors to access the water while providing scenic views of both the River and the Creek."

"In developing the plan for Streater Park," said Tom Grbenick, Director of SEDA-COG's CRC, "we took a community-centered approach to its design, proposing solutions to issues that were raised by participants in the planning process. The process, which we facilitated, involved municipal representatives, recreation and heritage advocates, and active members of the region's various youth and adult recreation leagues."

Generally, projects developed with this level of public input enjoy greater longevity and a greater sense of community ownership than those proposed solely by professional landscape architects and planners.

Looking to the future, Ms. Carothers said, "Streater Park is part of a larger regional vision of connectivity based on the Susquehanna River — connectivity based on its recreational use, and as a central gathering place for residents of Bloomsburg and the surrounding area."

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