

Palmyra Area Recreation and Parks Commission (PARPC)
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For Immediate Use
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Palmyra Opens New Recreation Facility With Land Donated By The Hershey Company

71-acre Ridge Road tract provides multipurpose recreation space for area residents

Palmyra, PA – The Palmyra Area Recreation and Parks Commission (PARPC) and Palmyra Area School District (PASD) today celebrated the opening of its new multipurpose recreation facility with a ceremony that also marked the start of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Club's annual Soccer Blast, a major youth soccer exhibition being held at the new facility. The soccer event is expected to attract 1,800 youth from throughout the region.

The new sports and recreation complex was made possible by a 71-acre land donation by The Hershey Company. The Ridge Road Complex is located on a tract of land along Ridge Road in North Londonderry Township and will serve residents throughout Palmyra Borough, and North and South Londonderry Townships. The facility, once completed, will include: six multi-purpose athletic fields, three softball fields, two baseball fields, four concession stands, one picnic pavilion, three volleyball courts, four bocce courts, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, two horseshoe pits, two tot-lot playgrounds, a dog park, a skateboard park, 416 parking spaces, and a 2.4 mile bike trail.

The sports complex will be used by PARPC and the PASD for school and community recreational activities. PARPC Chairman Phil Rothermel said the new complex will go a long way in serving area youth sports. "Hershey's generous land donation could not have come at a better time. There is a tremendous shortage of quality recreational space in the region. The Ridge Road Complex will help in a big way towards reducing that shortage."

"This new facility is a tremendous benefit to the Palmyra-area community," said George E. Downey III, PASD Board President. "We are excited to make full use of the Ridge Road complex for a wide range of sports and activities for our students, as well as the entire community for generations to come."

The land donation was coordinated by Ray Brace, former Senior Vice President of Operations for The Hershey Company, prior to his retirement. Brace recognized the need for additional community athletic facilities and led the effort to give the Hershey-owned land to the Palmyra community. The Hershey Company also paid for preliminary site grading and an engineering firm to create a long-term plan for the development of the multi-purpose recreational space.

“The Hershey Company is committed to make a positive difference in the communities where we live, work and conduct business,” said Jim George, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility for The Hershey Company. “We’re pleased that this complex will provide hours of physical activity and fun for all who use it and will encourage kids to develop active, healthy lifestyles.”

About The Hershey Company

The Hershey Company (NYSE: HSY) is the largest producer of quality chocolate in North America and a global leader in chocolate and sugar confectionery. Headquartered in Hershey, Pa., The Hershey Company has operations throughout the world and more than 12,000 employees. With revenues of nearly \$6 billion, Hershey offers confectionery products under more than 25 brand names, including such iconic brands as Hershey's, Reese's, Hershey's Kisses, Hershey's Bliss, Hershey's Special Dark and Hershey's Extra Dark, Kit Kat, Twizzlers, and Ice Breakers. Hershey also is a leader in the premium and artisan chocolate segments, with such brands as Scharffen Berger and Dagoba, offered through the Artisan Confections Company, a wholly owned subsidiary. The company is focused on growing its presence in key international markets such as China and Mexico while continuing to build its competitive advantage in the United States and Canada.

For more than 100 years, The Hershey Company has been a leader in making a positive difference in the communities where its employees live, work and do business. Corporate Social Responsibility is an integral part of the company's global business strategy, which includes goals and priorities focused on fair and ethical business dealings, environmental stewardship, fostering a desirable workplace for employees, and positively impacting society and local communities. Milton Hershey School, established in 1909 by the company's founder and administered by Hershey Trust Company, provides a quality education, housing, and medical care at no cost to children in social and financial need. Students of Milton Hershey School are direct beneficiaries of The Hershey Company's success.

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