

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
NEWS RELEASE**

**\* FOR IMMEDIATE USE \***

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**Join In The March For Parks For A Greener Westmoreland**

Saturday, March 31, 2012 is your chance to show support for our new recreation facilities in Westmoreland County such as the Franklin Dog Park, the Twin Lakes Winter Sports Area, and the Giant Accessible Playground. The place is Twin Lakes Park, where people from all over the county will gather to participate in the March for Parks. The event is presented by the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board and is presented by Kennametal, UPMC Health Plan, Chick-fil-A, Comcast, and Excelsior Health. Event hours are 9:00am to 12:30pm.

The theme of the 2012 March for Parks is "Picture this... YOU in our County Parks!" In conjunction with this year's event, we are having a photography contest with fantastic prizes! There will be three \$150 cash prizes awarded to the best photo in three separate categories. Winning entries will also be showcased at the March. Entries are to be submitted on our Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/WestmorelandParkandRec](http://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandParkandRec)). The deadline to enter is March 12.

Prior to the event, marchers collect monetary contributions to support the March. Those marchers who collect \$25 or more will receive a t-shirt. People that collect over \$100 or more will receive a gift card to Target. The more you raise, the more the gift card will be worth.

Walkers and runners may participate as individuals or teams. Any group of three or more people can be a team. Organize your friends and family, your school, place of worship, or a community organization. Get your company involved. Complete the team information when you register to become eligible for the engraved plaques that will honor the top fundraising teams.

The money raised at past Marches has really made an impact in the community. Currently, the Citizens Advisory Board and parks staff are hard at work finishing up the Phase II expansion project at Twin Lakes Park (the Dog Park is our last remaining component), and beginning to raise funds for Phase III of the expansion. Phase III includes a "snake run" and bowl addition to the Peach Plaza Skate Park, as well as a multi-use facility that will serve as an ice-skating rink, deck hockey rink, and an amphitheater.

Marchers will have the opportunity to designate the funds they raise. Choices include: Walking & Biking Trails, Dog Parks, Skate Park additions, Ice Skating & Deck Hockey, Amphitheater, or Land Acquisition. Non-designated funds will be used where they are most needed.

DJ Dave Haering and Mike the Balloon Guy head the list of fun activities at the event. There will be a picnic lunch after the March including doggie treats for dogs, and the event will conclude with raffle prizes and an awards presentation. Home Depot will also be sponsoring a kid's workshop at the event.

Registering online is the quickest way to sign up for the March. Just visit [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks). To receive a registration form by mail, call (724) 830-3950. Join in the March For Parks and do your part to "Keep Westmoreland County Green."