

For business editors

Westmoreland Airpark Phase II Expansion - Unity Township

An Additional 52 Acres for business expansion!

Unity Township, Pa, October 21, 2014 – Celebrating the occasion with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation’s (WCIDC) Board of Directors – Charles W. Anderson, R. Tyler Courtney, and Ted Kopas announce today the opening of Westmoreland Airpark’s Phase II development located in Unity Township, Westmoreland County.

The new development opens up an additional 52 sellable acres with lots ranging in size from 3 – 8 acres. The larger parcels can accommodate buildings from 50,000 SF with expansion capabilities, which are currently lacking in eastern Westmoreland.



“There’s something special about this area of eastern Westmoreland,” said Commissioner Chuck Anderson, who also serves as chairman of the county Industrial Development Corporation.

“With the Chestnut Ridge as a back drop, a state-of-the-art hospital, excellent educational institutions, a regional airport, world-class industry and now expanding opportunities at Westmoreland Airpark, I believe it’s all here. Not only is this a great place to visit and an excellent place to live, but eastern Westmoreland is ready for business.”

The expansive 210-acre industrial park was first acquired by the WCIDC in 1999. The site was identified as a prime location for development because of its adjacency to the county's airport



and at the hub of the strongest manufacturing base in the region. At that time, the development of the park was separated into two phases. The first phase, which includes 105-acres of sellable property and 18 subdivided lots, is now 81% occupied.

Today, with many local business expansions and the progressive effects of the oil and gas industry to the region, the Airpark has been a target for growth. This area currently houses 13 existing companies residing in more than 532,102 SF of buildings. Of the 532,102 SF total, 403,806 SF is speculative building space.

The 52-acre expansion will provide 10 new parcels and includes an additional entrance onto Route 981. Benefits of the park include available public utilities, direct access to an established transportation network and an 8-year Tax Abatement for qualifying businesses. "Investment in our industrial park system continues to be vital to the success of the county; however, investment in our highway infrastructure is just as important," said Tyler Courtney, Vice Chairman of both the Board of County Commissioners and the WCIDC. "Imagine the

impact to this area if the Laurel Valley Improvement Project were completed. Not only would it complement and support the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and the Airpark, but it would have a significant impact on all of eastern Westmoreland County.”

“Marcellus shale development continues to draw energy companies to the Pittsburgh region, but it’s not just the oil and gas sector benefitting from that activity,” said County Commissioner Ted Kopas, who is also secretary of the county Industrial Development Corporation.

“Manufacturers, predominantly in this region, are expanding operations as the demand for their products grows among drillers.”

The Phase II expansion has been funded with a \$1 million grant from the state’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), a \$1 million loan from Westmoreland County and a \$350,000 low-interest loan from the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) provided in partnership through the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland (EGCW).

These state sources were then combined with a match of local funds from the County. “We are grateful to the EGCW for their assistance with PIDA and, in particular, for the support of Governor Corbett with the RACP grant,” said Jason Rigone, Executive Director of the WCIDC.

“The Commonwealth’s investment into projects like this have an immediate impact on the region and the major manufacturing base already established in this community.”

Industrial parks are sited county-wide in Westmoreland, providing opportunities for businesses to locate in either greenfield or brownfield developments. The county’s park system consists of seventeen (17) fully-developed, strategically located industrial parks, including a first-class rail freight intermodal terminal. As of 2014, 1,109± acres are either sold or optioned out of the

total 1,700± developable acres within the park system. To date, nearly 9,299 workers are employed in 142 companies in the county’s industrial parks resulting in more than \$5.1 million in annual tax revenue.

For more information specific to Westmoreland Airpark, visit www.westmorelandcountyidc.org.

“Select Sites” from the main navigation bar then choose industrial parks.

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