

**Municipality of Bethel Park  
5100 West Library Ave.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Bethel Park's Birch Tree Park Playground Groundbreaking Held Today**

*Bethel Park, PA* – Today (*Friday, Sept. 24*), the Municipality of Bethel Park broke ground on its Birch Tree Park playground installation to begin next week.

"Neighborhood Parks are a very important part of our community," said Bethel Park Council President Tim Moury. "The new playground equipment at Birch Tree Park will provide a place for the neighborhood children to play within walking distance of a number of their homes."

The new playground equipment was selected by area residents and will be in compliance with current playground safety standards.

Another large part of the project was extensive storm sewer work that's already been completed.

"Local flooding is a major issue facing many municipalities in the Pittsburgh area," said Bethel Park Director of Engineering Stacey Graf. "After the flood of 2018; Council made a commitment to complete Flood Control Mitigation Projects throughout the Municipality on public property. In this neighborhood, Glenrock and Ashland received major road damage in 2018 due to the large volume of water coming through the valley, as well as many residents with reported flooding."

To alleviate downstream flooding conditions, the Municipality employed several measures including:

- *A Diversion Structure* – To intercept storm water flows and divert them into a new underground detention tank field.
- *A Detention Tank* – Designed to hold 7,500 CF of rainwater (*approx. 55,000 gallons*).
- *A Rain Garden* – To intercept surface runoff, detain it and release it back into the storm sewer system.

"The facility collects runoff from 3.75 acres of upstream watershed area and provides approximately 7,500 cubic feet of storage volume," said Graf. "It also reduces sediment transport to the receiving stream and improves its water quality."

The storm sewer project cost \$265,000 and was completed by Morgan Excavating in 2020.

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**(Photo attached; cutline follows:)**

*Pictured l-r:* Councilwoman Lorrie Gibbons, Council President Tim Moury, Recreation Board Member Daryl Walezak, and Councilman Dr. Tim Campbell.