

**Jermyn Borough Shade Tree Commission and Council**  
Rippy Callahan Public Park Improvement Project, Phase I  
Project Manager: Debbie Morcom  
2000 Grant Award: \$ 7,000

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Rippy Callahan Park was created in the late 1970's from a mine reclamation site. A playground, ball fields, and tennis courts were built, but the park's landscape remained desolate. Jermyn Borough and several community volunteers initiated the **Rippy Callahan Public Park Improvement Project** to add needed paths, shade trees, and gardens to the park.

In 2000, the project team received a grant and worked closely with Program staff to develop and implement a landscape plan. A feature of the plan, a walking path through the park, was constructed with a border of diverse tree and shrub species. A planting was also completed at the entrance to the walking path and along the parking lot. Tremendous community support at all levels of project implementation began the conversion of a barren park into a treasured recreational landscape.

**Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work**

An additional \$2,000 was granted to augment Phase II plantings.

**Project Accomplishments**

- Planted 54 trees including 11 evergreen, 43 deciduous, 30 canopy and 24 flowering. 21 trees were from bareroot stock;
- Planted 3 shrubs and 385 herbaceous plants;
- Placed 15 cubic yards of mulch;
- Donna Murphy and Wayne Lucas, landscape architects, created a plan for the project site;
- Removed 5,000 square feet of Japanese knotweed;
- Planted 4,000 square feet of the project site;
- Created a 4' x 8' sign stating "Rippy Callahan Park Restoration Project;" and
- Created "Jermyn Shade Tree Commission" T-shirts.

**Project Value and Match**

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>
Cash Contributions	\$ 4,753
In-kind Contributions	\$ 797
<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>\$12,550</b>

**Project Partnerships**

- CTC Center, Scranton Horticulture Class – bulb planting
- Jermyn Borough Department of Public Works – services, equipment, labor, and watering
- Jermyn Residents – planting
- Jermyn Shade Tree Commission – planted trees
- Local Cub Scouts – planted trees
- Mayor – project oversight

