

Taylor Borough

Taylor Memorial Cemetery

Project Manager: John Derenick

2000 Grant Award: \$ 17,499

The **Taylor Memorial Cemetery** is located in the heart of Taylor, Pennsylvania in Lackawanna County. The cemetery is part of a one-acre historical property, which provides green space in downtown Taylor. One of the oldest church structures in Northeast Pennsylvania is located on the property. After many years of neglect, the cemetery had fallen into disrepair. Much of the topsoil had eroded away and many of the historical grave markers had to be cleared of overgrown brush. The cemetery was in desperate need of restoration.

A group of dedicated community members and borough employees applied to the Program for support for the comprehensive revitalization effort. Major accomplishments of their work included soil replenishment, tree plantings, seeding a bare bank, and the installation of an arbor and benches surrounded by a flower garden. A walkway was created to direct visitors through the cemetery and along the old church. Additionally, two spigots for water access were provided within the park. The project was a success and has inspired new regional pride among residents.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 16 trees including 3 evergreen, 13 deciduous, 3 canopy, and 13 flowering;
- Planted 22 shrubs and 54 herbaceous plants;
- Placed 15 cubic yards of mulch;
- Thomas McLane Associates, landscape architects, created a plan for the project site;
- Pruned 8 and removed 1 hazardous tree;
- Removed $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of Japanese knotweed;
- Cleared 40,000 square feet of junk, dumped material, and debris;
- Established a walking trail through the cemetery;
- Planted 38,000 square feet of the project site; and
- Coordinated a rededication ceremony with 150 community members and local, county, state, and federal officials.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$17,499
Cash Contributions	\$40,100
In-kind Contributions	<u>\$ 6,512</u>
Total Project Value	\$64,111

Project Partnerships

Elementary students – volunteers

Local Brownie Troop – volunteers

Local Businessman – donated use of a crane

Mayor Christopher Murphy – project support

Shawn Murphy – work with high school students

Taylor Borough DPW – labor and services

Taylor Borough Secretary – community service worker scheduling