

Washington Township expands Peninsula Park

By **Abbey Hudson**
Editor

Now that the weather is warming up, it's time to get outdoors.

Washington Township just acquired 25 acres adjacent to Peninsula Park that the community will be able to utilize.

Edinboro residents Jan and John Zeart donated the property to the township. Jan's parents owned the property before they passed away.

"I've known since the time I was in elementary school that the township wanted this piece of land. We were finally put in the position where we could give it to them," Jan said.

Family and friends joined the Zearts during the sign unveiling at the park on May 11. Jan's sister Rosalie Carlson joined them, along with Rosalie's children, Jeffery Carlson and Melanie Carlson.

The piece of land now known as Carlson Point, after Jan's family, is mostly water and swamp land.

"There was nothing we could do with the land. We couldn't build a house down here or anything. It just made sense to give it to the township," she said.

The donation also allowed the township to swap land in order to allow the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department to build its social club on the piece of land they're leasing from the township.

The land that the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department leased from

Washington Township had a deed restriction on it, which prompted Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to get involved.

In May 2016, township Manager David Anthony reported to Council the township solicitor had discovered there was a covenant on the deed from DCNR when the township purchased the two-acres behind the township building.

The property where the social hall is to be built was considered recreational use. The township had to find another piece of property that would be considered recreational use to make up the difference. While this was going on, the Zeart family approached the township about donating the 25 acres adjacent to Peninsula Park.

DCNR approved the land swap with the 25 acres of land the Zeart family donated to the township.

Washington Township Councilwoman Mary Jo Campbell attended the sign unveiling ceremony and was pleased with the outcome.

"Council deeply appreciates the donation from the Carlson family because it allowed the Department of Natural Resources to allow us to donate the other piece of property to the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department," Campbell said.

Peninsula Park is just one of six parks in the township. Peninsula Park



From left are John and Jan Zeart, Jeffery Carlson, Melanie Carlson and Rosalie Carlson. The Zearts recently donated 25 acres to Washington Township. The land is adjacent to Peninsula Park.

and Wainer Park are the two largest parks.

Last year, an amphitheater was installed at Wainer Park. The amphitheater is made out of a silo cap that sits around a concrete pad. The silo cap is 24 feet wide and 12 feet high. There is a natural slope around the amphitheater, which has seating around it. There is also a pavilion that sits up the hill above it.

Conneauttee Park, located on Woodlawn Drive, is the smallest park in the township. The park has a swing set and large sliding board for children as well as benches and a pavilion. A volleyball court is also available at this site.

Point Park, located at the intersection of Angling and Lay roads, offers picnic tables and a reduced size basketball court.

Photos by Abbey Hudson
Last year, an amphitheater was installed at Wainer Park. The secluded park is located behind the Washington Township Administration Building on Route 99.

Willow Park, located on Angling Road across from Angling/Birch drive intersection, has 10-station exercise trail connected to Peninsula Park.

Veterans Memorial Park, located at next to the township administration building on Route 99, is a memorial dedicated to the community's veterans. There is a gazebo with paved walkways.

Many of the pavilions around the township can be rented out for a \$50 per day fee.

Weddings, graduation parties and other family events are held at the township parks during the warm summer months.

For information on how to rent out any of the township parks, call the township office at 814-734-3117.

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