



DATE: 9-10-2020
TIME: 10:00AM

LOCATION: 147 CITY PARK DRIVE, SWATARA
RE: PARK REOPENING

The City of Harrisburg has partnered with the Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association (SABA) to re-establish historic Paxtang Park. SAMBA is a volunteer organization that provides assistances for developing, building and maintaining between 65-70 miles of natural surface trails in the South-Central Pa Region.

SAMBA partnership began in 2013 while establishing the Parkway Trail System which opened in 2016. The success of the trails is noted by the heavy usage from mountain bikers, runners, hikers and dog walkers. The trails are regarded as an excellent urban trails system with many access points to them thru the Capital Area Greenbelt.

In the Fall 2017, a plan was established to restore historic Paxtang Park located at City Park Drive. Due to an increase of Park Users for the trails and Greenbelt, the primary focus was to add parking. In 2018, SAMBA volunteers cleared the park of trash and removed overgrown vegetation from years of neglect. City workers aide as time permits with the removal of trees that have been repurposed as mulch in City Parks.

The park features a trail kiosk, repurposed parking spaces with crushed stone, picnic areas and pavilion. Stone for the parking area was donated by Pennsy Supply and a majority of the work was carried out by SAMBA volunteers.

SAMBA is excited to continue with preservation and improvements to the Park System.
SAMBA website link: <http://sambabiker.com/samba/>

The links below provide Paxtang Park history.

Article from Harrisburg magazine provides more historical information about the park:
<https://harrisburgmagazine.com/community/did-you-know/the-rutherford-house/>

Link to SAMBA website post with collection of historic postcards that depict the original park that could be used (example below):
<http://sambabiker.com/samba/samba-announces-plan-to-re-open-paxtang-park-in-2020/>

Why re-store the park?

1) The park is an important part of history and was the hub for recreation in Harrisburg during the early 1900s. The trolley line from Market square ended at the site where there was an amusement park, swimming pool, picnic area, lake and theater.

2) The location of the park is in the center of the Parkway Trail System and an ideal parking and meeting area for visiting cyclists using the Parkway Trails or Capital Area Greenbelt. The parking area can accommodate 16 vehicles, making the location ideal for group rides to meet and visitors exploring for the first time to park.

3) This will be an important cycling infrastructure improvement for the City as users are directed to this lot and away from some of the smaller, overcrowded parking areas. The hope is that by establishing this facility we can provide more welcoming accommodations for visitors, helping to make the Harrisburg area a more desirable destination for trail use and outdoor recreation