

CLEONA STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT FOR QUITTAPAHILLA CREEK • INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS

The Quittapahilla Creek is an impaired waterway. The main causes of the impairment are sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen from agricultural and urban runoff (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2000). A watershed assessment conducted between 2001 and 2004 concluded that erosion from stream banks contributes a significant amount of sediment to the creek (Clear Creeks Consulting, 2006). The bank erosion is particularly bad along the creek downstream of the City of Lebanon in Cleona and Annville. The Watershed Restoration and Management Plan developed for the Quittapahilla (Clear Creeks Consulting, 2006) identified potential restoration projects to address this erosion. The first of the projects was initiated in Quittie Creek Nature Park during fall 2014—winter 2015. It will be completed this summer (2016).

At the request of the Cleona Borough, a second stream restoration project is being proposed by the Quittapahilla Watershed Association for the stream reaches upstream, within, and downstream of Cleona Playground Park. But before any restoration plan can be developed, landowner commitment and permission is required. This information sheet seeks to answer questions landowners may have about the project.

What is being planned? If the required landowner commitments and permissions are garnered, a project to reconfigure and stabilize stream banks in the vicinity of the Cleona Playground Park is proposed. Flow diverting structures composed of boulders and logs would be installed to protect the restored and stabilized streambanks. Young trees and shrubs would be planted to provide long-term stabilization and eventually provide shade for the stream. *(Photos: Stream restoration project in Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville, before restoration, winter 2015 and after restoration, summer 2015).*



What is the extent of the project? The Watershed Restoration and Management Plan identified the reach of stream from a point downstream of Dairy Road all the way downstream to a point upstream of Mill Street as potential restoration project areas. Most of this section needs some improvement. Work would occur on both sides of the Creek. However, the final plan may include some shorter length of stream, depending on landowner participation, funding, the engineering calculations, and other factors.

What would be the benefits of the project? Streambank stabilization would result in reduced erosion, a narrower and deeper stream, improved fish habitat, and a more aesthetically pleasing stream and streambank.

What are some concerns for a landowner? If the project comes to fruition, landowners could expect to be inconvenienced, especially during the construction phase. Heavy machinery would work along the streambanks and in the stream. Mud and/or dust would increase during the construction phase. The work would be noisy and a measure of privacy would be temporarily lost.

What is the timeline for the project? Currently (June 2016) we are at ground zero. The first step is to secure landowner commitments to participate in the project and permissions to access their property for data collection and survey work. Once those commitments/permissions are in hand, a grant application and planning proposal will be drafted, finalized, and submitted (to the Pennsylvania DEP) for funding. A funding decision usually takes about a year. If the funding is awarded, a formal design plan can be prepared and permits obtained. Then, a grant application for construction will be prepared and submitted for funding. Again, a one-year period would be expected for a funding decision. If those funds are awarded, a contractor would be hired to accomplish the construction. The construction start date would depend on the contractor's schedule. In the most optimistic scenario, construction might happen in 2018.

What will the final work look like? As noted above, a similar project has already been completed on the Quittapahilla Creek in the Quittie Nature Park in Annville. To see the results, take Bachman Road south from East Main Street in Annville. Restoration has been completed both upstream and downstream of the Raymond J. Swingholm Pedestrian Bridge.

What will be the cost for the landowners? There will be zero cost to landowners.

Will landowners have maintenance responsibilities? Individual landowners are not responsible for maintaining their portion of the project. All that is required is that landowners not alter any components of the project.

Great! Where do I sign? If you call or email and let us know, a representative of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association will come to your house with two one-page forms for you to sign – a “Landowner Access Authorization” form, and a “Landowner Letter of Commitment” form. These are standard landowner forms used routinely by the Pennsylvania DEP. Call Dave Lasky at 717.867.4837 or Mike Schroeder at 484.753.4156 and they will arrange for your signing. Or email us at dlasky610@comcast.net (Dave) or msinpa@gmail.com (Mike).

Who we are. We represent the Quittapahilla Watershed Association, a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to cleaner water flowing down the Quittie to the Chesapeake Bay. For supporting documentation, visit our website at www.QuittapahillaWatershedAssociation.org and click on “Studies and Documents” where you’ll find a digital file cabinet brimming with information about Quittie Creek’s impairments. For photos of the Annville streambank restoration project, go to “Photos & Images” and then to “Restoration 2014-16.” Questions? Please be in touch!



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