

CLEONA STREAMBANK 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 runoff (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2000). A study conducted in 2004 concluded that erosion from stream banks contributes to the sediment in the stream (Clear Creeks



Consulting, 2006). The bank erosion is particularly bad in the vicinity of Cleona. A streambank restoration project is being proposed by the Quittapahilla Watershed Association and the Borough of Cleona. But before any restoration plan can be formulated, landowner permission is required. This information sheet seeks to answer questions landowners may have about the project. *(Photo: the streambank restoration project in Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville, winter 2015).*

What is being planned?

If the required landowner permissions are garnered, a project to reconfigure and stabilize stream banks in the vicinity of Cleona is proposed. Fish habitat structures would be installed and a riparian buffer would be established along the banks. Young trees would be planted that would eventually provide shade for the stream.

What would be the benefits of the project?

Streambank stabilization would be achieved which would result in reduced erosion. The result of the project would be a narrower and deeper stream. Fish habitat would be improved and a more esthetically pleasing environment would be created.

What is the extent of the project?

A section of stream from Dairy Road all the way downstream to Mill Street is the target area. This entire section needs improvement. Work would occur on both sides of the Creek. However, the final plan may include some shorter length of stream, depending on the engineering calculations.

What are some concerns for a landowner?

If the project comes to fruition, landowners could expect to be inconvenienced, especially during the construction phase. The project would involve heavy machinery along the streambanks and in the stream. Mud and/or dust would definitely 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 (April, 2016), we are at ground zero. The first step is to secure landowner permissions to work on their property. Once those permissions are in hand, a planning proposal can 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 plan can be prepared. Then, a proposal 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 actual 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?

A similar project has already been completed on the Quittapahilla Creek in the Quittie Nature Park in Annville. Take Bachman Road south from East Main Street in Annville to see the results. Restoration has been completed both upstream and downstream from the Swingholm pedestrian bridge.

What will be the cost for the landowners?

There will be zero cost to landowners.

Great! Where do I sign?

A team of individuals representing Cleona Borough and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association will come to your house with a form for you to sign. This form is a standard landowner permission form used routinely by the Pennsylvania DEP. If our team comes by when you are not home, you can access the form online at <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-11937>. Alternatively, call Kent Crawford at 717-566-5851 and he will make arrangements for your signing.

References:

Clear Creeks Consulting, 2006, Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Assessment Volume 1 – Findings Report: on line at <http://quittapahillawatershedassociation.org/documents/2006-Dec-Reports/V1-Findings/Executive%20Summary%20Vol%201.pdf>, variously paged.

(The foregoing study can be found at www.QuittapahillaWatershedAssociation.org > Studies & Documents)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2000, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Quittapahilla Creek Watershed, Lebanon County: Southcentral Regional Office, Water Management Program, 36 pp. + appendix.