

## Sedimentation of Wildwood Lake

**Problem** - Wildwood Lake has undergone a high rate of sedimentation over the last 100 years. The lake's depth has decreased from an average of four feet to about three inches. Due to the accumulation of silt, Wildwood Lake no longer functions as a large catch basin for storing floodwaters from Harrisburg and keeping pollution, mostly sediment, from reaching the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Selective dredging would provide an increase in water quality and flood protection while maintaining optimal recreation areas and diverse wildlife habitat for the Park's 100,000 annual visitors.

### Solutions

#### 1. Reduce erosion upstream

- Joint Pollution Reduction Plan – In 2017 municipalities upstream from Wildwood Lake created a joint plan to address sediment pollution in Paxton Creek. Capital Region Water, Lower Paxton Township, Susquehanna Township, and Dauphin County prepared the plan with the short and long-term goals of reducing sediment by 10% and 35% respectively.
- In 2018, Dauphin County Parks and Recreation received a \$35,000 DEP grant to repair a 200' section of Paxton Creek in Wildwood Park. It will reduce erosion by installing modified wood cribbing, and provide bank protection and long-term stabilization for the nature center foundation. Work to begin as early as Fall 2018.
- Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association – this hands-on watershed organization addresses Paxton Creek problems such as erosion and flooding, and protects and enhances watershed resources.
- Several streamside projects incorporating best management practices have already been completed upstream to reduce erosion and reduce storm water.

#### 2. Selective dredging

- Pursued in conjunction with best management practices upstream to reduce sediments, the lake should be selectively dredged to a depth varying from six inches to twelve feet.
- A Feasibility Study has been completed outlining specific locations to dredge.

### Benefits

- Improve water quality to Paxton Creek, the Susquehanna River, and the Chesapeake Bay by having Wildwood Lake act as a storm water best management practice, trapping sediments and pollutants.
- Provide downstream flood protection for the City of Harrisburg
- Improve Wildwood Lake's flood control impoundment capacity
- Improve recreational opportunities
- Create diverse aquatic ecosystems and habitats for both plants and animals to thrive

**Cost** - Probable opinion of dredging costs at 1 to 4 selective dredges in Wildwood Lake range from \$4,000,000 to \$12,000,000. No funding has been received to date.

**Support** - Selective dredging of Wildwood Lake has broad community and partner support including the Wildwood Restoration Partnership composed of 15 state and local organizations.

Read the Feasibility Study to Wildwood Lake at [www.dauphincounty.org/parksandrec](http://www.dauphincounty.org/parksandrec)