

Wildwood Restoration Summary Sheet

Problem - Wildwood Park's wetlands have undergone a high rate of sedimentation over the last 100 years. Due to the accumulation of silt, Wildwood is no longer a lake, it is a shallow three inch deep wetlands in need of restoration. It no longer functions as a large catch basin for storing floodwaters and keeping pollution, mostly sediment, from reaching the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake.

Removing selective accumulated sediments coupled with wetland restoration would provide an increase in water quality and flood protection for the City of Harrisburg while maintaining optimal recreation areas and diverse wildlife habitat for the Park's 100,000 annual visitors.

Solutions

1. Implement best management practices upstream to reduce sediment in Paxton Creek.
 - 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 prepared the plan with the short and long-term goals of reducing sediment by 10% and 35% respectively.
 - In 2019, Dauphin County Parks and Recreation received a \$45,000 DEP grant to repair a 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 Summer 2019.
 - 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. Feasibility Study of Wildwood Restoration
 - Completed in 2015 with funding from Friends of Wildwood
3. Design and Permitting
 - Funded. Dauphin County recently received funding from DEP and the Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant Program for design and permitting of Wildwood restoration with the goal of making a “shovel-ready” project.
4. Wildwood Wetland Restoration Construction
 - Not yet funded.
 - Restore Wildwood's wetlands to again function as an important flood mitigator for the City of Harrisburg; restore wetlands ability to trap sediments and pollutants instead of shunting them to the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay; improve Paxton Creek water quality, an impaired stream; native plantings and aesthetic improvements.

Benefits

- Provide downstream flood protection for the City of Harrisburg
- Improve water quality in Paxton Creek, Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay
- Improve flood control impoundment capacity and recreational opportunities
- Create diverse aquatic ecosystems and habitats for both plants and animals to thrive

Cost - Probable opinion of restoration range from \$4,000,000 to \$12,000,000.

What do you think should happen to Wildwood Lake? Email your thoughts to wwstaff@dauphinc.org