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October 24, 2023

**Re: South Devon Area Flood Reduction and
West Wayne Preserve Wooded Wetlands Restoration & Habitat Enhancement**

Dear Neighbors of the West Wayne Preserve and the Friends of Radnor Trails Park,

On September 11, 2023, the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners approved a \$4 million dollar project to reduce the probability flooding in a 10-year, 1-hour rain event, on South Devon Avenue; to restore the wooded wetlands and enhance wildlife habitat at the West Wayne Preserve (WWP); and to install stormwater management off West Wayne Avenue and in the Friends of the Radnor Trails Park (FORT).

Work will begin in November at the WWP, which has become overgrown with non-native and less desirable trees and vegetation. Furthermore, contaminated soil was found. While the WWP has still survived as a partial wetlands area, it is overdue to reach its potential. It can also serve as the first line of defense for stormwater, which otherwise flows down South Devon Avenue.

The initial work will certainly catch your eyes. Within the 2.8 acres, which will be disturbed during the work in the WPP, 406 trees need to be removed, only 60 of which are in fair to good condition. The others are in poor health, have major defects, are diseased ash, or are dead. These will be removed this fall along with the contaminated soil. By next spring, 106 trees will be planted. In addition, there will be 95 shrubs, 852 live stakes, 1,411 containers of bareroot woody trees and shrubs, and 2.35 acres of upland seeding. Some of the planting will extend beyond the initially disturbed area. A fence will be installed to protect the new plantings from deer during the initial years and allow them to mature. A 3-year landscape maintenance plan will be implemented to further assist in the vegetation growth. The plan was approved by the Shade Tree Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board.

Looking to next spring and for the stormwater management aspect of the WPP, berms will be added to direct the stormwater flow, and the existing culvert under the Radnor Trail will be rehabilitated.

Work will then continue into the next part of the project on the southside of the Radnor Trail. Improvements will be made on West Wayne Avenue so that stormwater resulting from many of the non-extreme, but still disruptive, storms may be redirected. This area currently receives approximately 60 acres of runoff from developed areas in Radnor Township. A new porous paving parking lot will be constructed in place of the existing stone parking lot.

Stormwater will then be further stored at the FORT where two subsurface stormwater detention systems will be installed to allow the stored stormwater to be slowly released. Trees and seeding will be added to this area. There will be 24 trees planted, along with 7,725 bioswale plant seeds and plugs, and 0.65 acres of upland seeding. The fencing around the dog park will be replaced as it is currently and will be evaluated for possible further enclosure. Dog walkers are encouraged to contact Tammy Cohen, Director of Parks and Recreation, at tcohen@radnor.org or (610) 688-5600 extension 141 to be added to the dog owner notification list, for which input will be gathered.

The project is anticipated to continue into early summer of 2024. There will be disruption of the FORT and, to some extent, the Radnor Trail due to the work activity, and we appreciate, in advance, your patience.

We hope that you share the excitement that we have for this innovative project. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service thought enough of it to provide a combined almost \$1,000,000 in grants. The remainder will be funded from the Township Stormwater Fund.

Any questions about the project or its status may be directed to westwaynepreserveareaplan@radnor.org.

Sincerely,



Stephen F. Norcini, P.E.
Township Engineer



Dennis P. Capella
Engineering – Project Manager

cc: Radnor Township Board of Commissioners
William M. White, Township Manager