



LITTLE CREEK COMMUNITY PARK AND STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Restoring local waters to help
bring a community together.

PROJECT GOALS

Creating a much-needed community park while at the same time restoring Little Creek through reducing nutrient and sediment pollutants and returning 1,600 feet of its shoreline to its natural state.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Meeting township residents' need for a community park.
- Providing a walking trail, sports fields, picnic pavilion and other amenities for community use.
- Starting an outdoor education partnership with nearby schools.
- Decreased costs related to a reduction in flooding.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Healthier water quality in Little Creek.
- Improved habitat for fish, aquatic insect and birds.
- Reducing flooding on adjacent roads and farm fields during heavy storms.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Restored an 800-foot straight stream channel into a natural meandering stream and floodplain.
- Removed legacy sediment build-up and restored stream banks back to natural heights.
- Planted 50 feet of native trees and plants on each side of the stream.
- Created a wetland.
- Partnered with a neighboring farmer to implement the same project along 800 adjacent feet upstream.
- Broke ground on a large rain garden and a stormwater retention pond.



Photo: JPL Creative

“ We started the Little Creek Community Park and stream restoration project for two reasons: Our residents have been asking for a community park, and with five new residential developments built in the township in recent years, there’s been even more interest in a park. In addition, as a municipality in Pennsylvania’s part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Jackson Township is required to reduce sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus levels by a specific amount for its stormwater permit.

- **Bill Conn**

Manager, Jackson Township

PROJECT SUMMARY

As several new residential developments were built in Jackson Township, local interest in constructing a community park grew. Township leaders saw this as an opportunity to also meet state requirements to reduce nutrient and sediment pollutant levels in their local streams. They obtained state, county and private funding to plan, design and construct stream restoration and the new park. The first part of the project returned 800 feet of Little Creek that had been turned into a straight channel flowing through a golf course, to its natural, meandering state. Additionally, the creation of a floodplain and wetland, along with the planting of several trees and shrubs, helped slow water flow during heavy storms and reduce the amount of fertilizer entering the creek. The next phase of the project will take place upstream using a similar approach. Currently under construction, the 18-acre park will be on both sides of the stream, connected by a footbridge. The park will feature an environmental education trail that runs along the stream, a picnic pavilion, athletic fields, playground and a walking path.


THINGS TO CONSIDER

- A project this size will be expensive. Be prepared and research and apply for as many state and local grants as possible.
- Collaboration with state agencies and local municipalities will help ensure the project runs smoothly.


THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grants.
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- York County Stormwater Consortium.
- York County Planning Commission.
- Spring Grove Regional Recreation Commission.
- Private funding.
- Neighboring farm.


CONTACT

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MORE INFORMATION

 jacksontwp.york.pa.us/recreation
jacksontwp.york.pa.us/images/docs/Community_Park.pdf



This restored 800-foot section of Little Creek, with meandering path, floodplain, and native vegetation, was once a straight, narrow channel through a golf course. (Photo: JPL Creative)



A wetland created as part of the stream restoration helps filter pollutants and is visited by heron. (Photo: JPL Creative)



A wetland created as part of the stream restoration helps filter pollutants and is visited by heron. (Photo: JPL Creative)