

Comly Avenue Stormwater Project – Dry Extended Detention Basin

What is a Dry Extended Detention Basin?

Many of us are familiar with stormwater basins seen alongside roadways or in shopping plazas. Some of these are retention basins rather than detention basins, designed to simply hold excess runoff water.

A detention basin, on the other hand, does not indefinitely hold excess water. Instead, water channeled into the basin is slowed down so that it does not enter the watershed (creek) too quickly, allowing the water extra time to percolate back into the ground. As the water is absorbed by the soils in the basin, it is naturally cleansed of harmful nutrients. At the same time, any loose sediment that normally would be carried by the flowing water is allowed to collect in the basin rather than be carried into the waterways. By the time the stormwater exits the basin and enters adjacent waterways, it carries significantly less sediment and pollutants.



Pipes are placed to redirect stormwater from Hill Ave.



Construction fencing is placed around the site.



Trees are cleared to make way for the basin.



The ground is beginning to be leveled.

The word “dry” in the name of this particular stormwater facility indicates that the basin normally will not be filled with water. Because the basin allows water to filter back into the ground, any water collected in the basin after a rain event will slowly dissipate.

The word “extended” is added because the basin is designed to detain water runoff for an extended period, allowing contaminants extra time to settle to the bottom and therefore not be carried into the creek.

Why is Langhorne Manor embarking on this project?

Municipalities in Pennsylvania are tasked by the Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) with reducing the amount of sediment and harmful nutrients that enter our waterways. In our case, Langhorne Manor Borough is required to reduce the amount of these pollutants reaching the Neshaminy Creek and Mill Creek watersheds.

Much of the stormwater runoff in Langhorne Manor travels downhill towards Comly Ave before making its way into the wooded area off Hulmeville Ave and towards the Neshaminy Creek. By installing a stormwater facility such as this basin, the amount of sediment and pollutants in the stormwater can be reduced before it reaches the creek. This basin will count towards Langhorne Manor’s reduction requirements in the Neshaminy Creek Watershed.



Ground is leveled and ready for excavation.



Excavation has begun.

Who is paying for this project?

Langhorne Manor has applied for and received two grants specifically to fund this project: a PA Growing Greener grant for \$230,000, and a Bucks County Redevelopment Authority (RDA) grant for \$125,000.

Construction schedule (subject to weather conditions):

- Excavation and placement of some underground structures should be completed in the month of August.
- Addition of amended soils, basin creation, grading, planting, and installation of fencing are scheduled to occur in September.
- Any remaining tasks are scheduled to be completed in early October.
- A ribbon cutting for the project is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 14. Stay tuned!