

Pine Street Stormwater Project: Infiltration Trenches

Project Summary

Over the past month or so, CPA Pavement Services has been hard at work constructing the Pine Street Infiltration Trenches on the east side of Pine Street in the right-of-way bordering Cairn University.



Construction supplies delivered on-site.

Why Infiltration Trenches?

This project completes the borough's requirement to reduce the levels of sediment and other pollutants entering Mill Creek. (The Comly Detention Basin, on the other hand, addresses sediment and other pollutants entering Neshaminy Creek). Storm runoff is now directed into several lengths of infiltration trenches

underground, whereby water is slowed, filtered, and cleansed as it makes its way downhill towards Mill Creek. Previously, the water would run full-speed along asphalt curbing, picking up harmful substances and sediment along the way and depositing them into our waterways.



The old asphalt curbing was cut away and removed.

Funding

Funded for the project was provided by two separate grants: Bucks County Conservation District (BCCD) Low Volume Roads program, and Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) H2O grant.

Successful grant applications continue to support state-mandated, but unfunded, stormwater projects such as this one which are required of Langhorne Manor Borough. Sourcing and preparing grant applications can be labor-intensive, and the coordination that is required between many different parties is extensive. You may even recall seeing members of the Stormwater Commission counting vehicles throughout our borough a couple of years back, which qualified Langhorne Manor for the BCCD grant. Projects such as this one are years in the making!



Digging the trenches.



Infrastructure being installed.

Thank You to All Involved

The Pine Street Infiltration Trenches were designed and overseen by Remington Vernick Engineers (RVE), and shepherded through by Langhorne Manor's Stormwater Commission, Borough Council, and Borough Manager. CPA Pavement Services was the contractor on-site, communicating effectively with Borough officials and giving regular updates to the Stormwater Commission members who stopped by to take photos of their progress.

Thank you to all who assisted in this project, including our Pine Street residents and members of Cairn University who were supportive during the construction process. Also notable are the residents of Prospect Ave who were patient as test pits were dug in the rights-of-way in front of their properties, only to discover that Prospect Ave was not a suitable location for an infiltration trench after all.



Ready for the trench to be backfilled.

What Still Needs to Be Done?

Over the coming weeks, CPA will monitor the growth of the new grass planted in the area. They will also work to repair any remaining damage from the Prospect Ave infiltration test pits that were dug several months ago.

No Parking

Please refrain from parking vehicles on the grass along the east side of Pine Street at Cairn University. Not only can damage be done to the underground infiltration test pit infrastructure, but car tires may also harm the new grass seedlings starting to emerge. In addition, parking in that area along the east side of Pine

Street is prohibited by ordinance 2005-0006 (<https://langhornemanor.org/document/no-parking-on-highland-hulmeville-manor-avenues-and-pine-street-2005/>).

Are Any Additional Stormwater Projects Anticipated?

Yes. Langhorne Manor has completed its requirements to reduce sediment and pollutants entering Mill Creek, and has made significant strides to completing its Neshaminy Creek requirements as well. However, the Neshaminy Creek requirements are much more substantial, so additional project(s) are needed.



Earth is replaced.



Grass starting to fill in.

The Stormwater Commission and members of Borough Council are currently in talks with RVE to determine next steps. The borough already received additional grant funding for the infiltration trench on Prospect Ave which did not pan out. Alternative locations are now being discussed.

What Else is Happening Related to Stormwater?

Bucks County has formed a Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC), which includes representatives from each municipality in Bucks as well as the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), BCCD, Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC), and other organizations. Councilmember Alicia Gasparovic, chairperson of the Stormwater Commission, will represent Langhorne Manor.

The purpose of WPAC is to create a county-wide Act 167 Plan, updating and consolidating the 9 previously enacted plans throughout the county. Act 167 empowers municipalities to regulate land use activities that affect stormwater runoff. Goals include flood mitigation, prevention of stream degradation, and stormwater management from new and re-development. Once the county has a final plan, each municipality, including Langhorne Manor, will be required to enact ordinances to implement the plan. For more information, please visit: <https://www.stormwaterpa.org/assets/media/regulatory/3930-FS-DEP4101.pdf>.

Photos courtesy of Stormwater Commission member Jim Keba.