

Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Grounds Gearing up to be Greener

Lower Gwynedd Township received great news in May of 2016 regarding the award of a Growing Greener grant application. Lower Gwynedd Township is one of numerous applicants to have received funding in this highly competitive grant process.

What is Growing Greener?

Growing Greener is the largest single investment of state funds in Pennsylvania to address the state's critical environmental concerns. The funds are distributed among four state agencies: the Department of Agriculture to administer farmland preservation projects; the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for state park renovations and improvements; and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority for water and sewer system upgrades. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to allocate funds in grants for: Watershed restoration and protection; Abandoned mine reclamation; and Abandoned oil and gas well plugging projects.

Implementation of the Lower Gwynedd Township Basins and Naturalization project will begin in 2017.

The purpose of the project is to implement recommendations as part of a Land Management Plan that comprises several components. The projects are located on or near the Township Municipal Complex lands.

Willow Run, a tributary of the Wissahickon Creek, discharges to the Wissahickon Creek at Penllyn Woods, Lower Gwynedd Township. The projects will take place at the headwaters of Willow Run. Two existing stormwater basins, owned by the township will be naturalized via the removal of three low flow channels as well as the existing grass/lawn bottoms, which will be replaced with a rain garden seed mix to promote a low maintenance basin floor that will improve water quality functions.

Two existing detention basins (in series) on the township complex property will also be naturalized, in a manner similar to the low flow channel basins, and will be replaced with a rain garden seed mix to promote a low maintenance basin floor that will improve and increase the water quality aspects of the basin.

The third project in this grant application includes the creation of a rain garden on a 600 square-foot lawn area. Numerous downspouts on the municipal administration building will be disconnected and the water will be diverted to the rain garden.

The intent of the project is to foster educational outreach regarding nonpoint source pollution prevention and the protection of water resources and habitat. This project will provide a unique opportunity for the community to see examples of innovative designs and measures that can be implemented to protect Priority Watersheds from nonpoint source pollution resulting from urban runoff, and land use practices.

Gwynedd Green Committee