



# TOWNSHIPS IN THE NEWS

## Interesting Stories about Member Townships

### Wetlands Project Helps Address Soggy Parkland

Stormwater runoff had a habit of turning parts of Ricky Park in Upper Macungie Township into a sodden sponge. Where some saw this as a problem in the Lehigh County township, the Sierra Club saw it as an opportunity to restore some of the natural habitat that had been lost to development.

Armed with a \$15,000 wildlife grant, the Lehigh Valley Group of the Sierra Club diverted a drainage pipe along an adjoining road so that the water would travel some 180 feet into the park, where a new, V-shaped lined pond waited. According to an article in the *Allentown Morning Call*, water flows into the pond at a rate of 10 to 30 gallons per minute.

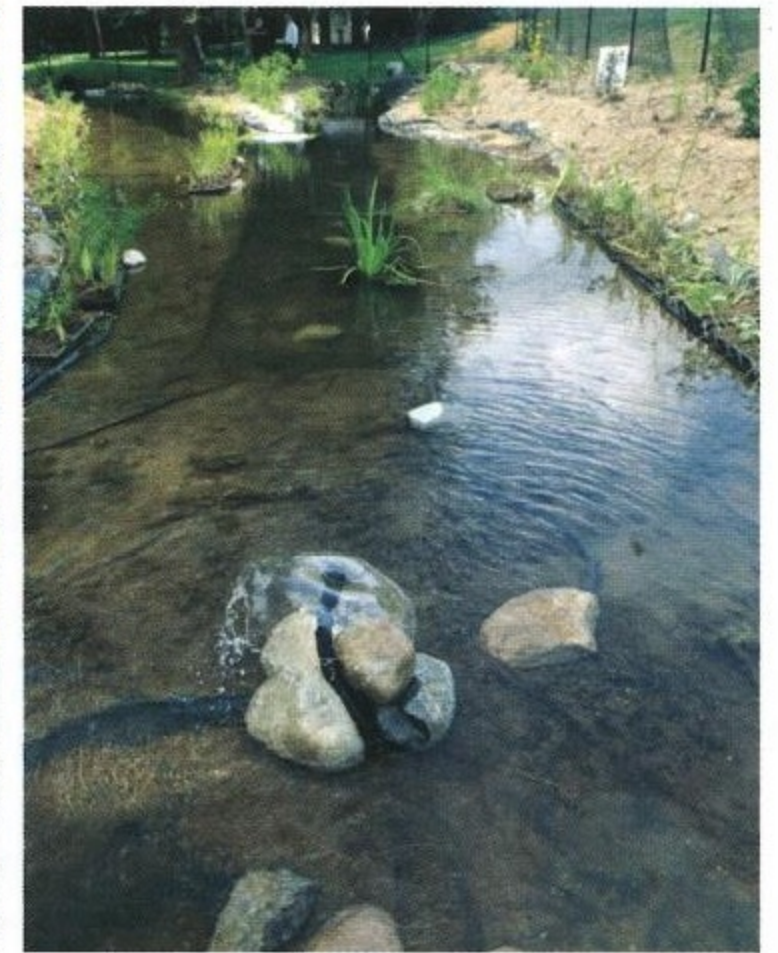
The club planted native shrubs and wetland plants, including rushes, sedges, cardinal flower, red chokeberry, and pickleweeds, to try to bring back some of what had disappeared over the years.

“We are hoping to restore what used to be,” Matt MacConnell, co-chair of the Lehigh Valley Group, told the *Morning Call*.

Upper Macungie Township encouraged the club’s project and paid for a metal fence around the wetland to keep visitors safe. MacConnell said he is hoping the township will help provide a pump to keep algae at bay.

As for whether the new wetland will solve the soggy issue, that remains to be seen, although MacConnell is hopeful.

“We can’t really say if it will help,” he told the paper, “but we know it won’t hurt.” ♦



**The Sierra Club and Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, transformed a soggy spot in a local park into a wetland. The group diverted runoff to a newly lined pond and then planted native grasses and shrubs to restore natural habitat that had been lost to development. The township erected a fence to protect the wetland and park visitors. (Photos from the township Facebook page.)**

## Share your township news with our Township News!

The *Township News* is looking for short accounts of events, awards, personal accomplishments, and human-interest stories happening in PSATS’ member townships. They can be serious, comical, or somewhere in between but must relate to township activities or people. Send us a short description, photo(s), and/or links to online news clips; we’ll do the rest!

Email your news to Executive Editor Ginni Linn at [glinn@psats.org](mailto:glinn@psats.org).