



WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
Stormwater Task Force
Agenda
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
5:00 p.m.

[Etiquette for
hybrid meetings](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 865 3699 0378

Passcode: 264623

One tap mobile

Meeting Packets can be found on Township website

Reminder to meeting participants: Please speak clearly into the microphone

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of minutes for 5/15 Task Force meeting
2. Approval of minutes for 7/17 Task Force meeting

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of Valley Creek Study recommendations
2. Mapping and educational resources discussion
3. Review and discussion of flooding area concerns

Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 18, 2024

Note: Meeting Packets can be found on Township website

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated in the introduction, the flooding conditions currently existing in Valley Creek have evolved over many years and are due to several complex issues. Since it is unlikely that the Township will have the resources needed to fully alleviate this condition in a short time period, it is recommended that a multi-faceted approach be taken. This includes projects contemplated by this report as well as other efforts such as development regulations and code enforcement.

The conclusions reached in this report are summarized below:

Mitigation Measure	Approximate Cost	Effect at the pond in Meadowbrook Manor
Upstream Channel Improvements (Measure 4A)	\$200,000	lowers 100-year flood plain between a half foot and one and a half feet
Downstream Channel Improvements (Measure 4B)	\$300,000	lowers 100-year flood plain about a foot.
Mitigation Measures 4A and 4B	\$500,000	lowers 100-year flood plain nearly three feet
Expansion of 12-Acre Pond (Measure 5)	\$420,000	lowers 100-year flood plain about a foot
Flood Proofing (Measure 6A)	\$40,000	flood plain would be more contained locally
Minor Channel Improvements (Measure 6B)	\$70,000	flood plain would be more contained locally
Funding Options (Measure 7)	varies	depending on program, could substantially reduce flooding damages

Based on this analysis, it is recommended that the Township proceed with the major channel improvements in Valley Creek, Mitigation Measures 4A and 4B. While the most costly, they will provide the greatest benefit to the largest number of people. Assuming these improvements are made, there would be little reason to also proceed with Mitigation Measure 5, expansion of 12-acre pond as the added, incremental benefits would not be significant when compared to the costs.

The Township should also proceed with Mitigation Measures 6A and 6B. Although the benefits of these flood proofing and minor channel improvement projects would be fairly local, their costs are not excessive particularly when compared to the cost of buying out the affected homes.

There should continue to be efforts building upon the work of citizens in the area. Perhaps a more formal Valley Creek/Meadowbrook Manor working group can be created and comprised of Township representatives, homeowners, business representatives, and other interested members of the public such as representatives from Trout Unlimited or similar organizations. Technical input from the Township Engineer or URS would be advisable as well. This working group could

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

prioritize measures as discussed in this report, evaluate funding options that may be available (Mitigation Measure 7), critique development regulations, and develop long-term strategies.

There would also be the opportunity to discuss what may be competing interests in the creek. For example, stream improvements to reduce flooding could result in loss of habitat. The Township or the working group may want to further investigate environmental issues associated with stream improvements. Again, while mechanisms do exist to permit the work described in this report, it is likely significant hurdles would need to be overcome. The sooner these are more fully understood, the easier it will be to implement long-term plans. The nature of the problems in Valley Creek are significant. Unfortunately, so must be the solutions.

Another immediate step, albeit limited in its impact in reducing flooding, would be to conduct a stream cleanup. Investigations found numerous locations where debris is either clogging the main streambed of Valley Creek or otherwise inhibiting flow along its flood banks. Perhaps this could be a volunteer effort undertaken by the working group described above. This could also have the added benefit of instilling a degree of ownership of the creek by the residents.

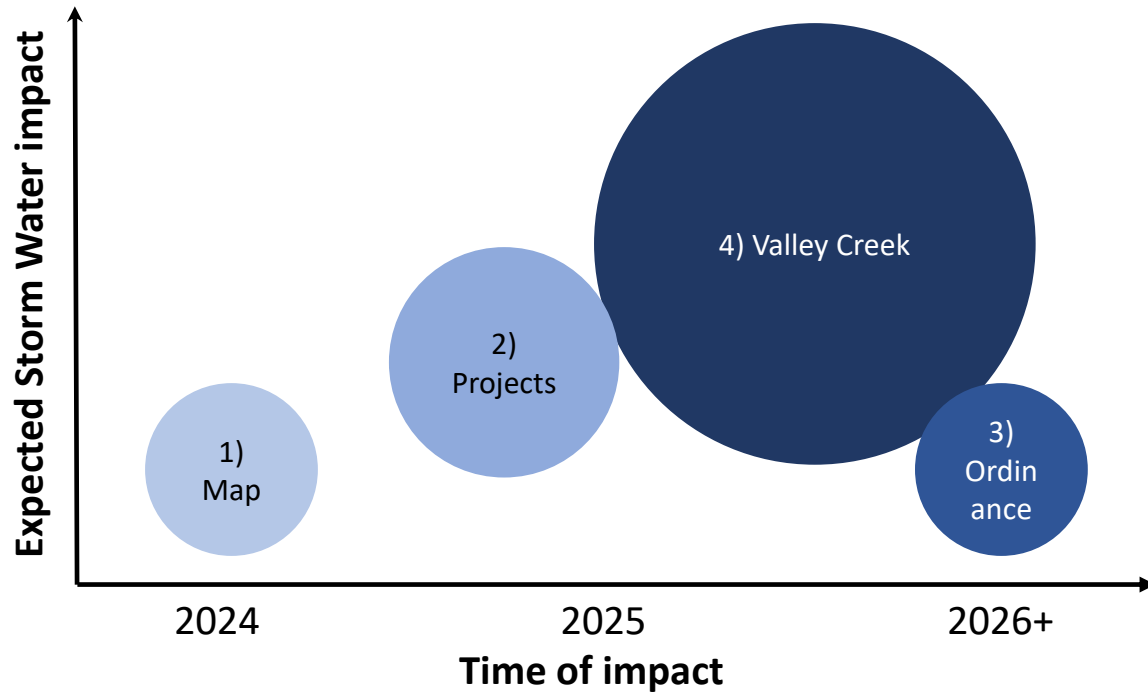
The current flooding situation in Valley Creek is not the result of a single action, project, or event. Each commercial, industrial, and residential project in the watershed shares an incremental solution. The long-term solution is likely to be a combination of a few major projects combined with several smaller improvements. The best opportunity for flood mitigation will be to develop a long-term plan with many facets of implementation, some big and some small, seek to better understand their permitting issues, and provide for funding.

WWT – Storm Water Taskforce

Strategic outlook as of July 2024

Four categories of initiatives have been discussed to mitigate the impact of Storm Water events on the WWT. Each with varying impacts, timelines, and dependencies. The goal of this overview is to specify these characteristics, prioritize appropriately, and level-set the taskforce and township to communicate a clear and accurate multi-year timeline to residents.

First iteration only – Task Force & Township input required:



● Size of circles is reflecting effort

Initiatives sorted by lowest time to impact:

- 1) Educational map
Create a continuously updated map of the WWT and the area-impact for ongoing or planned initiatives / mitigation projects.
- 2) Specific projects and engineering reviews
Create a backlog and work through, incl. Meadowbrook Manor, Whiteland Crest, Katie Way area, and other reported hotspots.
- 3) Zoning and flood ordinance review
To be clarified.
- 4) Valley Creek flood study
To be clarified.

WWT – Storm Water Taskforce

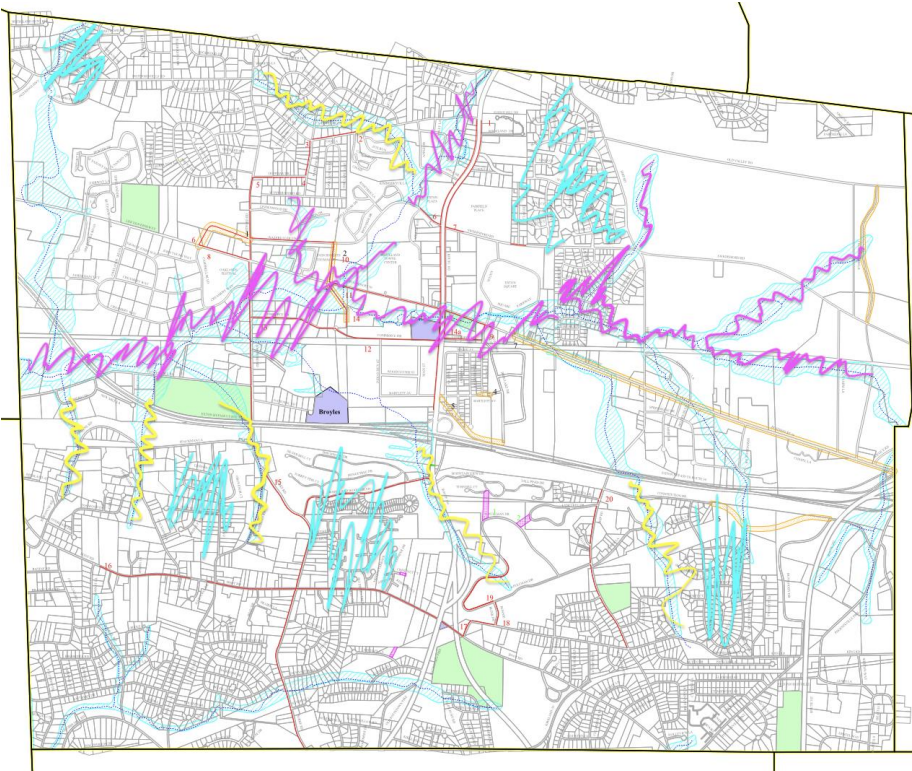
Educational map

This example map is intended to illustrate how the complex landscape of storm water mitigation initiatives can be communicated to WWT's residents. Ideally, viewers quickly understand which strategies are best suited for their homes.

Example 1: If their homes are within the Valley Creek flooding zone, a future large-scale mitigation is possible and relevant.

Example 2: If their homes are located in a ravine, only well-informed localized efforts may help.

Ideally, residents quickly understand what their individual best chance of success is: Receive township consultation for self-funded local mitigation, engage with neighbors and HOAs, or advocate for large-scale mitigation projects.



Colors and areas of coloring are only to illustrate the concept – no representation of actual impacts of mitigations.

Storm Water Task Force Site List Group 1 Review

<u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date_Rpt</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1A	261 Twin Oaks Ln	7/11/2023	Water running onto property from West Goshen	Public	Low

<u>Action</u>	<u>Status/Resolution</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Inspected / PW Work Requested / Closed	PW to clean culvert at bridge, this has no effect on him, the only thing that could be looked at is possibly an asphalt curb in front of his house, don't think this is a township issue	Yes

<u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date_Rpt</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1B	1381 Kirkland Ave	7/11/2023	Garage flooding from road runoff	Public	Low

<u>Action</u>	<u>Status/Resolution</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Inspected	PW to possibly install driveway bump have Shane and Ed/Jim to evaluate to determine if Twp should do or not	Yes

<u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date_Rpt</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1C	1359 Glen Echo Rd	8/7/2023	Road flooding at Glen Echo and Gypsie	Public	Medium

<u>Action</u>	<u>Status/Resolution</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Inspected / PW Work Requested	PW to clear the culvert of debris, This has been discussed with Ed/Jim and Shane, slightly complicated because stream needs to be dredged and possibly rerouted, DEP permits will most likely be required, Ken and Jim to meet with homeowner at 1372 & 1374 Glen Echo who we believe is responsible for dredging wetlands on their property. Nick S from SSM now involve with this. Awaiting Solicitor Feedback on notification of responsibilities letter.	Yes

<u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date_Rpt</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1D	1303 Erin Dr	7/8/2023	Issue with water coming off Kirkland Avenue	Public	Low

<u>Action</u>	<u>Status/Resolution</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Inspected / Capital Project	SWM infrastructure upgrades needed	Yes

Storm Water Task Force Site List Group 1 Review

Number	Address	Date_Rpt	Concern	Location	Priority
1	1301 Erin Dr	7/8/2023	Issue with water coming off Kirkland Avenue, Two days of hard rain and two stormwater overflow events. I have been reporting this issue for 5 years, when will I hear something back on how this will be addressed? Resident flooded again 7/25/2023 and wants to know if Twp is going to pay for damages.	Public	Medium
Action		Status/Resolution		Contacted	
Inspected / Capital Project		Looking at possible solutions, possible total road rebuild. Brannon and Ken talked about running storm pipe down between houses to basin on Brittany as possible solution.		Yes	

Number	Address	Date_Rpt	Concern	Location	
1F	1351 Sweetbriar Road	4/11/2024	water has been flooding her yard and driveway for years, this is an ongoing project, see e-mail chains	public	Medium
Action		Status/Resolution		Contacted	
Inspected		4/11/2024, Jim R and Ed C went out to inspect area again. They are in contact with Elisabeth Garrett. Nick S from SSM was also shown the area.		Yes	