



Crossroads

Proud of Our Past. Pride in Our Progress.

Preparing for 2023

Township Open House

Thank you to all who attended the Township's **Fall Open House** on November 2 to learn more about our upcoming initiatives! Staff and Supervisors were on hand to discuss many of the topics in this newsletter, and we will continue to provide updates on these initiatives on Facebook, Nextdoor, eNews (join our email list!), the sign at Miller Park, and on our website.

We wish everyone a safe and happy end to 2022 and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2023.

Budget

Throughout the fall months, Township staff presented their plans for 2023 and beyond to the Board of Supervisors at their regularly-scheduled Wednesday meetings. These **budget workshops** allowed for a public discussion of Township goals and initiatives and the prioritization of projects that will best serve the community and make the Township a desirable place to live, work, play, and visit.

Projects for 2023 range from spending on necessary infrastructure maintenance and upgrades for the roads, sewer system, and municipal buildings; to the costs of ensuring the safety of each of our residents through our Police Department and codes officials; to responsibly



Supervisors, staff, and volunteers gathered for the Fall Open House on November 2.

budgeting for new initiatives that benefit the entire community.

For 2023, the Board of Supervisors is allocating funds to projects that support sustainability (pages 4-5) and enhance the Township's recreational offerings (pages 10-11). Additionally, the time has come to upgrade and consolidate the buildings that house our public works

staff and equipment. Read more about this capital improvement on page 9.

As always, your elected officials and Township staff are eager to hear your opinions. Please check the Township website for contact information – the Supervisors' email addresses are listed – and the meeting schedules, which the public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

2023 CURBSIDE PICK-UP DATES

Christmas Trees

► Saturday, January 14

Please remove all decorations and do NOT wrap the tree in plastic or another covering. Also, trees should be cut into pieces no longer than 4 feet. (For instance, if you have an 8-foot tree, please cut it in half to make two 4-foot “trees”.)

Leaves & Branches

► Saturday, March 25

► Saturday, April 22

► Saturday, May 27

► Saturday, June 24

► Saturday, August 26

► Saturday, September 30

► Saturday, October 28

► Saturday, November 11 & 25

► ~~Saturday, December 27~~

Leaves must be placed in biodegradable brown paper bags. All other materials and debris, or leaves in other types of bag or container, will not be collected. Thirty-gallon brown paper leaf bags are available for purchase at retail outlets throughout the Township.

Branches must be bundled together and tied with string, not wire, in small bundles that can be easily handled. Collection is limited to branches that are a maximum of 4-feet long and 4 inches in diameter. Small twigs should be placed in a rigid container.

Pay-As-You-Throw

Households using the Township’s service for trash and recycling collection are part of the pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) program, in which residents pay an annual fee to the Township for recycling, bulk, and yard waste pick-up and buy special WWT trash bags for weekly trash disposal.

West Whiteland Township opted for the PAYT program for two reasons:

- It is inherently fair; those households that generate more trash pay more.
- It encourages recycling.

In 2019 and again last fall, the Township surveyed residents to gauge community response to the system. In both cases, a majority of residents responded in favor of keeping the PAYT system in place. The Board of Supervisors has officially decided to **continue with PAYT through the end of our current hauler contract (December 2025)**.

We thank everyone who responded to our most recent survey – nearly 50% of all households on the program. Cases were made both for and against the program, and the majority of residents feel that the defining tenets of the program – its fairness and its support of recycling – are of value to their households and to the community.

It is worth noting that in addition to contributing to **reducing waste**, participating in the PAYT program helps contribute to **sustainability**; having a single hauler in our neighborhoods keeps fewer trash trucks on the roads. Additionally, West Whiteland Township partners with a number of other municipalities in Chester County to receive a reduced rate to have our recycling processed at Total



The Total Recycle facility is capable of processing 700 tons of recyclables a day or almost 20,000 tons a month. That equates to 560,000 homes a week or over 50 cities the size of Reading!

Recycle in Birdsboro, PA. This state-of-the-art facility is one of the most progressive and innovative in the country, accepting all items capable of being recycled, including plastics #1-7, cardboard (OCC), aluminum, newspaper (ONP), clear and colored glass, steel, tin, and cartons. (Please note: if you are not part of the PAYT system, please check with your hauler, as many facilities are not able to process all of these items for recycling. And, when in doubt, throw it out to avoid contamination.)

Have questions about trash and recycling pick up?

Email: solidwaste@westwhiteland.org

Keep Your Eyes on the Road

The West Whiteland Police Department has found that many drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes were distracted in some way just prior to the crash. Distracted driving is almost always preventable if we concentrate on the task at hand – driving from point A to point B safely.

Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,142 lives in the United States in 2020. What is distracted driving? It is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment, or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting while driving is an exceptionally risky behavior. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, **that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.** In fact, using a cell phone in any way while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Let's all be safe while driving and avoid distracted driving. Keep your eyes on the road and get to where you are going safely!



Attention: Calling All Employed Township Residents

Got a job? If the answer is yes, you need to be paying **earned income tax (EIT)**. Employers in the Township withhold EIT; if you work outside the Township or are self-employed, you are required to report and remit EIT quarterly to Keystone Collections Group.

EIT is collected at a rate of 1% of your

wages and is split between the Township and the West Chester Area School District. The Township relies on the revenue to provide direct services to our residents, including police, roads, and public safety.

If you have questions about EIT payments, email administration@westwhiteland.org.

ROAD REMINDERS

Storm Drain Watch

Help us keep our storm water inlets clear so that water doesn't collect and pond on the road. Public Works makes every effort to keep the inlets free from debris so that they will function properly. If you have an inlet on your street that is clogged by leaves, ice, or snow, please let us know so we can address the issue. This is especially important as temperatures start to fall and the water could freeze on the road causing unsafe conditions. Please report clogged storm drains using the **citizen request tracker** on our website (under Contact Us on the home page) or by calling 484-875-6020.

Snow Removal

As we prepare for another winter season, please remember these rules and tips for keeping our streets safe and free of snow:

- When a snow event is predicted, park cars in your driveway or garage rather than on the streets.
- Clear the snow from the sidewalk adjacent to your property, as well as any snow around a fire hydrant.
- Deposit snow on your own property. Avoid piling snow in the gutter, on the stormwater inlet, or in the street. Make sure your snow piles do not block the sight distance to any roads.
- For your own convenience and safety, wait until streets are completely plowed before you clean your driveway.

See Township ordinance § 276 for more information.

Sustainability Initiatives

While a focus on sustainable practices has seemingly gained a lot of traction in very recent years, the concept has been around much longer. The basis for sustainability is responsibility for how we use our natural resources and assurance that that our children and their children will be able to enjoy a world at least as nice as the one we have now.

What Does Sustainability Actually Mean?

The widely accepted definition of sustainability comes from the Brundtland Report, also called *Our Common Future*, which was published in 1987 and states that sustainable development “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “to pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.”

What Sustainable Practices Has WWT Adopted?

West Whiteland Township is proud to say the Township has been practicing sustainability long before the concept obtained buzzword status. Many of the Township’s day-to-day operations support a sustainable future, including the following:

- **Open space requirements**
- **Sewage planning**
- **Floodplain regulations**
- **Stormwater management**
- **Historic preservation**
- **PAYT program to reduce landfill waste and promote recycling**

Moving forward, preserving our assets for future generations will continue to guide the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. Here are a few of the initiatives we have focused on recently and have chosen to pursue in the next year.

Cleaner Energy for a Cleaner West Chester

West Whiteland Township, as part of the West Chester Area Council of Governments (COG), has helped to spearhead West Chester Area Clean Energy Future (CEF), the first step towards clean, reliable, and affordable energy for the West Chester Area and a healthier and more equitable future, with the specific goals of:

**100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY
BY THE YEAR 2035**

**100% RENEWABLE ENERGY
BY THE YEAR 2050**

For more information, visit
www.wccleanenergy.org



Sustainability supports our
generation and future
generations.



Electric Vehicle Chargers

To meet our goals for renewable electricity and energy, the Township has been investing in green infrastructure like EV Charging Stations. The Township is installing a second charger at our building across from Main Street at Exton. We are also considering more charging locations like Boot Road Park and Exton Park.

Renewable energy infrastructure is vital to support the coming shift towards electric cars and reduce our local carbon emissions.

Future Initiatives

Solar installations at Boot Road Park, the Township building, and the new public works facility would help us be more resilient to rising electric costs and produce less carbon emissions.

Reducing our physical waste, particularly single use plastics. We are exploring the feasibility of a plastic ordinance banning plastic bags and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in nature. We will gather information from neighboring townships and will alert the public when this issue is discussed in public meetings.

There are simple things you can do at home too, that will conserve resources and save some cash.

TIPS TO SAVE ON ENERGY

- ▶ Schedule a PECO home energy assessment.
- ▶ Unplug countertop appliances and only plug them in when in use (vampire electronics).
- ▶ Wash your laundry with cold water instead of hot; clothes last longer and you can save an average of \$150 annually.
- ▶ Get your windows checked to see if they are causing heating and cooling deficiencies.
- ▶ Replace appliances with Energy Star certified ones (available rebates from PECO).
- ▶ Convert lighting to LED and energy efficient bulbs.
- ▶ Have separate thermostat settings for being at home versus out of the house.
- ▶ Install timers for holiday decorations and lights.

TIPS FOR WASTE REDUCTION

- ▶ Food waste occupies 22% of space in landfills. To reduce food waste, only buy what you know you can eat, learn how to store produce properly to extend its lifespan, and start an at-home compost.
- ▶ Swap out single use items like plastic bags, tin foil, sandwich bags, and plastic water bottles for reusable alternatives.
- ▶ Use reusable k-cups and coffee filters – some say they even make better tasting coffee!
- ▶ Never throw out your unwanted clothing. You can resell or donate “like-new” items, and you can even save those ratty t-shirts from ending up in the landfill! Retrievr will pick up all clothing items and give them a new life. Visit our website for more information.

Responsibly recycle clothing & electronics at your doorstep



powered by

retrievr 

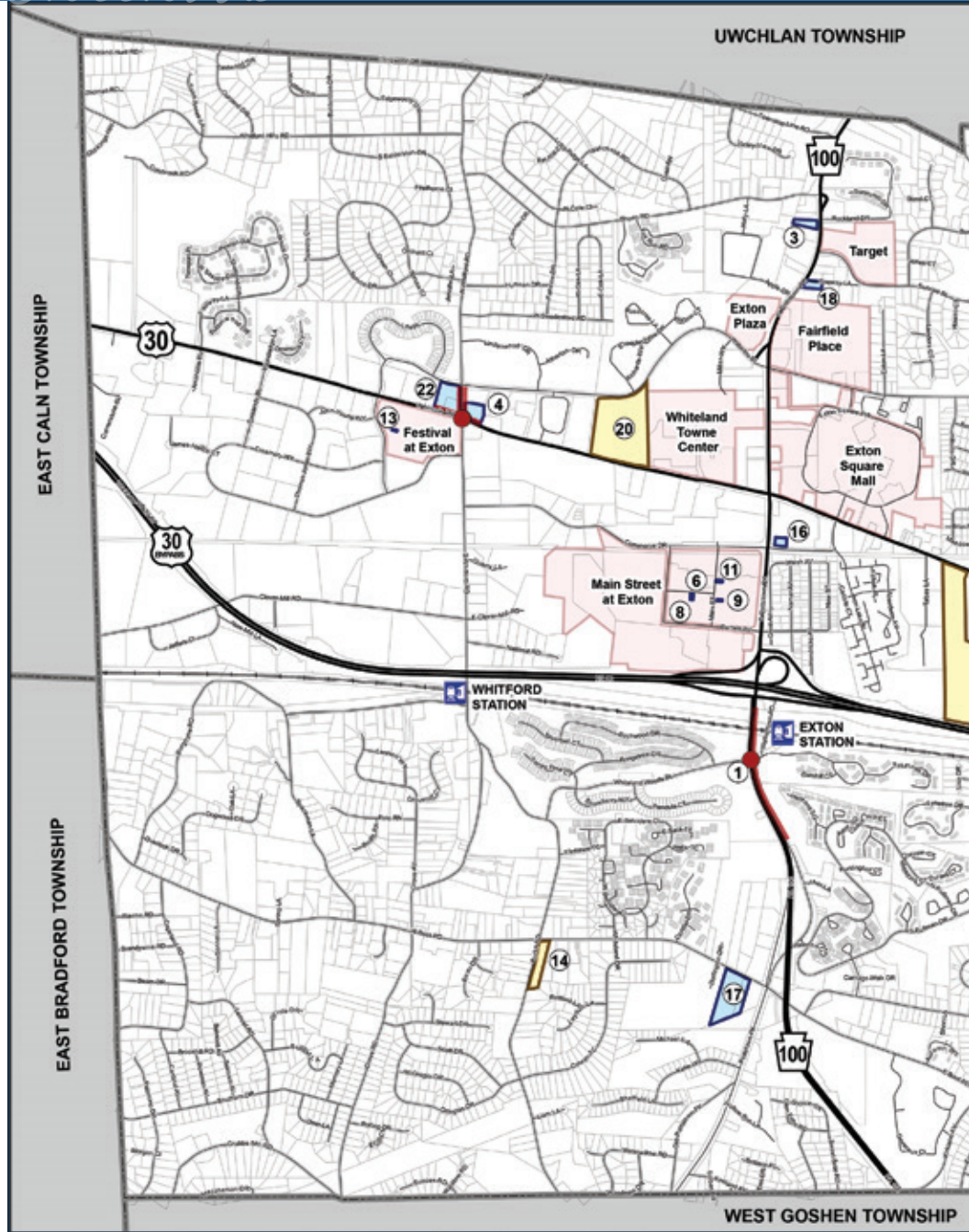
retrievr.com/wwhitelandpa

Fall 2022 Present and Proposed Development

The projects listed below and on the map are all projects that have either been recently completed or are currently in review.

TOWNSHIP TRANSPORTATION

- 1 Pottstown Pk. Congestion Mitigation:** Construction of a third northbound travel lane on Pottstown Pk., a new signalized 4-way intersection including pedestrian improvements where Pottstown Pk. intersects Walkertown Rd. and Whiteland Woods Blvd., and enhanced bus transit accessibility. The project is now on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and is to be funded by FHWA or FTA funds.
- 2 Ship Rd. Couplet – North Segment:** A new road segment for southbound traffic north of Lincoln Hwy. and west of Ship Rd. Includes new access drive for SS. Philip and James Church and new bicycle and pedestrian connection to the Chester Valley Trail. The Township was awarded funds from PennDOT’s multi-modal fund in the Spring of 2020 to construct this segment by 2024. (See Project 5 for the south segment)



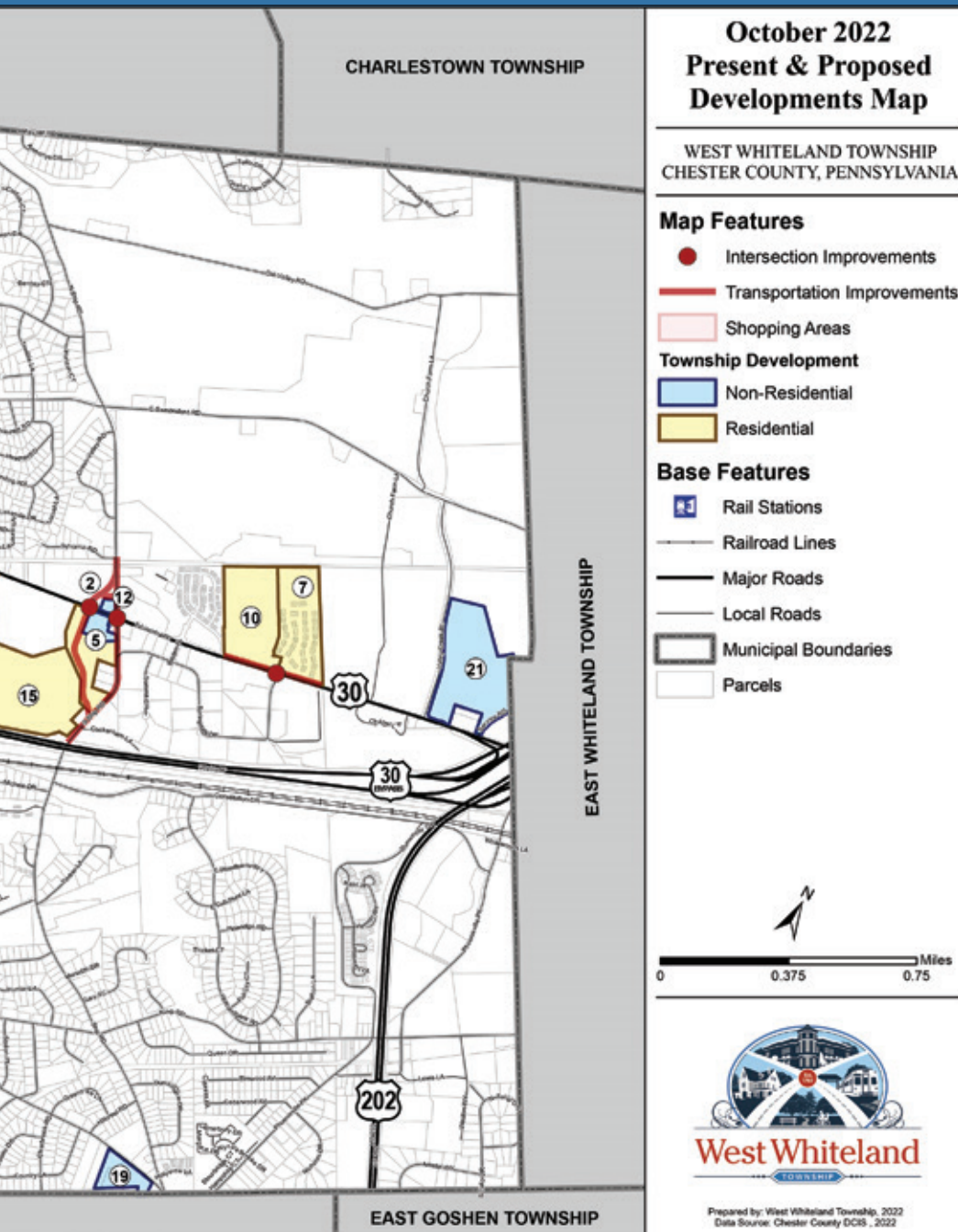
COMPLETED

- 3 Kumamon Ramon:** The new restaurant is located across Target along west side of N. Pottstown Pk. *Completion: August 2022.*
- 4 Primrose Daycare:** Construction of a daycare facility at the northeast corner of the Lincoln Hwy. and Whitford Rd. intersection. The project also includes a new turn lane on Whitford Rd. between Lincoln Hwy. and Waterloo Blvd., traffic signal improvements and sidewalks along Lincoln Hwy. *Completion: Fall 2022.*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- 5 690 E. Lincoln Associates:** Construction of a convenience store and gas station at the former Entenmann’s site at the corner of Ship Rd. and Lincoln Hwy. The project would also include 68 townhomes to the south of the proposed convenience store, as well as a new southbound road - Ship Rd. Couplet - located south of Lincoln Hwy. with new traffic signal, multi-use trail connection to the Chester Valley Trail and updates to the traffic signal at Lincoln Hwy. and Ship Rd. *Completion: 2024-2025.*

- 6 Crumbl Cookies:** The new store will be located near Saladworks and the new House of India restaurant in Main Street at Exton. *Completion: Fall 2022.*
- 7 Exton Grove:** Construction of 99 carriage homes along E. Lincoln Hwy. between Church Farm School and Summerhill. Project also includes sidewalks along frontage on Lincoln Hwy. and updates to the traffic signal at Lincoln Hwy. and Springdale Dr. *Completion: Fall 2024.*
- 8 House of India:** The new restaurant will be located next to Crumbl Cookies in Main Street at Exton. *Completion: Fall 2022.*



- 9 **LensCrafters:** The new store will be located between Athleta and Sephora stores in Main Street at Exton. *Completion: Fall 2022.*
- 10 **Summerhill:** Construction of 220 rental townhomes along E. Lincoln Hwy. between Lochiel Farm Exton Grove. Project also includes sidewalks along frontage on Lincoln Hwy. and updates to the traffic signal at Lincoln Hwy. and Springdale Dr. *Completion: Fall 2024.*

- 11 **Tropical Smoothie Café:** The former Beneficial Bank located in Main Street at Exton will be renovated into the new café. *Completion: Fall 2022.*
- 12 **VK Brewing Company & Eatery:** The new brewery and restaurant will be in the former Ship Inn at the intersection of Lincoln Hwy and Ship Rd. *Completion: Fall 2022.*
- 13 **Wasabi Chinese & Japanese Restaurant:** The new restaurant will be located next to Skechers and Spotless Cleaners in Festival at Exton. *Completion: Fall 2022.*

APPROVED

- 14 **296 Boot Rd.:** Subdivision of an existing residential lot into three lots at Boot and Burke Rds. Construction of two new residences on two of the three lots. The existing single-family residence is to remain.
- 15 **Ship Run Developers:** 95 single-family detached homes on the southern portion of the Laborer's Training facility along Lincoln Hwy., west of Ship Rd.

UNDER REVIEW

- 16 **Bank of America:** Construction of a 4,200 sq.ft. retail bank branch in the parking lot (southwest corner) of the Raymour and Flanigan property.
- 17 **CPC Westrum:** Construction of a 150 unit (176-bed) personal care facility providing both assisted living and memory care facilities along Boot Rd. between the Banbury Shops and Boot Rd. Park.
- 18 **Chic Studios:** Construction of a 3,774 sq.ft. one-story retail building at the corner of Coeway La. and N. Pottstown Pk.
- 19 **Columbia Cottage:** Construction of a 72-bed personal care facility providing both assisted living and memory care facilities along Boot Rd. west of the Ship Rd. intersection.
- 20 **Keva Flats Expansion:** Construction of two multi-family residential apartment buildings with a total of 96 dwelling units and a floodplain restoration project for Lionville Run.
- 21 **Township Public Works Facility:** Construction of 39,000 sq.ft. public works facility along Valley Creek Blvd. between Lincoln Hwy. and the Chester Valley Trail across from Church Farm School.
- 22 **Whitford Rd. Wawa:** Construction of a Wawa convenience store and gas station replacing the existing Sunoco station at the intersection of Whitford Rd. and W. Lincoln Hwy. The project will include sidewalks at the frontage of Lincoln Hwy. and Whitford Rd.

Keva Flats’ New Approach to Stormwater Management

Keva Flats will incorporate a novel approach to handling stormwater as Hankin Group adds two new buildings to the apartment complex along Lincoln Hwy. at Keva Dr.

New development usually results in additional paved areas that increase the amount of stormwater that runs into streams. The Township has had a Stormwater Management Ordinance for many years to ensure that this runoff does not overwhelm our streams and cause flooding. This is commonly done by holding stormwater on-site – either in basins on the surface or in underground facilities – and releasing the water slowly. Rather than expand the existing basins on the Keva Flats site, the new development

will include restoration of the creek running through the middle of the property that will allow it to flood in a controlled manner. While the creek may appear attractive and natural, it has been modified repeatedly over the years and its steep banks contribute to erosion and excessive velocity and siltation during storms. By flattening the banks, the creek will overflow more readily, creating a broader, slower stream capable of accommodating more water while reducing siltation. This approach to stormwater control has been used successfully in numerous applications in Lancaster County, but this is the first example in Chester County that we know of.

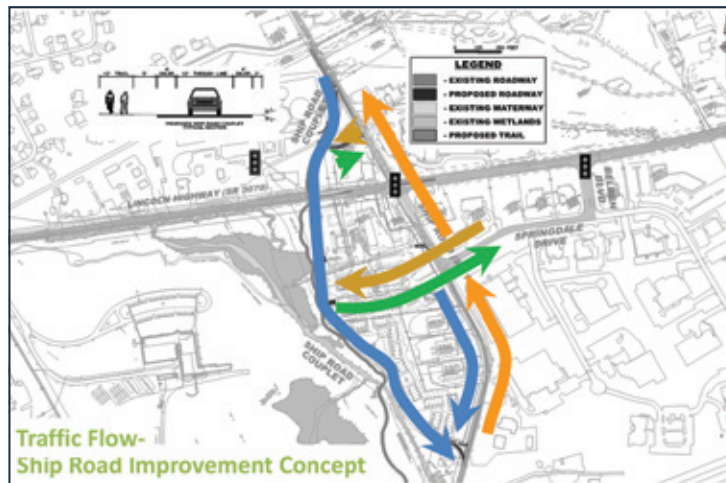


Creek restoration at Keva Flats will help control stormwater runoff.

Ship Road Couplet Status

Construction has begun on the Ship Rd. Couplet near St. Mary’s Chapel at the intersection of Lincoln Hwy. and Ship Rd. The Couplet is a road improvement first proposed in the Township’s 2015 Transportation Capital Improvements Plan. That Plan noted that this intersection had significant congestion but widening Ship Rd. to provide additional lanes and relieve the congestion would adversely affect adjacent historic buildings.

The Plan therefore proposed a “couplet” whereby the section of Ship Rd. at the Lincoln Hwy. intersection would be restricted to northbound traffic while southbound traffic would be diverted to a new road segment to be built to



the west. This new segment would have its own signal-controlled intersection with Lincoln Hwy., but it would be close enough to the original Ship Rd. intersection that it would still function as a single intersection.

The impact of the proposed Wawa on Ship Rd. was deemed significant enough to warrant construction of the Couplet. The project also includes sixty-eight townhomes to be located south of the Wawa, along the new Couplet Road. Since the Couplet is critical for access to this project, the developer will construct the portion south of Lincoln Hwy. The Township will construct the smaller section on the

north side of Lincoln Hwy., using funds awarded by PennDOT’s multimodal transportation fund. It is worth noting, then, that the entire Ship Rd. Couplet traffic improvement project is being constructed at zero cost to taxpayers.

Public Works Facility

Plans are in the works for a new 39,000 sq. ft. public works facility on Valley Creek Blvd. This long-awaited project consists of two new buildings, a fueling facility, covered storage bins, and necessary parking.

The new complex will replace and consolidate three existing and outdated facilities, providing indoor storage for public works equipment, covered outdoor storage areas for materials, and designated work and repair areas. Storing the vehicles and equipment under cover will lengthen their life span and save costs in the long run. Providing one centralized location for all public works operations will allow for operational efficiency, teamwork, collaboration, and shared equipment usage on a daily basis.

Our three current locations have space constraints, looming capital repair needs and inadequate under-roof storage availability which results in equipment being left out in the elements.

The new facility offers the following:

- Full-service mechanics area including an under-vehicle pit and vehicle lifts to service public works vehicles, police cars, and equipment safely (more police cars in service to keep our neighborhoods safe!)
- Full-service wash bay for vehicle and equipment wash and upkeep which will extend the service life of our fleet
- Conference room and breakroom for staff training and group events with other townships to keep up with the latest public works technologies and best practices

- Additional salt storage capacity to have more material on hand for large, or back-to-back, snow and ice storms to keep roads passable during the most challenging of storms
- Covered storage for construction materials such as stone and mulch, allowing us to buy in bulk and have materials available for emergency repairs
- High capacity water fill station for our jet truck which can improve our response times to emergencies as well as increase production when we are cleaning over 100 miles of sewer

The Planning Commission will review the site plans in early 2023. Once the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval of the plans, the project will go to the BOS for approval at a public meeting.

West Whiteland Township's Board of Supervisors is considering the adoption of a property maintenance code. Such a code would provide a defined resource to support the maintenance of existing properties and reinforce the Township's mission to prioritize safety and quality of life.

The Property Maintenance Code (PMC) is part of the International Code Council (ICC) family of codes that addresses minimum standards for continued use and maintenance of existing building elements and structures. It would apply to all existing residential and non-residential structures and facilities located within the Township. The goal is NOT to place additional maintenance burden on the property owner, as many components of the code already exist in our existing Township ordinances.

The Township hosted a public Q&A in June and included the property maintenance code information at the Open House on November 2. Updates regarding discussion of the PMC will be posted on our website, social media, and eNews.



**PROPOSED PUBLIC
WORKS FACILITY RENDERING**

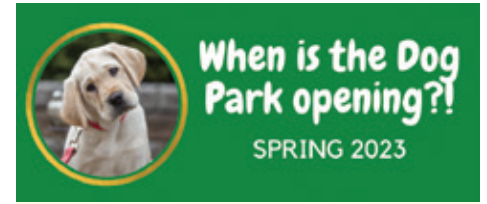
Exton Park Receives Grant for Continued Development

We are excited to announce that West Whiteland Township has received a grant award of \$600,000 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program for the Exton Park – Phase 2 development.

The Township completed the bulk of Phase 1 of the park development with the opening of the Swedesford Recreation Area in Spring 2022. This initial phase included two new play structures, a zip line, and swings. Phase I improvements are still under construction for the pavilion, shade structure, sledding hill, and a restroom. Work is also underway on planning for a 9-hole disc golf course and for the opening of the dog park in Spring 2023.

Phase 2 development focuses on the multi-use field area at 200 Church Farm Lane, which currently offers three multi-use fields and a cricket pitch, as well as a grass walking trail and pond. This grant will help to pay for pedestrian walkways, pavilions, an additional parking lot, and a restroom. Other improvements will include stormwater management measures, installation of utilities, ADA access, and landscaping.

These amenities are the initial steps towards a larger plan – the Exton Park Master Plan – that was created in 2017 following extensive research and community input. The focus of that plan is to maintain the natural elements of Exton Park, while adding recreation features that the public has requested. You can view the Exton Park Master Plan on our website.



Speaking of the dog park...we've heard from you that you're curious why our new dog park hasn't opened, since the grass has grown in. Exton Park's dog park is funded by a DCNR grant, and we must comply with all grant requirements, one of which involves ensuring that all amenities are ADA accessible. We will be installing an ADA pathway to the dog park and issuing an invitation to all of furry friends just as soon as it is ready!



Friends of the Parks



We hope you enjoyed the Friends of the Parks (FOTP) community events and are getting ready for another year of fun! Check the Township website, "Like" West Whiteland Township on Facebook, and sign up for eNews to be "in" on the action. More information on events will also be included in the Spring/Summer newsletter, but here is a quick preview of coming attractions for the first half of the year:



Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, May 6
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Township Building

Summer Concert Series

Kicks off June 11
Miller Park

SPONSORS NEEDED

WWT Friends of the Parks is always looking for sponsors to help fund our free community events! Corporate sponsors receive recognition at our events and on promotional materials and the website. It's a great way to generate word-of-mouth goodwill about your business and give back to the community. Please visit www.westwhiteland.org/fotp or email friendsoftheparks@westwhiteland.org for more information.



Click the QR code to learn more and become a sponsor!

Employee Make a Difference Day

On Friday, September 16, West Whiteland Township employees participated in Coworkers Make a Difference Day. Staff worked together to plant mountain maple and red bud trees in Exton Park near the new playground (the Swedesford Recreation Area), picked up trash, and learned about waste reduction.

If you would like to volunteer for Township events, please reach out to parks@westwhiteland.org with your contact information – name, email address and cell phone number.



Township staff spent an afternoon planting trees at Exton Park.

Upcoming Volunteer Events in West Whiteland Township

Earth Day Event

April 2023

An opportunity to get involved with a volunteer project and learn about resources to enhance the water quality in our streams.

Make a Difference Day

September 2023

Empower the community to make simple adjustments for day-to-day sustainable living.

West Whiteland Township

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www.westwhiteland.org

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From West Whiteland Township

Season's Greetings!

"Snow" much more inside!

- ❄ 2023 Township initiatives
- ❄ Winter safety reminders
- ❄ Home tips for energy saving and waste reduction
- ❄ Proposed development map
- ❄ Upcoming events

