

# Media Borough's Third Street Pedestrian-Bicycle Bridge Design Considerations



*Friends of Glen Providence Park started in July 2011 in response to the threat from the proposed replacement of a high-hazard dam and vehicular road at Third Street, which would have destroyed 1.1 serene and wooded acres of the park. We advocated extensively for 12 years to minimize harm to the glen's woods, wetlands, plants, and wildlife. As the dam has been removed, and Media Borough currently plans a pedestrian-bicycle bridge at Third Street – with stream restoration upstream at Broomall's Lake Country Club (BLCC) – we have the following observations, concerns, and requests:*

## **Environmental & Historical Considerations**

***Broomall's Run is a connected ecosystem, encompassing Broomall's Lake Country Club upstream and Glen Providence Park downstream:***

- Project will impact water quality and stream health in the park, and its 19 reptile & amphibian, 130 bird, and 58+ tree species
- The park's acre abutting the bridge is a rich habitat with natural springs, seeps, and wetlands, and 76 mature trees
- County's Conservation Easement with BLCC – meant to protect the connected ecosystem and the park – is not mentioned in the contractors' proposals and should be prioritized

***Glen Providence Park is a historic and natural resource for Delaware County, Media Borough, and Upper Providence:***

- Donated in 1935 as a bird sanctuary and arboretum
- Structures and trails built by Works Progress Administration
- Park determined eligible for National Historic Register in 2002
- This historic and natural setting should be reflected in the project design

***Borough stormwater management and resulting erosion:***

- Stream erosion from stormwater runoff at Third Street is arguably one of the biggest current threats to the park
- The resulting large downed trees and undercut trails and streambanks create environmental and safety issues
- This critically important issue, which is omitted from the project parameters for the Third Street Bridge, should be addressed

## **Design Process & Public Participation**

***The Third Street Project is a state-funded transportation project, with PennDOT requiring:***

- Analysis of alternative designs based on minimizing harm to adjacent park
- Public participation in design reviews

***PennDOT's definition of Key Stakeholders:***

- Extends beyond property owners
- Includes environmental advocates, park and trail users
- Considers the plant and animal life in the project area

***Public input is valuable:***

- Offers resources, perspective and experience
- Fosters public support during construction
- Informs project manager's expectations of professional team

***The public should be regularly updated on the project progress, timeline, and the contractors' monthly status reports through:***

- Borough Website and newsletter
- Council Workshop or Legislative Meetings
- Special Public Hearings

**We ask that Media Borough Council actively consider and protect Glen Providence Park in the design and construction of the Third Street Pedestrian-Bicycle Bridge.**