



Aquetong Spring Park Project Report

This is the first of what is intended to be a sequence of quarterly reports updating the community on the many park projects. These reports will be posted on the Township's website and will be sent out via push notification to parties that request these periodic updates.

The topics that make up this report are work that has been discussed, started, or completed. All work is primarily dictated by the Supervisors from the advice received from the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Committee (ASPAC.) Where possible, this report will provide a reference footnote to specific reports like Princeton Hydro's Dec. 2017 (PHR 12/2017) recommendations.

This report is not a master plan or strategic plan, although it does site objectives. This initial report will reference several 2017 actions taken at Aquetong Spring Park in order to set the scene and establish the topics as ones we will continue to monitor.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this project" Michael Zolkewitz, ASP Advisory Committee.

1. Stream Restoration

- A. Princeton Hydro is the lead consultant for the stream and bank evaluation and restoration engineering.
- B. With the new element of the Transportation Alternative (TA) Route 202 Trail Grant, the Request for Proposal (Motion at Board of Supervisors May 17th Meeting) for stream restoration has been put on hold as the grant award needs to be assessed.
- C. Funding:
 - a. DCNR grant for \$500,000: **See topic #12 "Funding"** of report for additional details.
 - b. DCED grant for \$160,000 for specific engineering, stream and riparian restoration, signage and trails. **See topic #12 "Funding"** of report for additional details and conditions.
- D. Trout Unlimited (TU) has suggested funding for specific stream projects up to \$50,000. To earn this the Township must have a full stream restoration plan that includes specific pinpointed projects for which TU could fund and feel ownership.

2. Invasive Species in the Wetlands

- A. Princeton Hydro took action against invasive plants in the fall of 2017. (PHR12/2017 pg. 7)
- B. Princeton Hydro took a second action against invasive plants in the spring of 2018.
- C. The plan is for Princeton Hydro to continue to take action against invasive plants every spring and fall going forward.

3. Trees

- A. Native Trees
 - a. Planting of native trees was started in the fall of 2016. Planting has continued into the spring and fall of 2017 as well as the spring of 2018.
 - b. The Township was given donations by local nurseries.

- c. All initial trees are thriving and the plan is to continue to solicit donations and plant native plants.
- B. Ash Trees
 - a. The ash trees have been infected by the Ash borer invasion.
 - b. The ash trees throughout the park have been documented and mapped: (Map 'Ash Tree Locations RC. Robert Wynn Assoc. 11/30/2017). There are 572 Ash and 47 dead Ash and Walnut trees.
 - c. Forester, Shultz Forest Management and Consulting LLC, Bernville, Pa. is to present a plan by August 2018 to Solebury Township Administration and ASPAC.
- C. Non-Native Trees
 - a. Princeton Hydro is to monitor and remove new non-native tree volunteers within the old lakebed (per report - PHR 12/2017 pg. 9).

4. Fauna management

- A. In the fall of 2017, Trout were re-introduced into the stream by Trout Unlimited members.
 - a. Princeton Hydro will continue to monitor and report on their number, size, propagation progress and location in the stream.
- B. Deer management is ongoing in the park.

5. Walking Trails

- A. A plan for the walking trail in the park, above the old dam, was accomplished this past spring by the ASPAC. Part of the plan calls for wood carpet and mowed low impact trails for which installation has begun.
- B. The remaining nature trails and existing dirt trails are not scheduled at this time.
- C. A more comprehensive plan for trails below the old dam is needed; however this is seen as a longer term project. No action at this time.

6. Storm Water Control and Route 202 Trail

May of 2018 Solebury Township was awarded a TA grant for \$1 million. This grant is specifically for storm water control off Route 202. In addition this grant will fund the Trail along 202 in the park, engineering of objectives as well as stream crossings, culvert, plantings and stream restoration. Action: The Township Administration and eventually the Board of Supervisors are to come up with a plan to satisfy the conditions of this grant and other grants that work together. The Township Administration along with Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, C. Robert Wynn Associates and Princeton Hydro, LLC, are to map out the next steps for this project.

7. Infrastructure

This section to note changes many of which are endorsed by the PHR 12/20176 and the ASPAC (memo to BOS Dec. 12, 2017)

- A. Parking: As yet no activity
- B. Trails: See above sections.
- C. Judy House function: Still in the dialogue stage. The house is to be maintained until a solution is decided.
- D. Restrooms: Plan proposals exist (Phillips Donovan Architects, LLC 3/1/2018) to site restrooms in the Judy house garage space. Specifics await the master plan endorsement. No cost estimate has been done and no budget or funding currently exists.
- E. Board Walks, Bridges across streams, observation decks: Specifics await the master plan endorsement. No current action.
- F. Picnic Tables: Two tables were installed May 2018 to bring the total on site to 3.
- G. Kate Smith House/ruins and the ruins south east of the lower stream: They are being left as is with no further development plan.

- H. Art Display: To be decided. Community input needed.
- I. Signage: The Administration is to install signs for the park entrance. Educational signs are to be created (2018 to 2019) for specific sites like the spring, observation platforms, water features, birds, history, flora, fauna etc. We hope to do this with the help of local experts and associations.
See topic #8 “Community involvement.”
- J. Safety and Security: A sign and warning chain were installed May 2018 to warn people NOT to cross the small Spring walk way or go into the Spring water.
- K. Educational programs: To be developed in harmony with master plan objectives.
- L. Benches: The township, via word of mouth and this report, solicits donations of park benches (est. cost \$1,500/each) which will be placed in compatible locations. Benches could be memorials or tributes and will be so designated with plaques.

8. Community Involvement

Community Involvement needs to be ongoing. Dialogue with local and knowledgeable organizations like: Audubon; Bowman’s Wildflower Preserve; Trout Unlimited; Aquetong Watershed Association; Solebury Township Historical Society; New Hope Historical Society; Native Americans along with all the residents of Solebury Township will bring a great richness to the park’s educational profile.

9. Maintenance

Maintenance of the grounds and buildings is ongoing by Solebury Township’s Public Works and the Township’s regular contractors for items such as mowing, etc.

10. Monitoring Key Topics

Several physical monitoring tests are conducted bi-annually and annually by Princeton Hydro. These tests are on various topics such as water quality, erosion control, invertebrate stream life, tree culling and planting, and many more topics. All topics are listed on the Table of Contents page in Princeton Hydro Reports. The Township’s objective is to post all the previous reports from 2017 by summer’s end 2018 on the Township web site. Posting of new reports would then be kept up to date for comparison value.

11. Master Plan Development

At the May 1, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting it was requested that Robert McEwan work with the ASPAC, along with other interested parties, to develop a visionary outline for the park. This internal plan would help direct us to many agreed objectives. The Visionary Master plan should be drafted for comments, enhancements, debate etc. by Mid July 2018.

12. Funding

Solebury Township has funding to go a long way in getting started, but there are many strings attached, work to be done, and benchmarks to achieve.

A calendar is to be drafted to monitor the progress to qualify for these monies and make sure the milestones are met.

*****End of Report*****