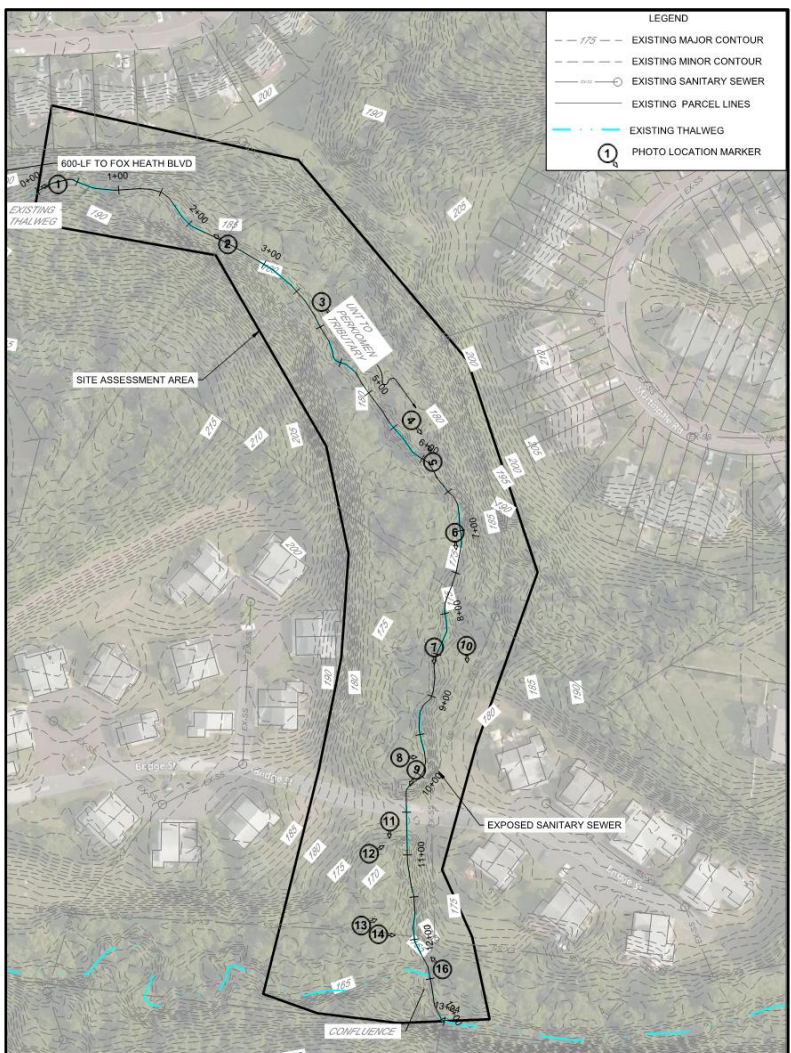
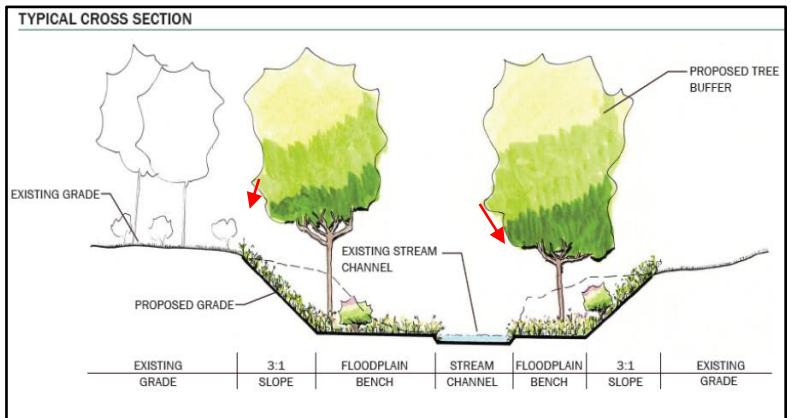


PA DEP - MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan “The Unfunded Mandate”

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) mandated that municipalities, including Perkiomen Township, need to maintain a **Municipal Separate Storm Sewers Systems (MS4)** permit. This permit requires municipalities to invest in, and promote, water quality within our PA Streams. Some municipalities are required to have a **Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP)** in place as part of their permit based on various stream impairments. This plan is made over a 5-year cycle and requires municipalities to construct green infrastructure such as: stream restorations; basin retrofits; bioswales; rain gardens; underground infiltration beds; etc. Municipalities then must document that water quality requirements of the PRP plan were met by proving the installed green infrastructure achieves a 10 % reduction in sediment; a 5% reduction in total nitrogen (TN); and a 3% reduction in total phosphorus (TP).

Under the MS4 Program, Municipalities are not provided any direct funding from the PA DEP for the required engineering design of the PRP Plan; the design of green infrastructure; the land necessary for infrastructure; annual reporting; and the construction of any improvements. The entire MS4 program is mandated, such that municipalities cannot opt out; hence, the programs nickname “the unfunded mandate”.

To comply with our PRP requirement, Perkiomen Township has decided to pursue a 1,300 linear foot **Stream Restoration Project**, located off of Bridge Street (i.e., between West Birchwood and Fox Heath HOA’s. Streams with cliff like embankments with exposed sediment walls are major contributors to sediment within streams. Naturally, large storm events can cause embankment erosion and this erosion results in sediment being deposited into our streams. A Stream Restoration project attempts to reduce the severity of the steep embankments and stabilize the area by flattening the surrounding stream area and installing natural plants. These water quality improvements benefit the streams ecology, fish, and wildlife.





The Township awarded Flyway Construction, Inc. this Stream Restoration project in July of 2022 in the amount of \$466,800. The project is anticipated to begin construction in April of 2023 and last 3-4 months. This Stream Restoration project is projected to allow Perkiomen Township to meet its PA DEP MS4 Permit and PRP requirements in a single construction project.



In order to fund this project, the Township pursued, and was awarded a **\$200,000 grant** from the **MontCo 2040 Program**, which is funded by Montgomery County. The remainder of the project will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Township's Environmental Advisory Committee is also continuing to explore other green infrastructure ideas, such as basin retrofits which convert traditional above ground grass basins into bio-retention basins which provide a water quality benefit. Such improvements would also assist the Township in meeting its PRP water quality requirements.

For more information about PA DEP MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRP), see the below link:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/PRPTMDL-Plans.aspx>

