

FAQ: Woods Run – Mairdale Avenue Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project

What does the project involve?

This project in Riverview Park will use green stormwater infrastructure to capture rainwater runoff, stabilize stream banks, and redirect and store stream flow. Tree plantings will also increase rainwater capture. These improvements will reduce park flooding, combined sewer overflows to the Ohio River, and erosion within the park and stream.

Where will the project be?

During Phase I of the project, we will construct rain gardens along Riverview Avenue at Watson's Run and Horseshoe Bend. During Phase II, we will construct rain gardens below the Riverview Park Soccer Field. We will also improve the Mairdale Avenue park entrance by daylighting a stream with restoration and storage. We will restore the stream, trail, and forest along Old Wissahickon Road. In addition, we will restore a stream with a wetland between Old Wissahickon Road and Riverview Avenue.

What is the project timeline?

Construction of Phase II will begin in early October 2019, and we expect to complete construction in winter 2019. We are currently expecting to begin construction of Phase II in late summer 2020.

Will there be road and trail closures in Riverview Park in fall 2019?

To maintain public safety and expedite the work during Phase I, we will close part of the park to visitors from approximately October 2019 through the end of 2019. Riverview Avenue will be closed to cars, bicycles, and pedestrians from Riverview Playground down to Riverview Drive. We will post detour signs at the road closures. Mairdale Avenue, Riverview Drive, and the portion of Riverview Avenue from Riverview Drive up to the Activities Building will remain open this fall.

We will close the following trails to hiking and biking with orange fencing and signs: 1) Archery Trail between Wissahickon Trail and Riverview Avenue, 2) Bob Harvey Trail at Riverview Avenue by the White Ash Grove, and 3) the trail between the Dogwood Grove and the White Ash Grove by Riverview Avenue.

Will PWSA need to remove trees for the project?

Part of this project involves the removal of trees within the construction area. During Phase I, approximately 34 trees will be removed to make space for the rain gardens. Nineteen of the trees identified for removal are either dead or dying or are non-native trees. The other fifteen trees are within the footprint of the rain gardens and will need to be removed to complete the project correctly.

How did PWSA identify the trees to remove?

We have been carefully considering which trees to remove, with the goal of reducing removal of healthy trees. We mapped the trees near the project sites and worked with the City of Pittsburgh's Forestry Division and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to identify which trees to remove. A certified arborist will be on site during construction to advise tree removal and supervise activity around the trees.

Will PWSA plant new trees to replace the removed trees?

We will replace the removed trees with saplings within the project area. Trees remove pollutants, hold water, and improve water quality. However, construction activity could cause some trees to become unstable, and unhealthy trees do not provide as many stormwater benefits as a flourishing tree. We will replace at least an equal amount of the trees removed. As the new trees grow and become more mature, they will provide an increasing amount of stormwater benefits.

Please visit pgh2o.com/woods-run for more information about the Woods Run – Mairdale Avenue project.