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The Friends

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Multi-Use Trail Culvert Project is Done

The rehabilitation of the culvert on the multi-use trail has come to an end and is now open once again! If you were wondering what it was all about, here is the story.



MUT Culvert Repair...Before

The culvert was damaged by hurricane Irene in August of 2011. Due to the high water created by the excess rainfall during the storm, the corrugated pipe that went under the road was forced forward, out from under the road into the stream bed. The surrounding ground was eroded, causing failure of the road surface. Park management had to limit the trail to pedestrians only. Residents who lived in this vicinity had to avoid crossing this area with their vehicles.

The design and bidding process began in the fall of

2012. Engineers from the Bureau of Construction Design and Facilities of DCNR (the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) began the design of a new box culvert to replace the damaged pipe. The use of box culverts is now a common practice in this type of application. They have a greater longevity, increased water load handling capability, and incur less clogging from debris. Park staff met and discussed the potential impacts that the construction process would have on the park and the park users and came up with a plan on how to deal with the construction. In the spring of 2013 the project was awarded by public

bid to Flyway Construction of Lititz, Lancaster County, at a price of \$266,000. The project was 75% paid for with money from FEMA, the Federal

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MUT Culvert Repair...After

Calling all Photographers!

Gather your winter, spring, and summer pictures, and take those fall pictures in preparation for our annual Photo Contest. Flyers are already posted in the park. Young people are especially encouraged to enter the contest. Prizes will be given in the adult and youth categories on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 1 pm in the Mansion ballroom. Look for the contest rules and entry form on the Friends website www.FriendsofRCSP.org. The photo contest has always been one of our most popular fundraisers, while also raising awareness of the park and the Friends.

Friends Held Annual Picnic and Election

On June 1, 2013, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and the Trail Work Group had our annual free event: a member and volunteer appreciation picnic, followed by the Friends' election of officers. Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled expertly by Tim Higgins, and other picnic fare was served to hungry attendees.

We announced the return to Media of former Recording Secretary Gary Sawyer; although he was not able to attend the picnic, he was handily re-elected to that post. Likewise, Tim Higgins was re-elected to the position of Treasurer. Congratulations to both!

The Friends "Out and About"

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park participated in several tabling events this spring and fall, offering our brochures, trail maps, and other information.

In May, at the invitation of David Scheffler, Manager of LL Bean at the King of Prussia Mall, we sat at a table just inside the store entrance. Customers and sales staff had an opportunity to learn about the park and the activities of the Friends.

On Saturday, September 21, we shared a table with the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation at Representative Joseph Hackett's "Family Expo" in

Swarthmore. Other exhibitors included local and state agencies, businesses, clubs, health groups, and a variety of other organizations important to families.

More recently, we set up a table at the October 6 Food & Crafts Fair on State Street in Media and handed out our literature and welcomed several new members who signed up to join the Friends.

Thanks to all volunteers who participated in these events: Joan Niskelsky, Paul Mickle, Kristi

Chase, Jack Miller, Betsy Miller, and Sue Pellegrino.



Multi-Use Trail Culvert Project is Done

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Emergency Management Agency, as this damage was the result of the hurricane. The rest was paid by DCNR with that money to be reimbursed by FEMA. Construction began on July 22, 2013. At that time the trail was closed to all use.

Work began with excavating out the old pipe and stone bulkheads and widening the area to accept the new box culvert. A coffer dam was built upstream of the site to stop the water flow into the site. The water was pumped around the site, passed through a sediment filter, and released downstream.

The box culvert was brought in by seven tractor trailers as the culvert has six internal sections and two end pieces. The end pieces came on the same trailer. A large crane was onsite to lift the sections off the trailers and put them in place, end-to-end. After placement of the sections they were cabled and mortared together. The end sections were painted to look like natural stone - the idea was to match the old bridge that is further down the trail, built in 1938. After installation was complete, the coffer dam was taken down and the water once again flowed under the roadway. Paving, landscaping, and clean-up of the area were finalized during the second week of September.

The construction time was seven weeks; overall, the project went very well with no major issues or delays. The weather was also cooperative for the installation. Park users can once again enjoy the trail in this area.

Thanks go to Mike Kutzmonich, Park Manager, for contributing this article.



Trail Workers Maintain Hiking Trails

Holiday Dance to be Held December 14

Our annual winter holiday dance event will be held on Saturday, December 14, starting at 7 pm at the Hunting Hill Mansion in the park. Popular disc jockey Steve Kurtz will be returning to entertain, playing lively music as guests dance the night away.

The Mansion will once again be decorated in the holiday spirit. How often do you get to dance and celebrate in the ballroom of an early 1900s Mansion? You will also have the opportunity to take a tour of the Mansion during the evening.

In addition to delicious food and desserts, an open bar with beer, wine, and sodas will be served by our Friends of Ridley Board members. All this for only \$40 per person (general public), and \$35 per member of the Friends if you pay at the door.

In addition, there will be a discount this year of \$5 per ticket for reservations received by Wednesday, December 11. Checks should be mailed to the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park at 1023 Sycamore Mills Road, Media, Pa. 19063-4398. Once again, tables can be reserved for groups of friends and/or family, so be sure to send in your reservation early and

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Trail Workers at the Cow Bridge

Holiday Dance to be Held December 14

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let us know who is in your party.

More details will be posted on the Friends website www.FriendsofRCSP.org as they become available. You can also call the Friends voicemail phone 484-442-0223. Let us know, too, if you can help out - we always need extra volunteers!



“Open Gates “ by Jessica Davis

Naturalist Educators Wanted

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is seeking experienced educators to lead interpretive walks and workshops in the park for 2014. Topics for walks can include native and invasive exotic plants, birds, reptiles and amphibians, mycology, archaeology and park history. Workshop topics may include wildlife photography, plant arranging, and landscaping with native plants. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome!

The Friends and the Park frequently receive requests from groups for informative talks. The education function was formerly provided by a paid state employee. Due to budget cuts, this position was eliminated over a year ago but the need still exists and the Friends want to help! Be sure to let us know if you or someone you know would like to contribute in this way.

Please contact Jack Miller, President of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park, through a link on the website www.FriendsofRCSP.org. Find the tab on the left of the home page “Administration,” then click on “Officials.” On the line with Jack Miller’s name, click on “Send Email” and fill out the requested form. Thanks!

Volunteer Opportunity

The Friends has gained 36 new paid members this year, bringing our total membership to 130. We are looking for a volunteer to help welcome new members and assist with administration for upcoming renewals -- be part of a team effort to ensure the continuation of membership support of the Friends! Someone good with details, basic office skills, and enthusiasm would fit the bill. Commitment of 2-3 hours a month for 1-2 years. Contact Membership Chair Joan Nikelsky at jnikelsky@msn.com or call 215-498-5346.

Calendar of Events

- **First Saturday of each month, 9 am – Monthly trail work.** Meet at park office.
- **First Wednesday of each month, 7 pm – Monthly Friends Board meeting,** park office.
- **Saturday December 14, 7 pm – Holiday Dance,** Mansion ballroom.
- **Sunday, January 26, 1 pm – Photo Contest award ceremony,** Mansion ballroom.

Donate to the Friends

The Friends have contributed \$3,660 and approximately 1,600 volunteer hours to projects in the park this year. Every dollar counts! Would you like to join or make a donation?

Through the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF), the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, which means that your contribution is tax deductible. In addition, any money that you give to the Friends will benefit Ridley Creek State Park directly. See our website

www.FriendsofRCSP.org

to fill out and print a membership form if you want to join. Checks for memberships or donations should be payable to PPFF/Friends of RCSP and dropped off at the park office or mailed to:

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park
1023 Sycamore Mills Rd.
Media, PA 19063-4398