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### **CONSTRUCTION ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT PISZEK PRESERVE**

(Oreland, PA) – February 27, 2018. The Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge over the Sandy Run at WVWA's Piszek Preserve in Springfield Township is scheduled to be replaced beginning in February and lasting until December 2018.

This bridge replacement is part of the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project, which is an \$899 million public-private partnership between PennDOT and Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP) to replace 558 structurally deficient bridges throughout the state – five of which are in Montgomery County.

In addition to their commitment to public safety and roadway safety, PennDOT has also demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that protection of the stream and riparian zone is incorporated into their project plans. Rory McGlasson, Public Information Coordinator for Walsh Granite, said, "PWKP, PennDOT and local stakeholders have worked hard together during the design phases of the PA Avenue project. Thanks to valuable input received from WVWA during public participation process, we have been able to make final decisions that reduce the environmental impact, provide a design sensitive to its historic surroundings, and minimize the impact the construction project will have on the traveling public in the Springfield-Upper Dublin area. While the construction activity will have a temporary impact on the surrounding area, we are certain the project will provide a permanent improvement."

This necessary construction will mean unavoidable changes at Piszek Preserve. There is a construction easement to place a temporary road on the property; this will be built from February to April and in use through December. It will be two lanes and 22' wide, and will require trees on the Preserve to be removed. Tractor-trailers will not be allowed on this road and will have a separate detour.

"Once construction is complete, WVWA will fully restore the riparian zone and protect the creek. We came to an agreement with PennDOT that provides financial support, which allows us to complete the restoration project ourselves. This gives us the opportunity to design and implement a plan that is best for the Preserve," said John Ferro, WVWA Director of Conservation.

The Piszek Preserve is 36-acres and comprised of woodlands and meadows along the flood-prone Sandy Run. Conservation of the land ensures perpetual protection of more than 1,000 feet of riparian buffer, which helps slow and re-absorb floodwaters. The property was preserved with the help of the Piszek family, Copernicus Society, Montgomery Lands Trust, PA DCNR and Alan Gnessin. The adjacent property includes an 18<sup>th</sup>-century colonial home known as the Emlen House. The new bridge has been designed to blend in with the Emlen House, and will be a rustic ash color. There is a trail installed on the Preserve, which the construction will not affect.

For more information of the PA Rapid Bridge Project, visit the project website at [www.parapidbridges.com](http://www.parapidbridges.com)

*Since 1957, WVWA had made a critical difference protecting the local environment in the 64 square miles of the Wissahickon Creek's watershed, working with individuals, local municipalities, Montgomery County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. WVWA protects nearly 1,300 acres of natural open space in Montgomery County.*

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For more information about the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association please contact [215-646-8866](tel:215-646-8866) or visit [www.wvwa.org](http://www.wvwa.org)