

## DARBY-COBBS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 | 3:00-5:00pm | CCCEEC (63<sup>rd</sup> and Catharine)

### Agenda

2:50 – 3:00	<b>Greetings and Sign-In</b>
3:00 – 3:10	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b>                  Khiet Luong, Partnership Convener, <i>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</i>                  Charissa Bujak, AmeriCorps VISTA, <i>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and review agenda &amp; Round-the-room introductions</li> </ul>
3:10 – 3:30	<b>Past Project Outcomes &amp; New Partner Introductions</b>
3:30 – 4:00	<p><b>Cobbs Creek Stream Restoration Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Cobbs Creek Stream Restoration – Valessa Souter-Kline, PWD</li> </ul>
4:00 – 4:40	<p><b>Other Partnership Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philadelphia Parks &amp; Recreation                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friends of Cobbs Creek – Barb McCabe, PP&amp;R</li> <li>2012 Cobbs Creek 5k Run/Walk – Jean Hut, PP&amp;R</li> </ol> </li> <li>Other                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TreeVitalize grants – Brian Vadino, <i>DelCo Cons. District Watershed Specialist</i></li> <li>Watershed Adventurers programs – PHS &amp; PWD</li> <li>Lansdowne/Yeadon Elm Street project – Imogen Wirth-Granlund</li> <li><i>Green City, Clean Waters Ambassadors</i> – PEC &amp; PWD</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
4:40-4:55	<p><b>Announcements, Event, &amp; Calendar Review</b>  <i>Remember to send events to Khiet to post.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/19/12 – Schuylkill Soundings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. Topic: Adam Levine and C. Drew Brown on how we came to filter our drinking water in Philadelphia.</li> <li>2/24/12 – Deadline to 2012 Philadelphia <i>Green City, Clean Waters</i> Art Contest.</li> <li>Free fee weekends at FWS, NPS, USFS, &amp; BLM sites: 2012 for FWS are June 9 (Great Outdoors Day), Sept. 29 (National Public lands Day), Oct. 14 in recognition of National Wildlife Refuge Week, and Nov. 10-12 (Veterans Day wknd).</li> </ul>
4:55– 5:00	<p><b>Closing and Schedule next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set future mtg date</li> </ul>

<p><b>PPR:</b> Philadelphia Parks &amp; Recreation  <b>PWD:</b> Philadelphia Water Department  <b>DCVA:</b> Darby-Creek Valley Association</p>	<p><b>BMP:</b> (Stormwater) Best Management Practice  <b>FoMtM:</b> Friends of Mt. Moriah  <b>GC, CW:</b> <i>Green City, Clean Waters</i> – and initiative of PWD</p>
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## What's Happening in Your Watershed



### Restoring Cobbs

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is a national leader in urban stream corridor restoration. PWD has selected parts of Cobbs Creek for restoration to improve the environmental health and safe enjoyment of the stream and surrounding parks. Despite decades of damage caused by urban development, a strategically designed plan will help to stabilize the whole stream corridor. Restoring Cobbs Creek will protect our natural lands, safeguard the infrastructure investments of Delaware and Philadelphia counties, and create a more scenic waterway.

## The Issue



Cobbs Creek is a true amenity, benefiting the people and the natural environment in the Philadelphia region. Unfortunately, however, the creek also faces an assortment of ecological problems, including stream bank erosion, degraded habitat and poor water quality. The current conditions along the creek leave the area vulnerable to damaging floods and other stressors that adversely impact the integrity of the stream.



## The Proposed Solution



Stream restoration methods recommended to enhance the Darby-Cobbs Creek corridor include:

The creation of natural attributes, such as constructed **wetlands** and connected **floodplains**

**Wetlands** filter and clean water naturally, provide important breeding habitat for birds and amphibians, and are able to absorb and retain stormwater to control flooding. Similarly, **floodplains** calm excess storm flows thereby preventing erosion and supporting streamside communities.

The incorporation of water quality improvement measures, such as adding **riffles** to the stream flow

**Riffles** are raised stretches of rocky streambed that create shallow rapids. Riffles add much needed oxygen to the water, thereby supporting fish and other aquatic species

The removal of invasive vegetation paired with plantings of **native plant** varieties to help stabilize the banks

**Native plants** evolved in the existing ecosystem (rather than being introduced by humans) and as a result have natural predators that prevent unchecked growth and ensure biological diversity.

Increasing the **tree canopy** coverage alongside the creek.

**Tree canopy** refers to streamside vegetation that shades and cools the water while adding essential nutrients and creating animal habitat. Plant roots also stabilize the stream banks.