

A Year Like No Other

As we approach the end of 2020, we begin to look back on a year like no other. We have seen Radnor come together as a community to keep moving forward and find a path through these uncertain times. The Radnor Conservancy is proud to be a part of such a strong and creative community.



Lorna with Native Tree descriptions at Tree Giveaway.

trees over the next five years to replenish Radnor's tree canopy and spread the beauty and benefits of trees across Radnor. This year, it is our wish that as you plant a tree, or spend time outside, nature will help bring you solace, stress relief, mental clarity, and joy.

Coming together when so much is keeping us apart is especially important right now. Although we were not able to gather at our annual fall fundraiser this year, we are so happy that many of you are choosing to join us as members. Together we can work to preserve what is already wonderful in Radnor and know that, whatever else the future brings, generations to come can sit under the shade of a tree that was planted today.



Lorna Atkinson
Radnor Conservancy, Board President

Green, open space has always been important and part of what makes Radnor a special place to live. From the beginning of this pandemic, especially during the early days of quarantine, our parks, trails, and tree-filled neighborhoods have been a vital refuge for us all to go and spend time outside and enjoy the benefits of nature. They allow us to meet friends and attend events in a safe, socially distanced way so that we may continue to feel connected to one another.

Our shared hope for the future is what has driven us to continue to live our lives in a meaningful way. One meaningful act of hope is planting a tree. To plant a tree is an act of faith in the future. We are profoundly grateful to have been able to give away five hundred trees this year to be planted throughout the community by residents as part of our annual tree giveaway. Our goal is to help plant hundreds of



Appreciating elements of nature on long walks.
Photo by Gretchen Groebel

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500 trees found new homes in 2020 at our Annual Tree Giveaway

Our spring giveaway turned into a fall giveaway due to safety precautions around CV-19. We successfully had over 200 families pickup trees in a safe, contactless manner (drivers stayed in their cars and trees were placed into trunks or backseats). All volunteers and recipients were masked and it worked out nicely thanks to all of the volunteers and friendly residents.

In 2019, we unveiled a three year initiative to give away 500 trees per year for the next three years, to be planted in Radnor Township yards. This has made our Tree Giveaway efforts more impactful and shows that we are committed to the long-term health of our local environment. Keeping the tree canopy green in Radnor Township is crucial to help keep our air and waterways clean, provide important habitat for animals, mitigate stormwater runoff and provide a more tranquil beautiful place to live.

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery in Kirkwood, Pennsylvania was our supplier of the container grown trees. Native trees are important because they do well in our soil and climate and provide food for local birds and other animals that may seek shelter there.

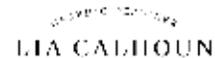
Please consider becoming a member or donating online so we can continue to fund this important initiative. Please go to RadnorConservancy.org



Happy Tree Recipients

Special Thanks to ALL of Our Past & Current Sponsors

Laura and William Buck, Kim and Jim Doherty, Evelyn and Harry Groome, Lynn and Bruce Hernandez, Virginia and David Toomey, Anonymous



Action Earth: Radnor High School

In our first year at Radnor High School, Ali Bauer and Becca Zajac founded the club Action Earth with the goal of making the Radnor community greener. Action Earth has worked for the last four years on local sustainability efforts: cleaning up local parks, visiting middle school classes to promote sustainability, and fundraising for environmental organizations. As our club grew, we were able to fundraise for composters and a garden bed for the HS courtyard, reducing cafeteria food waste and providing fresh vegetables to students.

“Renewable energy is a way to help ensure our population’s health and safety.” – Becca Zajac

Renewable Energy: Over 115 students in Action Earth raised schoolwide awareness for Radnor Ready for 100, and outstanding student support led the township’s BOC to pass their clean energy resolution in fall of 2019. Striving to add to that commitment, motivated members from Action Earth came together to form Climate Students, a student coalition that drafted a resolution

for 100% clean energy in RTSD with the guidance of the Sierra Club’s Climate Parents organization. After almost a year of researching policies, engaging the community, and lobbying, the school board passed our resolution unanimously on August 25, 2020! We are excited to advance into the implementation stages of this commitment.

Stormwater Troubles By Gale Morrison

This summer, on August 4, Radnor experienced a dangerous and damaging flood event when over six inches of rain fell in a very short time. This was the eighth storm in ten years to trap people in their homes and cars, and bring traffic to a halt. According to Radnor police chief Chris Flanagan, Radnor’s first responders received more than 100 calls for help, performed nine water rescues, and had to account for about 24 disabled vehicles.



A street in North Wayne on Aug 4, 2020, inundated with four feet of floodwater after 90 minutes of rain.

Over the years, the increase in development in our Township has heightened the risk of flooding when severe weather events occur. Since 1970, Radnor has contracted at least 15 civil engineering firms to study the where and why of the constant roadway and property flooding and pollution. Unfortunately, while many projects have been proposed, they have mostly remained concepts on paper.

We believe it is time for a new approach in line with modern science and engineering principles. To begin, the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners and staff must work from an overarching Township-wide strategy of sustainable drainage and natural systems to manage rainfall that provide for better environmental conservation and protection, as well as the protection of life and property. This Township-wide strategy, a “greener Radnor”, would include programs to:

1. Decrease impervious surface by removing asphalt and cement where it is not necessary.
2. Reduce mown turf grass that serves no recreational purpose, and plant trees, meadows, and native plants.
3. Increase bio-retention and green infrastructure on roadsides, in parking lot islands, and other parking and road infrastructure.
4. Increase riparian buffers, planted with deep-rooted native plants and trees, along the creeks and stormwater swales. Radnor has been working with Meliora Design on such a program through North Wayne, and our BOC seems committed to funding and getting it built.

In pursuing a “greener Radnor” strategy, we have the opportunity to be a leader among other communities in Pennsylvania for using natural systems to both protect our water and our residents.



Sunrise at The Willows Park / Photo by Estelle Atkinson

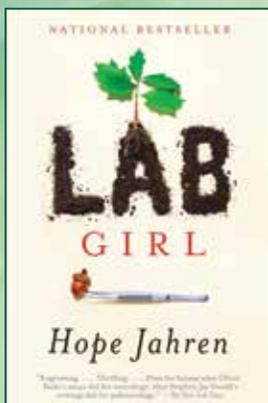
Loving Our Parks By Lorna Atkinson

Following the trail along a stream bank in Skunk Hollow, watching the water flow over roots and rocks, and looking up at the trees, it can sometimes be hard to believe we are still in Radnor.

Parks such as Skunk Hollow and Ithan Valley Park are large enough for us to experience a little bit of wilderness right here in the suburbs and the experience is clearly one which we are all craving during these times. They both became township parks in the 1970s, and have been enjoyed by generations of Radnor residents ever since. We can sometimes take for granted the incredible park system we are lucky enough to enjoy. The initial preservation of open space is only the first step to conserving the land. For ecosystems to flourish, and for these special places to be there for generations to come, we need to show them some love!

This can start with the individual, and there are many steps we can take to make sure that each time we visit a park, we leave it as we found it. Following principles of Leave No Trace (visit lnt.org for more information), we can make sure to always stick to the trails, leave what we find, and dispose of waste properly; taking out what we bring in, especially dog mess and face masks!

As well as being important refuges for wildlife, including many native plants and animals, township parks are public spaces. They belong to all of us. Together we can advocate for our open space, make informed choices about what to plant in our own backyards and along our streets to spread the benefit of native plants and prevent future plant invasions (see Radnor Conservancy [Invasive Plant Guide](#)), and work with the township to keep our parks maintained for the benefit of all.



ONLINE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GROUP

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

February 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Register at ggroebel@radnorconservancy.org

The Radnor Conservancy has always been a big proponent of Radnor's trail projects. These projects are important because trails allow greater access to recreation, which promotes health and wellness, gives a sense of social connection (lessens depression), and utilizes Radnor's open space. There is a regional and national trail movement that has great momentum, which provides families and individuals with a safe place to recreate and to enjoy outdoor experiences.

Radnor needs your support to keep these projects on the table. Please learn more about them and let your Board of Commissioners know that you are interested in them.



Proposed Darby Paoli Trail - Sawmill area / Photo by Laura Luker

1. Radnor Trail - Eastward Extension

Description of Project: This will extend the current Radnor Trail to run east, crossing over Radnor Chester Road with flashing lights for pedestrians and ending at the Blue Route (RT476). There will be a connection to Encke /Cappelli Park and Township Building. This trail segment is part of the larger Circuit Trails - Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge Trail.

Consultants: Campbell Thomas

Phase: Design & Engineering: Working on remediation of contaminants. Neighbor and public meetings to be held.

2. Darby Paoli Multi - Use Trail

Description of Project: A 1-mile paved multi-use trail connecting The Willows Park to Sawmill Park. This trail will parallel Darby Paoli Road with some interior mowed paths.

Consultants: Natural Lands, Meliora and McMahon Associates

Phase: Looking into grants and stormwater studies to fund the project.

3. TAP Trails Project (Transportation Alternative Program)

Description of Project: Three Trail spurs, mostly on road and sidewalk connectors. These spurs are part of the greater Greenways Open Space Plan which provides safer walking and biking.

Description of segments:

- 1. West Wayne Connector** will link downtown Wayne to the Friends of Radnor Trail Park entrance. A traffic light will be installed at Lancaster and West Wayne.
- 2. Penn Medicine / Radnor High School Spur** corner of RT 30 & Radnor Chester Rd. (paralleling High School & KOP Rd. Up KOP Rd. to Radnor Train Station)
- 3. Villanova Univ. Spur Trail** on Rt.30 along the length of Villanova's campus will connect to Ithan Ave then to Ithan Valley Park extending to Haverford Township.
- 4. Ithan Valley Park** connects the existing foot trails of Ithan Valley Park crossing over Clyde Rd., parallels the Blue Route retaining wall and creek to Barclay Rd.

Consultant: Simone Collins Landscape Architects

Phase: Design completed. PENNDOT working on engineering. Construction bids to go out after PENNDOT approves engineering.

4. Radnor Memorial Park to Harford Park Trail

Description of Project: A multi-use trail from the Radnor Train Station, Radnor Memorial Park and Radnor Elementary School paralleling the corporate center to Harford Park /Creutzburg Center.

Phase: Design & Engineering completed. Construction bid awarded to G & B Construction Group. Construction to start in 2021.



Recycling in 2020



Things you can do now:

- Reduce your food and plastic waste
- Don't bag your recycling in plastic bags
- Cardboard should go out on recycling day

Interns Shreya Kalra and Anika Jaswal helped on community initiatives including recycling efforts.

“Cicada Eruption...” By Washington Post columnist Adrian Higgins, September 16, 2020

One night next May, a funny-looking insect — plump, brown, hunched — will emerge from the ground, crawl up the nearest vertical perch and cast off its mantle. Within an hour or two, the periodical cicada will fill out to its adult form, with beady red eyes and glassy wings framed with orange ribs. Soon thereafter, hundreds, thousands, millions more cicadas will join the creature for one of the natural world’s most bizarre spectacles: a six-week bacchanalian feast of loud music, acrobatics and, yes, sex, stretching from Georgia to

New York. Before this wonder fades for another 17 years, there will be a couple of lingering reminders that this wasn’t some surreal dream.

The female cicada lays eggs in slits she has cut in thin branches. This ensures that the ensuing hatchling nymphs will drop and burrow into soil laced with tree roots, for they feed off the root sap. The egg-laying also means that branches from the point of injury to their tips will probably die back.

But for young, small trees, the dieback can harm the tree’s future and desired shape by pruning twigs destined to become its main branches. “For trees planted in the past four years, you may want to consider protecting,” said Stephanie Adams, at the Morton Arboretum. Young redbuds, crab apples and cherry trees are among the types of trees that are at risk.

Netting sold to keep birds off fruit trees and shrubs will do the trick, but only if the mesh size is small enough to keep the cicadas out — something less than half an inch. Netting needs to be tied together carefully, in a way that keeps the cicadas and other creatures out, especially where it meets the lower trunk.



Fall is for tree planting, but millions of periodical cicadas will emerge in a few months to threaten the new plantings. The gardener can prepare. (RON EDMONDS/Associated Press)

SOURCE: (https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/how-to-protect-trees-from-cicadas/2020/09/15/547d4488-f381-11ea-b796-2dd09962649c_story.html)

Become a MEMBER TODAY!

Go online to become a member at [RadnorConservancy.org](https://www.RadnorConservancy.org)

Your donation helps us work towards fulfilling our mission of environmental stewardship and advocacy for a greener Radnor Township.

We are grateful for your support.





The wooden walkway in The Willows Park extended an additional 155 feet by Edouard Egger, Eagle Scout.

Need for Trail Maintenance By Eric Janson

This spring and summer people were outside enjoying trails more than ever. The increased use of trails has in some cases led to areas being loved to death, nationwide as well as in Radnor.

When on a trail and you come to a fallen tree, or a muddy patch, what do you do? In terms of Leave No Trace, you are supposed to walk through the area instead of going around, creating a bypass trail. The reality is that few will go straight through. One example of how this can be remedied is the boardwalk built by Eagle Scouts in The Willows/Skunk Hollow Parks. This walkway serves to keep your feet dry and also keeps you on the trail limiting the impact on the environment.

Near the boardwalk area there are also two switchbacks (zig-zag routes up a steep hill), both have been severely cut across by trail users. A few people make the cut and before you know it, the cut looks like the “real” trail. Erosion, and soil compaction occur, this is the worst kind of by-pass trail. Switchbacks are not only less strenuous to navigate, they serve to protect the soil from eroding. There are only two switchbacks in Radnor, and they are both in poor shape. Plans are being developed by a Radnor Troop 284 Scout to repair one of these switchbacks and restore eroded areas.

Many of the township trails have been built by Eagle Scout candidates to fulfill the leadership project portion of the requirements, but once a trail is built it needs to be maintained.

So, next time you are on one of the dirt trails in the township, or anywhere, make a point to look at the condition of the trail. If you are in Skunk Hollow/Willows Parks observe how the trails are severely eroded near the Darby Creek. We can all take some responsibility for maintaining

the trails, using them with as little impact as possible, and contributing time or funds to help in their maintenance. The dirt track trails show wear and tear more than the asphalt trails, but in Radnor we want and need both.

Search online for [Radnor Comprehensive Trails Map](#), it’s a great way to see where trails are in the township as well as what the long-term plans are.

THRU-HIKING THE COLORADO TRAIL

Twice, 31 Years Apart with Eric Janson



Online Program - Join us January 12 at 7:00 pm
Register at ggroebel@radnorconservancy.org

Status Update on 4-Acre Parcel at Rt. 476 and Rt. 30 in Radnor

OVERVIEW: “The stumps and sawdust left on a hill that had been covered for decades with trees and brush drew shock and complaints. The unexpected tree-clearing, some Radnor residents told township commissioners, was outrageous, distressing.” The trees — on a four-acre traffic island along Lancaster Avenue near the heavily trafficked I-476 interchange — were brought down in early January without warning. The sloping area was left barren, exposing a view of the highway’s sound wall and creating what some say is an eyesore at the region’s entrance to the township.” — (McDaniel, Justine Feb 14, 2020 Philadelphia Inquirer)

Radnor Conservancy response to Radnor Township, January 25, 2020: “Management of township land is a huge task and great responsibility that should be planned in collaboration with all relevant groups including the Shade Tree Commission, the Environmental Advisory Council, not to mention township residents, and of course the Board of Commissioners.

In advance of the clearcutting and to the best of the Radnor Conservancy’s knowledge surrounding this issue, no public meetings were held, no township committees vetted the plans, no post clearing plans were submitted, no post clearing budget was made, and no post funds were appropriated for the enhancement of this clear-cut parcel.

The intention to carry out a project of this type and scale should be communicated in advance, to allow time for questions and consultation, and demonstrate transparency. We are seeking assurance that this will happen in the future and that recent events will not be a precedent for how the township handles projects like this moving forward.”



View from King of Prussia Road and Lancaster Avenue in Radnor.



Barren Plateau - 4 acres clear-cut / Photos by Tracy Pulos

CURRENT STATUS UPDATE

Status Update September 29, 2020:

From Stephen F. Norcini, PE Township Engineer, Radnor Township: The Shade Tree Commission put forth a plan from Weeds Inc. (Brian O’Neill), Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects and All Seasons Landscaping for the island. Special thanks to these individuals and companies who came forward to offer their services pro bono.

Work to be done pro bono:

- Use herbicide to address the weeds
- Plant type L seed mix on the banks along Lancaster Pike (PennDOT requirement)
- Plant meadow grass and wildflower mix on the plateau

The Board of Commissioners approved this plan. In working with Penn DOT for their approval, the PennDOT process was not completed until June, after which germination would not occur until fall.

Current Status Update:

Weeds Inc. has re-sprayed the area to address the weed growth. They have also placed the type L seed mix on the banks as noted above (this has germinated).

On the plateau:

- Weeds Inc. will place the meadow grass seed in late September/October, but since it is a warm season grass, we will not see this germination until Spring.
- Weeds Inc. will frost seed the wildflower mix, which we will also not see until spring.
- Mr. Brian O’Neill informed me it takes approximately one year for the wildflower mix to substantially germinate.



New Board Member — Jeiwon Deputy

Ms. Deputy has over 16 years experience, specializing in the management and performance of projects involving water quality investigation and remediation, legislative review, and the formulation of water quality-related policies and programs. She has planned and implemented programs to improve water quality and reduce pollution in both coastal and marine waters. A skilled project manager, she develops work plans; negotiates budgets; provides daily team management, subcontractor oversight, cost/schedule control, and problem resolution; and she maintains effective liaison with clients to generate project reports and recommendations

that are clear, scientifically defensible, and able to withstand scrutiny by citizen oversight boards and involved regulatory agencies. She studied at the University of California, Berkeley: Goldman School of Public Policy, Masters of Policy and Purdue University, West Lafayette: School of Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Earles Lake Update

By Leonard Altieri, Newtown Township Supervisor

Last week individuals from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) began the process to drain Earles Lake to facilitate the partial breach as directed by DEP. Efforts to delay this partial breach in the hopes of obtaining a downstream study failed despite the best efforts of Newtown and Radnor Townships. It is definitely sad to lose this beautiful spot, but the danger for downstream residents as a result of the dams current state of disrepair greatly outweighs our emotional attachments.

I want to thank Radnor Township’s 4th Ward Commissioner Lisa Borowski for her leadership and guidance on this issue. The two of us worked to achieve the best possible result for both of our municipalities and I thank her for the collaboration.

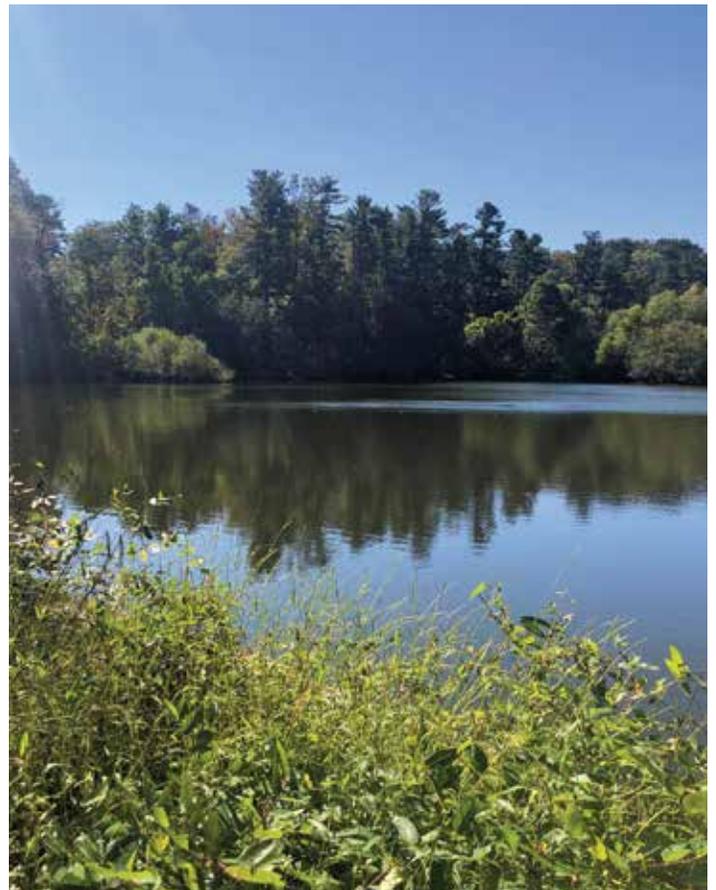
So how did we get here?

Many residents do not know this but Earles Lake and the dam are both owned by the Green Countrie Condominium Association (“HOA”). The Township has no ownership interest in the dam or any legal standing over it. The HOA over the years failed to maintain the dam, creating the hazardous condition we see today.

On September 20, 2011 Earles Lake dam was declared to be an unsafe dam by DEP due to a seriously inadequate spillway and deterioration of the dam. The HOA did seek estimates to repair the dam to DEP standards, but I am told it was cost prohibitive. As such, the HOA decided to move forward with a partial breach of Earles Lake. Keeping the dam in its current condition was risking a complete failure and unleashing unspeakable damage and destruction to the Radnor residents who live downstream.

Where are we going?

While the Township has no legal or ownership interest in the dam itself, we have met with the DEP and will be requiring them to obtain an Erosion and Sediment (“E&S”) permit as well as a demolition permit for the removal of the



Earles Lake before the breach / Photo by Lisa Borowski

dam. Our Township Engineer was provided the plans from the HOA on how they plan to move forward with the breach and is comfortable that all environmental protections will be adhered to.

What will be left?

There will still be water to a level which will keep sediment at the bottom of the lake and prevent it from entering Darby Creek. Following the partial breach, the stream channel will be provided with rock rip to line the channel and the exposed slopes will be vegetated with grass along with other remediation which will be required of Green Countrie Village.

Spotted Lanternfly Management for Homeowners



Scraping SLF egg masses from a tree.
Photo credit: PA Department of Agriculture

RESOURCES:

Spotted Lanternfly Hotline
888-422-3359 (Penn State)

Karen Wilwol, Watershed Specialist
with Delco Conservation District
WilwolK@co.delaware.pa.us

Manage SLF on your property by scraping eggs (over winter), banding trees in March - April (you must use small gauge chicken wire over top of sticky tape so you don't trap birds and small mammals), removing the favored host (tree-of-heaven). We do not recommend treating your entire property since these insecticides are not specific to SLF and beneficial insects may be affected as well.

A banded tree covered in chicken wire to prevent mammal and bird bycatch / Photo credit: Elizabeth Finley



Go to Penn State Extension for the latest research and updates: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

Special thanks to ALL of our community partners.
Please consider Radnor Conservancy in your year-end giving plans. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

For Programs & Events, visit:
radnorconservancy.org

To preserve and enhance
Radnor's open space and natural
assets through engagement with
and education of our community
in sustainable environmental
stewardship.

MISSION:

P.O. Box 48
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RADNOR
CONSERVANCY

