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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hanover Trolley Trail to feature new wetlands.**

**SEVEN VALLEYS, PA –**

With Earth Day approaching on April 22, 2025, the York County Rail Trail Authority announces that the Hanover Trolley Trail is now expanding through acres of newly created wetlands in Heidelberg Township. The expansion is part of a \$2.1 Million project to construct a 0.75-mile section of the Hanover Trolley Trail, restore 2,200 linear feet of Oil Creek, and construct 5 acres of new wetland habitat.

Stream restoration and wetland creation were mandated by the fact that over time, Oil Creek migrated and undermined the rail bed where the Hanover Trolley Trail is being constructed in Heidelberg Township. The Authority completed Phase 1 of the Oil Creek Restoration in October 2024, creating over five-acres of new wetlands. Phase 2 is now beginning. Authority Chairman Frank Kempf remarks, "While the stream work was necessary and costly, our work in Heidelberg Township adds a whole new environmental dimension to the trail."

Authority Executive Director Gwenth Loose adds, "While visitors to the Heritage Rail Trail and now the Hanover Trolley Trail enjoy outdoor exercise, this project brings the sights and sounds of birds, frogs, insects, and small mammals to our visitors and improves water quality, manages stormwater, and enhances the natural environment. It's a huge win-win."

Earth Day is celebrated each April to raise public awareness about environmental issues. It's a reminder of our shared responsibility to safeguard our natural places and resources. Authority member Karen Knuepfer adds, "Environmental awareness begins at home. Projects like the Hanover Trolley Trail and Oil Creek Restoration that call volunteers such as those serving on the Authority to action make a difference right here in York County."

Sections of the Hanover Trolley Trail in Hanover, Spring Grove, Jackson and Penn townships are complete and open to the public. The new Heidelberg Township section adds new environmental features such as wildlife viewing areas and interpretive signs encouraging trail visitors to stop, study, and enjoy the stream and its wetlands.

Funding for this project is provided through federal grants from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, state grants from PA Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, a regional grant from Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and a York County Planning Commission grant through the Countywide Action Plan. Local support from the J William Warehime Foundation and Powder Mill Foundation was instrumental in procuring these grants.

Following a competitive public bidding process, the Authority recently awarded the construction project to Kinsley Construction of York, PA. C.S. Davidson, Inc. of York, PA and LandStudies of Lititz, PA are providing engineering and construction oversight services for the project. Work began in mid-April and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. In 2026, the Authority plans to construct a parking lot with an entrance from PA 116 that will provide an excellent opportunity for the public to view the newly created wetlands and to access the Hanover Trolley Trail.

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