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### **Delaware Riverkeeper and Radnor Township Announce Public Meeting To Save Wetlands and Enhance Radnor Township**

Wayne, PA. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Radnor Township announce a public meeting and discussion to help plan for the restoration of the West Wayne Preserve (formerly known as Levin Tract), located at the intersection of Conestoga and South Devon Roads.

The meeting will be held Tuesday December 8, 2009, 6:15 pm at the Radnor Memorial Library, Winsor Room located at 114 West Wayne Avenue, Wayne PA 19087

According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Delaware River and its tributary streams, many of the woodlands that remain in suburban areas have been neglected, or in the case of the West Wayne Preserve, were threatened by development. Public opposition from the community and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network resulted in a decision to preserve the seven acre tract as natural open space. Today plans are underway to enhance this woodland into a native and healthy preserve.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper stated “the citizens of Radnor joined together to protect the West Wayne Preserve from first a development project and then becoming an ineffective and ugly detention basin. But now intervention is needed to ensure this once beautiful wetland is protected from invasive species and trash dumping so that it provides the community with the beautiful and effective ecosystem they envisioned. As with so many communities, Radnor is fast losing its natural areas. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is delighted to be joining forces with Radnor Township to be a part of protecting, forever, this one.”

Emma Gutzler, Restoration Manager for Delaware Riverkeeper Network says, “by using best management and restoration practices that work with the natural abilities of woodlands and wetlands, we can filter pollution and alleviate flooding from stormwater runoff while also providing an amenity for residents and the native wildlife that reside here.”

According to van Rossum, “the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Radnor Township and project partners Meliora Environmental Design and Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects will be hosting the public meeting on December 8 in order to share ideas for the conceptual restoration plan for the Preserve. By incorporating community input early in the process, Delaware Riverkeeper Network will then further develop the restoration plan and secure grant funding to make this project a reality and a resource for Radnor Township residents.”

According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the overall goals of the West Wayne Preserve restoration project are to: capture and purify runoff during storms from the surrounding 44 acres of residential and commercial development; create and restore habitat for native birds and other wildlife in the community; improve water health and address existing stagnant water issues on the preserve; replace aggressive invasive plants such as Norway maple and vines with desirable native species; and provide trails and observation points for community members to enjoy.

The conceptual design was presented to the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners in October and the Parks and Recreation Board in November.

More information on the project along with a diagram of the conceptual design can be accessed online at <http://www.radnor.com/egov/docs/1254845081920.htm>.

#### **Delaware Riverkeeper Network**

300 Pond Street, Second Floor  
Bristol, PA 19007

tel: (215) 369-1188

fax: (215) 369-1181

drkn@delawariverkeeper.org

www.delawariverkeeper.org