

Project Title: Reading Museum dams 1 & 2 removal and restoration

Project Location Wyomissing Creek, Reading, PA

Latitude 40.328160 (dam #2)

Longitude -75.953552 (dam #2)

40.328333 (dam #1)

-75.951666 (dam #1)

Dam removed Museum dams 1 & 2; DEP No. 06-168 and 06-170

Date of removal September 2004

Linear feet restored 2,746 feet riparian habitat, 1,373 feet instream habitat combined
project total

Stream miles opened 5.4 miles

Species to benefit coldwater species, migratory species

Project Costs:

Growing Greener contribution \$25,000 toward restoration

Federal contribution \$85,000 toward design/implementation

State contribution \$138,000 toward implementation

Private contribution \$0

Project Overview:

Two dams on the grounds of the Reading Public Museum were removed in September 2004. The upper dam was 3 feet high and 45 feet long and was built around the turn of the century. The 8-foot high, 60-foot long lower dam was constructed of rock and was built in the early 1900s after the construction of the Reading Public Museum. The Museum sought their removal because the dams were rundown and a financial burden to maintain. Anadromous fish are expected to benefit from the removals once all eight blockages have been addressed downstream on the Schuylkill River. Because the dams were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the removal plans incorporated historical review as required by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Mitigation included photo documentation of both dams, the preservation of portions of the lower dam, and the preservation of the rock walls that surrounded the impoundments. Part of the restoration effort included educational signage designed by the Reading Public Museum to showcase the river restoration.



Photo 1. Reading Public Museum lower dam. 2004.



Photo 2. Reading Public Museum upper dam. 2004.



Photo 3. Reading Public Museum lower dam removal. September 2004.



Photo 4. Reading Public Museum upper dam removal. September 2004



Photo 5. Reading Public Museum former lower impoundment area. Fall 2006.



Photo 6. Reading Public Museum former upper dam site. Fall 2006.



Photo 7. Interpretive sign setting. Reading Public Museum. Fall 2006.



Photo 8. Interpretive sign close-up. Reading Public Museum. Fall 2006.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:



American Rivers



National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation



NOAA Restoration Center



Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection



Pennsylvania Fish and
Boat Commission



Reading Public Museum



USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service



US Fish and Wildlife Service

WYOMISSING CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

DEDICATION CEREMONY



READING, PA
18 OCTOBER 2004
1:30-2:30 PM

AGENDA

1:30 Welcome and Introduction by

Ronald Roth
Director and CEO,
Reading Public Museum

PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Growing Greener Program

Cathleen Curran Myers
Deputy Secretary for Water
Management, Department of
Environmental Protection

NOAA Restoration Efforts and the Community-based Restoration Program

Timothy R.E. Keeney
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere,
Department of Commerce

US Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Interests

Jed Brown
Delaware River Fisheries
Coordinator, US Fish and
Wildlife Service

PA Fish and Boat Commission Restoring Migratory Fisheries

Scott Carney
Fisheries Biologist,
Pennsylvania Fish and
Boat Commission

Restoring Free-Flowing Rivers

Ann Mills
Executive Vice President,
American Rivers

2:30 Concluding Remarks

Site Visit

"There can be no purpose more inspiring
than to begin the age of restoration,
reweaving the wondrous diversity of life
that still surrounds us."

- E.O. Wilson



on Walker

Campaign rigors tough to stomach

SOME DIE-HARD Republicans have altered their diets this presidential campaign season, opting not to eat any Heinz ketchup, not to drink beer or dip their teeth in Heinz ketchup.

The semi-serious candidate boycott was aimed at keeping money out of the pocket of Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and widow of Republican U.S. Sen. John H. Heinz III.

Turns out that a recent stomach illness has the optimistic Heinz Kerry watching what she eats, but not because she wants to make any official statements.

Before her speech in leading on Tuesday, Democratic Party Chairman Bill Evans said Heinz Kerry told select group of party members that her diet has been limited to toast, clear soup and Gatorade.

Hardly hearty sustenance for a woman who has been trisscrossing the country trying to get her husband into the White House.

And maybe the reason that Heinz Kerry's criticism of President Bush on Tuesday was much sharper than her delivery.

Near the end of her speech, Heinz Kerry scolded the Bush administration for locking embryonic stem-cell research and failing to back condom-distribution programs to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.

"We are living under the most abysmal administration in terms of their respect for science," Heinz Kerry said. "Americans are too good a people, too creative, too optimistic, and too much of a hard-nosed nation to be led by people who either don't understand or are afraid of complexities of the future."

But some of the Democrats

Berks & Beyond

www.readingeagle.com | READING EAGLE | FRIDAY September 10, 2004



Reading Eagle from Washington

Peter C. Poncheri Jr., Reading Public Museum director of buildings and grounds, looks out Thursday over Mirror Lake at the museum. Officials say the lake will be gone, likely by the end of October.

B Section
Obituaries, B5

Helping Latino voters

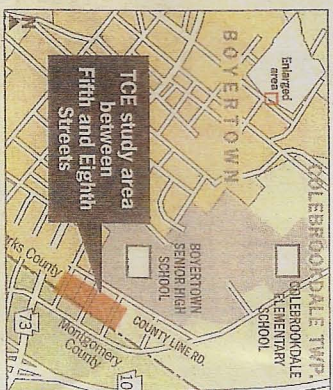
Translators and signs and videos in Spanish will be available at city polls on Election Day to assist Spanish-speaking people.

©2004 Reading Eagle Company
By Finceline Sweet
Reading Eagle

Spanish-speaking voters in Berks County will find plenty of information in their native language during the November election, thanks to an awareness program sponsored by the county and the state.

Election officials, who met with Latino community leaders Thursday at the Hispanic Center 501 Washington St., said voters will have access to signs, videos and translators on Election Day. Since federal judge Michael M. Baylson ordered Berks County in March 2003 to reach out to Latino voters, election officials have pursued a campaign to make Spanish-language materials and helpers available to Reading voters.

Voting continues on B2



State airs plans

Reading Eagle: George M. Ayral

ucky enough to land an invitation to an event that was off-limits to the public because that the aspiring first lady looked weak.

Heinz Kerry skammered through the first few minutes of her speech and looked like someone badly in need of a break from a campaign hat in her words has kept her on the road "eight days a week" since September 2003.

"Her energy level is typically better than this," said one longtime party insider who has heard Heinz Kerry speak several times. "She is a good speaker, but her energy level just isn't there."

Another Democratic official agreed that Heinz Kerry did not look like she was feeling well and got off to an almost embarrassingly elliptical start Tuesday.

"When she first started I thought she was going to keel over or something," the Democratic official confided. "I thought she looked exhausted.... I just think it's the abundance of the American political system that they have to run themselves ragged to get elected."

Mark Nevins, a Kerry campaign spokesman, thought my questions about Heinz Kerry's health were absurd.

After offering that Heinz Kerry had been limited to nibbling on crackers and sipping water shortly following a series of tests at an Iowa hospital after complaining of stomach pain last weekend, Nevins clammed up about whether the rigors of the campaign had caught up with Heinz Kerry.

"I'm not sure this issue informs voters about issues in this election," Nevins snarled. "These aren't questions I would expect to get" from the mainstream press.

Actually they are the type of questions Betts Democrats hungered for answers to Tuesday.

Heinz Kerry's health and limited diet were the first topics that the welcoming party raised, Evans said.

Contact columnist Kori Walker at 610-371-5022 or kwalker@readingeagle.com.

Lake removal starts today at Reading Public Museum

Officials plan to return the portion of Wyomissing Creek on the facility's grounds to a free-flowing stream.

By Don Spatz
Senior Reporter

At the moment, Mirror Lake at the Reading Public Museum is mostly a pile of washed-in silt and rock, and the island in its middle is a jungle.

That will change beginning today as the museum gets started on its plan to remove two dams, the lake, the island and a side stream and return the Wyomissing Creek to a more natural but curving channel.

"Environmentally, this is the right thing to do," said Peter C. Ponchert Jr., museum director of buildings and grounds. "However it started, whatever the drive was, this is the right thing to do."

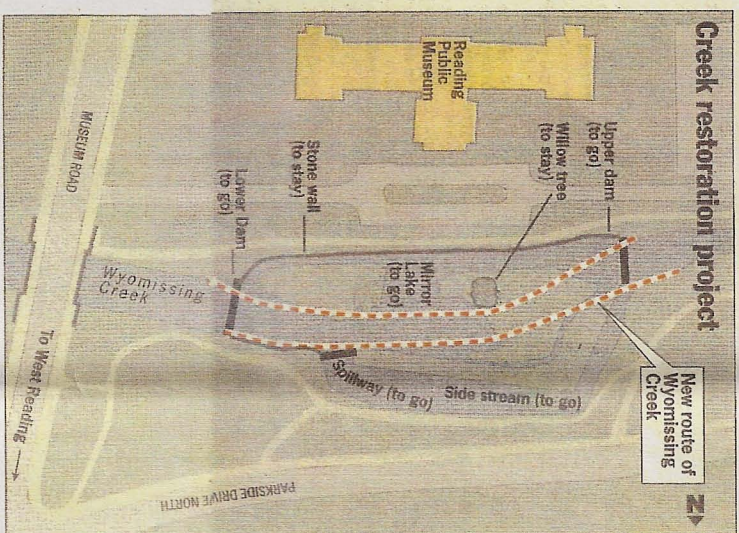
That drive was partly economic. Pretty as it used to be, Mirror Lake clogs with silt and it costs \$250,000 or more to dredge it, thanks in part to increasingly strict environmental regulations, museum officials said.

The stream restoration project will cost \$208,000 — funded by six state, federal and private environmental agencies — with the state kicking in another \$50,000 for the engineering plans.

Environmentally, museum officials claim the dams and lake raise the water temperature, stop fish from going upstream, collect silt, kill the creek bottom and cause flooding.

They said restoring a natural creek bed will end those problems as well as save the museum the ongoing cost of dredging.

The project should be completed by the end of October. The first step will be to take out a brick wall separating the island from a side stream on the Parkside Drive North side of the lake. Early next week the contractors will begin the slow process of



Reading Eagle: Corey McCarty

taking out the two dams. "We don't want all the sediment flowing downstream," Ponchert said. "We'll take a piece out and let things settle down for awhile."

Crews will use the sediment for fill and put rubble from the dams in the scour holes just below the dams where the water is about 8 feet deep.

Some of the dam structures will remain, but be stepped back a little. The stone walls surrounding Mirror Lake will stay, and the area between those walls and the new stream bed will be graded and seeded, with stream-loving plants along the banks.

In the future, museum officials plan nature trails in the area and what they call a living laboratory. Ponchert said the work will open up the vistas, and visitors will be surprised to see how much land is there. The creek will stay about as wide as it is now — roughly 50 feet — and will curve north of the willow tree on the island. Upstream, crews will build several rock structures in the creek to direct the current away from the banks.

The creek has about a 9-foot drop from the first footbridge to Museum Road, and Ponchert said it will be fast-moving and a great trout habitat.

Contact reporter Don Spatz at 610-371-5022 or dsatz@readingeagle.com.

FOR TAINED WATER

By Steven Henshaw
Reading Eagle

State environmental officials believe they have identified the extent of groundwater contamination by a possible carcinogen that taints 36 wells in a Colebrookdale Township neighbor hood.

But an investigation is ongoing to determine the source of the contamination, representative of the state Department of Environmental Protection told residents Thursday night.

About 15 residents attended the public meeting at Boyertown High School to hear an update on the DEP's plan to remedy the problem.

Thirty-six properties on Fifth and Sixth streets near Boyertown have wells with elevated levels of trichloroethylene, or TCE, an industrial solvent that is used mainly to remove grease from metal parts.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, drinking water with small amounts of TCE over long periods of time may cause liver and kidney damage.

As an interim measure, the residents have been supplied with bottled water at DEP expense until the homes can be hooked up to the Boyertown public water system.

In homes with wells that have higher levels of TCE — where repeated exposure from bathing is a concern — the DEP has given the owners the option of having a carbon filtration system installed.

Crystal Snook, DEP project manager for cleanup, said all the properties on Fifth St have been connected to the public water line that runs along the street.

The DEP is in the process of capping abandoned wells on those properties, which should be completed in the next two weeks. Sixth Street resident Joseph Diachy asked for a timetable for when he can drink from his tap.

Snook said Sixth Street homes cannot be hooked up to public water until a water line extended along that street. That project, which the Boyertown Water Authority has agreed to with funding by a DEP grant, probably will be completed until next year, she said.

Arthur L. Dalla Piazza, DEP chief of arduous cleanups, said he believes the current area of contamination has been identified.

The longer-term remedy depends on what turns up in the ongoing investigation, he said. Contact reporter Steven Henshaw at 610-371-5028 or shenshaw@readingeagle.com.

Penn Square project set to

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The state has given the city permission to down nine blighted buildings on Penn Square, expected to start next week, with a room for a three-story office building. Full coverage on B2.