Preliminary Proposal for Footbridge - for 3rd Street & Glen Providence Park
To Delaware County Council
May 3, 2017

Executive Summary:

A coalition of community members from Media Borough and Upper Providence, including from Friends of Glen Providence Park and the Woodlands at Ridley Creek HOA, propose a temporary footbridge to provide pedestrian access across 3rd Street, to be planned in consultation with Delaware County. Details are provided on the following pages.

- Temporary footbridge across Broomall's Run at 3rd Street, from when Broomall's Dam is removed in July 2017 until a new dam is constructed
- Will provide pedestrian and bicycle access between Upper Providence and Media Borough in the short term
- Will decrease a significant liability and safety hazard, allowing pedestrians to avoid taking hazardous routes around the closed roadway
- A fiberglass bridge that is modular, attractive, durable, and affordable is proposed
- The manufacturer indicates the footbridge is "easy to assemble and erect on inaccessible sites," and these bridges are often installed by Boy Scouts or other volunteers
- Will require the cooperation of Delaware County and Media Borough
- PA DEP has been cooperative since the beginning
- No PennDOT approval necessary
- When construction commences on the new dam, we propose a permanent relocation of the footbridge to the adjacent Glen Providence Park, owned by Delaware County. This will restore a footbridge to Glen Providence Park at one of the original locations.
- We would like to work with Delaware County to further develop our proposal.

Photos of footbridges by E.T. Techtonics, who provided us a quote. They have created many footbridges along the Delaware Water Gap, for PA State Parks, and in Delaware County.

85' x 4' Hiking Trail Footbridge in Loysburg, PA

40' x 6' Footbridge on the McDade Trail - Delaware Water Gap

Partial removal of Broomall's Dam in Spring 2017:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Division of Dam Safety will partially remove Broomall's Dam for safety reasons starting around May 15, 2017, finishing around July 14, 2017. As shown in the attached diagram, the partially removed dam will create a gap over 100' wide at 3rd Street. There will be a stream running across the lowest part of the partially removed dam, and there will be 6' fencing at the street level blocking access on both the Media and Upper Providence side of the removed dam.

Under the current plan, there will be no pedestrian, bike, or stroller access on 3rd Street until a new dam is built, with possible completion in 2019 or 2020. Access will be blocked for the dozens of residents who use this pedestrian crossing daily, some walking from Upper Providence on 3rd Street to school and/or work in Media Borough.

This will create a significant safety hazard, as some determined pedestrians, particularly children, will find a way around the fencing, and across the riprap channel and stream. Many Upper Providence residents travel into Media for Broomall's Lake Country Club, the activities and restaurants on State Street, the public places like the Court House and the library, and to connect with Septa's train, trolley, and bus lines. The loss of pedestrian access across 3rd Street for an extended period of time will eliminate the only safe walking options into Media and will create a hazardous condition for pedestrians. This issue would be heightened for Upper Providence residents who walk home on 3rd Street to avoid driving after drinking in Media. The alternatives for walking into Media from this area are Kirk Lane to Orange St. or Kirk Lane to Ridley Creek Rd. & Baltimore Ave. These routes are narrow, busy state highways with no sidewalks and limited shoulders.

Footbridge for 3rd Street & later installation in Glen Providence Park:

We propose placing a 40' footbridge across the lowest elevation of this gap, over Broomall's Run, until the new dam is constructed. We further propose that when construction of the new dam begins, estimated in 2018 or 2019, the pedestrian bridge be relocated to Glen Providence Park in the location of one of the park's original footbridges - at the base of the switchback trail. This footbridge relocation will create a permanent park improvement, and a point of access between Media Borough and Upper Providence, through the park, during dam construction (which would again completely block pedestrian access at 3rd Street).

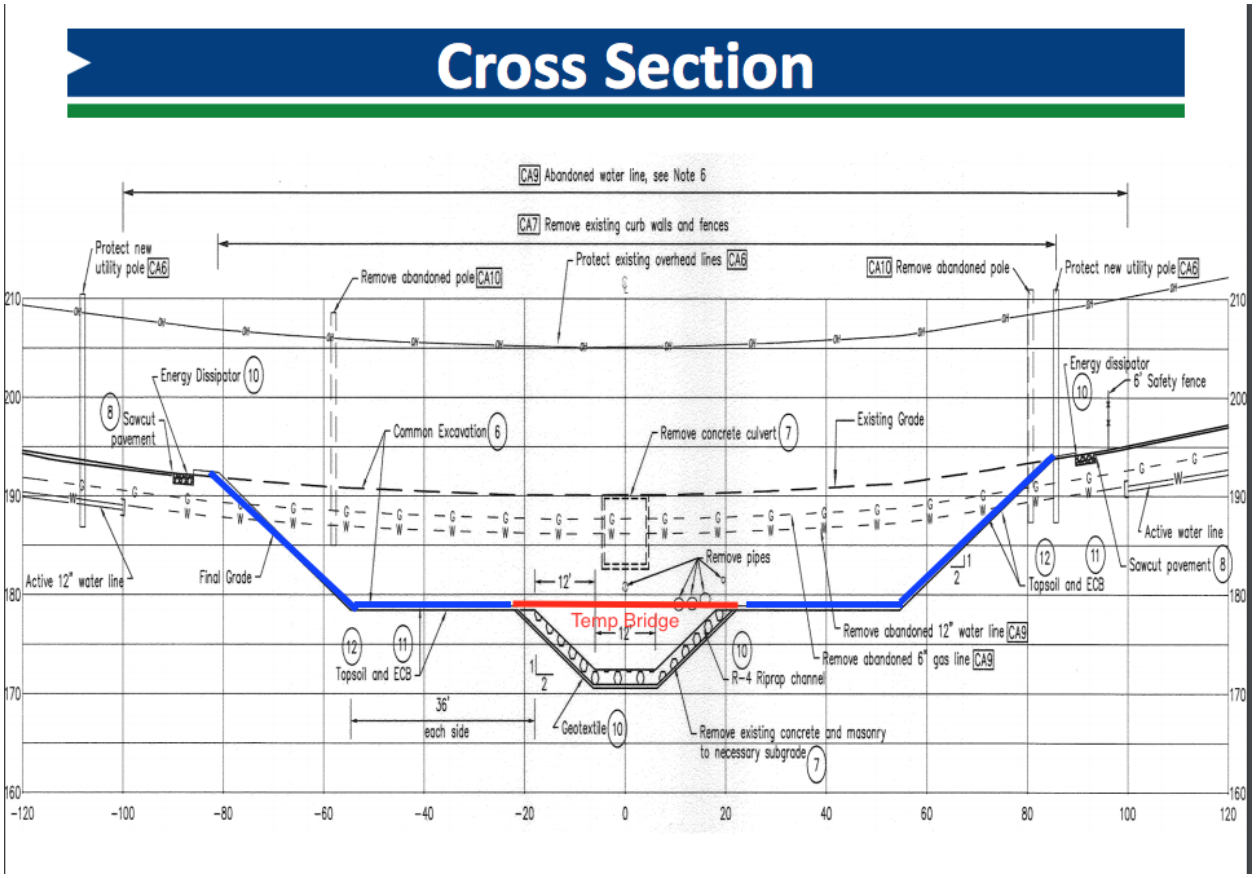
DEP Approval:

We have been working with the DEP Division of Dam Safety in Harrisburg, which is managing and has jurisdiction over the dam breach, on putting together a solution for the footbridge. Roger Adams, head of the Division of Dam Safety, has indicated that the DEP would approve plans for a fiberglass footbridge, as outlined below.

Proposed fiberglass footbridge:

On the DEP's cross section diagram of the dam after breach, we marked in red the proposed footbridge location. There are specifications about the fiberglass bridge in the attached quote from E.T. Techtonics. A benefit of this bridge design is that, when it is removed from 3rd Street for construction of a new dam, it is suitable aesthetically and functionally to install in Glen Providence Park as a park improvement.

- The proposed footbridge is 40 ft long, and covers the area marked in red (over what is known as the "rip rap channel").
- The bridge would be 5 ft wide, with 3.5 ft high handrails.
- The blue lines show a pedestrian walkway on either end of the bridge. The flat part on either side is about 30-35 ft, and the sloped area is another 35 ft. The 1:2 slope is manageable for pedestrians, but we would install railway ties along the slope to create a stepped gradient.
- The bridge would be on the County side of the property line of the removed dam (the center line of 3rd Street), within Glen Providence Park.
- E.T. Techtonics states that their fiberglass bridges "typically require no ongoing maintenance. Fiberglass bridges do not rust, rot and are not subject to insect damage. Fiberglass materials are not affected by high humidity or salt water environments."



Estimate & installation:

- E.T. Techtonics quoted $26,250 for the bridge and delivery. www.ettechtonics.com
- Costs of additional materials - such as concrete piers, installation and landscaping - are expected to be nominal.
- Local home builder Dave Savar can oversee bridge installation (with labor by volunteers) and creation of pedestrian walkways, and the stepped gradient, on both sides of the bridge.
- These bridges are installed along hiking trails, and the quote indicates they are "easy to assemble and erect on inaccessible sites". The bridge can be installed in a day.
- 50% of the bridge cost is needed to place the order with E.T. Techtonics. Once the configuration of the bridge has been discussed and reviewed with E.T. Techtonics, they would schedule the bridge for production.
- From that point, the lead-time is approximately 3-4 weeks.
- *In order to install the bridge as soon as possible after July 15, we would like to raise the initial $13,125 by June 1 to order the bridge.*

Our request from Delaware County:

- Take ownership of the pedestrian bridge, as it will be on Delaware County property.
- Authorize its future relocation in Glen Providence Park.
- Provide liability insurance for bridge safety and maintenance (E.T. Techtonics fiberglass bridges “typically require no ongoing maintenance,” per specifications listed above).
- Assistance in funding the bridge. Additional funds can be raised privately.

We would like to work with Delaware County to further develop details from our preliminary proposal. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions or request additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Upper Providence residents:
Dylan Atkins
Kristen Gorman
Jared Martin
Daniel Schaefer,
President, Woodlands at Ridley Creek HOA
Jane Sleutaris
Robert Storella

Media Borough residents:
Shannon Davidson
Stephanie Gaboriault,
President, Friends of Glen Providence Park
Richard Hoffmann
Charles Randall
George Tate

Attachment:
March 7, 2017 quote from E.T. Techtonics