



**State College
Area School District**

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Date: April 2, 2025

From: Randy Brown and Mike Fisher

To: Curtis Johnson

Re: DWFMP Park Forest Middle - Stormwater

As discussed at the [March 7, 2025 board meeting](#), the district has been examining options for stormwater management on the Park Forest site. Mr. Todd Smith, ELA Group, was present for that discussion. Based upon questions, comments and concerns the design team researched the options in further detail.

Due to constraints including, but not limited to the site and regulations, we are left with the same options as previously presented.

In summary, Option 1 will remove more than five acres of trees while Option 2 will remove about two and one-half acres of trees. The estimate for Option 2 adds an additional \$1 million in cost.

The design team also considered reforestation on the property if Option 1 was selected. Unfortunately, the site does not have available space for reforestation to accommodate the amount of trees needed to be in Option 1.

Based upon the constraints, the administration will recommend Option 2 be used in the design process. No action would be needed by the Board at this time unless there is a desire to use Option 1 instead.

A detail of the options and a proposed stormwater management plan are both attached.

Park Forest Middle School Stormwater Facilities Options

Stormwater management requirements are governed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the state level and the Centre County Conservation District (CCCD) on the local level. The two agencies work in coordination with each other through the permitting process of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting at the State Level and the Erosion and Sedimentation Control (ESC) permitting on the local level. It is these regulations that stormwater management facilities for development are designed and then maintained to remain in compliance with the regulations after construction which is referred to as Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) operations and maintenance requirements.

The design of the stormwater management system for the new Park Forest Middle School has two options for stormwater management facilities for consideration. Each option will be designed and constructed in accordance with the regulations of DEP and the CCCD. Each option also has strong and weak points – pros and cons if you will.

Option 1 is to construct all the stormwater management facilities for the new school campus on the west side of Valley Vista Drive (the new site). There will be two open surface stormwater basins. The first will be a small basin at the corner of the new Amblewood Way access drive and Valley Vista Drive which will accept stormwater runoff from the newly constructed access drive within the watershed of the area. This basin is a required basin for both options as you will see when reviewing option 2. This basin will remove approximately 19,500 square feet (0.45 acre) of existing trees.

The second basin of Option 1 will be at the corner of Little Lion Drive and Valley Vista Drive. This basin will accept all the stormwater from the watershed where the school building and hardscape (pavement & concrete) will be built on the site. This basin will remove approximately 119,050 square feet (2.73 acres) of existing trees.

The benefit of this stormwater option is it is more economical to construct at a budget cost of approximately 1.2 million dollars. This estimated budget cost is just for the construction of the basins with the stormwater inlets and piping to be added to these costs.

The disadvantage of Option 1 is the significant tree removal needed to construct the basin at the corner of Little Lion Drive and Valley Vista Drive.

Option 2 is to construct the basin at the corner of Amblerwood Way and Valley Vista Drive as is described in Option 1 removing approximately 0.45 acres of existing trees.

Rather than building the basin at the corner of Little Lion Drive and Valley Vista Drive, two subsurface stormwater basins will be constructed underneath the two parking lots of the new school and a surface stormwater basin will be constructed on the opposite side of Valley Vista Drive on the existing open field area on the existing Middle School site. The surface basin will be constructed at a sufficient size to accommodate a 180' by 300' natural grass soccer field. Tree removal to accommodate this basin is approximately 4,650 square feet (0.10 acre).

The benefit of this stormwater option is the minimal amount of tree removal needed to construct the second surface stormwater basin and positive stewardship of the existing land.

The disadvantage of Option 2 is the cost of construction of approximately 2.4 million. This estimated budget cost is just for the construction of the basins with the stormwater inlets and piping added to these costs.

I will note that along with tree removal for the stormwater management basins, there will be tree removal in both options for the construction of the access road into the school site as well as for utility services. These elements of the project will remove approximately 72,810 square feet (1.67 acres) for the access road and 15,630 square feet (0.36 acre) for utility services.

Total estimated tree removal for Option 1:		Total estimated tree removal for Option 2:	
Small Basin	0.45 acres	Small Basin	0.45 acres
Large Basin	2.73 acres	Large Basin	0.10 acres
Roadway	1.67 acres	Roadway	1.67 acres
Utilities	0.36 acres	Utilities	0.36 acres
TOTAL	5.21 acres	TOTAL	2.58 acres

In review of the two options, Option 2 provides better stewardship of the land and preservation of existing trees. The large stormwater basin on the existing school site can serve a dual purpose of stormwater management and open an athletic field for sports and physical education.



PARK FOREST MIDDLE SCHOOL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT OPTION 1

BUDGET COSTS STORMWATER FACILITIES 1.2M

MARCH 27, 2025





PARK FOREST MIDDLE SCHOOL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT OPTION 2

BUDGET COSTS STORMWATER FACILITIES 2.4M

MARCH 27, 2025

