

# STORMWATER BMP SITES IN PAXTON CREEK WATERSHED

## BMP Types: Wildwood Lake Morning Glory Drain Retrofit



Wildwood Lake Morning Glory Drain

**Name and Location:** Morning Glory Drain is located alongside, and to the north of Wildwood Way in Wildwood Park before the road rises to the Olewine Nature Center.

**Project Site Number and BMP Type Code:** 13E

**GPS Coordinates:** Lat N40.30657 degrees, Long W76.88432 degrees

**Site Features:** Paxton Creek was dammed in 1908, forming Wildwood Lake, which has two drains: a box drain (called the Spillway), that flows north to discharge lake waters into the Susquehanna River near the Rt.39 intersection with Front Street; the Morning Glory Drain, located at the other end of the lake, and releases waters to the south, that flow through Harrisburg before confluence with the Susquehanna River near the border with Steelton Borough. The Morning Glory Drain, a circular structure was designed to change water surface levels of Wildwood Lake via adjustable height wood boards that then were originally used with the structure; in decades past before storms volunteer firemen would raise the boards, so as to cause lake waters to rise during and following storms, and divert waters northward toward the northern drain; afterwards, the boards were lowered. In recent decades the boards system was not used. In spring 2011 the drain was retrofitted to markedly decrease the lake discharge southward, by means of a circular stack with a much smaller outlet orifice built inside the drain. This modification reduces the outlet drainage almost 19 fold (20:1 square feet difference). Originally the outlet discharged approximately 300 cubic feet of water per second. The main retrofit goal: to help reduce the frequency and extent of flooding in Harrisburg. Flooding will not be eliminated, however, because additional creek flows (e.g., Asylum Run) enter the creek below the lake, terrain is almost flat in the Farm Show vicinity (insufficient slope for quick water runoff), and most floodwaters in south Harrisburg are from the river flowing into Paxton Creek, inundating Shipoke and other areas from the rear!

**Site Directions:** Access to the Morning Glory Drain is via Wildwood Way, a lane atop the original dam forming Wildwood Lake. This small road is at the park's south entrance off Wildwood Park Drive (old Industrial Road) near the I-81 overpass, Harrisburg.