

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cindy Foster, Lemoyne Borough Manager

FROM: Kara Kalupson, RLA, CPMSM

COPY: Mike Knouse

DATE: 9/28/20

PROJECT NAME: Negley Park - Landscaping and Stormwater **PROJECT NO.:** 088683001

SUBJECT: Park Landscaping and Stormwater

Based on my discussion with Mike Knouse regarding several landscaping issues at Negley Park, I offer the following comments:

- The roots of two large shade trees in the park are causing a tripping hazard on the existing walkway and should be removed for safety purposes (Photo 1).
- The Bradford Pear trees are a safety hazard because the branches/limbs are weak and can break-off as the tree ages. The tree is also classified as a non-native invasive species and should not be planted in the landscape (Photo 2).



Photo 1: Large shade tree roots cause safety hazard.



Photo 2: Bradford Pear trees are an invasive species

- While mature trees do play a role in protecting water quality, there is no significant measurable water quality benefits that can be attributed to the two shade trees and Bradford Pears identified above. The Borough does not currently receive credit for trees under the existing MS4 permit.



- The unmanaged vegetation on the steep bank abutting the railroad is comprised of a variety of unfavourable species. Removing this vegetation at one time can expose the bare soil to severe erosion since the bank is very steep. If the Borough wants to re-plant with native species, the ground surface must be seeded and protected with erosion-control matting (Photo 3).

As an alternative the vegetation could be cut back and/or mowed to control unwanted growth and to provide a permanent vegetative cover. New species can be planted gradually in this area.



Photo 3: Unmanaged vegetation on the steep bank

- The Borough needs to develop an overall Park Masterplan that includes proposed landscaping and other water quality BMPs to address stormwater concerns.

