



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2015**

## **Work Begins On Upper Schuylkill Valley Park Project**

**Upper Providence, PA (October 28, 2015)** – Construction has begun on a project that will bring significant improvements to Montgomery County’s Upper Schuylkill Valley Park in Upper Providence Township.

The \$900,000 project will include the following improvements at the park, which is situated on the Schuylkill River adjacent to the Route 113 (Black Rock Road) bridge over the river:

- Handicapped access to the Schuylkill River
- A handicapped-access fishing pier
- A car top boat launch area
- An internal trail system from the river bank to the existing Wildlife Center
- Enhanced parking with a bus drop off area
- New vegetation plantings

“Upper Schuylkill Valley Park is one of the gems in the Montgomery County Park system, and these improvements will make the park more accessible as well as make it easier for residents to make better use of the natural amenities of the park,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

Shapiro went on to praise State Rep. Mike Vereb for helping to secure a \$200,000 grant from the state Department of Natural Resources, which will help fund the project.

Construction will proceed through the fall and winter, and is expected to be completed next spring.

Upper Schuylkill Valley Park has over 150 acres with two miles of frontage on the Schuylkill River. The park is a key element in the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan and the Upper Providence Township Open Space Plan. Across the river from the park is Black Rock Sanctuary, 119 acres of open space and restored wildlife habitat operated by Chester County.

The park offers wonderful areas to picnic and fish, and a short, scenic hike will lead you to the Schuylkill Canal Park in Mont Clare. The park's Wildlife Center features foxes, deer, wolves, rabbits, a bald eagle, and varieties of owls, hawks, turkeys, and an assortment of farm animals. A seasonal butterfly garden and turtle pond is also on site as is a new exhibit entitled *The Schuylkill Wilds* featuring creatures found in and around the Schuylkill River. Turtles, frogs, fish, snakes, a skunk, and a mink are on view throughout this indoor space.