

There was flooding on my farm in September. The area of the farm affected is at the confluence of the Hop Bottom and Martens Creeks. My farm is located in Hop Bottom Borough.

In October 2010, a sediment basin was installed on my property, with a Growing Greener Grant from DEP through the Martens Creek Watershed Association and Hop Bottom Borough. This basin was created to minimize erosion downstream in the main residential area. To some degree this worked as intended, with large amounts of sediment deposited. Several trees were pulled from the creek banks, root balls intact, and deposited. Trees such as these, created a dam in 2006 that resulted in the flooding of both my barn and home.

The amount of stone was so great that the creek bed itself was diverted and now runs through the pasture. The former creek bed is dry due to stone deposits creating not just a gravel bar, but a dam. Large amounts of topsoil were lost with the cutting of a new creek bed at least 8' wide and 4' deep. Fences were wiped out and deposits of stone up to 4' high make replacing them without equipment near impossible. In some areas the fence line scoured and soil will have to be brought in, so that fencing can be replaced. There are now two areas of confluence where the Hop Bottom Creek meets the Martens Creek. In time, the entire corner, maybe ½ acre will wash away. I have found small changes to the creeks may have enormous consequences.

The sediment basin will have to be graded to engineer's specs as per the Borough's Grant Agreement with DEP. The Borough was lead to believe that maintenance would consist of stone removal. This places a financial burden on the Borough that we are unable to shoulder without assistance. The Borough is now working with FEMA to acquire the necessary assistance. We have been informed there is no money at the present time but there is a strong possibility for the future.

The Borough has three Creek Projects that have been completed with Growing Greener Grants to minimize flooding and erosion as well as helping with stream bank stabilization. Following the flood in 2006, the creek had to be dredged to lower the water table, thus draining water from several homes along the creek. Permits were readily available. With one of the grants, the review to obtain necessary permitting seemed especially prolonged and it was necessary to apply for a grant extension. The sediment basin permitting process required changes in design by DEP before being issued. I felt those changes while holding up the process were in my best interest. During this time I relied on our county Conservation District for information and assistance. They were very accommodating. In 2006, emergency permitting was readily available.

Many problems have been created by development and the use of impermeable materials. As development continues farmers are being asked to accommodate more urban spaces by providing ground water recharge areas.

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