

THE INSIDE STORY



Agreement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Restore North Park Lake

In March 2008, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and Congressman Jason Altmire signed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Phase 1 of the North Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project. The ceremonial signing at the North Park Boathouse marked the launch of a three-year effort to return 33 acres of the lake to its original depth and to reestablish natural fish and wildlife habitats.

The beauty and ecology of the lake have been diminished due to a buildup of silt and sediment over the past 70 years. The partnership begins the important work of restoring natural habitats for fish and other wildlife, as well as improving recreational opportunities for park users.

The Army Corps of Engineers will provide \$5 million for the project, and the County will provide the remaining \$2.69 million through a combination of County capital funds and a \$400,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The silt and sediment will be reused in conjunction with several reclamation projects in North Park, including a 65-acre parcel that was used as a disposal site for fly ash for many years. Allegheny County purchased the land situated in Hampton Township in December 2006, and the majority of dredged material will be deposited on the site, helping to further reclaim the property and return it to viable recreational use.

Work on Phase 1 is expected to begin this year and is estimated to take two years to complete. The County is currently evaluating options to move forward with Phase 2 of the project, which involves removing sediment from the remaining 42 acres of the lake.

Contact: Kevin Evanto 412-350-3171 kevin.evanto@alleghenycounty.us