



### **LEBANON VALLEY CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, in alliance with the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA), is pleased to announce they held a “Ribbon Cutting Ceremony” at the Raymond J. Swingholm Footbridge in the Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville. The event will take place on Monday, November 17, to celebrate the next phase of the Quittapahilla watershed restoration project. This phase is another important step in an ongoing project begun many years ago.

The first meeting of the fledgling QWA was held in 1997 when local citizens and activists, some of whom had already created the Quittie Creek Nature Park, gathered together to go one step further and work toward protecting and improving the water quality in the entire watershed—a watershed whose main stem flows to the Swatara Creek and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. This was and is a noble goal, and a goal that would take many years to achieve.

It was January 2002 when the Lebanon Valley Conservancy and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association began their collaborative effort to continue to facilitate this restoration of the Quittapahilla watershed. Along the way assessments have been done, water tests completed, stream banks stabilized and trees planted.

As described by Clear Creeks Consulting, the Quittapahilla watershed runs from the rich and intensely cultivated agricultural land to the south to the relatively dense urban zones in the north, with the main branch—what residents of the Lebanon Valley know as the Quittapahilla Creek—paralleling Route 422. Fed by rainfall and thousands of natural springs, the waterways making up the Quittapahilla watershed swell with each rainstorm and ebb during dry spells, but always flow powerfully.

In addition to being a source of water, the Quittapahilla watershed is also recognized by residents and visitors as another resource: a place to run, stroll, birdwatch or fly fish. But this resource remains classified as a “designated impaired waterway” and so the work started in 1997 continues. Through the years, over \$1 million in grant money has flowed into the Quittie’s restoration. This year the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, recognizing the value of the Quittapahilla Watershed and the work already completed, has granted \$444,126 to this next phase. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has added an additional \$80,000 in funding.

There have been many volunteers along the way, from local school students and teachers to the [Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#). The work they accomplished and this next step are to be commended. The public is invited to join the Conservancy as this work is celebrated and the next phase begins.

#### Lebanon Valley Conservancy

Organized in 2000, the mission statement of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy is to promote the conservation and preservation of the unique cultural, historical, and natural resources of our region, for the benefit of present and future generations. In cooperation with neighboring conservancies and trusts as well as local and state governments, the Lebanon Valley Conservancy seeks to preserve our area’s unique qualities for the benefit of all. For more information, visit our website at [www.lebanonvalleyconservancy.org](http://www.lebanonvalleyconservancy.org).

#### Quittapahilla Watershed Association

The Quittapahilla Watershed Association’s mission statement is to improve the water quality of the Quittapahilla Creek and its tributaries; to raise public awareness about the watershed's importance to the local quality of life and to the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and to encourage citizens, organizations and businesses in Lebanon County to help maintain the health and viability of the watershed's streams and ecosystems. Organized in 1997, the QWA has undertaken more than a dozen major projects, funded by state and federal grants totaling over \$1 million. For additional information, visit our website at [www.quittapahillawatershedassociation.org](http://www.quittapahillawatershedassociation.org).

*Photo- Courtesy of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association*