



**H. EDWARD BLACK
and ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

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News Information from

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CROOKED HILL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UTILIZES INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES TO PROTECT WILDWOOD SANCTUARY

*Local Land Design firm controls stormwater and sedimentation controls to prevent
run-off into Wildwood Lake*

Harrisburg, PA – Stormwater and sedimentation run-off from the new Crooked Hill Townes residential housing development in Susquehanna Township will not impact the nearby Wildwood Nature Sanctuary, thanks to innovative land design practices put into place by the Harrisburg-based firm of H. Edward Black and Associates, P.C.

Featuring 73 new single-family attached homes, Crooked Hill Townes occupies 10.4 acres of land along Crooked Hill Road in the suburban Harrisburg township. A project of Schiavoni Ltd., the land plan for Crooked Hill Townes was designed by H. Edward Black and Associates, P.C. to eliminate or reduce the amount of stormwater and soil run-off from the project site, which is only a few hundred yards from the pristine Wildwood Lake Park and Nature Sanctuary.

For years Wildwood Lake has been plagued by growth on hundreds of acres of nearby vacant land, dramatically increasing the amount of stormwater and sedimentation pollution reaching the lake. In many spots in Wildwood Lake, less than a foot of water now remains, with run-off silt and sedimentation reaching depths of nearly six feet. The pollution from nearby development, especially to the north along Linglestown Road, is slowly choking the pristine wildlife preserve that was first developed as part of the City Beautiful movement at the turn of the 19th Century.

An industry leader in new, environmentally-sensitive land design practices, H. Edward Black and Associates, P.C. was charged by Schiavoni Ltd. to lay-out the site in a manner that poses the least intrusion to nature, and retains its current stormwater absorption and soil retention rates.

The firm's plan subsequently included multiple rain gardens along Crooked Hill Road that provide groundwater recharge, pollution abatement and flood control – all of which will cumulatively work together to reduce run-off into the nearby Wildwood Lake, and the Susquehanna River.

“By using landscaped open space areas to provide water quality and flood control, we are able to meet the land use needs of the developer while also providing a positive impact to the environment. A rare combination in most development projects,” said H. Edward Black, President of the firm.

Black said his firm also developed a phased construction schedule for the project that limits work to small portions of the site at a time, thus further reducing potential soil run-off into the nearby Wildwood Lake. Infrastructure to control run-off is also being installed that uses the natural features of the land, thus preserving wooded and other greenspaces.

Susquehanna Township Manager Gary Myers said the Crooked Hill Townes project reflects the Township's commitment to “smart growth” in its open space areas. “This is the kind of environmentally-sensitive design that is becoming increasingly important in Susquehanna Township, and is as much a quality of life issue as it is a matter of environmental preservation.”

Noel Falk, Executive Director of the Wildwood Sanctuary, said “the Crooked Hill Townes project is a good example of how development can be accommodated without causing damage to the ecosystem around it. The project's designers took a macro view of the site and its surrounding terrain, factoring in potential impacts upon the lake and river, and came up with a plan and design that produces negligible environmental impact, both at the development site, and to nearby areas such as Wildwood and the Susquehanna.”

Ed Black said the integration of a site's natural features into its overall development design has been a staple of his company's philosophy for many

years, and is only now becoming increasingly important to environmentally-conscious clients and regulatory bodies.

“We believe that responsible land design and planning work should always include a careful analysis of how development can negatively impact a site and its surrounding environment,” said Black. “Eliminating or minimizing these impacts should and must be a priority if we are to maintain our existing quality of life.”

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