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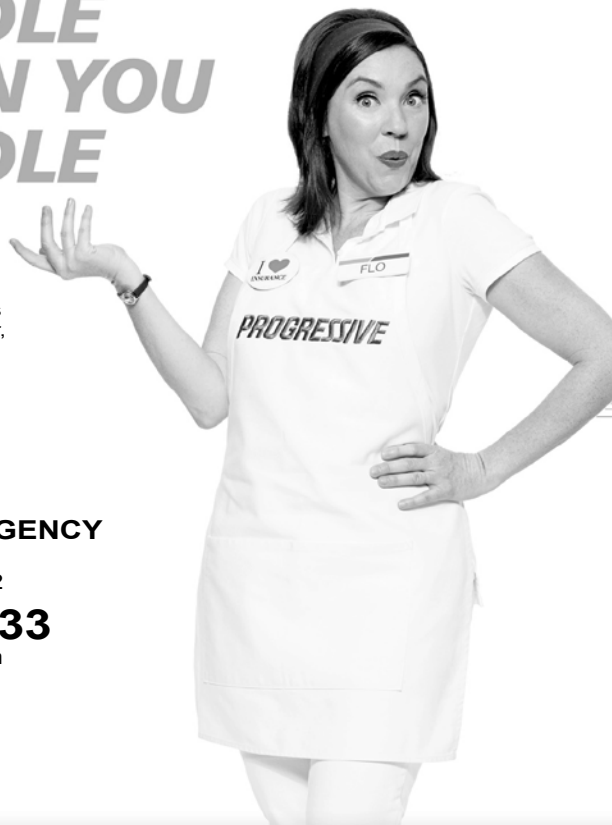
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Ann Flood

Pennsylvania State Representative
138th District

RepAnnFlood.com

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Grants Awarded to Improve Local Parks and Recreation

By Rep. Ann Flood

I am happy to announce more than \$1.2 million in grant funding from the 2024 Community Conservation Partnerships Program have been awarded to Northampton County to support a variety of recreation and conservation initiatives in the 138th District.

These grants bring transformative opportunities to our community by preserving our natural spaces and creating vibrant parks and trails that foster both recreation and environmental stewardship.

Projects in the 138th District receiving funding include:

- Bear Swamp Park in Upper Mount Bethel Township – \$550,000 will be used for the rehabilitation of Bear Swamp Park, with plans for a new internal loop trail, boardwalk, interpretive signage, ADA access, landscaping and other site improvements.
- Upper Mount Bethel Preserve – \$600,000 will fund the renovation of trails, construction of walkways, overlooks, a pavilion and various stormwater management measures to enhance the preserve's accessibility and sustainability.
- Bushkill Creek Restoration – \$185,000 will go to the Wildlands Conservancy for stream restoration in Easton, which includes dam removal, streambank stabilization and the installation of riparian forest buffers to improve water quality and ecosystem health.
- Comprehensive Recreation Plan for Northampton County – \$75,000 will help update the county's long-term Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, providing a roadmap for future recreational development.

Each project speaks to our commitment to enhancing community spaces where families can connect with nature and enjoy our region's incredible outdoors.

New Law Aims to Boost Early Literacy

By Rep. Ann Flood

Recognizing reading as the foundation of education success, I am pleased to report legislation I supported in the House to boost early literacy has been signed into law.

Statistics show half of Pennsylvania fourth graders are reading below their grade level. In fact, results of the Future Ready PA Index, released earlier this week, show a decrease from 54.5% to 53.9% proficiency in English Language Arts. Proficiency rates in math and science increased slightly.

Since childhood reading difficulties can produce long-term effects and limit our children's chances at success, it is important we are proactive in advancing child literacy and intervening with students who may need additional help.

Act 135 of 2024 requires the Department of Education to develop and maintain a list of evidence-based reading curricula on its website that must be aligned with academic standards and the science of reading. It also requires the creation of a Reading Leadership Council to develop and maintain lists of approved reading instruction curricula, structured literacy professional development training programs, universal reading screeners and structured literacy intervention approaches.

The law takes effect in 90 days.

