

Major Repairs at Valley Forge Park



Route 252 closed at the Knox Covered Bridge. Photo © John O. Senior

In addition to the almost-completed repairs to the iconic Knox Covered Bridge necessitated by the unfortunate truck collision in July 2015, another big project is under way in Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

Tredyffrin Township owns and operates the Wilson Road Force Main, also known as the Valley Creek Trunk Sewer (VCTS), a sanitary sewer pipeline that runs for 3.6 miles through VFNHP alongside sections of Valley Creek and the Schuylkill River, and serves the residents of Easttown, East Whiteland, Willistown, and Tredyffrin Townships as well as the Borough of Malvern and the Valley Forge Sewer Authority (VFSA). The VCTS conveys wastewater to the VFSA sewage treatment plant in Phoenixville.

The 40-year-old pipeline has failed three times recently, releasing up to 18 million gallons of untreated sewage into the creek and river. As a result of a consent decree with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the township is working on a major rehabilitation project to reline the pipeline.

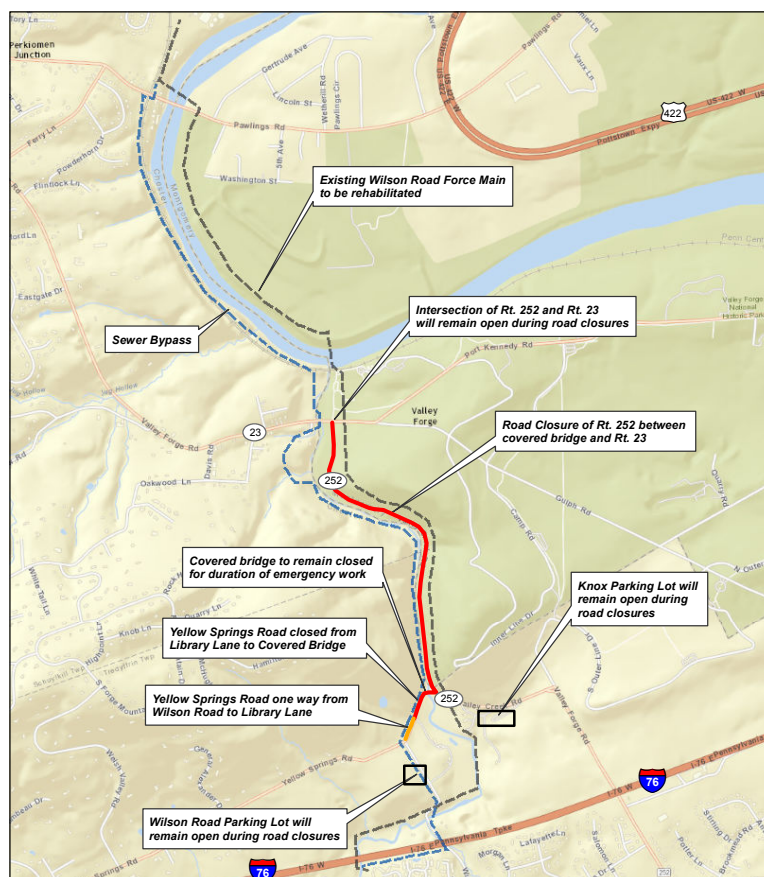
To accomplish the needed repairs, a long section of Route 252 in VFNHP was closed, between the Knox Parking lot near the Knox Covered Bridge, and the intersection with Route 23 near the Washington's Headquarters area. The road was closed on 1 April 2016 and is projected to open again at the end of July 2016.

To carry the load while the primary pipeline is under construction, a bypass line comprising two large-diameter plastic pipes was run from the Wilson Road pumping station in Chesterbrook to the junction at Pawlings Road where it crosses the Schuylkill River. These temporary pipes were run on the footpath along Valley Creek, necessitating the closure of a section of the Valley Creek Trail.

The process of installing a plastic liner inside the pipe required significant excavation in multiple areas along its length, and heavy and specialized equipment was brought in.



Bypass pipelines running along Yellow Springs Rd. toward the Knox Covered Bridge. Photo © John O. Senior



Emergency Rehabilitation of the Wilson Road Force Main in Tredyffrin Township: Project Area And Road Closures. Courtesy of Valley Forge National Historical Park



Images of the Project, July 2016

UPPER LEFT: Yellow Springs Road, approaching the Knox Covered Bridge, with bypass pipelines along the road. UPPER RIGHT: Plastic bypass pipelines running along Valley Creek Trail. MIDDLE LEFT: Power roller reduction device used to temporarily compress the diameter of the plastic pipe and propel it forward during the liner installation process. MIDDLE RIGHT: Plastic pipe liner partially installed in existing metal pipe, with uninstalled piping running above. LOWER LEFT & RIGHT: Deep excavations along Valley Forge Road (Route 252) showing repaired sections of the trunk line, and its path running under the road surface. *All photos courtesy of Roger Thorne.*

RIGHT: Restored Knox Covered Bridge. July 2016.
Courtesy of Roger Thorne





Restored Knox Covered Bridge. 24 June 2016. Photo © John O. Senior

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