


Open Space Committee

Home	Priorities · Strategy · Progress	<div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 5px;"> Woodlands Purchased for Open Space </div>	
Board of Supervisors	<h3>Natural Lands Preservation</h3> <p>Franklin Township has an abundance of important water resources including portions of the three branches of the White Clay Creek a federally designated Wild and Scenic River and several of its major feeder streams. The Big Elk Creek, a Special Protection Water under state water quality rules, forms the south-western boundary of the Township. The creeks and streams are often bounded by steep, wooded slopes which are important in controlling rainwater runoff and erosion. There are also a number of wetland areas along these creeks and streams which are important wildlife habitat and also contribute to controlling water runoff and water quality.</p> <h4>Natural Lands Preservation Priorities</h4> <p>Preservation of natural lands is a major concern of Township residents (Franklin Township Community Values Survey). The Open Space Committee established natural land preservation priorities based on the property's value as permanent open space. This took into account the following primary factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The property borders or contains a significant portion of the White Clay or Big Elk Creek or their major tributaries. The property has rare or endangered plants or animals. The property has important wildlife habitat such as wetlands or woodlands. The property could be part of a proposed greenway or trail system. The property has special scenic value. The property is subject to imminent development. <p>Using these Criteria, we have identified 17 priority natural resource properties.</p> <h4>Natural Lands Preservation Strategy</h4>		
Planning Commission			Open Space Committee
Township Administration			Background and General Information
Building and Zoning			Open Space Preservation
Historical Architectural Review Board			Natural Lands Preservation
Historical Commission			Agricultural Lands Preservation
Zoning Hearing Board			Trail Development
Open Space Committee			Trail Studies
Trail Committee			Natural Resource Studies
Deer Management Committee			OSC Membership
Volunteer Openings			
Newsletters			
Recycling Information			
Stormwater Information			
Helpful Links			
Bulletin Board			
<div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 5px;"> <h4>Related Sites</h4> <p>Code of Ordinances  Search tool</p> <p>Franklin Deer Management Group</p> </div>			

Use leveraged open space funds to:

Assure, to the extent possible, with the Planning Committee and Zoning Hearing Board, that streams, wetlands and woodlands are preserved (generally without using open space funds) as development proceeds.

Protect easements/properties to connect preserved open space along stream corridors, in developments and in other protected properties (e.g., the Township Park).

Protect acreage linked to preserved streams, wetlands and woodlands that will enhance their value to wildlife, environmental quality or the quality of life of area citizens.

Protect wooded property, especially those connected to wetlands or other woodlands.

Natural Lands Preservation Progress

To date, we have purchased one property with state and county funds to supplement the Township's contribution (~ 10% of the acquisition cost) from its Open Space Fund. We have Chester County grants for two additional properties and State grants have been applied for. We are applying for state and county procurement grants two additional properties. These five properties total approximately 200 acres.

For more information on state and county funding, see [Chester County: Open Space Preservation](#) and [DCNR: Bureau of Recreation and Conservation](#).

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