

Revealing the Whitemarsh Township Greenway Network



Economic growth in communities is both inevitable and desirable, provided it first begins with an understanding of where the places and resources which a community desires to protect are located. Having a command of this knowledge leads communities toward achieving a future vision that is appealing to its residents – A stronger, more vibrant community. Understanding the goals for developing the Whitemarsh Township Greenway Network help to identify and establish places to include in the network.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been established to facilitate the successful implementation of Whitemarsh Township Greenway. Goals and objectives are categorized as to the resource or issue they address.

Natural Resource Protection

Goal: Conserve, protect, and enhance natural areas within Whitemarsh Township

Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance the quality of the water resources of the Township including the Wissahickon and Schuylkill Watersheds.
- Establish and improve riparian buffers (streamside trees) in an effort to reduce non-point source pollution in Whitemarsh Township.
- Protect woodland areas and plant new trees in the Township, in an attempt to address the loss of tree cover in southeast Pennsylvania.
- Naturalize and improve storm water management facilities in the Township so they provide both ecological and storm water management functions.
- Protect a continuous network of natural areas (green infrastructure) to provide sustainable environmental and ecological function.

Recreation Opportunities

Goal: Provide diverse and unique outdoor recreation opportunities highlighting Whitemarsh Township's natural and historic resources.

Objectives:

- Create a local hiking, biking, and walking trail network that connects people with natural and historic resources, and keeps them active and healthy.
- Increase outdoor recreation-related tourism opportunities that take advantage of the resources in the Township such as bird watching, biking, kayaking, canoeing, etc.

Historic and Cultural Resources Preservation

Goal: Promote the protection of historic buildings and places to preserve the heritage of the watershed.

Objectives:

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of historic resources.
- Protect existing historic and cultural resources from degradation and demolition.
- Preserve and restore existing historic and cultural resources.
- Increase heritage-related tourism opportunities throughout the Township

Educational Opportunities

Goal: Provide environmental and historic resource related educational opportunities throughout the greenway network.

Objectives:

- Create “outdoor classroom” areas within the greenway systems that provide hands-on access to environmental resources.
- Promote awareness of Whitemarsh Township and its conservation initiatives.
- Provide both indoor and outdoor classroom areas that provide access to historic and cultural resources.

Greenway Types

Greenways can be generally lumped into three main categories based on their primary function, conservation, recreation, and multipurpose.

Conservation Greenways

Conservation greenways serve primarily natural functions, by providing habitat, protecting drinking water, and helping to keep our air and water clean, and help counter global warming trends. These greenways are sometimes called “green infrastructure” and they do not require public access to receive the benefits they provide. These greenways include things like woodlands, stream corridor trees (riparian buffers), drinking water reservoirs, and animal or plant habitats.

Recreation Greenways

These greenways are typically for passive, low-impact types of recreation which may occur within large tracts of land or within more narrow bands like trails.

Recreation greenways most often include trails but also include hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and tourism to cultural and historic sites. These greenways can also include active recreation facilities like sports fields, or golf courses.



Multipurpose Greenways

Multipurpose greenways are nothing more than hybrids, or greenways that provide both conservation and recreation function. These greenways often occur in places like riparian

buffers, where a swathe of land provides both streamside trees that help protect water quality and a trail for recreation purposes. Because greenways provide many benefits, multipurpose greenways are most common.

Natural Resource Greenway Network

Conservation greenways are primarily intended to preserve natural areas and the functions they provide. Sensitive environmental resources such as woodlands, waterways, wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes are protected from future development so that they may provide wildlife breeding and nesting areas, or flood protection and stormwater filtration functions for people. Potential conservation corridors in the Whitemarsh Township Greenway are described below.

Although it is difficult to create a list of places important to a community, the following summarizes information about such worthy places obtained from local citizens during public meetings held in the watershed and other relevant planning/scientific sources. The items can generally be categorized as Primary Conservation and Secondary Conservation Resources.

Primary Conservation

Resources consist of sensitive environmental features that are protected from development by local ordinances, and state or federal laws. Resources which currently fall into this category include wetlands, steep slopes, and floodplains. Table 1 and Map 1A, included in the Appendix, depicts the locations of the *Primary Conservation Resource* areas in Whitemarsh Township.

Table 1: Primary Conservation Resources

Primary Conservation Resources				
	Wetlands	Flood-plains	Surface Water	Slopes >25%
<i>Acres</i>	252.7	1,894.7	159.5	184.3
<i>Percent</i>	2.7%	20.4%	1.7%	2.0%
Total Acres, Primary Conservation Resources:				2,491.2
Percent of Township Land:				26.8%
<i>Sources: Whitemarsh Open Space Plan, 2006; Stell Environmental Enterprises, 2006.</i>				

Almost 27% of Whitemarsh Township contains sensitive environmental features and historic and cultural resources that are protected from development by local ordinances, and state or federal laws, which are classified as primary conservation resources.

Secondary Conservation Resources include natural, cultural and historic resources which have no protection or have limited protection by local ordinances and state and federal laws.

Table 2: Secondary Conservation Resources

	Wetland Margins	Pond Shores	Woodlands	15%-25% Slopes	Prime Ag Soils	Riparian Buffers
<i>Acres</i>	125.3	69.5	2,605.8	525.9	1,494.7	971.9
<i>Percent</i>	1.4%	0.7%	28.1%	5.7%	16.1%	16.8%
Total Acres, Secondary Conservation Resources:						5,793.1
Percent of Township Land:						68.7%
<i>Sources: Whitemarsh Open Space Plan, 2006; Stell Environmental Enterprises, 2006.</i>						

The Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan

In essence, Secondary Conservation Resources are places that a community would like to protect, but have no legal mechanisms in place to do such. Table 2 and Map 2A, included in the Appendix, depicts the locations of the *Secondary Conservation Resource* areas in Whitemarsh Township.

Primary and *Secondary Conservation Resources* are the building blocks of a greenway network – the places the community must protect (*Primary*) and the places a community desires to protect but are not required to do so (*Secondary*). In fact, when combined, these two datasets define what should be included in a greenway network.

Map #1 depicts the Natural Resource Network of important natural areas, or conservation resource areas, of the Whitemarsh Township. The following is a list of elements included in the greenway network.

Water Resources

The protection of water quality and quantity, as a drinking water source, are important to the residents of Whitemarsh Township. Surface water consisting of streams, rivers, and ponds comprises 159.5 acres (1.7% of the total area) in Whitemarsh Township.

Streams and Rivers

The Township's major drainage basins include the Wissahickon Creek Basin, which includes nine tributaries and drains the northeastern section of the Township. Minor streams of the Wissahickon Creek Basin include the Prophecy Creek, Spring Run, Lorraine Run, Pheasant Run, Needle Run, Sandy Run, Sunnybrook Creek and three unnamed tributaries. The Wissahickon Creek enters the Township at the northern border and flows south in to the city of Philadelphia until its confluence with the Schuylkill River.

The Schuylkill River Basin includes four tributaries which drain directly to the Schuylkill River including Plymouth Creek, Spring Mill Creek, Andorra Creek, and Manor Creek. The Schuylkill River forms the Township's southern border and flows southeast to the Delaware River. Township hydrology is shown on Map 3A included in the Appendix.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) assigns special protection status to waterways which achieve certain environmental standards relating to water quality and aquatic life. Wissahickon Creek is designated by DEP as a Trout Stocking Fishery (TSF). The Schuylkill River is designated as a Warm Water Fishery (WWF).

Sherry Lake, one of the County's largest standing bodies of water, is located in the southwest portion of the Township. It was created as a result of an abandoned quarry operation filling with groundwater.

Table 3: Hydrology

Resource Name	Location	Resource Description
Wissahickon Creek	S-W District	Point & nonpoint pollution, flows through public open space & school land, privately owned land, woodlands, historic & cultural resources
Tributary 1	B-A District	Supports aquatic life, flows through private open space & woodlands
Tributary 2	B-A District	Supports aquatic life, flows through privately owned land and woodlands
Tributary 3	B-A District	Supports aquatic life, flows through privately owned land and woodlands
Tributary 4	B-A District	Flows through privately owned land & woodlands to Ft. Washington State Park
Tributary 5	S-W District	Not attaining aquatic life: urban runoff & nutrients, flows through private open space & privately owned land
Manor Creek	M-R District	Not attaining aquatic life: urban runoff, veg. removal & siltation, flows through woodlands, private and public open space and historic & cultural resources, contains scenic road & vistas
Schuylkill River	Forms Twp's southern border	Flows adjacent to public open space-Schuylkill River Heritage Trail and historic & cultural resources
Tributary 1	M-R District	Flows through privately owned land & public open space, woodlands, and adjacent to historic resources
Tributary 2	M-R District	Flows through private open space and adjacent to public open space, woodlands
Tributary 3	M-R District	Flows through woodlands and privately owned land, contains scenic vistas
Sandy Run	S-W District	Flows through woodlands and privately owned land
Plymouth Creek	S-W District	Flows from ponds and through small areas of woodlands, private lands
Sherry Lake	Central District	Within private land
<i>Notes: S-W: Stenton-Wissahickon District; B-A District: Broad Axe District; M-R District: Miquon/Riverside District.</i>		

Floodplains and Flood Prone Areas

Floodplains are land areas adjacent to waterways which have been or may be subjected to inundation by waters of a 100-year flood. One hundred year floods by definition have a one percent chance of happening in any given year.

The Township's most prevalent primary conservation resource is floodplains, accounting for 20.7% of the entire Township's area. Floodplain areas generally coincide with Sandy Run and the Wissahickon Creek on the northern half of the Township, and along Manor Creek and portions of the Schuylkill River and its tributaries in the southern section of the Township. Floodplains are protected by the Floodplain Conservation District regulations of the Township Zoning Ordinance, which are governed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Floodplain Information Report of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Soil Survey of Montgomery County.

The Township also has flood prone areas that have not specifically been designated as floodplains, but which are inundated with water during certain storm events. These areas are located in the southern half of the Township, roughly south of Flourtown Road to just south of Ridge Pike on the western side of the Township and south of Thompson Road to Ridge Pike on the eastern side of the Township. Floodplains in Whitemarsh Township are associated with Sandy Run, Wissahickon Creek, and Lorraine Run in the northern portion of the Township and along Manor Creek, the Schuylkill River and its tributaries to the south.

Wetlands

Wetlands provide many valuable functions, including surface water storage and flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion control, stream flow and aquatic habitat maintenance, groundwater recharge, water quality protection, and provision of plant and wildlife habitat.⁵ In Whitemarsh Township, wetlands are often associated with floodplain areas and areas containing hydric (wet) soils.

Wetland areas account for 2.7% of the Township's land area and are associated primarily with stream bank areas. Wetlands are protected by federal and state laws and regulations and serve important ecological functions as habitat areas, flood storage areas, and pollutant and contaminant filters.

Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are land areas along waterways that separate them from more intense land uses. Riparian buffers are typically vegetated and are preferably wooded. These areas filter sediment and other pollutants from storm water and provide habitat areas for land and water species.

The Conservation Fund defines riparian forests in the following manner which underscores the importance of riparian buffers and stream valleys as natural habitat corridors:

Riparian forests are highly productive streamside vegetative communities, which offer important benefits to the stream ecosystem. As corridors, they connect habitats along streams and rivers from the mountains to the seas and provide migration routes, food, and shelter for a varied pool of life forms. Many types of plants grow in moist fertile riparian soils. Turtles, mink, river otters, eagles, and many other species may depend on this zone for food or habitat⁶.

Certain areas of the Township, particularly those areas within municipal parks, have well established riparian buffers. These areas are protected from development by Township ordinance.

The Township Zoning Ordinance includes a Riparian Buffer District which protects from development a minimum riparian buffer area of 150 feet plus the width of the stream for perennial and intermittent streams. For wetlands and other water bodies, the protected area is a minimum of 25 feet from the outer edge of the wetland or water body. These areas constitute approximately 10.5 percent of the Township land area.

Wetland Margins and Pond Shores

Wetland margins are edge areas around wetlands which should be protected from high intensity development. These areas total 125 acres (1.4%) of the Township. Shore lines are sensitive areas which surround ponds and lakes and are the transition area between

⁵ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory website, fws.gov/nwi.gov, 2006.

⁶ *Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design and Development*, The Conservation Fund, 1993, p. 143.

surface water and dry land. These areas should be protected from erosion and inundation by invasive plant species. Shores account for 69.5 acres (0.7%) of the Township.

Earth Resources

Geology and Soils

Whitemarsh Township has three primary underlying geologic formations that contribute to the lay of the land and to its soil types, as shown on Appendix Map 4A. In the northern portion of the Township is the Stockton Formation, consisting primarily of sandstones, shales and conglomerates. The middle portion of the Township is underlain by the Ledger (dolomite), Elbrook and Conestoga formations (limestone). The Township's southern section is underlain by the Wissahickon Formation which is comprised of schist, granite, gneiss and hornblend gneiss.⁷ A small area of the Ledger, Elbrook and Conestoga formations is found adjacent to the Schuylkill River in the southern portion of the Township.

Whitemarsh Township contains 72 soils types, including 32 prime agricultural soils and soils of statewide importance (44% of Township soils). Most prime agricultural soil is located in the northern and central portion of the Township, as shown on Appendix Map 5A. Fifteen soils types (21%) have seasonal high water tables and 13 soils (18%) are considered hydric (wet).

Steep Slopes

In general, the terrain of Whitemarsh Township is relatively level; small areas of steep slopes, those 15% in slope or greater are found in the central portion of the Township, south of Route 276 as well as north of the Schuylkill River in the southeast corner of the Township. Slopes over 25% are associated mainly with the quarry in the central portion of the Township and the Schuylkill River valley to the south.

Two percent of the Township contains steep slopes greater than 25%. These areas are concentrated primarily in the central and southeast portions of the Township. Steep slopes are currently protected from development by the Township Zoning Ordinance.

Steep slopes between 15% and 25% account for 525.9 acres (5.7%) of the Township's land area. These areas are concentrated primarily in the central and southeast portions of the Township. Steep slopes are currently protected from development by the Township Zoning Ordinance at a maximum ratio of 30% of the total steep slope area between 15% and 25%. Appendix Map 6A depicts the Township's slope areas.

Woodlands

Whitemarsh Township's most significant conservation resource in terms of quantity is its woodlands. Almost 30% of the Township is covered by woodlands, and these areas coincide with undeveloped land in the northern half and southeast corner of the Township.

⁷ *Whitemarsh Township Open Space Plan, 2006, Appendix B.*

Whitemarsh Township's woodlands have been heavily impacted by several hundred years of farming practices and land development. Wooded tracts range in size from small residential tracts of one or two acres each to the 400-acre Fort Washington State Park. Larger wooded parcels are located in the northern portion of the Township and along the Wissahickon Creek and in the southern portion of the Township along the Schuylkill River and Manor Creek. Map 6A depicts the Township's woodland areas.

Biological Resources

Although large portions of Whitemarsh Township are heavily developed, the Township contains significant biological resources exist within its boundaries. Appendix Map 7A shows areas in Whitemarsh Township that contain Species of Special Concern, as described below.

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP), formerly called the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI), prepares inventories and conducts research regarding the native biological diversity of Pennsylvania.⁸ The Nature Conservancy maintains the Natural Areas Inventory for Montgomery County (NAI), which began in 1985. Two places in Whitemarsh Township are listed as both PNDI and NAI sites. The Fort Washington site, located within Fort Washington State Park, contains 10 to 12 endangered tree species and is classified as a site of statewide significance. The Miquon Preservation Area is a site of statewide significance and contains an endangered sedge species and scenic ravines adjacent to the Schuylkill River. The Miquon Preservation Area is one of eight Open Space Focus Areas of Montgomery County that the County has deemed as high priority conservation areas.



**Figure 2: Hawk Watch Platform
Ft. Washington State Park**

Park and Recreational Greenway Network

Parks and open space areas are owned by several different agencies and schools within Whitemarsh Township. These resources, which will significantly contribute to establishment of the Township greenway system, are discussed below and shown on Map #2.

⁸ *Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan, 2006, p. 34.*

Parks/Public Open Space

As discussed in the previous section, Whitemarsh Township is fortunate to have 857 acres of publicly owned open space, including two county parks and a state park. The most significant of these public open space resources is Fort Washington State Park, located in the north Whitemarsh Township. The park was site of a temporary encampment of General Washington’s army in the winter of 1777. Wissahickon Valley Park is a county owned park located along the Wissahickon Creek. Portions of this park are adjacent to Fort Washington State Park. These permanently protected open spaces contribute to the bucolic and historic Township setting, and will provide destination points and conservation areas along the Township greenway system.

Private Open Space

Whitemarsh Township also contains 1,428 acres of privately owned open space within its boundaries, primarily consisting of country clubs and golf courses, which are unprotected from future development.

Table 4: Parks and Open Space

Name	Ownership	Acres
PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE		
Miles Park	T	25
Cedar Grove Park	T	25
Leeland Park	T	3
Valley Green Park	T	8
Silt Basin Property	T	54
Whitemarsh Woods	T	17
Victory Fields/McCarthy Park	CSD/T	17
Township Building Parcel	T	0
Wissahickon Valley Park	M	143
Spring Mill Park	M	38
The Highlands	P	44
Fort Washington State Park	P	483
Total Park Land Acreage:		857
SCHOOL OWNED LAND		
Germantown Academy	PVT	103
Plymouth Whitemarsh High School	CSD	59.2
Colonial Elementary School	CSD	4.6
St. Phillip Neri Elementary School	PVT	14.6
Miquon School	PVT	15.5
Whitemarsh Elementary School	CSD	15.1
Total School Land Acreage:		212
MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENTLY PROTECTED AREAS		
Willow Lake Farm	WVWA	110
NLT	NLT	105
Whitemarsh Woods	T	7
Total Miscellaeous Acreage:		222
Total Permanently Protected Acreage:		1,291.0
Percent of Township Land Areas:		14%
<i>Notes: T: Township, M: Montgomery County, P: Commonwealth of PA, PVT: Private, CSD: Colonial School District, WVWA: Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assoc., NLT: Natural Lands Trust.</i>		

However, several significant parcels are permanently preserved by private conservancies such as the 110-acre Willow Lake Farm, owned by the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, and the 117 acre Erdenheim farm owned by the Natural Lands Trust

School Land

Several significant tracts of land are owned by public and private schools in the Township, and may also provide linkages and destinations in the greenway system. School land includes Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, Whitemarsh Elementary School, St. Phillip Neri Elementary School, Victory Fields, and Miquon School in the southern half of the Township and land owned by Germantown Academy in the northern portion of the Township.

Transportation and Utility Corridor Resources

Several utility rights-of-way, railroads, bicycle routes and trails pass through the Township, and are described in Table 4. These routes currently provide or may provide alternative modes of travel for Township residents. The Township is fortunate to have two active SEPTA commuter rail lines with stations in the within the Township. The R-

Table 5: Transportation and Utility Corridors

Name	Description	Location/ District(s)
PECO Transmission Line & Right-of-way	High tension electricity lines	C, M-R
SEPTA R-5 Railroad and Right-of-way	Commuter railroad	S-W
SEPTA R-6 Railroad and Right-of-way	Commuter railroad	M-R
Norfolk Southern Freight Railroad and Right-of-way	Abandoned freight railroad	C, S-W
County Primary Bicycle Routes	On-road bicycle routes	Butler Pike, Ridge Pike, Bethlehem Pike, Skippack Pike
County Secondary Bicycle Routes	On-road bicycle routes	Joshua Rd., Stenton Ave., Germantown Pike, Harts Rd., Barren Hill Rd., North Lane
Schuylkill River Trail	Multi-use Trail	M-R, North side of Schuylkill River
Green Ribbon Preserve Trail	Multi-use Trail	S-W, along Wissahickon Creek
<i>Notes: S-W: Stenton-Wissahickon District, C: Central District, M-R: Miquon-River front District.</i>		

5’s Fort Washington Station is located in the northern part of the Township and the R-6’s Spring Mill station is located in the southern end of the Township. Two existing trails also serve the Township, the Schuylkill River Trail and the Green Ribbon Preserve. The PECO and Norfolk Southern rights-of-way may provide potential future trail development areas.

Figure 3: Montgomery County’s Greenway Map

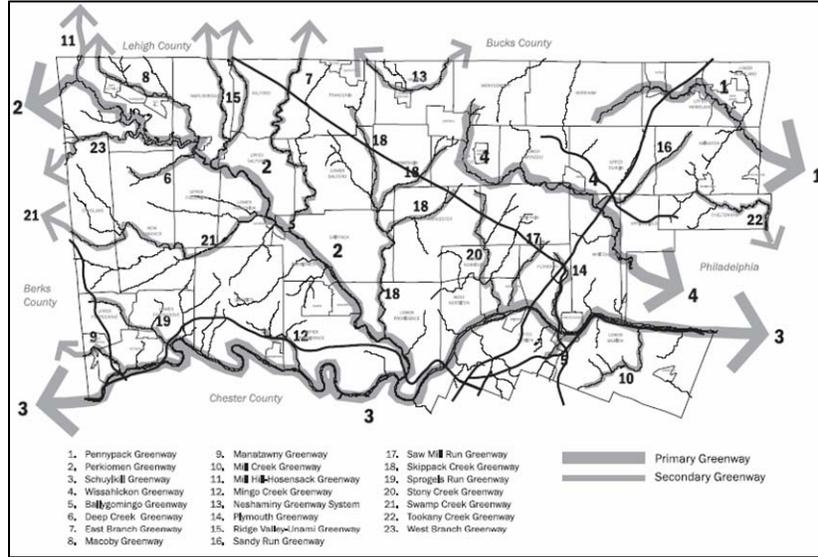


Figure 3 shows Montgomery County’s major greenways as depicted in the Montgomery County Open Space Plan. Most of the County’s greenways contain recreational trails. Two primary greenways, the Schuylkill River Heritage Greenway and Trail and Wissahickon Green Ribbon Greenway pass through Whitemarsh Township.

Trails

Whitemarsh Township has a significant existing and planned trail network.

Existing Trails

The Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail

The Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail, Figure 4, runs from the northern Township border along the Wissahickon Creek in Fort Washington State Park (FWSP) and Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP) and ends at Stenton Pike at the southern end of Fort Washington State Park.



Figure 4: The Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail

The Schuylkill River Heritage Trail

The Schuylkill River Trail runs along the Schuylkill River in the southern portion of the Township. The Schuylkill River Trail is a linear greenway and National Heritage Area along the Schuylkill River which knits together parks, open space, cultural and historic resources along a paved trail which will ultimately link Philadelphia to Pottsville, Pennsylvania.



Figure 5: Trail at McCarthy Park

McCarthy Park and Victory Fields Trail

An approximately eight-foot wide, paved loop trail has been developed in McCarthy Park and Victory Fields, adjacent to Whitmarsh Senior High School. The high school is an important hub in the Township greenway systems and the trail should be incorporated into the overall Township trail system.

Planned Trails

Other recreational trails have been planned or recommended for development in the Township, specifically within the Open Space Plan. These trails will increase recreational opportunities, promote exercise and healthy lifestyles, and facilitate pedestrian and bicycle circulation in general. They are described below.

County Trails

The Cross County Trail (CCT) is a trail proposed by Montgomery County. At the northern Township boundary, the CCT will run southeast through Wissahickon Valley Park, southwest and west through Fort Washington State Park, south on Joshua Road and then along the railroad right-of-way which runs southwest into Plymouth Township.

Trails Recommended in the Township Open Space Plan

The Township's 2006 Open Space Plan contains recommendations for new recreational trails. Some of these trails will follow existing road and railroad rights-of-way, and others will run through open space areas in a greenway setting. These trails are described below.

- Joshua Road Trail: The proposed Joshua Road Trail (JRT) would extend from the northern edge of the Township along Joshua Road through WVA and FWSP. The JRT would cross over Germantown Avenue, and at the intersection of Joshua Road and Ridge Pike, the trail would turn right, cross the street and continue through Kline Park. JRT would intersect with another proposed trail along Cedar Grove Road, following the road southeast. The trail would run through Spring Mill County Park and intersect with the Schuylkill River Trail to the south.
- Cedar Grove Road Trail: Cedar Grove Road Trail is proposed to run from Butler Pike southeast to Spring Mill County Park.
- Germantown Pike Trail: A trail is recommended to be developed along the entire length of Germantown Pike. It would intersect with the JRT at Miles Park.
- Ridge Pike Trail: The Open Space also shows a trail along Ridge Pike from Butler Pike to Harts Road. The trail should be continued north along Church Road so that it intersects with the proposed trail on Germantown Pike.
- Stenton Pike-Thomas Road-Flourtown Road Trail: The Open Space Plan shows a trail extending east from the JRT along Stenton Avenue and ending at in the area of the property line between the quarry and Erdenheim Farms. The trail begins again at Thomas Road, heading south, and then heads southwest on Flourtown Road, where it intersects with JRT. Along Stenton Avenue, the trail should extend east to the intersection of Thomas Road, so a complete "loop" is made.

Historic and Cultural Resource Greenway Network

Many significant historic and cultural resources are concentrated in several areas of Whitemarsh Township, some of which date to the Revolutionary War. Approximately ten resources are located in the northwest portion of the Township along the Wissahickon Creek. Two historic districts are located on the western edge of the Township, together with several more individual resources. Another cluster of locally significant cultural resources are located in the southeastern portion of Township along Ridge Pike.

Several more historic and cultural resources are located along the Schuylkill River. These areas and resources are essential elements of the greenway system and those that are not already protected within park and recreation areas should be protected with conservation easements.

National Register of Historic Places

Individual historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places are among the Township's finest examples of historic architecture and farmsteads. However, National Register designation does not provide protection from demolition or encroachment by new land development projects.

Ten individual resources within the Township are listed on the National Register of Historic Places together with two historic districts. These resources are:



- Alan Corson House, 1530 Butler Pike
- County Bridge No. 64, located on Morris Road
- Hagy's Mill, at the intersection of Manor and Hagy's Mill Roads
- The Highlands, at the intersection of Skippack Pike and Sheaf Lane
- Hope Lodge, 553 Bethlehem Pike
- Hovenden House, Barn & Abolition Hall, 1 East Germantown Pike
- Lee Tire and Rubber Company, 1100 East Hector Lane
- Miller's House at Spring Mill, at the intersection of North lane and Hector Street
- Mount Joy, at the intersection of North lane and Hector Street
- Union School, 516-518 Bethlehem Pike
- Plymouth Meeting National Register District, located in Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships
- Cold Point National Register District, located in Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships.