

CHAPTER 8

IMPLEMENTATION

“Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.”

—Terry Tempest Williams, testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Forest & Public Lands Management, 1995.

Implementation of this plan is vital to the success of Whitemarsh Township’s open space preservation efforts. Given the increasing development pressures throughout the Township, implementation of this plan’s recommendations within the next 10 years is critical.

Many of the recommendations will come into play during the development process, helping to ensure that the maximum amount of open space is automatically preserved through zoning and other requirements. This will leave public funds and other means of open space protection available for implementation of the remaining recommendations. Funding for open space-related activities that are not generated from development will come from the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns Program and any other applicable grant opportunities.

Implementation Methods

The recommendations most likely to involve a large outlay of funding include construction of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian pathways, preservation of significant natural resources within the Township and acquisition/preservation of significant tracts of undeveloped land. There are essentially three methods that will be utilized to implement the recommendations of this plan that require funding:

1. Acquisition/preservation by priority – funded through the dedicated funds from the Montgomery County Open Space Program.
2. Competitive funds within the Montgomery County Open Space Program.
3. Other funding opportunities which are listed at the end of this chapter.

The Township has not prioritized the recommendations, and instead will re-evaluate any recommendation, consider any future opportunity that develops, and act accordingly to further the goals of the open space planning effort.

Implementation Responsibility

The Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors will be responsible for taking official action on all proposed open space planning activities. An advocacy and monitoring function will be provided by the Open Space Committee. The Committee will be responsible for reporting progress in implementation of the Open Space Plan to the respective elected officials at least annually. The Open Space Committee will also advocate for implementation of specific open space projects throughout the year. The Board of Supervisors will be required to review the success of the Open Space Plan in 2010, make any necessary updates to the Plan and send the updated plan and

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implementation findings to Montgomery County for their review.

At least once a year, the Township Board of Supervisors will advertise a public meeting to discuss Open Space planning implementation activities. This meeting should be held as part of the report to the elected officials being made by the Open Space Committee. This will allow all attendees to hear the results of implementation activities for the year and discuss any issues related to open space planning within the Township.

Potential Funding Sources for the Open Space Plan Recommendations:

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)

Historic Preservation Grants

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission provides competitive grants (60/40 match) to support projects in one of the following six categories:

- Cultural Resource Surveys
- National Register Nominations
- Technical and Planning Assistance
- Educational and Interpretative Programs
- Staffing and Training
- Pooling and Third Party Administration

Grants are awarded subject to the annual availability of funds from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service and are based on the federal fiscal year, October through September. Awards are a minimum of \$3,000 and a maximum of \$25,000. This grant program does not support the acquisition of historic properties or development projects for historic structures/properties including

stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction.

This grant program could be used to create interpretative signage for historic properties or sites, especially any located along the proposed bicycle and pedestrian network. This program could also be utilized to develop a cultural resource survey in the Township.

Additional information can be found on the PHMC Grants website: www.artsnet.org/phmc

Historic Preservation Project Grants

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission also provides competitive grants for projects in the following areas:

- Cultural Resource Surveys
- National Register Nominations
- Planning and Development Assistance
- Educational and Interpretive Programs
- Archaeology

The grant requirements vary depending on the amount of the grant. Grants are awarded subject to the annual availability of funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and are based on the state fiscal year, July through June. For grants up to \$5,000, no match is required. For grants from \$5,001 to \$15,000, which is the maximum grant award, a 50/50 match is required.

This grant program could be used for historic and cultural resource protection efforts within the Township.

Additional information can be found on the PHMC Grants website: www.artsnet.org/phmc

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Growing Greener/C2P2

The Growing Greener Program was enacted in 1999 to provide funding to preserve farmland and protect open space, eliminate the maintenance backlog in state parks, clean up abandoned mines and restore watersheds, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems throughout the Commonwealth.

There are four state agencies that administer different parts of the program. DCNR administers the Open Space and Recreation Grant program. The grant process is run under the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) program, a combination of several funding sources and grant programs including Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, Watershed Protection Act (Growing Greener) and Act 68 Snowmobile and ATV Trails Fund. The program also includes federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails component of TEA – 21. The C2P2 program contains the following grant components which, except for Heritage Parks, have been combined into one annual grant application cycle (generally late summer/early fall):

- Community Recreation
- Land Trusts
- Rails-to-Trails
- Rivers Conservation
- Snowmobile/ATV
- Heritage Parks
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreation Trails

Generally, grant funds awarded by DCNR must be matched dollar-for-dollar by cash and/or by eligible non-cash value. No costs or non-cash match incurred prior to the approved project period are eligible for reimbursement or use as a match. The maximum grant funding for a Small Community Development project is \$40,000. The first \$20,000 is for materials and design fees only and requires no match. Any funding requested above the \$20,000 must be equally matched by cash and/or eligible non-cash value. Pennsylvania Recreational Trails and Snowmobile/ATV programs provide 80% funding and require a 20% match of cash and/or eligible non-cash value except for acquisition projects which provide 50% funding and are matched dollar for dollar. This program could be useful for many of the recommendations in the Open Space Plan.

Additional information can be found on the DCNR website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program

This program was developed through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Act of 1993 to conserve and enhance river resources through preparation and accomplishment of locally initiated programs. The program provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities and river support groups to carry out planning, implementation, acquisition and development activities under the following six grant components:

- Planning Grants
- Technical Assistance
- Rivers Registry
- Implementation Grants
- Development Grants
- Acquisition Grants

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The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources allocates approximately \$1.5 million every year to the program. The minimum grant is \$2,500 with the upper limit of the grant allocated based on the size of the project and complexity of the project. This grant application period is approximately 3 months long and begins around July of each year. The grant program requires a 50/50 match.

This grant program presents many opportunities for implementing the Open Space Plan recommendations. Acquisition grants could be utilized to purchase trail or greenway areas.

Additional information can be found on the DCNR website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (PRTP)

The DCNR Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (PRTP) provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. Funding comes from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TEA-21.

The program is administered by the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC) in consultation with the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Advisory Board (PARTAB). The funds available are 80% grant, up to \$100,000, and 20% project application money.

This grant program could be utilized for trail creation and maintenance.

Additional information can be found on the DCNR website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School

As part of the Growing Greener legislation, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has em-

braced this program as a key part of its role in fostering community development/redevelopment. This program is intended to assist communities in enhancing their revitalization efforts.

The Home Town Streets component provides funding for streetscape improvements that are vital to reestablishing downtown and commercial centers in a defined “downtown” area. The Safe Routes to School component provides funding for projects that enhance the transportation system through the construction of new facilities or the improvement of existing facilities to make them more usable for pedestrians and bicyclists. Funding is primarily for transportation routes and is not intended for recreation-only-based trail systems.

This is a federal cost reimbursement program, not a grant program. Costs will be reimbursed for actual approved project expenses up to the amount approved for the project. This program has an 80/20 match requirement.

This grant program could be utilized for enhancing existing bicycle and pedestrian pathways and sidewalks.

Additional information can be found on the PennDOT website: www.dot.state.pa.us

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program

The TCSP Program is a program administered by DVRPC and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) comprehensive initiative of research and grants to investigate the relationships between transportation, community, and system preservation plans. Cities are eligible for discretionary grants to carry out eligible projects to integrate transporta-

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tion, community, and system preservation plans and practices. These projects should specifically reduce environmental impacts of transportation, and examine community development patterns to identify strategies that encourage private sector development patterns and investments that support these goals.

The Federal Highway Administration has not solicited applications for the TCSP Program. To date the TCSP Program has solicited only those applications for projects specified by Congress in the Conference Reports accompanying the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU) authorized the TCSP Program through FY 2009. A total of \$270 million is authorized for this Program in FY's 2005-2009.

This program could be utilized for bicycle and pedestrian improvements throughout the Township, especially along Ridge and Germantown Pikes.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program

The CMAQ program is a federal program that was established in 1991 for projects that contribute to the attainment of the Clean Air Act standards by reducing emissions from highway sources. CMAQ is a competitive program for municipalities and governmental agencies within the nine-County DVRPC region.

Projects eligible for CMAQ funding must produce a reduction of harmful emissions related to transportation and must also be for the public good. All federal eligibility requirements for transportation projects must be met.

This program has potential applications in the Township for the following elements:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects.
- Development efforts of a locality to reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel.

PECO (Natural Lands Trust)

Green Region Open Space Grant Program

PECO, through the Natural Lands Trust, is providing grants of up to \$10,000 to protect and improve open space areas in southeastern Pennsylvania. The grants can be used with other funding sources to develop or update municipal open space plans, acquire open space, undertake habitat improvements within municipally owned open space, or make capital improvements for passive recreation.

These grants could be used for most of the Open Space Plan recommendations.

Additional information is available from the Natural Lands Trust website: www.natlands.org

Montgomery County

Green Fields/Green Towns Open Space Program Expenditures

In addition to the dedicated funding and future competitive funding dollars available to the Township for open space preservation activities related to the recommendations in this plan, Montgomery County has a significant funding allocation for open space preservation which it will use throughout the County. Whitmarsh Township could work with the County to further protect open space by cooperating on projects which are listed in the County Open Space Plan. Montgomery County has set aside a total of \$75 million dollars for open space-related activities which will be pursued by the County:

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1) Trails and Greenways: The county will develop trails and protect land along important greenways.

Funding Allocation: \$22 Million

2) Focus Area Acquisitions: Significant open space areas identified in the county open space plan will be acquired. Funding Allocation: \$14 Million

3) Schuylkill Greenway: Land and heritage resources along the Schuylkill River will be protected and various improvements to the greenway will be made in order to enhance public use and enjoyment of it and to protect water quality. Funding Allocation: \$10 Million

4) Farmland Protection: Farmland will be preserved through the purchase of agriculture conservation easements. Funding Allocation: \$19 Million

5) Park and Historic Site Improvements: Capital improvements will be made to existing county park and historic sites in order to enhance public use and enjoyment of these sites. Funding Allocation: \$10 Million

Fundraising

The Township could consider developing a public-private organization tasked with fundraising for the sole purpose of open space preservation.

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX - TOWNSHIP-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Priority	Recommendation Category	Action	Potential Funding Sources	Recommendation Page Reference
TW-1: Provide the maximum protection possible for open space resources in the Township					
Adopt the pending Growing Greener Zoning and Subdivision Land Development Ordinances	Near Term	Regulatory	Policy Adoption	AB	Page 64
Develop a map of conservation features identifying important natural features, storm water retention areas and greenways, and wildlife habitats and migratory pathways	Near Term	Natural Resource Protection	Planning / Data Collection	AB, State	Page 64
Update Township ordinances as needed to ensure they are consistent with the Township's open space vision and goals and support the preservation of open space, viewsheds, woodlands, trees, and native species	Mid Term	Regulatory	Planning / Policy Adoption	AB	Page 64
Establish an ongoing public education program to build (1) awareness of the role of open space in protecting health, safety and quality of life, (2) appreciation for native species and the need to preserve habitat and (3) support for the Township's open space preservation efforts	Long Term	Administrative	Administrative	AB, State	Page 64
Pursue any and all zoning changes that will promote the retention of existing open space	Near Term	Regulatory	Planning / Policy Adoption	AB	Page 64
Pursue the formation of a multimunicipal Agricultural Security Area with neighboring municipalities	Near Term	Administrative	Planning / Policy Adoption		Page 64
TW-2: Develop a comprehensive network of on- and off-street trails throughout the Township linking residents to recreational, commercial and natural resources					
Create and adopt a comprehensive sidewalks, trails and greenways master plan with funding strategies and timeline	Near Term	Trails and Greenways	Planning / Regulatory	AB	Page 64
Establish feeder trails to link residents to the Township's major trails	Mid Term	Trails and Greenways	Planning / Engineering	AB, State, GO	Page 64
Support Montgomery County's trail development in the Township and coordinate with County representatives regarding project timelines and prioritization of trail segments	Near Term	Trails and Greenways	Planning / Engineering	-	Page 64
TW-3: Using a strategic array of ordinances, policies, partnerships and incentives, achieve maximum preservation of golf course lands					
Initiate a dialogue with Township golf clubs to determine their long-term needs and strategies for survival	Near Term	Recreation / Natural Resource Protection	Administrative	-	Page 65
With the assistance of the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC), develop a toolkit of preservation strategy options for consideration and possible implementation by golf clubs	Near Term	Recreation / Natural Resource Protection	Planning / Engineering	AB	Page 65
Evaluate the possibility of rezoning the golf courses to a more desirable zoning classification	Mid Term	Recreation / Natural Resource Protection	Planning / Policy Adoption	AB	Page 65
TW-4: Promote the enhancement of healthy habitats and ecological functions within the Township					
Prepare an environmental management / conservation master plan, establishing stewardship guidelines and standards for all Township-owned or controlled land	Near Term	Natural Resource Protection	Planning	AB, State	Page 65
Include an inventory of environmental resources, identifying wildlife habitats and migratory pathways, as part of the Map of conservation features	Near Term	Natural Resource Protection	Planning	AB, State	Page 65
Through the Township's public education program, involve private property owners in best management practices to improve their land stewardship	Long Term	Natural Resource Protection / Educational	Planning	AB	Page 65
Establish riparian buffer inventories and vegetation strategies for each of the Township's stream corridors	Mid Term	Natural Resource Protection	Planning / Engineering	AB	Page 65
Revise / update the Township Code regarding property maintenance to ensure that homeowners' naturalization efforts are exempt from the Code's weed restrictions	Mid Term	Natural Resource Protection / Regulatory	Policy Adoption	AB	Page 65
Support and encourage naturalization of storm water detention basins throughout the Township	Near Term	Natural Resource Protection / Educational	Planning / Engineering	AB	Page 65
TW-5: Create the appropriate administrative and management infrastructure to support open space preservation activities and the Township's ability to rapidly respond to opportunities					
Create a permanent staff position (Open Space Steward) whose primary task will be to oversee, coordinate, communicate and execute the Township's open space initiatives	Near Term	Administrative	Administrative	AB	Page 65
Develop a tracking system to monitor the status of all open space assets in the Township	Near Term	Policy	Planning	AB	Page 65
Train Township staff in appropriate open space management methods	Near Term	Natural Resource Protection / Stewardship	Administrative	AB	Page 66
Seek every opportunity to develop partnerships with neighboring municipalities and non-governmental / not-for-profit agencies in order to maximize preservation opportunities	Near Term	Policy	Administrative / Planning	AB	Page 66
Establish the Open Space Committee as a permanent entity and resource to the Township	Near Term	Administrative	Administrative	AB	Page 66
TW-6: Put in place the appropriate capital and financing infrastructure to support the Township's long-term open space plans					
Develop a 10-year capital program to support open space preservation activities, including acquisition, management, education and administration	Near Term	Policy	Administrative	AB	Page 66
Establish a dedicated funding stream to support the Township's open space access and acquisition goals	Near Term	Policy	Administrative	AB	Page 66
Consider floating a bond issue to raise significant revenues for open space access and preservation	Near Term	Policy	Administrative	AB, GO	Page 66
TW-7: Urge the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) to develop countywide strategies that will advance municipalities' open space preservation efforts					
Encourage MCPC to explore TDR (transfer of development rights) as a practicable county-wide strategy and assist municipalities in working together to identify appropriate receiving and sending zones	Mid Term	Policy	Planning / Administrative	-	Page 66
Encourage MCPC to establish a multimunicipal task force to develop a coherent strategy for preserving the thousands of acres now used as golf courses	Near Term	Policy	Planning / Administrative	-	Page 66
Recommend that MCPC collect and disseminate best management practices and model ordinances governing open space protection and preservation	Mid Term	Natural Resource / Stewardship / Regulatory	Planning / Administrative	-	Page 66
Urge MCPC to pursue easement options / strategies with utility line owners countywide	Near Term	Policy	Planning / Administrative	-	Page 66
<p>Key: Near Term = Within 3 years Mid Term = Within 5-7 years Long Term = Within 10 years</p> <p>Key: AB = Annual Budget GO = General Obligation Bonds CO = County</p>					

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IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX - DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS					
Recommendation	Priority	Recommendation Category	Action	Potential Funding Sources	Recommendation Page Reference
Broad Axe District					
Strictly apply the Township's Growing Greener ordinances	Near Term	Regulatory	Policy Adoption	AB	Page 67
Identify areas of potential partnership / coordination with landowners to preserve undeveloped land	Near Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Administrative	AB	Page 67
Central District					
Ensure that every resident is able to walk or bike to open space and / or recreation	Long Term	Parks & Recreation	Policy Adoption / Planning / Engineering	AB, GO, State	Page 69
Create recreational spaces or storm water management buffers where acquisition opportunities arise	Long Term	Parks & Recreation	Planning / Acquisition / Engineering	AB, GO, CO, State, Federal	Page 69
Acquire the parcel adjacent to Cedar Grove Park on Wells Street	Mid Term	Parks & Recreation	Acquisition	AB, GO, CO, State	Page 69
Pursue strategies to ensure that the Green Valley Country Club remains as open space	Long Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Planning / Administrative	AB	Page 69
Explore opportunities to secure land beneath PECO power lines from Butler Pike to Hector Street as open space	Near Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship / Trails and Greenways	Planning / Administrative	AB	Page 70
Ensure that the Whitemarsh portion of the Tecce property remains open space	Near Term	Parks & Recreation	Planning / Administrative	AB	Page 70
Create or enhance pedestrian and bicycle pathways	Long Term	Trails and Greenways	Planning / Engineering	AB, GO, State	Page 70
Preserve the environmental integrity of Bubbling Springs	Long Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Policy Adoption	AB	Page 70
Construct the planned trail through the Reserve	Mid Term	Trails and Greenways	Engineering	-	Page 70
Miquon District					
Acquire and restore the East 33 property	Near Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Acquisition	AB, GO, CO	Page 71
Initiate discussions with the Fairmount Park Commission concerning city-owned land in Whitemarsh	Mid Term	Administration	Administrative	AB	Page 71
Communicate with large landowners to clarify the Township's long-term goals and determine future plans	Near Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship / Education	Administrative	-	Page 71
Pursue strategies to ensure that the Ace Country Club remains as open space	Near Term	Parks & Recreation	Administrative / Policy Adoption	AB	Page 71
Riverfront District					
Approve the Schuylkill Redevelopment District	Near Term	Administration	Policy Adoption	-	Page 72
Pursue preservation of Ashford Farms	Mid Term	Administration	Acquisition	AB, GO, CO, State	Page 72
Pursue acquisition of the scrap yard property that links two sections of Spring Mill Park	Mid Term	Administration	Acquisition	AB, GO, CO, State	Page 72
Create a natural buffer along the river between Conshohocken Borough and Spring Mill Park	Long Term	Trails and Greenways	Policy Adoption / Planning / Engineering	AB, GO, State, Federal	Page 72
Create access for non-motorized boats in the Spring Mill Park vicinity	Mid Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Planning / Engineering	AB, GO, CO, State, Federal	Page 72
Pursue opportunities as they arise to preserve and restore the natural ecology of the riverfront	Long Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Planning / Engineering	-	Page 72
Stenton / Wissahickon District					
Preserve Erdenheim Farm as a working farm	Mid Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Policy Adoption / Administrative / Acquisition	AB, GO, CO, State, Federal	Page 73
Preserve the KYW Towers site as open space	Near Term	Parks & Recreation	Acquisition / Policy Adoption	AB, GO, CO, State, Federal	Page 73
Establish a coordinated vision and preservation plan with large landowners	Near Term	Natural Resources / Stewardship	Policy Adoption / Administrative	-	Page 73
Key: Near Term = Within 3 years Mid Term = Within 5-7 years Long Term = Within 10 years			Key: AB = Annual Budget GO = General Obligation Bonds CO = County		