

CHAPTER 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."
- Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

Introduction

With its abundance of parks, streams, farmland and other private open space, Whitmarsh Township sits as a green oasis amid the surrounding suburban development. The abundance of open space within Whitmarsh is both its greatest blessing and its greatest challenge. With so much of the Township's identity tied to its open vistas, woodlands and watersheds, to lose even a small portion of these features will forever alter its character and sever a critical link with its past.

The following recommendations, therefore, have been developed with a deep sense of obligation to "do right by what is left" and an equal sense of urgency to make the difficult choices that will enable the Township to move forward in saving as much as possible of what remains.

Three primary resources guided the development of these recommendations: (1) the 1996 Open Space Plan, (2) the Township's 2003 Comprehensive Plan, and (3) the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns guidelines. In addition, the Township took into consideration the existing and anticipated future conditions likely to impact on the preservation of open space.

Each recommendation presented in this plan was considered in light of its ability to satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- Is consistent with the overall needs and goals of the Township as identified through this planning process and in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan.
- Contributes to the balance and diversity of open space within the Township.
- Expands the interconnected open space network within and beyond the Township.
- Addresses a current or likely vulnerability to development pressure.
- Is within the capabilities of the Township, or some other willing entity, to responsibly manage and protect over the long term.
- Is practical and achievable within the 10-year timeframe of this plan.

"Man shapes himself through decisions that shape his environment"

—René Dubos

The recommendations that follow are organized according to their scope of application. The first section lists policy and strategy recommendations that pertain to the entire Township. The second section

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lists district-specific recommendations. These priorities are not listed in order of importance or implementation. They are all important, and the timing of their implementation will depend on external conditions that are difficult to predict. It is understood that any of these recommendations could become a top priority based on emerging opportunities or vulnerabilities.

Township-Wide Policy Recommendations:

TW-1: Provide the maximum protection possible for open space resources in the Township.

1. Adopt the pending Growing Greener Zoning and Subdivision Land Development Ordinances, which will serve as a critical regulatory tool for preserving open space and creating greenways.
2. Develop a map of conservation features identifying important natural features, storm water retention areas and greenways, as well as wildlife habitats and migratory pathways, and establish a policy that this map be used to inform all future preservation and land development decisions, as well as implementation of the proposed Growing Greener Ordinances.
3. 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.
4. 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) ap-

preciation for native species and the need to preserve habitat and (3) support for the Township's open space preservation efforts.

5. Pursue any and all zoning changes that will promote the retention of existing open space.
6. Pursue the formation of a multimunicipal Agricultural Security Area with neighboring Townships.

TW-2: Provide a comprehensive network of on- and off-street trails throughout the Township linking residents to recreational, commercial and natural resources.

1. Under the aegis of the Environmental Advisory Board, create and adopt a comprehensive sidewalks, trails and greenways master plan with funding strategies and timeline. The plan, addressing management of existing trails and design and location of future trails, should be guided by the most current best management practices and input from experts in this field.
2. Wherever and whenever the opportunity arises, establish feeder trails to link residents to the Township's major trails.
3. Support Montgomery County's trail development in the Township and coordinate with County representatives regarding project timelines and prioritization of trail segments.

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TW-3: Using a strategic array of ordinances, policies, partnerships and incentives, achieve maximum preservation of golf course lands.

1. Initiate a dialogue with Township golf clubs to determine their long-term needs and strategies for survival. Collect and maintain information on each golf club as a resource and reference to aid in future preservation efforts.
2. With the Montgomery County Planning Commission, develop a toolkit of preservation strategy options for consideration and possible implementation by golf clubs.
3. Evaluate the possibility of rezoning the golf courses to a more desirable zoning classification such as AAAA.

TW-4: Promote the enhancement of healthy habitats and ecological functions within the Township.

1. Prepare an environmental management/conservation master plan, similar in scope to this Open Space Plan and the Township's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan, establishing stewardship guidelines and standards for all Township-owned or controlled land. This could be assigned to the Environmental Advisory Board.
2. Include an inventory of environmental resources, identifying wildlife habitats and migratory pathways, in the map of conservation features.
3. Through the Township's public education program, involve private property owners in best management practices to improve their land stewardship, such as reducing impervious cover,

preserving natural habitats, removing noxious/invasive plants, and introducing native plant species.

4. Establish riparian buffer inventories and vegetation strategies for each of the Township's stream corridors. Involve major landowners, such as golf clubs and other institutions abutting the streams, in implementing best management practices, using native species, to create healthy vegetated stream corridors.
5. Revise/update the Township Code regarding property maintenance to ensure that homeowners' naturalization efforts are exempt from the Code's weed restrictions.
6. Support and encourage naturalization of storm water detention basins throughout the Township.

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.

1. 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. The proposed duties of this position are generally described in Appendix E: County Review and Response following page 125.
2. Develop a tracking system to monitor the status of all open space assets in the Township.

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3. Train Township staff, particularly maintenance and landscape workers, in appropriate open space management methods, including preservation of natural species and removal of invasive species on Township lands.
4. Seek every opportunity to develop partnerships with neighboring municipalities and non-governmental/not-for-profit agencies in order to maximize preservation opportunities.
5. Establish the Open Space Committee as a permanent entity and resource to the Township.

TW-6: Put in place the appropriate capital and financing infrastructure to support the Township's long-term open space plans.

1. Develop a 10-year capital program to support open space preservation activities, including acquisition, management, education and administration. Determine a targeted total dollar amount to be raised through a combination of local, state and federal sources.
2. Establish a dedicated funding stream to support the Township's open space access and acquisition goals. This annual allocation, in the order of \$500,000 to start and adjusted as necessary to meet changing circumstances, should be of sufficient magnitude to signal the seriousness of the Township's commitment to open space and provide ample capacity for implementation.
3. Consider floating a bond issue to raise significant revenues for open space access and preservation. The dedicated funding stream, recommended

above, could be used to provide debt service for this bond issue.

TW-7: Urge the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) to develop countywide strategies that will advance municipalities' open space preservation efforts.

1. Encourage MCPC to explore TDR (transfer of development rights) as a practicable countywide strategy and assist municipalities in working together to identify appropriate receiving and sending zones.
2. Encourage MCPC to establish a multimunicipal task force to develop a coherent strategy for preserving the thousands of acres now used as golf courses.
3. Recommend that MCPC collect and disseminate best management practices and model ordinances governing open space protection and preservation.
4. Urge MCPC to pursue easement options/strategies with utility line owners countywide.

District-Specific Recommendations

The Districts below are listed in alphabetical order and not in order of their priority.

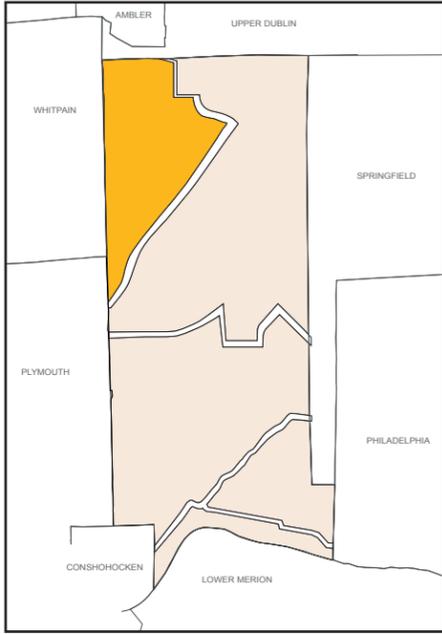
Broad Axe District

Graced with woodlands, broad vistas and rolling fields, this District contains a large portion of the Township's open space, primarily in the form of privately-owned small- to mid-sized estates. Because of high land values, it is particularly critical that the Township make optimal use of alternative strategies, other than acquisition, to preserve open space in this area. Through the strategic use of Growing Greener Ordinances, set asides, easements and limited acquisition, the Township should strive to preserve 75% of the remaining open space to form a coherent greenway that connects with the rest of the Township and neighboring municipalities.

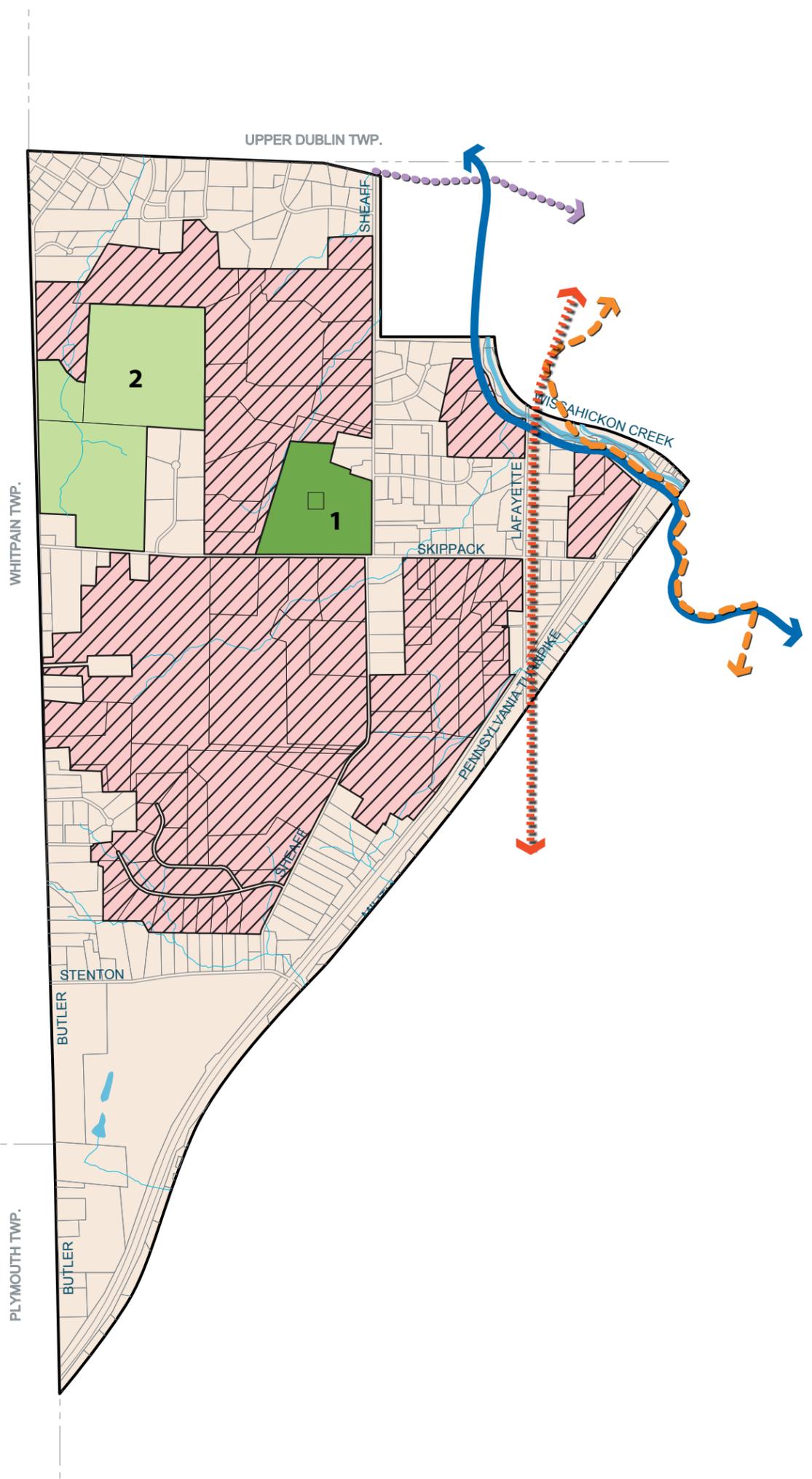
Priority Actions

- Strictly apply the Township's Growing Greener Ordinances and map of conservation features in any land development activity in this area.
- Communicate with large landowners in the district to clarify the Township's long-term goals and determine their future plans. Identify areas of potential partnership/cooperation with the goal of preserving large tracts of the area's remaining undeveloped land. (See particularly B1a-B1e on Map #21 Broad Axe District Recommendations).

MAP #21 BROAD AXE DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS



Context Map



Map Key:

Existing Public Open Space Areas

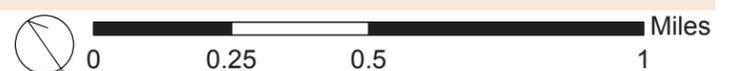
1 The Highlands

Other Protected Open Space Areas

2 Willow Lake Farms - (Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association)

Priority Open Space Opportunities (Non-Aquisition)

- Joshua Road / Lafayette Road Trail
- Wissahickon Trail (existing)
- Cross County Trail
- Other Trails



RECOMMENDATIONS

Central District

The most heavily populated area of the Township, the Central District lies between the broad, rolling landscape of the Stenton/Wissahickon District and the steep wooded slopes of Miquon, but has little pedestrian access to either. Though it contains public parks at its northern and southern boundaries, the vast midsection has few amenities other than the incidental green spaces provided by the WZZD radio tower, Green Valley Country Club, and PECO transmission lines. The goals for this district are to improve public access to trails, parks and open spaces within and beyond the district, preserve existing incidental green spaces to the extent possible, and strategically secure land for pocket parks and a public commons.

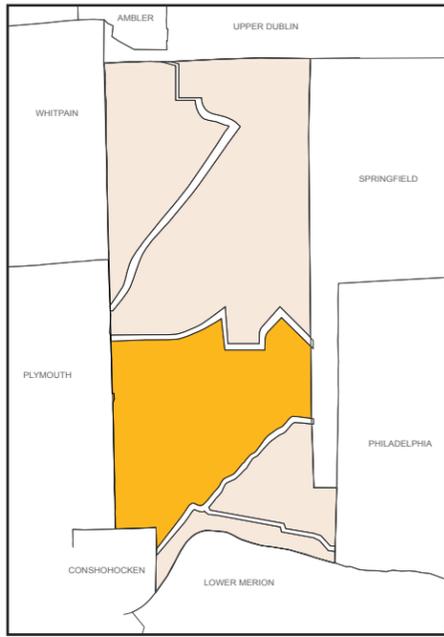
Priority Actions

- Ensure that every resident in this district is able to walk or bicycle to open space and/or a recreational resource.
- Where acquisition opportunities arise in underserved areas, create recreational spaces or storm water management buffers. The following areas should be a particular focus:
 1. South of Ridge Pike, between Joshua and Barren Hill Roads. Opportunities in this area include the three-acre property at 2389-2391 Harts Lane, known as the Tree Farm, just south of Ridge Pike (See C1 on Map #22 Central District Recommendations).
 2. North of Germantown Pike, between Whitemarsh Woods and Thomas Road. Opportunities in this area include the 4.8-acre property in the 500 block of Germantown Pike, as well as incidental commercial parcels along the Pike, including the Bus Depot and Barren Hill Fire Company properties. (See C2, C3, and C4 on Map #22 Central District Recommendations).
 3. South of Germantown Pike, between Butler Pike and Green Valley Country Club. Opportunities in this area include the WZZD Radio Tower site on Spring Mill Avenue. (See C5 on Map #22 Central District Recommendations).
- Acquire the two-acre parcel of land adjacent to Cedar Grove Park on Wells Street belonging to Gambone Development Company (See C6 on Map #22 Central District Recommendations).
- The 183-acre Green Valley Country Club, located at Joshua Road and Germantown Pike, is the single largest expanse of open space in the District. It is located in the heart of Lafayette Hill, the Township's largest commercial center. The Township should do everything possible to ensure that this property remains undeveloped and, if the opportunity arises, pursue strategies to acquire or otherwise protect this significant open space asset, possibly for use as a public commons (See C7 on Map #22 Central District Recommendations).

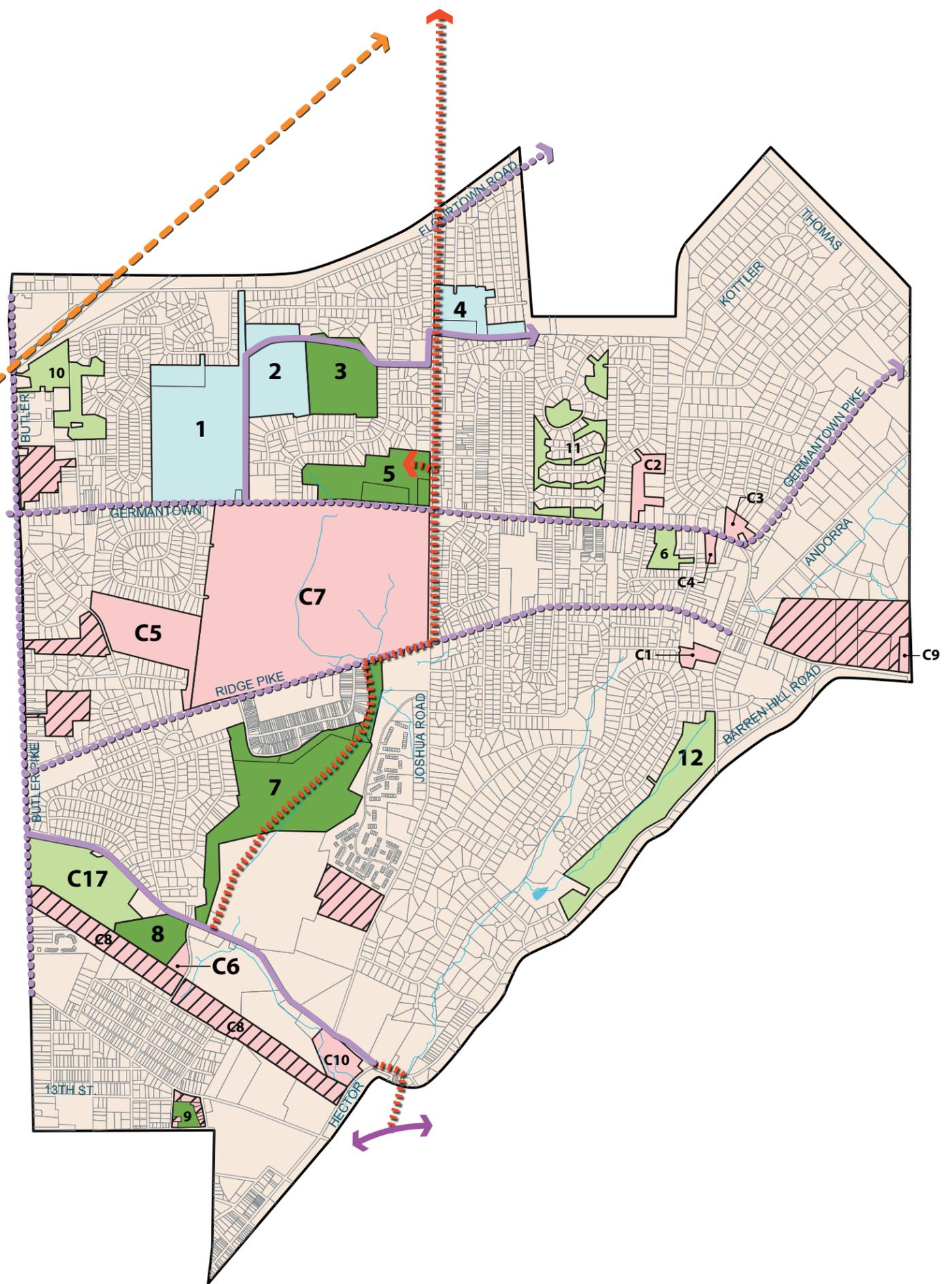
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- The 39 acres of open space that extend beneath the PECO power lines from Butler Pike to Hector Street form an important storm water buffer and green space for the Cedar Heights community. The Township should explore opportunities to secure this area as permanent open space and a potential trail route linking Plymouth Township to the County's Spring Mill Park.
- The 41-acre Tecce property, which lies near Manor Road and Ridge Pike in both Springfield and Whitemarsh Townships, serves as an important storm water buffer for residents of both Townships living below the ridge in the Miquon area. The Springfield portion has recently been approved for a 54-unit age-restricted housing development, which will have significant impacts on the neighboring communities. Whitemarsh should do everything it can to ensure that the portion of the property lying in Whitemarsh remains open space (See C9 on Map # 22 Central District Recommendations).
- Improve public access to recreational, natural and commercial resources by creating or enhancing pedestrian and bicycle pathways.
 1. Create a Joshua Road Trail: Establish Joshua Road as the primary on-road trail artery connecting the Township's recreational amenities and major trail systems. This artery could extend nearly the entire length of the Township and help to connect Whitemarsh residents to the resources in other municipalities. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks should be constructed as needed and appropriate to ensure a continuous public pathway the full length of the Township.
 2. Create a Silt Basin Trail: Construct a trail through Kline Park linking the Schuylkill River Trail and Cedar Grove Park bike path to the south with Miles Park and the Joshua Road trail to the north.
 3. Improve and expand existing pedestrian pathways along the district's primary travel corridors—Germantown, Ridge and Butler Pikes. Redesign traffic lanes to make them safer for cyclists.
- Do everything possible to preserve the environmental integrity of Bubbling Springs. Seek a conservation easement from Aqua, the landowner (See C10 on Map # 22 Central District Recommendations).
- Construct the planned trail through the Reserve, as called for in the original development plans, helping to create a safe pedestrian/bike link between Ridge Pike and the Spring Mill area.
- Make efforts to preserve the properties within the Cold Point Historic District and the Plymouth Meeting Historic District (Map #12) by acquiring and/or preserving such properties as open space in order to help preserve the historic significance of the region."

MAP #22 CENTRAL DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS



Context Map



Map Key:

Existing Public Open Space Areas

- 1 Plymouth Whitmarsh School Complex
- 2 Victory Fields Athletic School Complex
- 3 McCarthy Park - (Whitemarsh Township)
- 4 Whitemarsh Elementary School
- 5 Miles Park - (Whitemarsh Township)
- 6 Whitemarsh Township Municipal Complex
- 7 Kline Park - (Whitemarsh Township)
- 8 Cedar Grove Park - (Whitemarsh Township)
- 9 Leeland Park - (Whitemarsh Township)

Other Protected Open Space Areas

- 10 Plymouth Meeting Association
- 11 Whitemarsh Woods
- 12 The Preserve

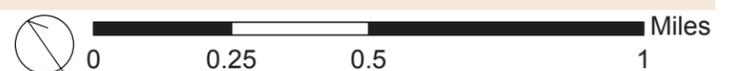
Priority Open Space Opportunities

- C1 Tree Farm Property - 2389-2391 Harts Lane
- C2 Nolen Property

- C3 Barren Hill Firehouse - 647 Germantown Pike
- C4 - 634 Germantown Road
- C5 WZZD - Radio Tower Site
- C6 Gambone Property
- C7 Green Valley Country Club - 201 Ridge Pike
- C9 Teece Property - 9303 Ridge Pike
- C10 Aqua PA Bubbling Springs Property

Priority Open Space Opportunities (Non-Acquisition)

- C8 PECO Right of Way
- Joshua Road / Kline Park Trail (Priority Recommendation)
- Schuylkill River Trail (existing)
- Cross County Trail
- Other Trails



RECOMMENDATIONS

Miquon District

The Miquon area's distinct topography and limited development enable it to retain much of its serene and rustic character. The goal for this District is to preserve 75% of the remaining open space, most of which is still under private ownership, through strategic implementation of the Growing Greener Ordinances, set-asides, easements and limited acquisition and to protect what remains of the area's wildlife and native vegetation from further destruction.

Priority Actions

- The property known as "East 33" lies at the foot of Manor Road adjacent to a portion of Fairmount Park that straddles the Philadelphia-Whitemarsh border, which in turn abuts the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. Across Manor Road are steep slopes protected by a Conservation easement. The Township should acquire and restore this critical land link and maintain it as a natural area (See M1 on Map #24 Miquon/Riverfront District Recommendations).
- Initiate discussions as soon as possible with the City's Fairmount Park Commission concerning permanent preservation and/or Township acquisition of the portion of City land currently under the control of the Fairmount Park Commission that lies within Whitemarsh and adjacent to the East 33 property. Initiate discussions with the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education about a cooperative effort to permanently preserve the portion of the City land that is located in Philadelphia. If the City tract were preserved, this would establish a continuing band of perma-

nently preserved green space extending from the Schuylkill Center to East 33.

- Communicate with large landowners in the district to clarify the Township's long-term goals and determine their future plans. Identify areas of potential partnership/cooperation with the goal of preserving as much as possible of the area's remaining undeveloped land.
- The Ace Country Club, comprising 265 acres or 30% of the total land area of the district, represents the largest undeveloped tract in Miquon and, as such, serves as a critically important storm water buffer and aquifer recharge area. The club grounds also contain environmentally sensitive wetlands and steep slopes. The Township should do everything possible to ensure that as much as possible of this property remains undeveloped (See M2 on Map #24 Miquon/Riverfront District Recommendations).

Riverfront District

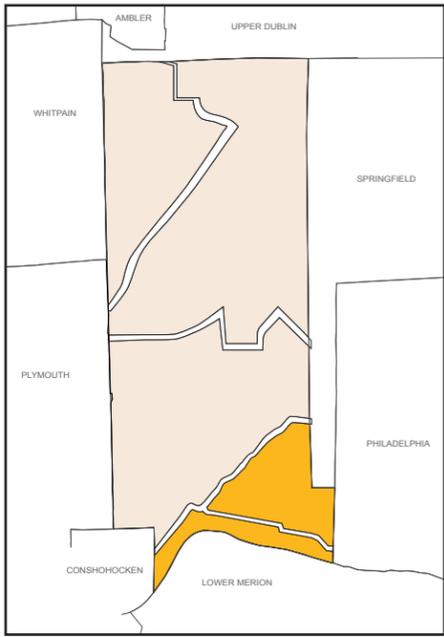
The Township's Riverfront District is an underused asset, offering unique views and access to a range of potential recreational activities as well as a major trail system. The Schuylkill River is being viewed by many municipalities as a prime development area. Whitemarsh recognizes the attractiveness of its riverfront but also the fragile nature of the river ecosystem. In recognition of this duality, the goal for this District is to make strategic sections of the riverfront accessible to the public and to preserve and/or restore the remaining sections as natural area.

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Priority Actions

- Approve the Schuylkill Redevelopment District intended to control future development along the river.
- Explore opportunities to preserve Ashford Farms as permanently protected open space (See R1 on Map #24 Miquon/Riverfront District Recommendations).
- In cooperation with Montgomery County, pursue acquisition of the scrap yard property that links the two parts of the County-owned Spring Mill Park (See R2 on Map #24 Miquon/Riverfront District Recommendations).
- Create a natural buffer, with a walking trail or promenade, along the river between Conshohocken Borough and Spring Mill Park.
- Create access for non-motorized boats in the Spring Mill Park vicinity of the river.
- Pursue opportunities as they arise to preserve and restore the natural ecology of the riverfront, especially in the River's Edge section that borders the City of Philadelphia and contains one of the broadest riverfront corridors in the Township.

MAP #23 MIQUON / RIVERFRONT DISTRICTS RECOMMENDATIONS



Context Map



Map Key:

Existing Public Open Space Areas

- 1** Spring Mill Park - (Montgomery County)
- 2** Fairmont Park Commission - 1200 River Road(City of Philadelphia)

Other Protected Open Space Areas

- 3** Girl Scout Property - 2101 Manor Road
- 4** Restrictive Covenants
- 5** Whitmarsh Township
- 6** Easements

Priority Open Space Opportunities

- R2** ~ 200 Center Street
- M1** East 33 Property

Priority Open Space Opportunities (Non-Aquisition)

- R1** Ashford Farms
- R5** PECO Transmission Lines

- (Priority Recommendations)
- Schuylkill River Trail (existing)
- Other Trails



RECOMMENDATIONS

Stenton/Wissahickon District

The Stenton/Wissahickon District contains the largest expanse of remaining open space in the Township, comprising farms, parks, quarries, golf clubs and institutional lands. In addition to contributing enormously to the Township's character and quality of life, this area is an important environmental buffer for the Central District. The goal for this area is to preserve 75% of this land in its current state or as natural open space, with limited or controlled public access. This would be accomplished through a combination of zoning, easements, set-asides, and strategic acquisition.

Priority Actions

- Preserve 100% of Erdenheim Farm, the Township's only remaining working farm and an important link to the area's rural past. In addition to the Tax Increment Financing strategy already approved by the Township, which will allocate a portion of future tax revenues toward the purchase of the 200-acre Angus and Sheep Tracts, pursue other avenues of funding and public/private initiatives aimed at preserving the Farm. Work with Springfield Township on strategies to preserve the Horse Tract (See S1a, S1b, and S1c on Map #23 Stenton/Wissahickon District Recommendations).
- The 15-acre KYW Towers site at 5006 Joshua Road, located adjacent to Erdenheim Farm with frontage along Joshua and Flourtown Roads, offers an important viewshed as well as connection to the proposed Joshua Road Trail. The Township should preserve this site as open space through any combination of rezoning, acquisition or ease-

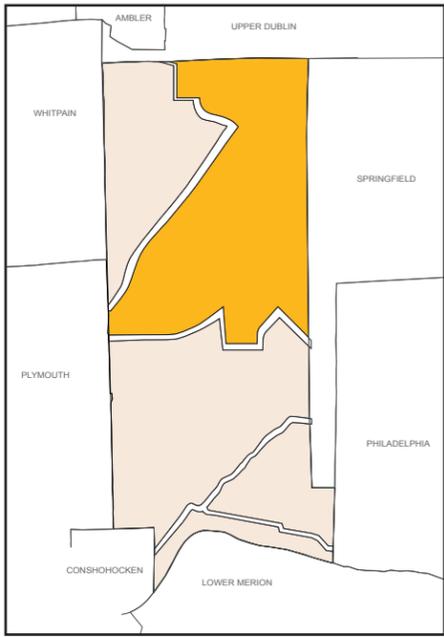
ment (See S2 on Map #23 Stenton/Wissahickon District Recommendations).

- Communicate with the area's large landowners to establish a coordinated vision and preservation strategy for this important sector of the Township. Consider the formation of a Stenton/Wissahickon Greenway Association, comprising the area's landowners and the Township, which could work together toward achieving this long-term vision.

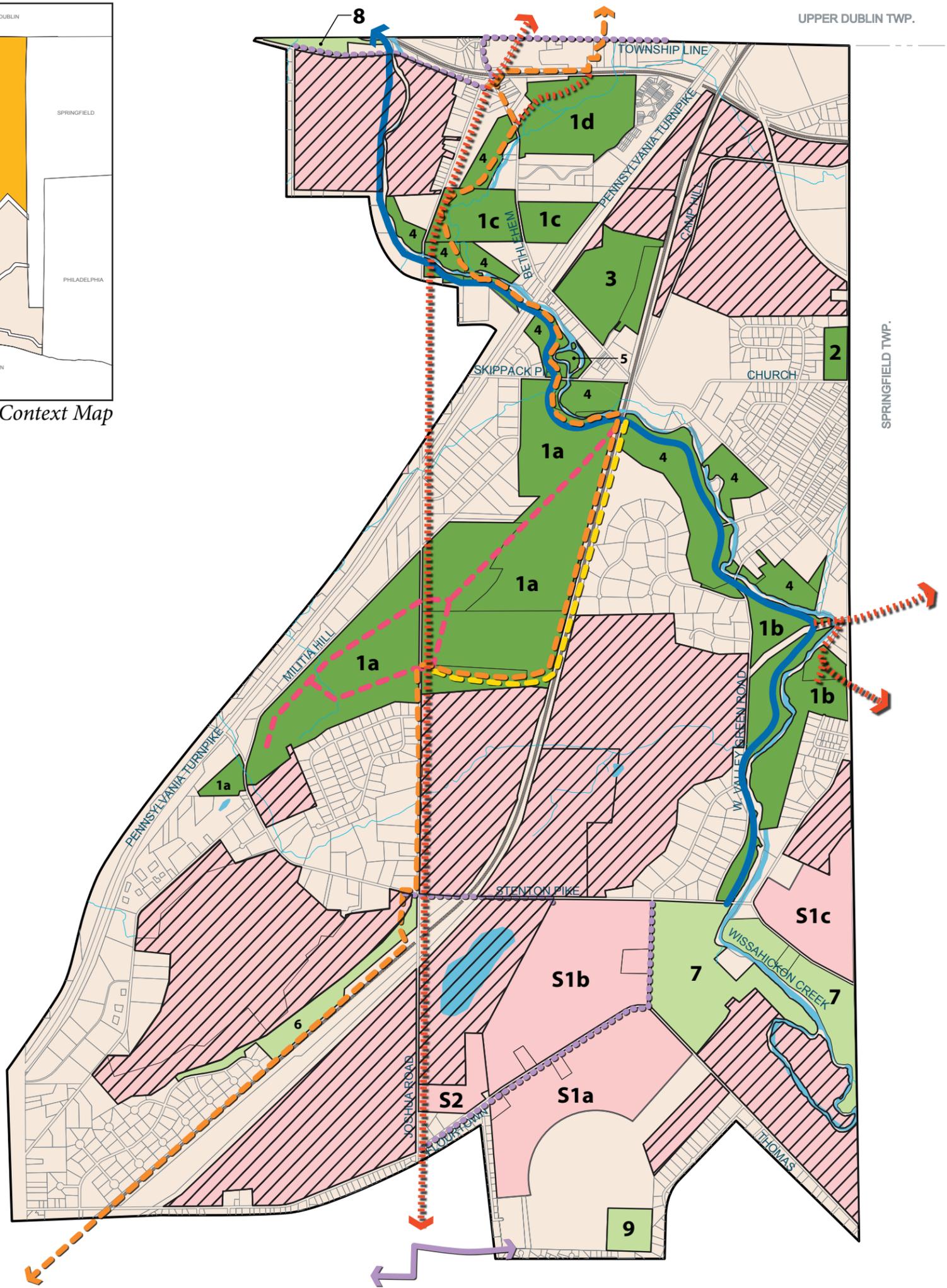


Flourtown Road through Erdenheim Farm

MAP #24 STENTON/ WISSAHICKON DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS



Context Map



Map Key:

Existing Public Open Space Areas

- 1a** Fort Washington State Park - Militia Hill
- 1b** Fort Washington State Park - Flourtown Area
- 1c** Fort Washington State Park - Fort Hill
- 1d** Fort Washington State Park - Sandy Run Area
- 2** Valley Green Park - (Whitemarsh Township)
- 3** Hope Lodge - (State)
- 4** Wissahickon Valley Park - (Montgomery County)
- 5** Mather's Mill - (State)

Other Protected Open Space Areas

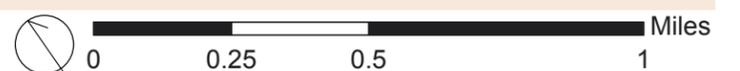
- 6** Sunnybrook Golf Club Easement
- 7** Erdenheim Farm Estate Parcel - 667 Thomas Road
- 8** Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association - 12 Morris Road
- 9** Woodland Easement

Priority Open Space Opportunities

- S1a** Erdenheim Farm Angus Tract - 504-548 Flourtown Road
- S1b** Erdenheim Farm Sheep Tract - 5051 Flourtown Road
- S1c** Erdenheim Farm Horse Tract - Stenton Avenue
- S2** KYW Radio Tower Site - 5006 Joshua Road

Priority Open Space Opportunities (Non-Acquisition)

- Joshua Road Trail
- Wissahickon Trail (existing)
- Cross County Trail
- Fort Washington Trail
- Fort Washington Trail (Cross County Extension)
- Other Trails



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations by Category

Administration

- Initiate discussions with the Fairmount Park Commission concerning Whitemarsh lands.
- Approve the Schuylkill Redevelopment District.
- Explore opportunities to preserve Ashford Farms.
- Pursue acquisition of the scrap yard property that links the two sections of Spring Mill Park.
- Pursue formation of a multimunicipal Agricultural Security Area.
- 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.
- 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.
- Establish the Open Space Committee as a permanent entity and resource to the Township.
- Develop a tracking system to monitor the status of all open space assets in the Township.
- Include an inventory of environmental resources, identifying wildlife habitats and migratory pathways, as part of the map of conservation features.
- Through the Township's public education program, involve private property owners in best management practices to improve their land stewardship.
- Establish riparian buffer inventories and vegetation strategies for each of the Township's stream corridors.
- Revise / update the Township Code regarding property maintenance to ensure that homeowners' naturalization efforts are exempt from the Code's weed restrictions.
- Support and encourage naturalization of storm water detention basins throughout the Township.
- Recommend that MCPC collect and disseminate best management practices and model ordinances governing open space protection and preservation.
- Identify area of potential partnership / coordination with landowners to preserve undeveloped land.
- Pursue strategies to ensure that the Green Valley Country Club remains as open space.
- Preserve the environmental integrity of Bubbling Springs.
- Acquire and restore the East 33 property.
- Communicate with large landowners to clarify the Township's long-term goals and determine future plans.
- Create access for non-motorized boats in the Spring Mill Park vicinity.

Natural Resources / Stewardship

- Develop a map of conservation features identifying important natural features, storm water retention areas and greenways, and wildlife habitats and migratory pathways.
- Prepare an environmental management / conservation master plan, establishing stewardship guidelines and standards for all Township-owned or controlled land.

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- Pursue opportunities as they arise to preserve and restore the natural ecology of the riverfront.
- Preserve Erdenheim Farm as a working farm.
- Establish a coordinated vision and preservation plan with large landowners.
- Train Township staff in appropriate open space management methods.
- Consider floating a bond issue to raise significant revenues for open space access and preservation.
- 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.
- Encourage MCPC to establish a multi-municipality task force to develop a coherent strategy for preserving the thousands of acres now used as golf courses.
- Urge MCPC to pursue easement options / strategies with utility line owners countywide.

Parks & Recreation

- Ensure that every resident in the Central District is able to walk or bike to open space and / or recreation.
- Create recreational spaces or storm water management buffers where acquisition opportunities arise.
- Acquire the parcel adjacent to Cedar Grove Park on Wells Street.
- Ensure that the Whitemarsh portion of the Tecce property remains open space.
- Pursue strategies to ensure that the Ace Country Club remains as open space.
- Preserve the KYW Towers site as open space.

Policy

- Seek every opportunity to develop partnerships with neighboring municipalities and non-governmental / not-for-profit agencies in order to maximize preservation opportunities.
- Develop a 10-year capital program to support open space preservation activities, including acquisition, management, education and administration.
- Establish a dedicated funding stream, in the order of \$500,000 to start, to support the Township's open space access and acquisition goals.

Regulatory

- Adopt the pending Growing Greener Zoning and Subdivision Land Development Ordinances.
- 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.
- Pursue any and all zoning changes that will promote the retention of existing open space.
- Strictly apply the Township's Growing Greener Ordinances.

Trails and Greenways

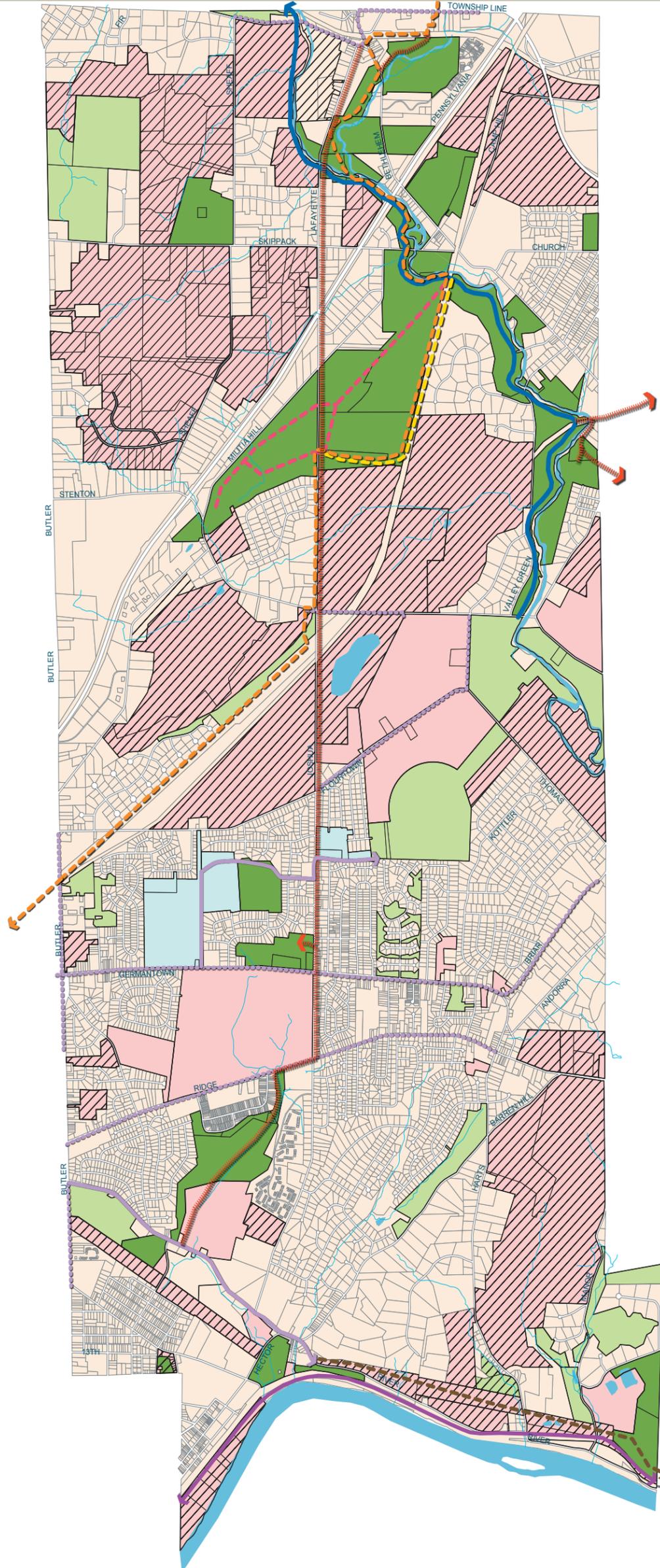
- Create and adopt a comprehensive sidewalks, trails and greenways master plan with funding strategies and timeline.
- Establish feeder trails to link residents to the Township's major trails.
- Support Montgomery County's trail development in the Township and coordinate with County rep-

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representatives regarding project timelines and prioritization of trail segments.

- Create or enhance pedestrian and bicycle pathways.
- Construct the planned trail through the Reserve.
- Create a natural buffer along the river between Conshohocken Borough and Spring Mill Park.

MAP #25 TOWNSHIP-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS



Map Key:

- Existing Public Open Space Areas
- Existing Public Open Space Areas (School Complex)
- Other Protected Open Space Areas
- Priority Open Space Opportunities
- Priority Open Space Opportunities (Non - acquisition)

- Trail Related Recommendations
- Schuylkill River Trail (existing)
- Wissahickon Trail (existing)
- Cross County Trail
- Fort Washington Trail
- Fort Washington Trail (Cross County Extension)
- Sierra Club Trail
- Other Trails

