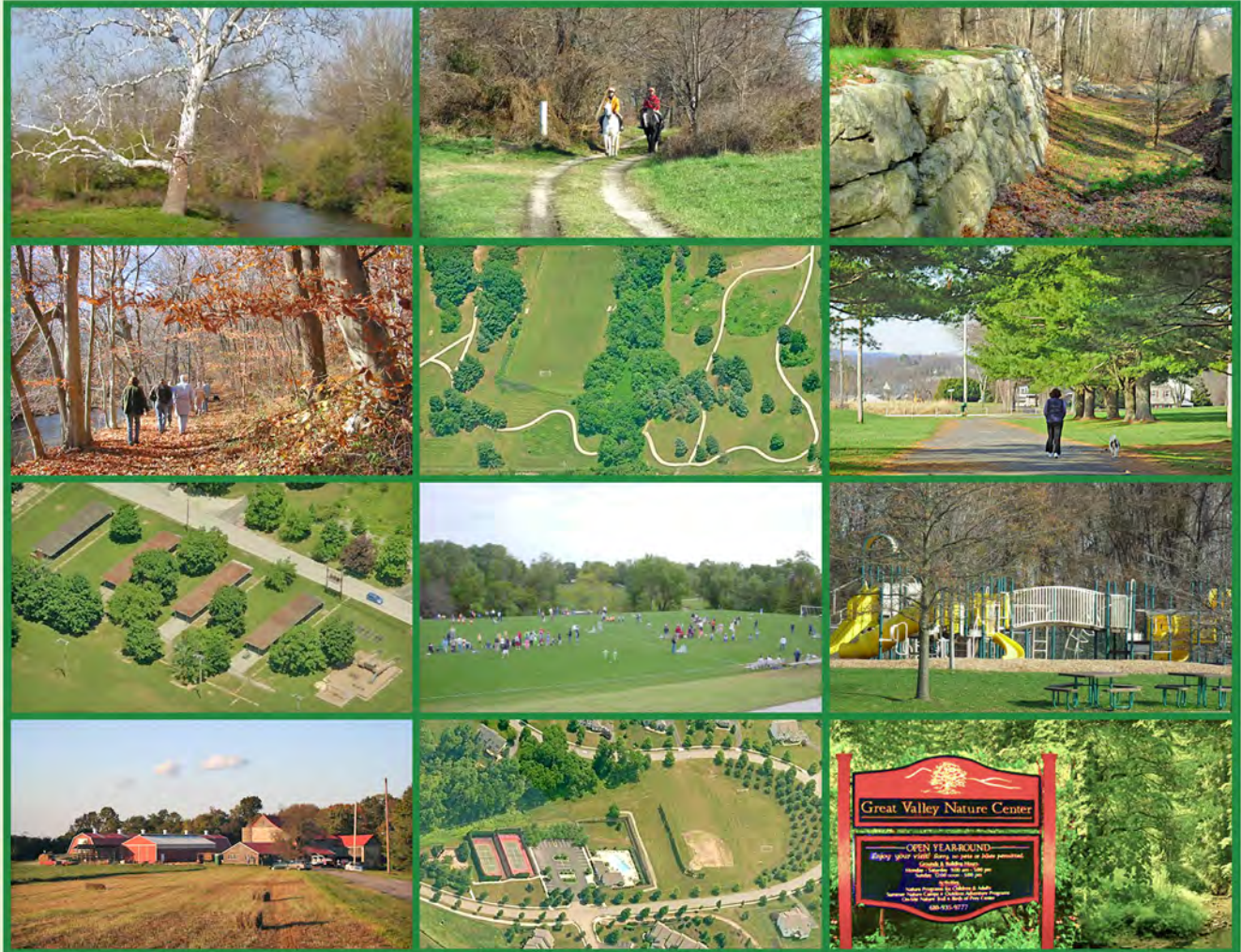


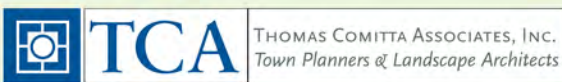
# Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

Charlestown Township - Chester County, PA



(An Addendum to the Charlestown Township Comprehensive Plan of 2001)

Prepared by:

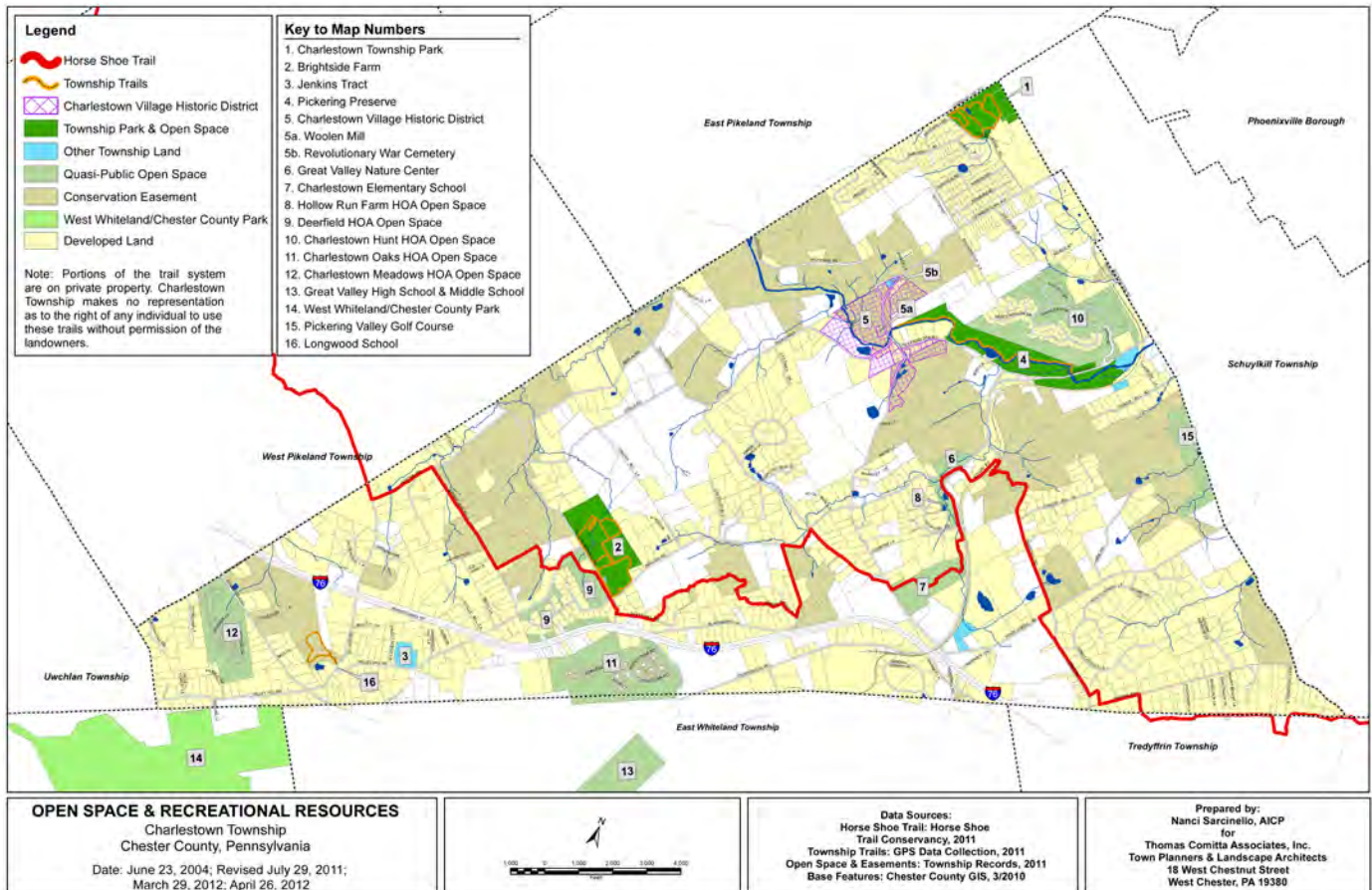


Date: November 15, 2012

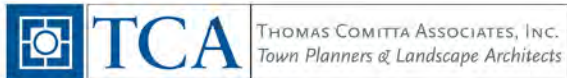


# Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

## Charlestown Township - Chester County, PA



Prepared by:



Date: November 15, 2012

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Project Participants**

**Board of Supervisors**

- Charles A. Philips
- Kevin R. Kuhn
- Hugh D. Willig
- Frank A. Piliero
- Michael J. Rodgers

**Park and Recreation Board**

- Bob Jones, Chariman
- Jim Quay
- Sue Staas
- Matthew R. Finlay
- Marylou Forcine
- Brian Wilchusky
- Chuck McQuiston
- Paul J. Hogan (Advisor)

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- Wendy G. Leland
- Michael Allen
- Andrew P. Motel, Esq.
- Michael Churchill, Esq.
- Andre von Hoyer, II
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- Kelly Gasiewski, Secretary
- Nanci Sarcinello, AICP

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- Linda M. Csete

**Township Solicitor**

- Mark P. Thompson, Esq.

**Township Engineer**

- Daniel T. Wright, P.E.

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- Sue Staas, Chairman
- Chris Galbraith
- Alix Coleman
- Ester Underhill
- Walt Underhill
- Betsy Pilgrim
- Marcella Kubousek
- Patricia Thomas
- Peter Hall
- Chris Lawrence
- Ellen Behrle
- Larry Bull
- P.J. Zalewski
- Jim Quay

**Chester County**

**Planning Commission**

- Justin Smiley, Urban Planner

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

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**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

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## **Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan** **Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

### **1.1. Introduction & Overview**

This Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan is an Addendum to the Charlestown Township Comprehensive Plan of 2001. It also serves as a partial update to a 1993 Plan. Twenty years ago, Charlestown Township adopted a Chester County funded OSRERP - Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan.

For the past 65 years, Charlestown Township has focused on striking a balance between the environment and development. In the late 1940's, the Pennsylvania Turnpike cut through the Township, and was met with great concern by the residents. In 1950, Charlestown updated the Zoning Ordinance to address changed land use conditions, especially south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and in the Devault area.

In the early 1970's, the Township enacted Ordinance Amendments to be responsive to the 1968 Municipalities Planning Code. In the mid-1970's, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposed an upgrade of Route 29 from the Great Valley to Phoenixville, but abandoned the proposed widening due to environmental constraints.

In the late 1970's, the Township enacted Flood Hazard District, and Steep Slope Conservation District Ordinances to help with the proposition of balancing development and the environment. In 1979, a completely new Zoning Ordinance was adopted to implement the 1976 Comprehensive Plan. In the early 1980's Charlestown enacted the first Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance in Chester County, focused on the mitigation of adverse impacts of development.

Over the past 30 years, with a gradual increase in new development, increased demands for parks, playfields, playgrounds, community gardens, trails, and bikeways have been voiced. This plan was built upon the prevalent philosophy of balance, and an accommodation of needs for the next 20 years related to parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

Most of the emphasis during the preparation of this Plan was on the mapping and plan making reflected in the next section on 11"x17" sheets. In addition to several Township-wide exhibits pertaining to recreational resources, open space, and trails, we prepared Master Plans for several recreational sites, including Charlestown Township Park, Brightside Farm, the Jenkins property, and the Devault Area.

Two important new exhibits include: Character Areas on page 2-4; and the Character Areas Transect on page 2-4.1. The Character Area map illustrates a composite of Critical Environmental Areas relative to various intensities of land use (aka "Character Areas") in Charlestown. The Transect diagram illustrates how various Open Space Areas & Types align with the various Character Areas, relative to park, recreation, open space and trail types. In other words, we show where to place the park types in the varying Character Areas of the Township (i.e. "Right Park/Right Place").

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

Nine (9) Appendices are included to offer additional detail pertaining to:

- the benefits of recreation;
- costs for park improvements;
- demand for recreational facilities;
- events & programs;
- fee-in-lieu of recreation;
- the Great Valley Nature Center;
- heritage resources; and
- implementation.

We hope you will use this Plan as a partial blueprint for the further greening of Charlestown Township through 2033!



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

1.2. **Public Outreach**

From November 2011 through February 2013, the public outreach initiatives have included:

- 3 major public workshops;
- 1 major Questionnaire;
- several regular public meetings to discuss the progress of the Plan;
- 1 supplementary Questionnaire pertaining to Brightside Farm;
- an adoption process in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code;
- a final Public Hearing; and
- a final Public Meeting for plan adoption.

Collectively, there have been over 15 opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process.

Summary results of public outreach Questionnaires appear at the end of the following section of this report.

We welcome additional comments and input.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

1.3. **Summary Recommendations**

The best way to appreciate the recommendations of this report is to review the maps & plans, and charts of the following section. The maps & plans depict township-wide resources and opportunities for:

- Open Space & Recreational Resources;
- Trails;
- Bicycle Routes;
- Character Areas; and
- Service Areas.

In addition, site-specific recommendations are provided for:

- Charlestown Township Park;
- Brightside Farm;
- Jenkins Property; and
- the Devault area.

Cost estimates for the site specific recommendations are included in Appendix C.

The recommendations evolved from the responses to Questionnaires, and numerous discussions at Public Meetings.

(Three (3) charts with tabulations from the Questionnaire appear in the back of Section 2 at 11"x17".)

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

2. **Maps & Plans, and Charts**

Please refer to the following 11"x17" sheets (pages 2, and 2.1 through 2.13) for the details of the mapping, and numerous recommendations pertaining to Township-wide resources, and site specific enhancements.

This section also includes the charts with the tabulations of Questionnaire responses, both online, and at the Public Workshops.



## Charlestown Township Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

November 15, 2012

### *Index of Exhibits*

- 2-1. Map: Chester County Trail Classifications: Charlestown Township Trail Network; draft dated 2012
- 2-2. Map: Charlestown Township Open Space & Recreational Resources; dated revised 4-26-12
- 2-3. Map: Charlestown Township Trails; dated revised 4-26-12
- 2-3.1 Map: Charlestown Township Bicycle Routes; dated 10-12-12
- 2-4. Map: Charlestown Township Character Areas; dated revised 4-26-12
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- 2-5. Map: Minimum Service Area Radii for Selected Recreational Areas; dated revised 4-26-12
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- 2-11. Chart: Top Five Requested Activities
- 2-12. Chart: Recreational Facility Preferences
- 2-13. Chart: Brightside Farm Preferences



# Chester County Trail Classifications

## Charlestown Township Trail Network

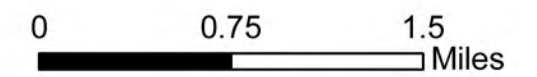
### Notes

#### Trail Identification

- 35A. Charlestown Park Trail
- 35B. Charlestown Trail Network
- 35C. Horse-Shoe Trail
- 35E. Yellow Springs Trail

#### Surrounding Trails

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2B. Paoli Battlefield Trail           | 42B. Chester Valley Trail                        |
| 15C. French Creek Trail               | 42C. East Whiteland Recreation Loop              |
| 15G. Schuylkill River Trail           | 42D. Ecology Park Trail                          |
| 26A. Brightside Estates Trail         | 42E. Fellers Mill Community Trail                |
| 26B. Coldstream Crossing Trail        | 42F. Fieldbrooke Trail                           |
| 26C. French Creek Trail               | 42G. Great Valley Corporate Center Trail         |
| 26F. Kimberton Greene Trail           | 42J. Malvern Hunt Trail Network                  |
| 26H. Kimberton Park Trail             | 42K. Valley Creek Park Trail                     |
| 27B. Horse-Shoe Trail                 | 42L. Wyeth Labs Trail                            |
| 27C. Municipal Complex Park Trail     | 43A. Airdrie Forest Preserve Trail               |
| 27D. Pickering Glen Community Trail   | 43B. Cedar Hollow Preserve Trail                 |
| 27E. Pickering Preserve Park Trail    | 43C. Chester Valley Trail                        |
| 27H. Schuylkill Township Trail C      | 43E. Chesterbrook Association Trail Network      |
| 27R. Toonerville Trail                | 43F. Cool Valley Preserve Trail Network          |
| 27S. Valley Forge National Park Trail | 43G. Crabby Creek Park Trail                     |
| 33E. Rhondia Community Trail          | 43J. Friendship Park Trail                       |
| 33K. Uchlan Trail                     | 43K. George Lorimer Nature Preserve Trail        |
| 33L. Uchlan Trail Links               | 43L. Great Valley Corporate Center Trail         |
| 34A. Binkylee Preserve Trail          | 43N. Horse-Shoe Trail                            |
| 34B. Horse-Shoe Trail                 | 43X. Swedesford Road Open Space Trail            |
| 34D. Pickering Valley Trail           | 43AC. Valley Creek Preserve Trail Network        |
| 34F. Pine Creek Park Trail            | 43AD. Valley Forge National Park Trail           |
| 34G. Twin Hills Association Trail     | 222B. U. Providence Twp.: Schuylkill River Trail |
| 41E. Exton Park Site Trail Network    |  |
| 41G. Miller Memorial Park Trail       |  |



EPC 1:47,520



### Legend

#### Trails

- Proposed
- Design/Construction
- Existing
- Surrounding Counties Trails

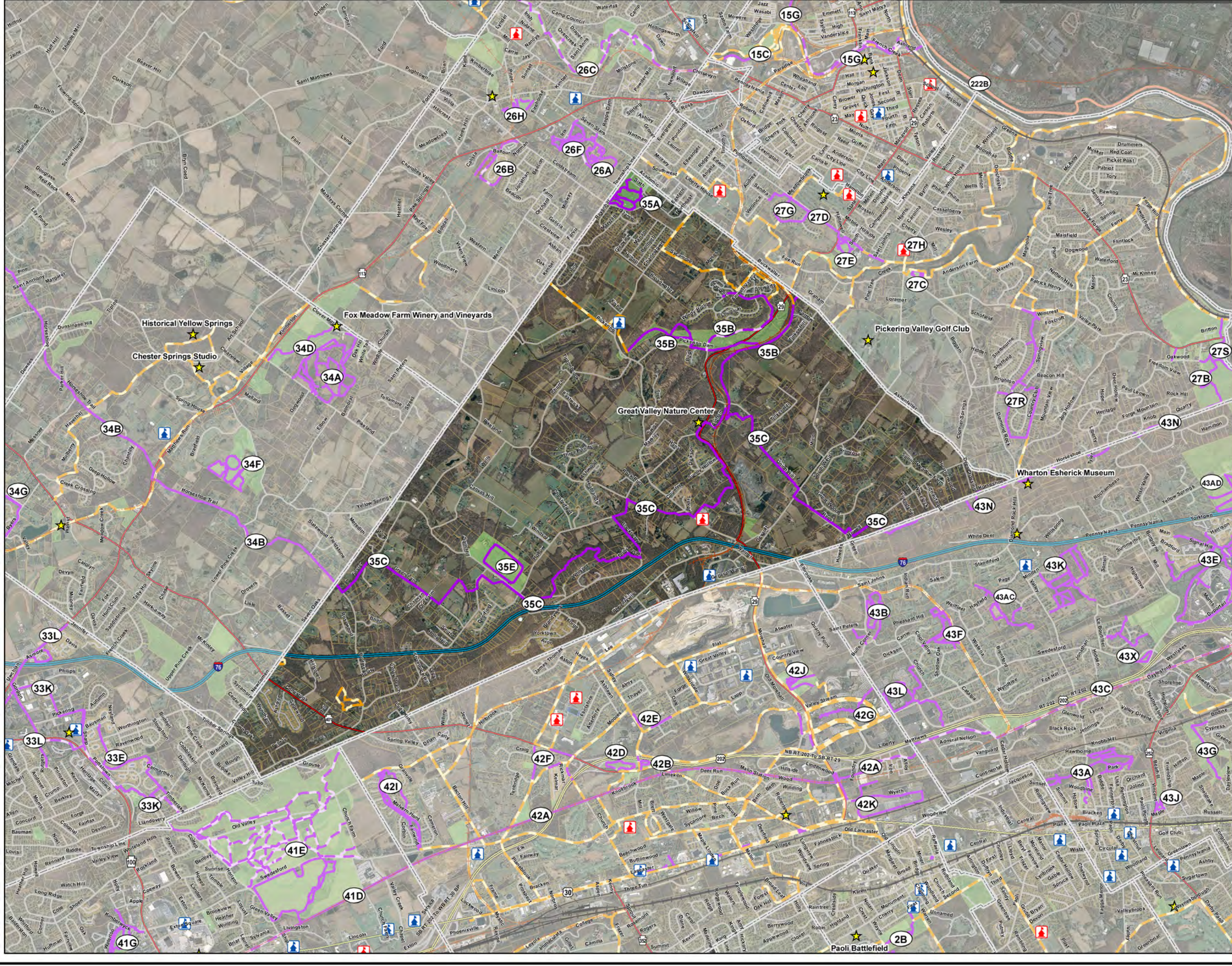
- Points of Interest
- Non Public Schools
- Public Schools

#### Railroad Corridors

- Active
- Inactive
- Parks & Recreation

**DRAFT**

Sources: Adopted Municipal Documents; Comprehensive Plans, Open Space/Recreation Plans, Rejuvenation Plans, and Official Maps; Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 2012. This map was digitally compiled for internal maintenance and developmental use by the County of Chester, Pennsylvania. It is not intended for use as a legal document. The County of Chester, Pennsylvania makes no claims as to the completeness, accuracy or content of any data contained herein, and makes no representation of any kind, including, but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied or inferred, with respect to the information or data furnished herein. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as expressly permitted by the County of Chester.





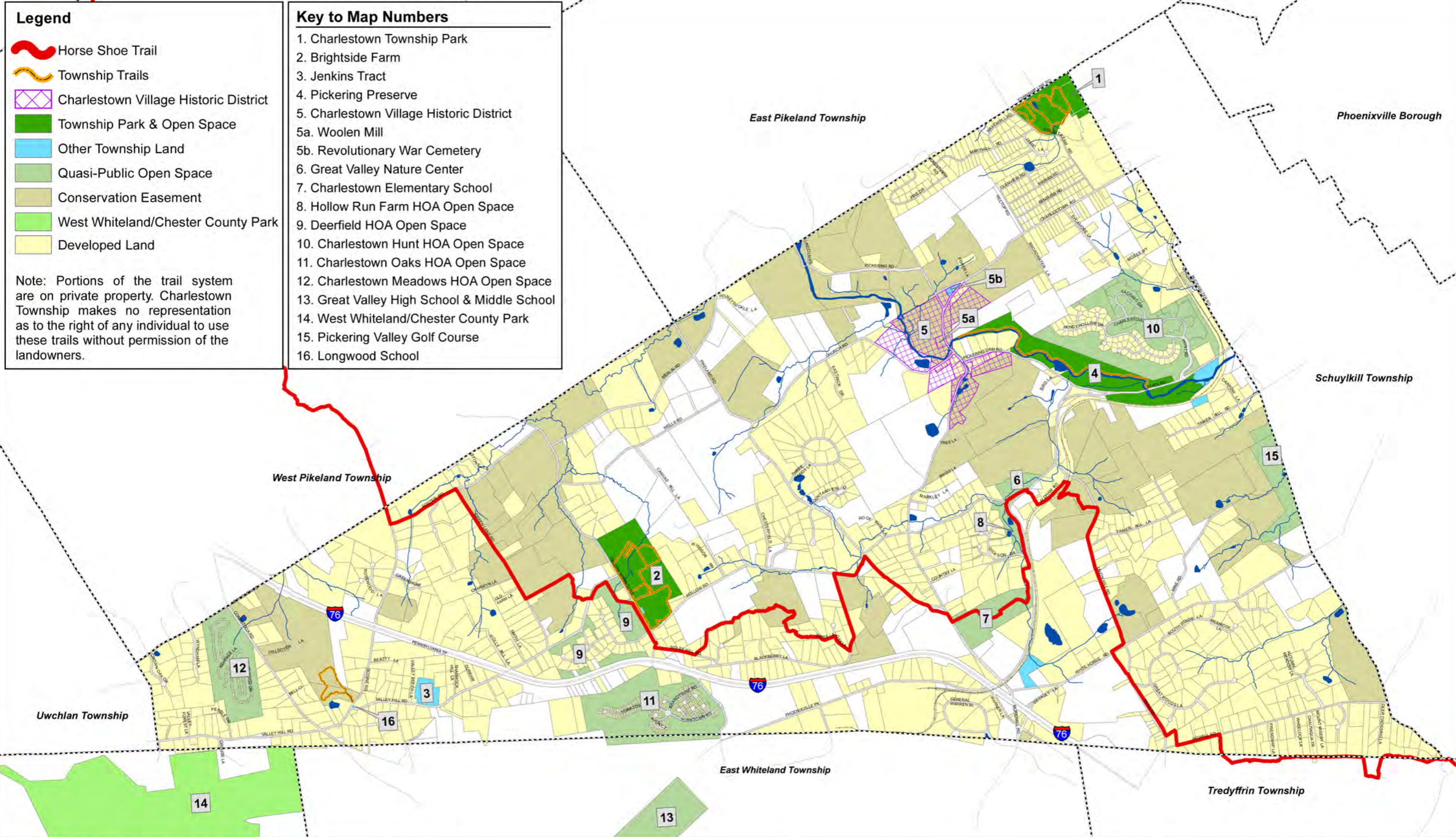
**Legend**

-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Township Trails
-  Charlestown Village Historic District
-  Township Park & Open Space
-  Other Township Land
-  Quasi-Public Open Space
-  Conservation Easement
-  West Whiteland/Chester County Park
-  Developed Land

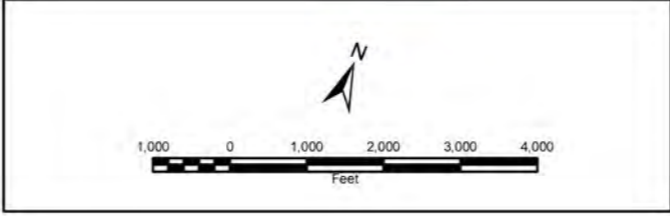
Note: Portions of the trail system are on private property. Charlestown Township makes no representation as to the right of any individual to use these trails without permission of the landowners.

**Key to Map Numbers**

1. Charlestown Township Park
2. Brightside Farm
3. Jenkins Tract
4. Pickering Preserve
5. Charlestown Village Historic District
- 5a. Woolen Mill
- 5b. Revolutionary War Cemetery
6. Great Valley Nature Center
7. Charlestown Elementary School
8. Hollow Run Farm HOA Open Space
9. Deerfield HOA Open Space
10. Charlestown Hunt HOA Open Space
11. Charlestown Oaks HOA Open Space
12. Charlestown Meadows HOA Open Space
13. Great Valley High School & Middle School
14. West Whiteland/Chester County Park
15. Pickering Valley Golf Course
16. Longwood School



**OPEN SPACE & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**  
 Charlestown Township  
 Chester County, Pennsylvania  
 Date: June 23, 2004; Revised July 29, 2011;  
 March 29, 2012; April 26, 2012



Data Sources:  
 Horse Shoe Trail: Horse Shoe Trail Conservancy, 2011  
 Township Trails: GPS Data Collection, 2011  
 Open Space & Easements: Township Records, 2011  
 Base Features: Chester County GIS, 3/2010

Prepared by:  
 Nanci Sarcinello, AICP  
 for  
 Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.  
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# TRAILS

Charlestown Township  
Chester County, PA

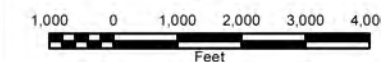
## Legend

-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Brightside Farm Trail
-  Charlestown Township Park Trail
-  McDevitt Trail
-  Pickering Trail
-  Trail Parking Area
-  Key Destinations

1. Charlestown Township Park
2. Brightside Farm
3. Jenkins Tract
4. Pickering Preserve
5. Charlestown Village Historic District
- 5a. Woolen Mill
- 5b. Revolutionary War Cemetery
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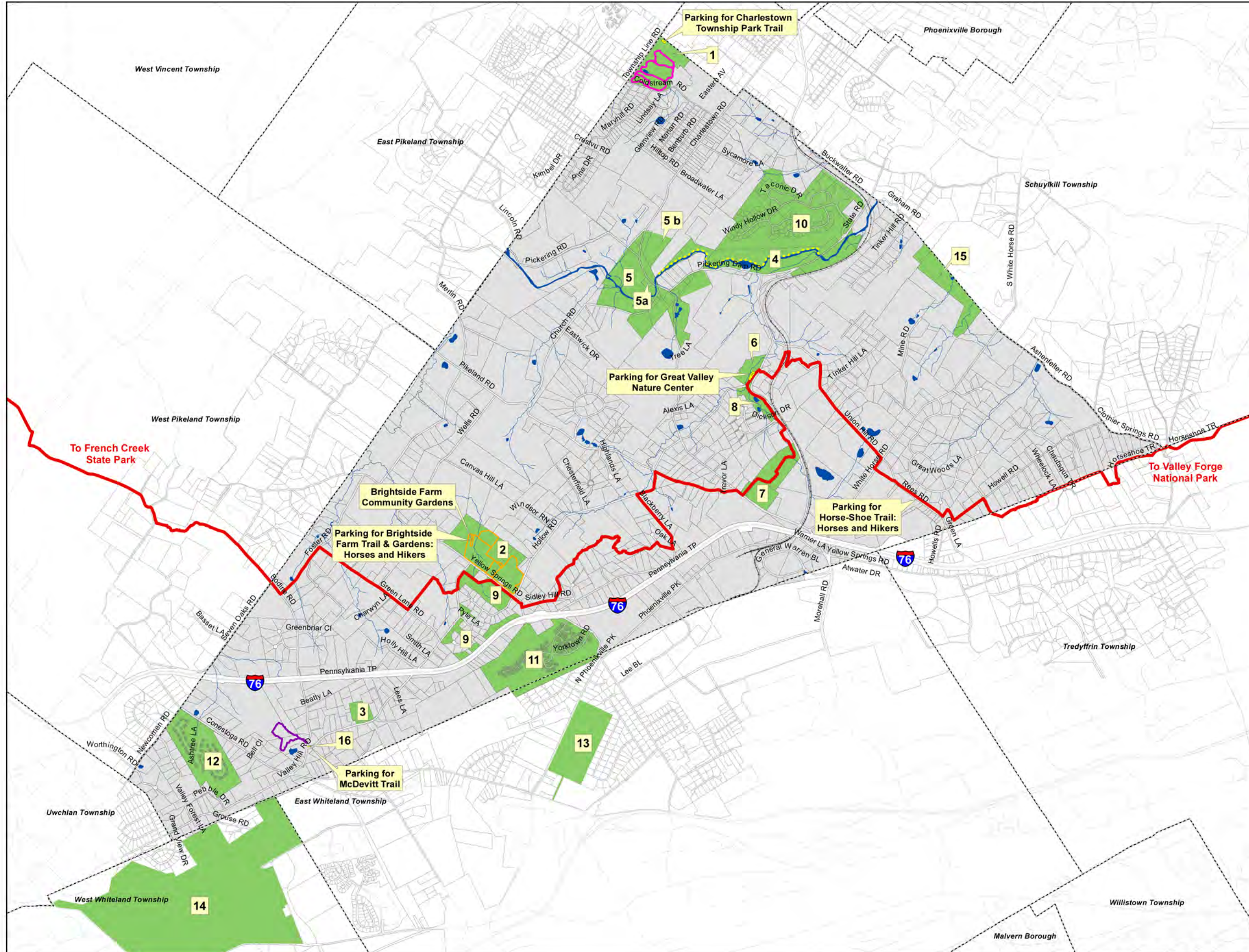
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Data Sources:  
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Other Trails: GPS Data Collection, 2011  
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West Chester, PA 19380

July 29, 2011; Revised: March 29, 2012;  
April 26, 2012





# TRAILS & BICYCLE ROUTES

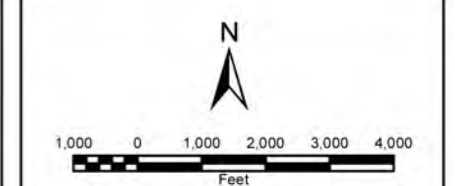
Charlestown Township  
Chester County, PA

**Legend**

- Horse Shoe Trail
- Brightside Farm Trail
- Charlestown Township Park Trail
- McDevitt Trail
- Pickering Trail
- Bicycle Routes
- Trail Parking Area
- Key Destinations

1. Charlestown Township Park
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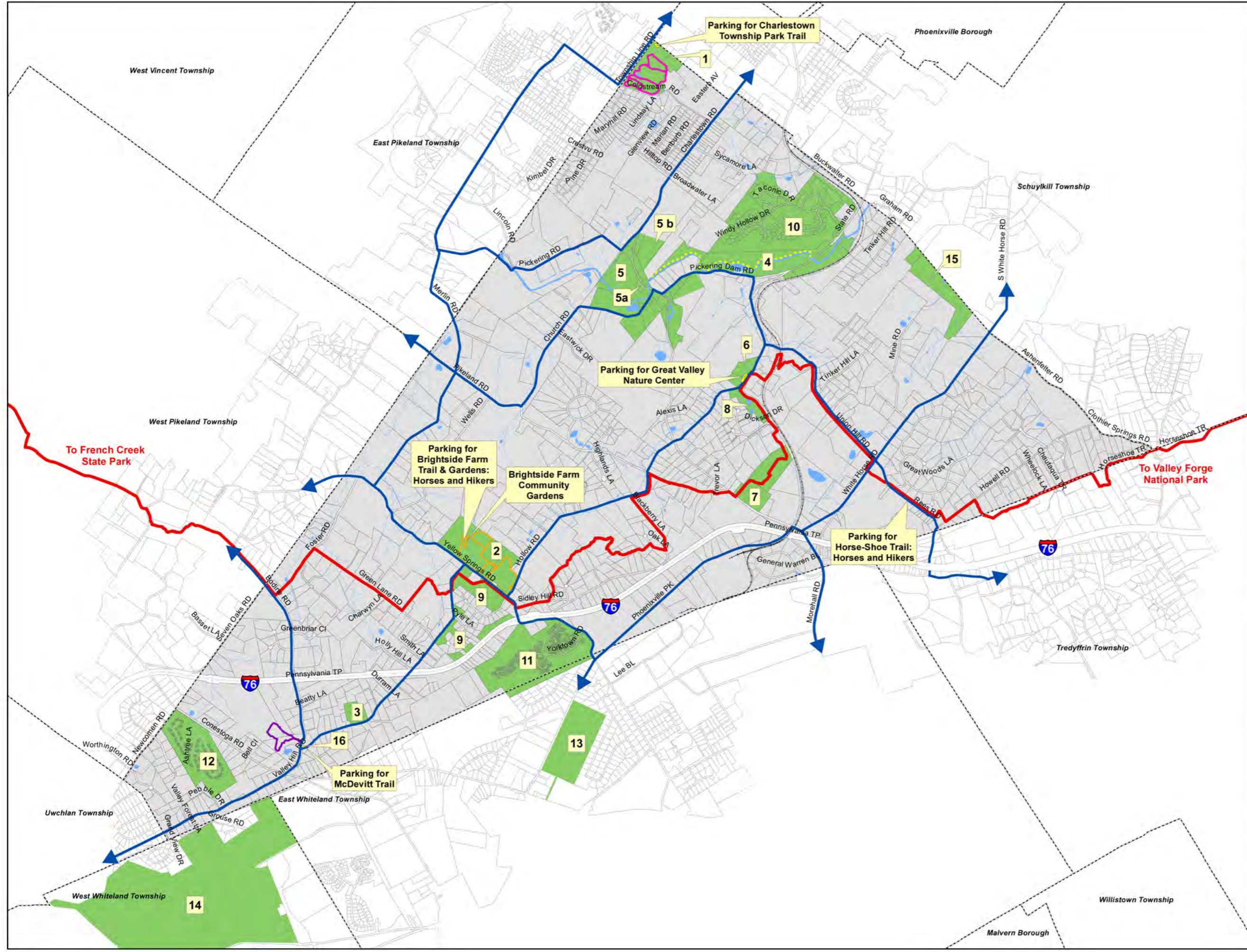
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 18 West Chestnut Street  
 West Chester, PA 19380

July 29, 2011; Revised: March 29, 2012;  
 April 26, 2012; October 12, 2012





**Legend**

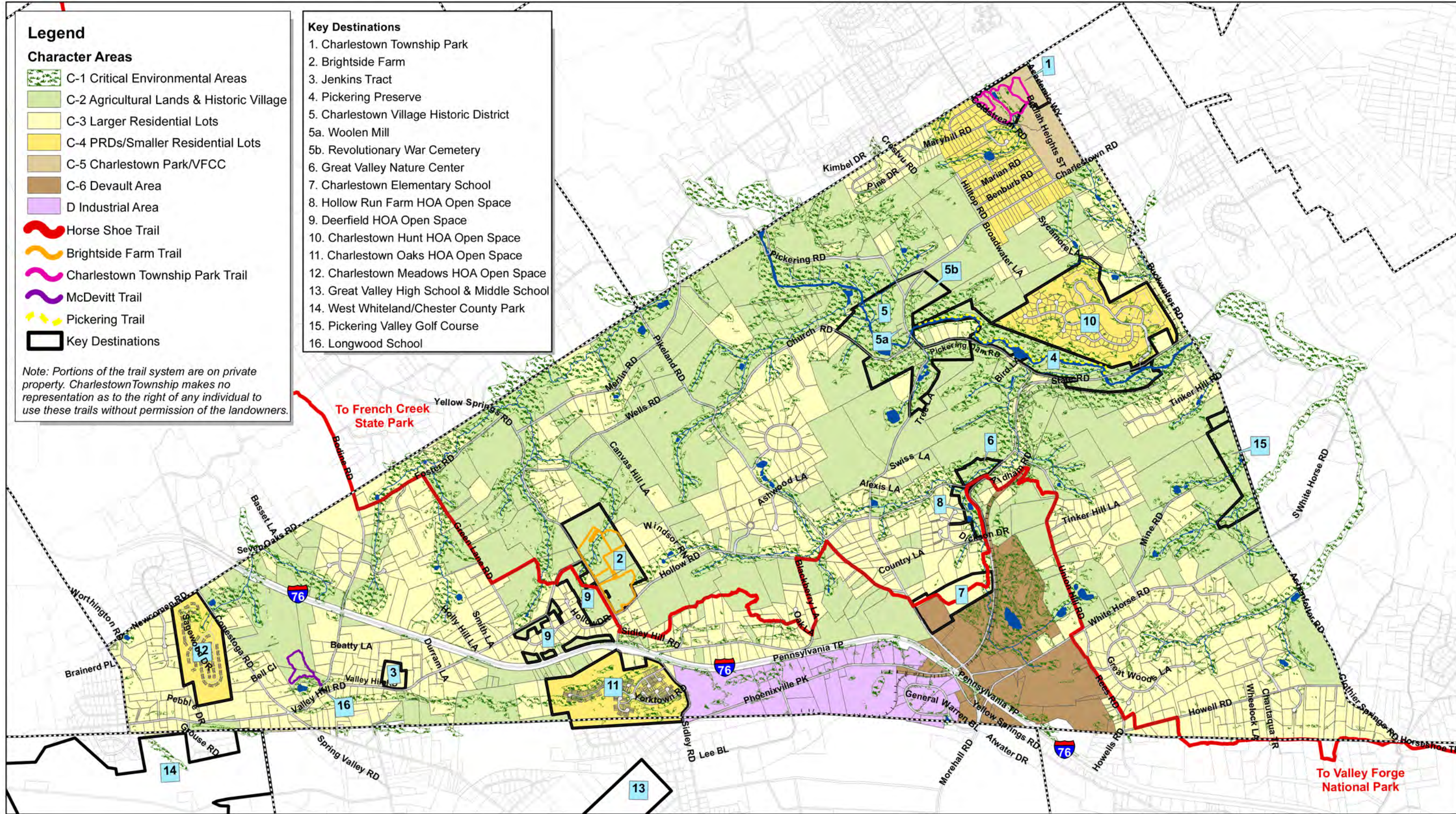
**Character Areas**

-  C-1 Critical Environmental Areas
-  C-2 Agricultural Lands & Historic Village
-  C-3 Larger Residential Lots
-  C-4 PRDs/Smaller Residential Lots
-  C-5 Charlestown Park/VFCC
-  C-6 Devault Area
-  D Industrial Area
-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Brightside Farm Trail
-  Charlestown Township Park Trail
-  McDevitt Trail
-  Pickering Trail
-  Key Destinations

**Key Destinations**

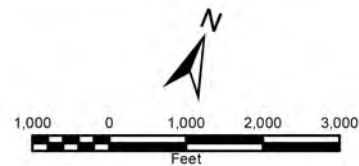
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**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan:  
Character Areas**

Charlestown Township  
Chester County, PA



Data Sources:  
 Character Areas: Consultant's Analysis  
 Horse Shoe Trail: Horse Shoe Trail Conservancy, 2011  
 Other Trails: GPS Data Collection, 2011  
 Base Features: Chester County GIS, 3/2010

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 West Chester, PA 19380  
 February 29, 2012; Revised: March 29, 2012;  
 April 26, 2012




















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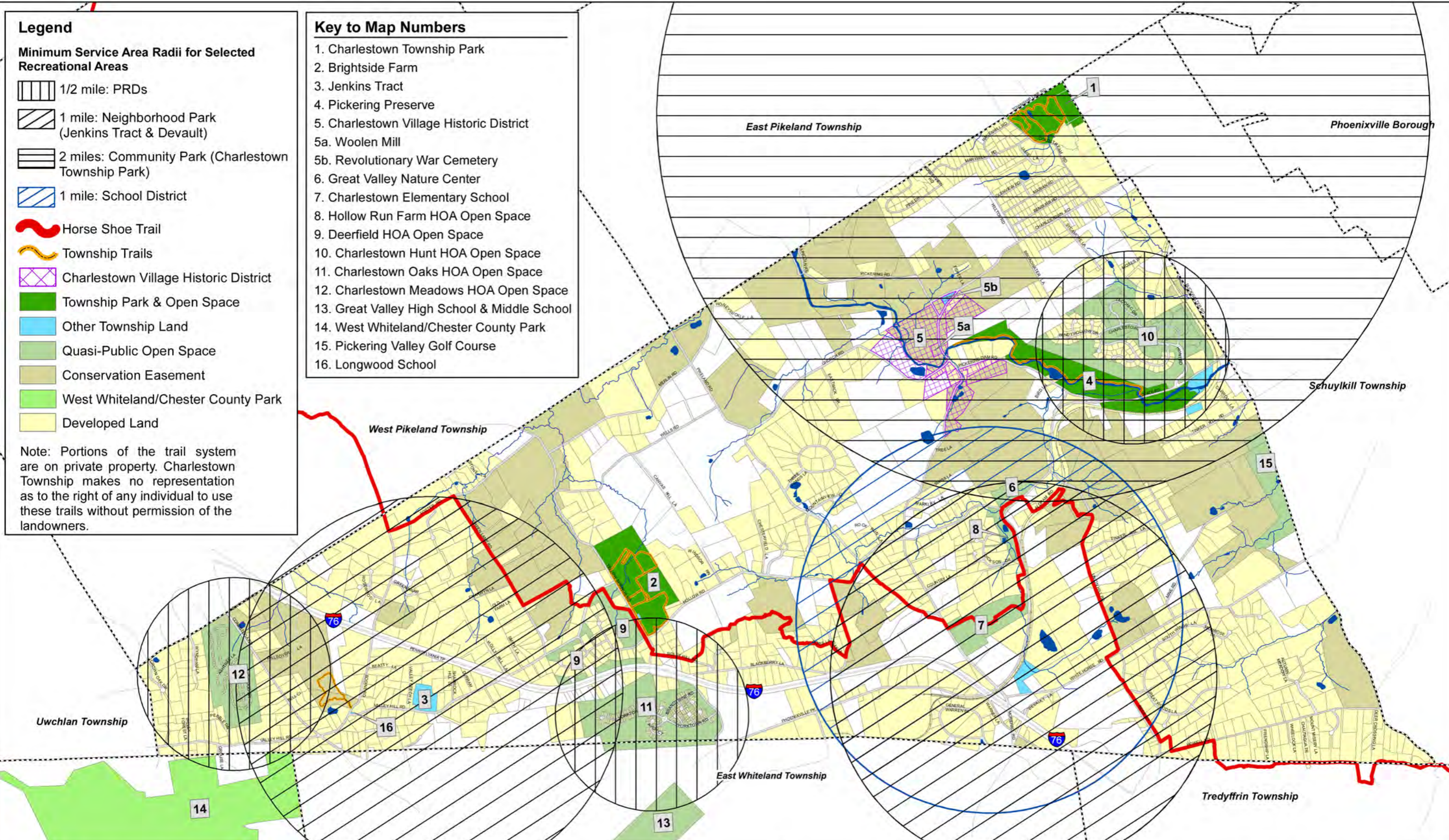
**Minimum Service Area Radii for Selected Recreational Areas**

-  1/2 mile: PRDs
-  1 mile: Neighborhood Park (Jenkins Tract & Devault)
-  2 miles: Community Park (Charlestown Township Park)
-  1 mile: School District
-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Township Trails
-  Charlestown Village Historic District
-  Township Park & Open Space
-  Other Township Land
-  Quasi-Public Open Space
-  Conservation Easement
-  West Whiteland/Chester County Park
-  Developed Land

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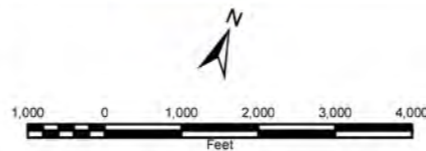
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**Minimum Service Area Radii for Selected Recreational Areas**

Charlestown Township  
Chester County, Pennsylvania

Date: March 29, 2012; Revised: April 26, 2012



Data Sources:  
Horse Shoe Trail: Horse Shoe Trail Conservancy, 2011  
Township Trails: GPS Data Collection, 2011  
Open Space & Easements: Township Records, 2011  
Base Features: Chester County GIS, 3/2010



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West Chester, PA 19380



**Legend**

**Potential Service Area Radii for Selected Recreational Areas**

-  1 mile: Neighborhood Park (Jenkins Tract)
-  2 miles: Community Park (Devault)
-  3 miles: Sub-Region Park (Charlestown Township Park)

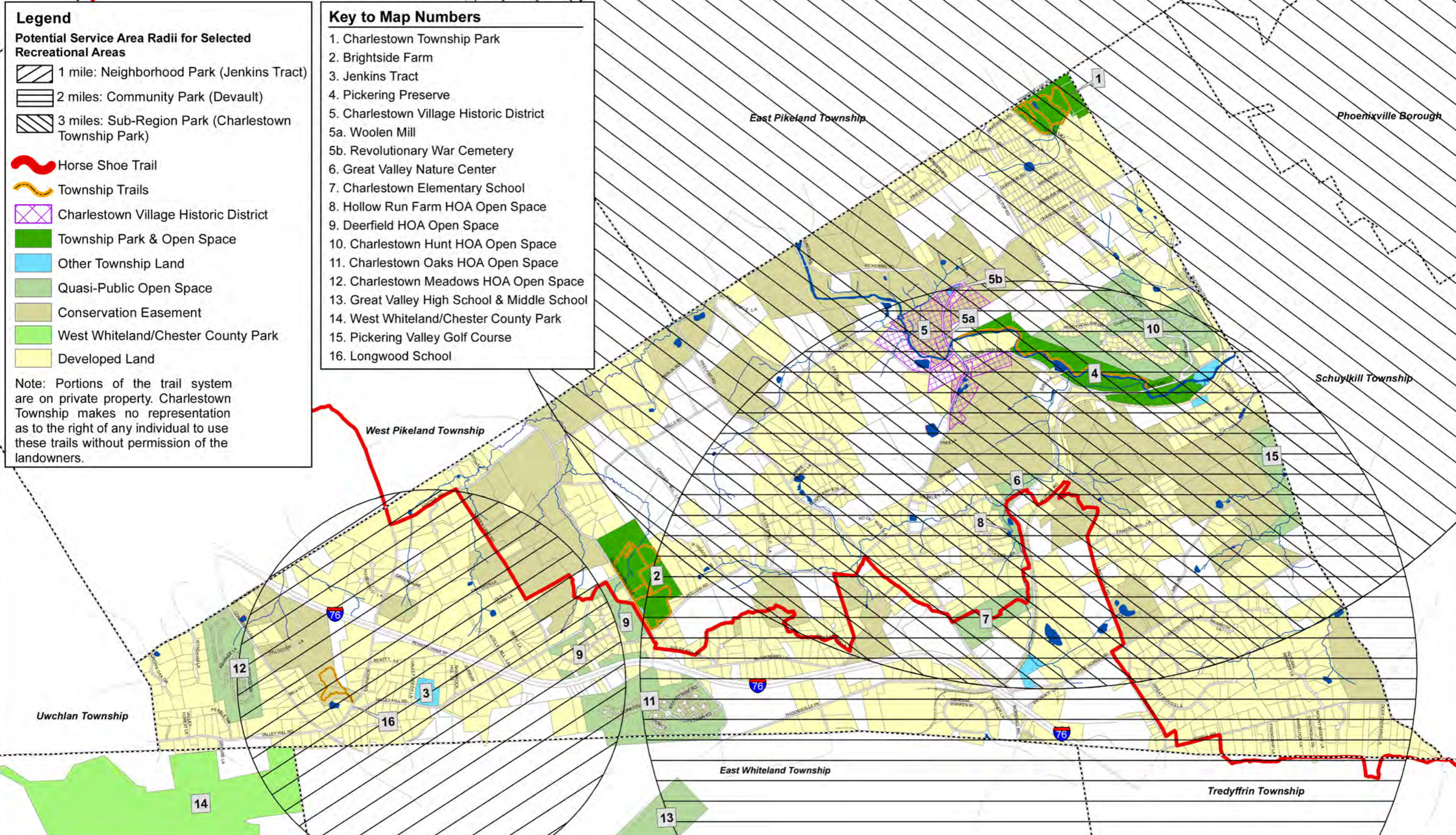
-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Township Trails

-  Charlestown Village Historic District
-  Township Park & Open Space
-  Other Township Land
-  Quasi-Public Open Space
-  Conservation Easement
-  West Whiteland/Chester County Park
-  Developed Land

Note: Portions of the trail system are on private property. Charlestown Township makes no representation as to the right of any individual to use these trails without permission of the landowners.

**Key to Map Numbers**

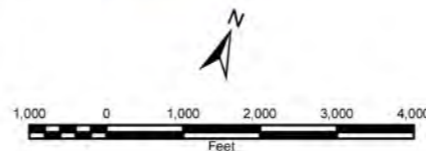
1. Charlestown Township Park
2. Brightside Farm
3. Jenkins Tract
4. Pickering Preserve
5. Charlestown Village Historic District
- 5a. Woolen Mill
- 5b. Revolutionary War Cemetery
6. Great Valley Nature Center
7. Charlestown Elementary School
8. Hollow Run Farm HOA Open Space
9. Deerfield HOA Open Space
10. Charlestown Hunt HOA Open Space
11. Charlestown Oaks HOA Open Space
12. Charlestown Meadows HOA Open Space
13. Great Valley High School & Middle School
14. West Whiteland/Chester County Park
15. Pickering Valley Golf Course
16. Longwood School



**Potential Service Area Radii for Selected Recreational Areas**

Charlestown Township  
Chester County, Pennsylvania

Date: March 29, 2012; Revised: April 26, 2012



Data Sources:  
Horse Shoe Trail: Horse Shoe Trail Conservancy, 2011  
Township Trails: GPS Data Collection, 2011  
Open Space & Easements: Township Records, 2011  
Base Features: Chester County GIS, 3/2010

Prepared by:  
Nanci Sarcinello, AICP  
for  
Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.  
Town Planners & Landscape Architects  
18 West Chestnut Street  
West Chester, PA 19380



LORD'S TREE SERVICE  
NOTE:  
CONTROL INTERSECTION  
FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

TOWNSHIP LINE ROAD

Charlestown Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan  
**Master Plan: 2012-2022**  
**Charlestown Township Park**  
April 30, June 4, July 4, Sept. 20, 2012. Revised: October 1, 2012

0' 60' 120' 240'

N

**Graphic Key:**

- Completed Improvements
- 2012 to 2022 Proposed Improvements
- After 2022
- Near-Term Improvement Area
- New Shade Tree

**Number Key:**

1. 2 New Picnic Pavilions w/ BBQ
2. New Pavilion with Restrooms
3. New Playground Apparatus
4. Resurface & Restripe Basketball Courts; Add new Courtside Benches & Backstops
5. Volleyball and Bocce or Pétanque
6. Modernized Clubhouse
7. Improved Park & Rec Headquarters
8. Resurfaced/Restriped Parking
9. New Parking Area
10. 20 new Parallel On-Street Parking Spaces
- 11.A Reconstructed Field #8
- 11.B Reconstructed Field #9
12. Removed Dead/Damaged Trees and New Shade Trees
13. New Park Signage
14. New Amphitheater
15. New Activity Center

**Legend**

- Wildflower Meadow
- Grass Meadow
- Wetland Enhancement Area
- Bleachers
- Existing Trees



Note:  
Numbered items 1, 2, 3, 4, 11.A and 11.B are indicated as per the Grading and Utilities Plan for the PMYC Field Expansion dated 1-24-07, prepared by DL Howell & Associates, Inc. These items are shown for planning purposes only. DL Howell was not involved in the preparation of the Master Plan: 2012-2022.

**Charlestown Township Park**  
**Master Plan: 2012 to 2022**  
Charlestown Township - Chester County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by:  
Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.  
Town Planners & Landscape Architects  
10 West Chestnut Street  
West Chester, PA 19380-2590

Date: July 20, 2009  
Revised: September 10, 2009  
November 1, 2009  
April 30, June 4, July 10, Sept. 20, 2012  
Revised: October 1, 2012

Approximate Scale: 1" = 80' - 0"





3. Cedar Forest Products Pavilion, Low Timber Pitch



3. Cedar Forest Products Pavilion, Low Timber Pitch



2. Landscape Structures PlaySense 33, for ages 2-5



2. Landscape Structures PlaySense 403, for ages 5-12



4. Cedar Forest Products Pavilion + Restrooms, Low Timber Pitch



2. Landscape Structures Arch Swing



1, 2, 3, 4, 6. Victor Stanley Classic Series C-5 Bench



6. Bocce or Pétanque (final design to be determined)



3, 4. Victor Stanley S-424 Litter Receptacle

**LEGEND**

1. Basketball Court:  
Resurface and Restripe  
4 New Courtside Benches
2. Playground:  
Age 2-5 Unified Apparatus  
Age 5-12 Unified Apparatus  
8 Swings (4 + 4)  
5 Benches
3. 2 30' x 44' Pavilions  
each with Electricity, Lights & BBQ  
8 3' x 10' Tables (4 + 4)  
with Bench Seating  
2 Litter Receptacles
4. 1 30' x 54' Pavilion with Restrooms  
Electricity, Lights & BBQ  
4 3' x 10' Tables with Bench Seating  
1 Litter Receptacle
5. Sand Volleyball Court
6. 2 Gravel Bocce or Pétanque Terrains with (3) Benches
7. New Aluminum Fence
8. 20 Parallel Parking Spaces
9. 4'6" wide Concrete Sidewalk
10. Reconstructed Field #8
11. Reconstructed Field #9
12. Landscaped Island

- 5 Proposed 2½" - 3" caliper Shade Trees
- Existing Tree to Remain
- Existing Tree to be Removed

Notes:  
 1. Refer to the Grading and Utilities Plan for the PMYC Field Expansion dated 1-24-07, prepared by DL Howell & Associates, Inc., for the grading of the Reconstructed Fields #8 and #9 (items labeled 10 and 11). These Fields are shown for planning purposes only. DL Howell was not involved in the preparation of the Charlestown Park Master Plan Phase II.  
 2. All surfaces shall have positive drainage.

**Charlestown Park Master Plan Phase II**

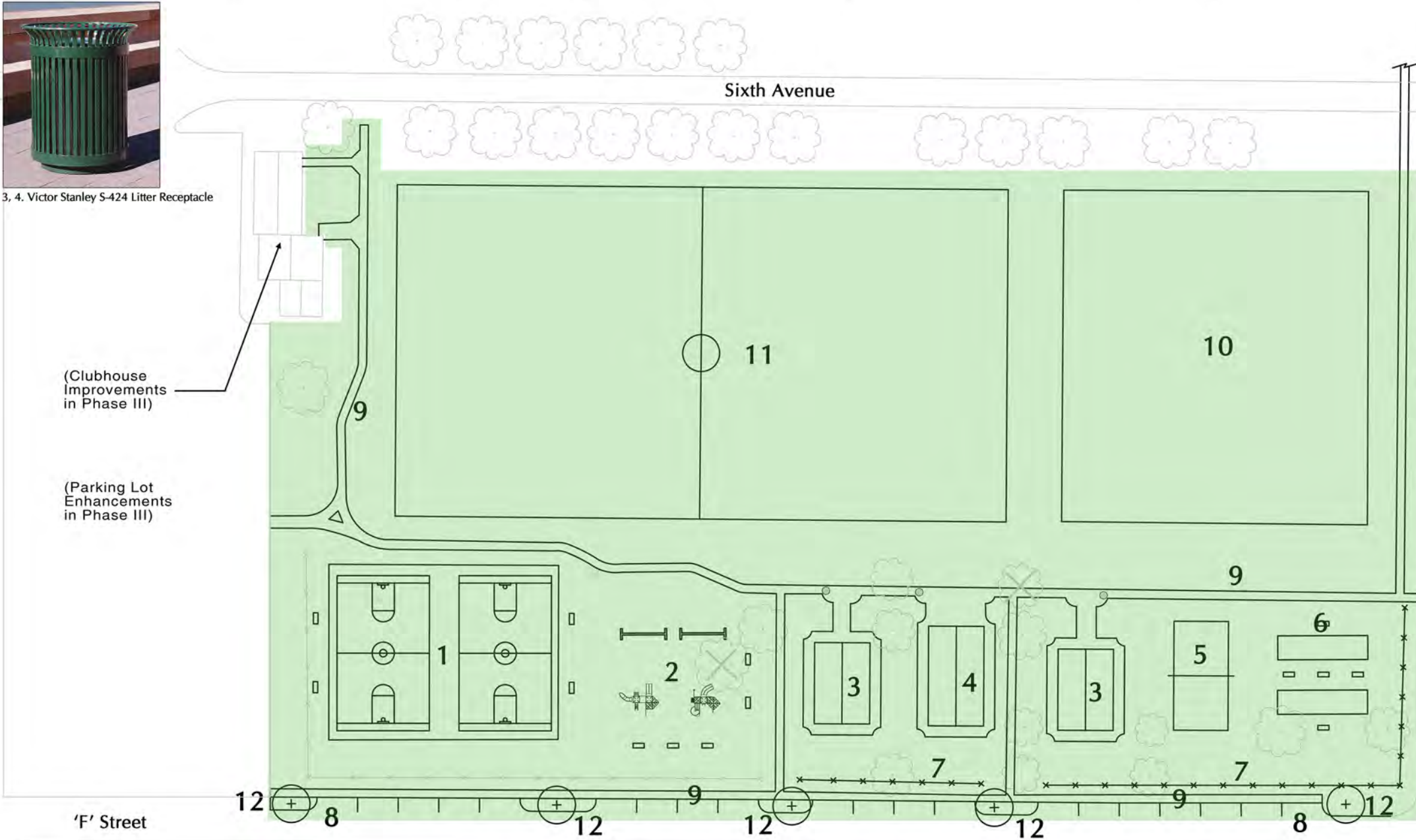
Charlestown Township - Chester County, Pennsylvania

Prepared By:  
 Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.  
 Town Planners & Landscape Architects  
 18 West Chestnut Street  
 West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

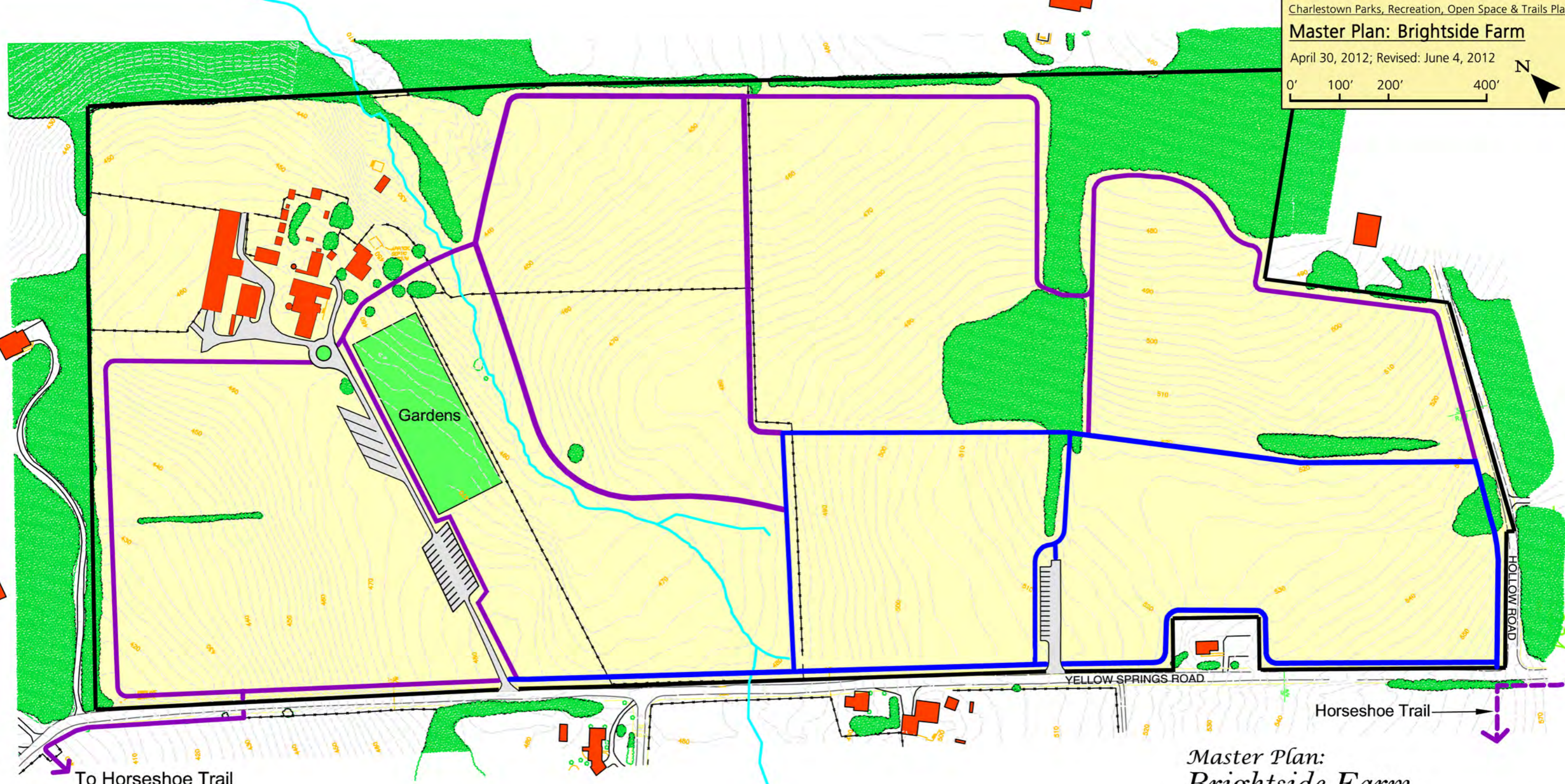
Date: October 1, 2012  
 Revisions: November 5, 2012



Scale: 1" = 30' - 0" (when printed at 24" x 36")







To Horseshoe Trail

**Legend**

- Trails**
-  8-foot Wide Paved Trail (4,182 LF) (2012/2013)
  -  Grass/Unimproved Trail (9,216 LF) (2012/2013)
  -  New Angled Parking Spaces (2012/2013)
  -  New 28' x 55' Parking Stalls For Horse Trailers (2012/2013)

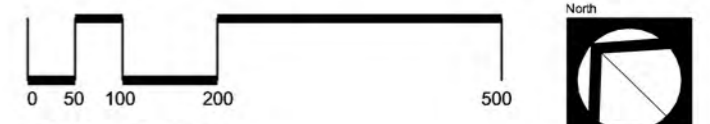
(Note: Brightside Farm could emerge in a manner inspired by Springton Manor Farm in Wallace Twp., PA. In so doing, amenities such as Rural Heritage Displays, Demonstration Farm, Greenhouse, Butterfly Garden, and Nature Trail, and events such as Hay Rides and a Harvest Festival could be cultivated.)

*Master Plan:  
 Brightside Farm*

Charlestown Township - Chester County, Pennsylvania

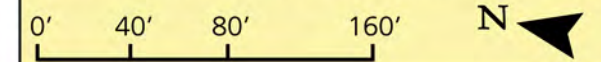
Prepared By:  
 Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.  
 Town Planners & Landscape Architects  
 18 West Chestnut Street  
 West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

Date: April 21, 2006  
 Revised: April 30, 2012  
 and June 4, 2012



Scale: 1" = 200'

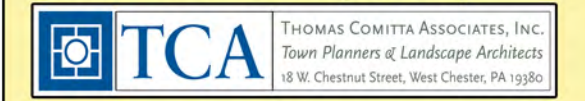




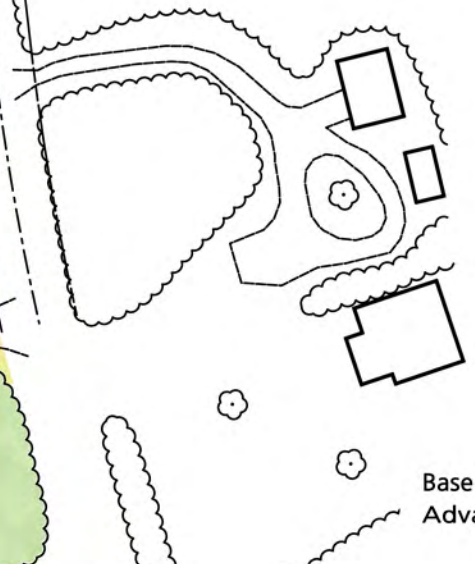
**Legend:**

- 1. Sign Area
- 2. Parking for 10 Vehicles
- 3. Picnic Grove
- 4. Pavilion
- 5. Play Apparatus
- 6. Loop Trail (Unimproved Path)
- 7. Nature Study Area
- 8. Crosswalk
- + Proposed Picnic Grove Tree

Master Park Plan Prepared By:

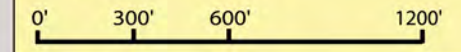


VALLEY HILL ROAD



Base Plan Provided By:  
 Advanced GeoServices





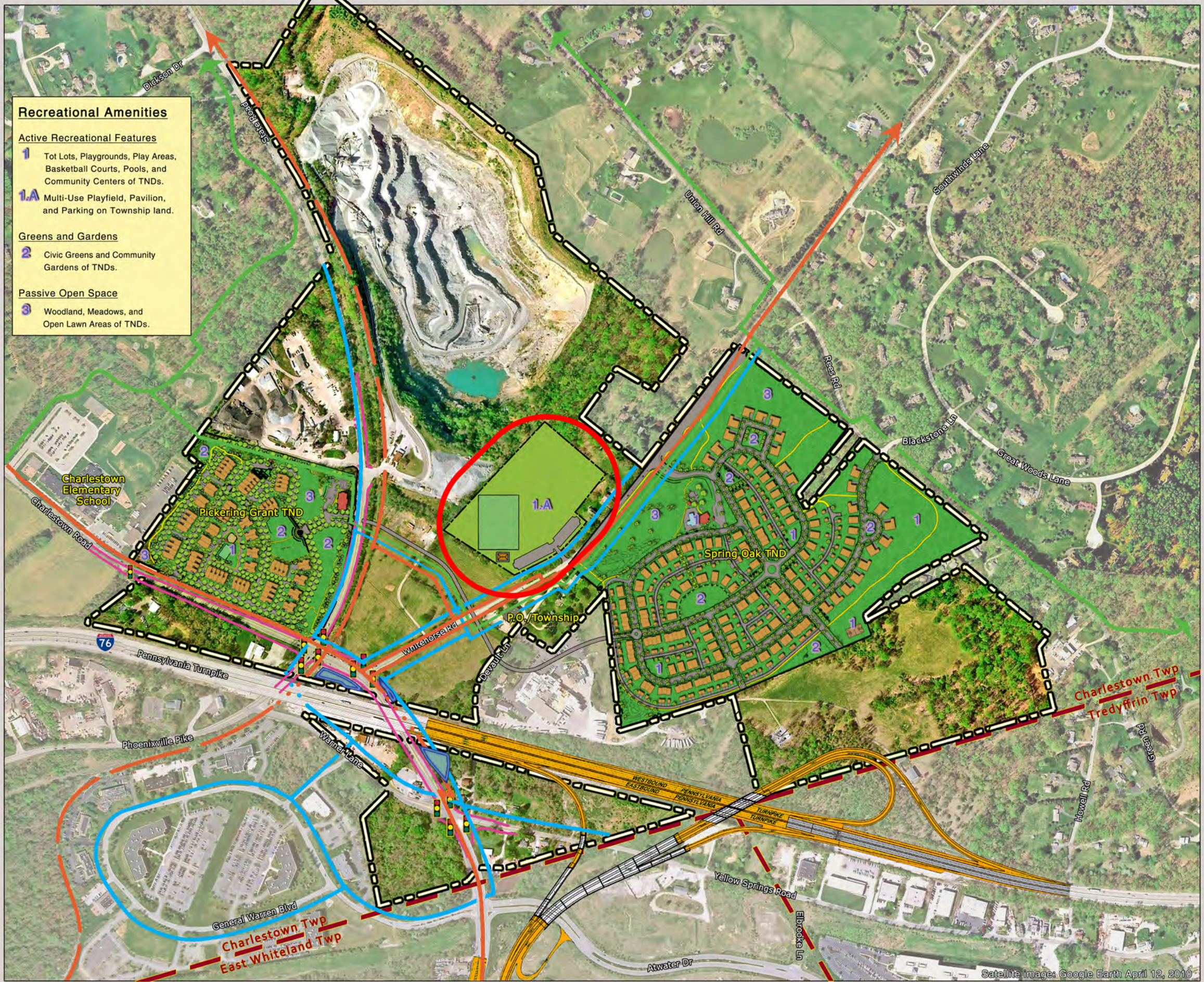
- Recreational Amenities**
- Active Recreational Features**
- 1** Tot Lots, Playgrounds, Play Areas, Basketball Courts, Pools, and Community Centers of TNDs.
  - 1.A** Multi-Use Playfield, Pavilion, and Parking on Township land.
- Greens and Gardens**
- 2** Civic Greens and Community Gardens of TNDs.
- Passive Open Space**
- 3** Woodland, Meadows, and Open Lawn Areas of TNDs.

**Legend**

-  Slip Ramp Interchange
-  Route 29 Improvements
-  TND Districts Boundary
-  Route 29 Traffic Signals
-  Stormwater Basin
-  Internal Path / Trail of TNDs
-  Bike/Pedestrian Path 5' to 8'
-  Future Rail Trail
-  Sidewalk 5'
-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Note: The Path, Trail and Sidewalk locations are derived from Exhibit 'E' of the TND Ordinance adopted 6-21-10.
-  Conceptual Plan for Playfields

**Data Sources:**

- Turnpike Slip Ramp Interchange: STV Incorporated
- Route 29 Improvements & Traffic Signals: Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.
- Stormwater Management Basins: Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.
- Paths/Sidewalks/Trails: Proposed Bike & Pedestrian Paths Plan: Exhibit 'E', adopted June 21, 2010 Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.
- Spring Oak TND: Dewey Land; Sextant Building and Development Solutions
- Pickering Grant TND: J. Loew & Associates, Inc
- Playfield Location: Devault Village Plan dated 7-9-01 by JLM Design Group
- Base Satellite Image: Google Earth - April 12, 2010



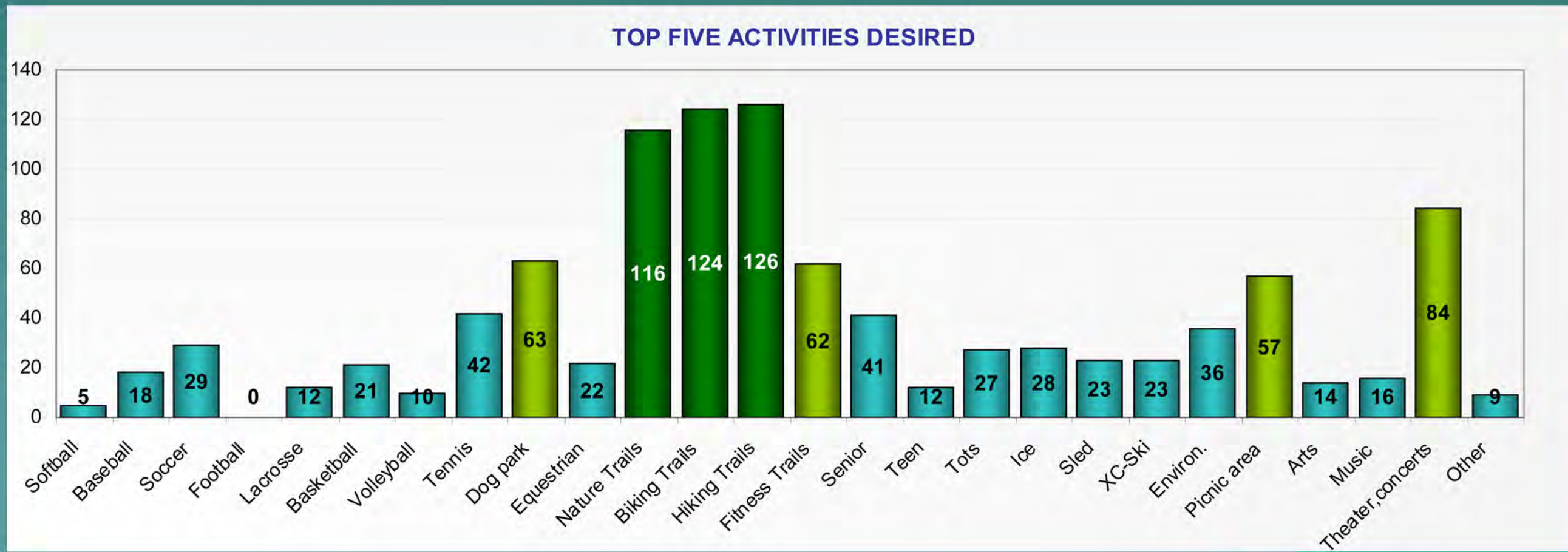
Satellite Image: Google Earth April 12, 2010





# Section E: Top Five Requested Activities

- Residents were asked to pick five activities that would increase their family's satisfaction with recreation in the township if these facilities were added or expanded.
  - There are some obvious winners but some surprising "second-tier" favorites



**Park, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan  
Charlestown Township, Chester County, PA**

**VISIONING SESSION – PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2:** March 29, 2012

Place an (X) to indicate where you believe certain Park and Recreational Facilities should be located.

**TABULATIONS:** April 9, 2012

Existing Park & Recreational Facilities													
P&R Facilities	A. Charlestown Park	B. Brightside Farm	C. Charlestown E.S.	D. Ice Dam	E. Jenkins Tract	F. 6.2 Ac. Devault	G. Baughman Mill	H. Rev War Cemetery	I. Longwood School	J. Grange	K. Rapp House	L. Nature Center	M. Markley
1. Amphitheatre	6	7	3		2	3				1		1	
2. Arts Venue	1	2	2		1	2	9			6	5	5	
3. Baseball/Softball Field	6	1	2			3						1	
4. Basketball Courts	8	1	3			2							
5. Biking Trails	5	9	1	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
6. Community Gardens		10				1			1			2	2
7. Cross-Country Ski Trails	2	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8. Dog Park	8	7			3	5							
9. Equestrian Trails	3	6	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10. Fitness Trails	8	6	3	2	5	1						1	
11. Hiking Trails	3	8	2	6	4	1							
12. Ice Skating Park				2		2				1		2	1
13. Lacrosse Field	7	1	1			2							
14. Music Venue	5	11	2		1	3				5	1	2	
15. Nature Trails	1	6	1	9	3		1	1				4	1
16. Passive Open Space	1	7		2	6	1		3	1				
17. Picnic Pavilion	10	9		2	7	4	4					2	
18. Picnic Tables	12	6		4	6	3	2		1			1	
19. Playground	10	4	3		5	5	2			1			
20. Restrooms	15	12	3		3	3	3	1		6	3	1	
21. Senior Center	5	6	1			1	1			4	2	2	
22. Sledding Hill	4		1									1	
23. Soccer	11	2	2			2							
24. Teen Center	3	4	1			3				2			
25. Tennis Courts	6	3	3			4				2			
26. Theatre Venue	6	8	4		1	4				5		2	
27. Tot Lot	4	2	3		3		2			1			
28. Volleyball	7	4	2			2							

**Park, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan  
Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**VISIONING SESSION – PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2:** March 29, 2012

**Responses to Question 3**

Hypothetically, how would you spend/dispense \$100.00 of park, recreation, open space, and/or trail resources? (The list below reflects the order of dollar values, from highest to lowest from the 2-29-12 respondents.)

**TABULATIONS:** April 9, 2012

Item	Indicate Priorities			Indicate Your #1 Choice
	A	B	C	
Improve/Rehabilitate Existing Parks & Recreation Areas	13	7	1	(6)
Acquire Land for Open Space	7	5	6	
Develop New Trails	10	6	2	(2)
Protect Historic Resources	10	8	1	
Improve/Rehabilitate Existing Trails & Signs	12	4	2	
Develop New Parks & Recreation Areas	7	6	6	
Acquire Easements to Preserve Open Space	11	5	3	(6)
Picnic Tables	5	10	3	
Gateway Signage	3	6	9	
Parking	4	10	5	
Barn Rehabilitation	6	2	10	
Historic Markers	2	11	5	
Benches	3	9	6	
Lighting	1	7	10	
Landscaping	1	5	12	
Tennis Court	4	2	12	(1)
Children's Playground Equipment	8	6	4	
Dog Park	5	6	7	
Open Area & Seating for Theater, Concerts	6	8	5	(4)

**A = Highest Priority; B = Moderate Priority; C = Low Priority**





**Board of Supervisors**

*Frank A. Piliero, Chair - Michael J. Rodgers, Vice Chair  
Kevin R. Kuhn - Charles A. Philips - Hugh D. Willig*

The Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee is creating a plan for the future use of Brightside Farm that responds to the needs and wants of our taxpayers. Your response to this brief questionnaire is tremendously important!

If you wish, you may fax your completed questionnaire to the Township office at (610) 240-0328, use the "Submit by Email" button below, or mail it to Charlestown Township, P.O. Box 507, Devault, PA 19432.

**Optional:**

Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. How many miles do you live from Brightside Farm which is on the corner of Hollow and Yellow Springs Roads:**

- Less than 1 mile     1 to 5 miles     6 to 10 miles     Don't know where it is

**B. Do you presently use the walking trail at the Charlestown Park?**     Yes     No

**C. Do you:**     Walk Regularly?     Ride Horses?     Bike?     Trail Bike?

**D. Please check no more than five items you would like to see at Brightside – in addition to farming and the community gardens.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Education Programs for Children & Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of Paved and Mown Trails    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education Area                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Birding Observation Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mown Trails                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental facility for social events       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paved Trails                                  |  |

What are your ideas?? Please list!

I Have No Opinion

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your response! We need to hear from you.

[Submit by Email](#)

[Print Form](#)

**Comprehensive Park, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan  
Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**BRIGHTSIDE FARM: TABULATION OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE**

October 16, 2012 (Responses thru 10-12-12)

Item	Responses	% of Total Responses (rounded)
1. Farm Education Programs for Children & Adults	18	46%
2. Environmental Education Area	16	41%
3. Picnic Area	15	38%
4. Mown Trails	13	33%
5. Paved Trails	3	1%
6. Combination of Paved and Mown Trails	18	46%
7. Wildlife/Birding Observation Facilities	21	54%
8. Cross-country skiing	7	18%
9. Rental facility for social events	10	26%

Notes:

- A. A total of 39 persons submitted responses to the Questionnaire, through 10-12-12.
- B. See next page for Questionnaire.
- C. Write-in requests were for:
- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| C.1. Barn Renovation      | C.7. Master Gardener Classes |
| C.2. Bicycling Trails     | C.8. Multi-purpose Building  |
| C.3. Dog Park             | C.9. Parking (more)          |
| C.4. Educational Programs | C.10. Picnic Area            |
| C.5. Farm Market          | C.11. Play Area for Children |
| C.6. Frisbee Golf         | C.12. Tennis Courts          |
- D. The Multi-Purpose Building was suggested to be in the renovated Barn.



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix A – Adoption**

The Adoption of this Plan took place on February 4, 2013, after a complete Act 247 review process.

The Resolution for plan adoption appears on the following page.

**CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION 2013- \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, Charlestown Township is authorized by Article III, Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968, As Amended) to “adopt and amend the Comprehensive Plan as a whole or in part”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with the Charlestown Township Park and Recreation Board, the Charlestown Township Trails Committee, the Charlestown Township Planning Commission, and the Consultant, Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc., have prepared the Charlestown Township Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan dated November 15, 2012 as an Addendum to the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968, As Amended); and

**WHEREAS**, the Chester County Planning Commission, the Charlestown Township Planning Commission, the Great Valley School District, the adjoining municipalities, and the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee have reviewed the Plan and have made recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors that this Resolution serve to adopt the Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan as the approved “Recreation Plan”, in accordance with Section 503.(11)(iv) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors that this Resolution adopting the Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan as an Addendum to the Charlestown Township Comprehensive Plan accomplish the foregoing purposes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors formally adopts the attached Comprehensive Plan, dated November 15, 2012.

Resolved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LINDA M. CSETE, TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix B – Benefits of Recreation**

Recreation benefits:

- + the public sector and the private sector;
- + persons of all ages;
- + persons of all abilities;
- + inhabitants of residences; and
- + inhabitants of businesses, schools and institutions.

An overarching narrative on the Benefits of Recreation follows on pages B-2 through B-6.

## **Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan** **Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

### **Benefits of Recreation**

In Charlestown Township, the home for “Recreation” is found at, in, and around: Parks; Greenways; Trails; Schools; Playgrounds; and other open spaces.

What is the value of Recreation? What are the benefits of Recreation? Who benefits from Recreation? Before we answer these questions, it would first be appropriate to ask: “What is Recreation”? The term recreation stems from “recreate” – to impart fresh life to; to refresh physically or mentally; to create anew. Recreation, per se, is the refreshment of one’s mind or body, after activity, that amuses or stimulates. In a word, it means “Play”.

Recreation is an activity that refreshes and enriches the body, the mind, and the spirit. Recreation promotes health, strength, and physical and mental welfare. In community planning, opportunities to live, work, and play are often studied, analyzed and planned.

In his book “Great Good Place”, author Ray Oldenberg explores the “third place” as the Great Good Place. The first place is where we live. The second place is where we work. The third place is where we play. Oldenberg contends that we go to the park and the pub, the game and the golf course, the sporting event and the swimming pool, in order to experience the “third place”, or Great Good Place. The Park & Recreation system of Charlestown Township, therefore, can be considered the Great Good Place!

In Charlestown Township, we offer opportunities for recreation for young and old, fit and affirm, male or female, resident or businessperson. Places like Charlestown Park, Brightside Farm, the Charlestown Elementary School, the Great Valley Nature Center, and the trail network host these opportunities.

The National Recreation & Parks Association produced a “white paper” in 2010 pertaining to the benefits of Recreation. Six (6) main areas were addressed:

1. physical health;
2. mental health;
3. social functioning;
4. youth development;
5. environment; and
6. economic impact.

A summary of the latest research on these six subjects is provided below.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

1. **Physical Health**

More than one-third of adults in this country are clinically obese and the statistics for children are just as grim—one third of American children are overweight and one in six is obese. Obese children are two to three times more likely to be hospitalized. It is an epidemic with complex aspects. Yet, it is clear that increased physical activity is an important part of the solution. Recognizing the importance of physical activity, First Lady Michelle Obama launched “Let’s Move Outside,” a campaign to combat childhood obesity and promote family health. The campaign helps families locate parks and plan physical activities.

Leisure is the part of life where the most physical activity should occur. While exercise trends come and go, people tend to stick with physical activities that they enjoy most. Parks provide the venues for these activities—organized sports, running, biking, gardening, hiking, swimming, among many others.

Benefits can be derived just from a lasting view of nature. In some cases, a green environment can provide physiological benefits beyond those derived directly from physical activity. A study of glucose levels in diabetic individuals revealed that exposure to nature has a unique on physical health: Diabetic individuals taking 30-minute walks in a forest experienced lowered blood glucose levels far more than the same amount of time spent doing physical activity in other settings. The half-hour forest walks resulted in larger drops in blood glucose than three hours of cycling.

Studies in hospitals have shown that merely enjoying a view of nature can provide physical benefits. Patients in hospital rooms with a view of nature generally recover more quickly, require less pain medication, and have fewer post-surgical complications than patients in rooms with urban views. Exposure to nature clearly has a soothing effect on our bodies, and parks provide this.

2. **Mental Health**

In addition to enhancing physical health, the presence of community parks and tree-lined streets promotes psychological well-being. Numerous studies demonstrate that access to green views and environments can improve cognitive functioning, impulse control, resilience to stressful life events, and overall mental health. Conversely, studies report a link between low nature access with increases in deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), clinical depression, stress, and anxiety.

In addition to the anecdotal calming benefits of a walk in the park, there is ample scientific evidence reinforcing the notion that green access reduces stress and anxiety.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

3. **Social Function**

Throughout all of history, human beings have lived in or around nature. In 1900, 87 percent of the world's population still lived in rural areas, and it was only in the last 100 years that people have migrated to cities. While municipalities provide their residents with economic, educational, and cultural benefits, their design often overlooks the fact that human beings are hardwired to live closely with nature.

One of the best examples of this is New York City's Central Park. In the mid-1800s, the New York City population quadrupled in size. Residents were clamoring for as much green space as possible to counteract the congestion of city life. From this outcry for a public space Central Park was born. That was the United States in the 1800s—in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, parks and green space are all the more urgently needed.

When people are connected to nature, it contributes to feeling less isolated and less focused on themselves. As a result, they become more eager to form connections with their neighbors. A greater sense of community and social ties emerge, as do increases in generosity, trust, and civic-mindedness. Loneliness, aggression, and crime decrease.

4. **Youth Development**

Communities across the country recognize their responsibility to play a role in nurturing the development of their adolescent residents in the form of building cognitive, social, and emotional skills that will allow them to contribute to society as they grow older. Many municipalities are recognizing that resources can be more effectively utilized if youth are perceived as resources to invest in, rather than problems to be policed.

Parks and recreation agencies have unique advantages that support the development of life skills in adolescents. Adult-supervised, structured park programs can provide the types of activities that allow adolescents room to develop positive social relationships, learn conflict resolution, build on academic success, and become more civic-minded. Park programs can help youth build optimism, self-confidence, and a sense of autonomy.

Parks departments are particularly useful to youth development because natural environments have positive effects on self-discipline and resilience, a particularly important skill in certain neighborhoods. The stronger a young person's ability to resist distraction, the better his or her chances of getting good grades and avoiding drugs and alcohol. Studies show that children living in greener environments are more resilient and respond better to such stressful life events as family strife, divorce, and bullying.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

5. **Environmental**

Fredrick Law Olmsted, the founder of American Landscape Architecture, described New York's Central Parks as the "lungs of the city". Scientists recently confirmed the important role that urban parks serve in improving air quality. These parks contain more than 370 million trees, which improve air quality through air-pollution removal, carbon storage and removal, and temperature reduction.

Poor air quality affects 127 million people in the United States: aggravated respiratory and cardiovascular disease, decreased lung function, increased severity of respiratory symptoms, and increases in cancer rates. Senior citizens and children are at higher risk for air pollution-related health effects. Community parks play a major role in combating these problems.

Tree-dense parks also help to reduce air temperature. Because of the heat island effect, cities are generally warmer than their surrounding areas. Consequently, summer heat waves can be more serious, even deadly. More than 600 Americans die each year from exposure to extreme heat. Parks provide city dwellers with some measure of cooling relief during heat waves.

6. **Economic Impact**

It is clear that parks have a tremendous economic impact. Their positive effects on physical health, mental health, social well-being, youth development, and the environment all have real monetary benefits in the long-run.

By promoting physical activity, parks are one of the most direct ways to put a dent in the approximately \$147 billion direct and indirect costs of the obesity epidemic. Spending on parks departments is one of the most cost-effective ways to lower long-term health expenditures, particularly in low-income communities that often rely on Medicaid. Even a small increase in spending can provide significantly increased amounts of physical activity, studies show.

Parks and recreation departments play a large role in youth development. Improved youth development programs have obvious long-term economic benefit, since they help adolescents grow into productive taxpayers.

Parks provide a sizable economic impact related to the environment. It is estimated that the carbon dioxide storage of urban trees in the continental United States store is worth approximately \$16 billion. These same trees provide an annual benefit of about \$5.6 billion by removing pollutants from the air.

Parks provide other direct economic benefits to local governments. Larger parks attract tourists, who spend money in nearby hotels, shops, and restaurants. Even modest facilities attract visitors for events such as high-school athletic tournaments. The greenery of parks can also improve the property values of nearby homes, which increases tax revenues. A variety of studies demonstrate that urban parks, natural areas, and preserved open spaces positively affect property values.



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
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Nationwide, there are more than 12,000 local park and recreation departments that manage over 105,000 public parks. It is often unrecognized just how important a resource these parks are for their communities.

Parks and recreation departments are one of the leading weapons in the battle against obesity. They benefit local residents' psychological well-being by reducing anxiety and depression, and increasing resilience and concentration. Parks help young people build necessary life skills and help adults function as part of the social community. Parks improve the local air quality and help the overall environment.

All these benefits help to enhance the quality of life in Charlestown Township!

It should be noted that both residential development and non-residential development in Charlestown are the beneficiaries of recreation. Therefore, as we look forward 20 years to 2033, we assume that both residential and non-residential development will contribute to the greening of the Township.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
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**Appendix C – Costs**

Estimated costs for improvements to various facilities include:

- + Phase II-A Charlestown Park;
- + Phase II-B Charlestown Park;
- + Charlestown Park (longer term);
- + Brightside Farm;
- + Jenkins Property; and
- + Devault Area.

The total cost for these improvements over the next 20 to 30 years is \$2,135,000.

Please refer to pages C-2 through C-7 for 2013 cost estimates.

## Charlestown Park Phase II-A

### COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

*Estimates based on the "Charlestown Park Master Plan Phase II" dated 11-5-12*

Item	Description of Improvement	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Mobilization & Layout	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
2.	Erosion and Sediment Control	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
3.	Removal of Dead & Damaged Trees	LS	\$2,500	\$2,500
4.	Clear and Grub	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000
5.	Earth Work	LS	\$44,350	\$44,350
6.	Roadway	630 SY	\$16/SY	\$10,080
7.	Fields: Seeding; Mulching; Sodding	150,000 SF	\$.50/SF	\$75,000
8.	4'6" wide Concrete Sidewalks	5,031 SF	\$5.50/SF	\$27,670
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$179,600.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>\$17,960.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>197,560.00</b>
		<b>SAY</b>		<b>198,000.00</b>

Notes:

- A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.
- B. See Sheet 1.a of 4 and 1.b of 4 for Other Improvements outside of Phase II-A.
- C. Refer to the D.L Howell Associates Grading and Utilities Plan, dated 1-24-07, for grading and layout of the two proposed playfields..

(10-22-12)

TCA: 11-5-12

## Charlestown Park Phase II-B

### COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

*Estimates based on the "Charlestown Park Master Plan Phase II" dated 11-5-12*

Item	Description of Improvement	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Demolition (see note C)	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000
2.	Utilities			
2.A	Electric	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000
2.B	Water	LS	\$30,050	\$30,050
2.C	Sanitary Sewer (Assumes a 50' Connection ) (See note D)	LS	\$2,500	\$2,500
3.	Pavilions with Lights, BBQ, Tables	2	\$40,000	\$80,000
4.	Pavilion with Restroom, Lights, BBQ, Tables	1	\$65,000	\$65,000
5.	Playground Apparatus and Surfacing	LS	\$40,000	\$40,000
6.	Basketball (Resurface, Restripe, Backboards)	LS	\$25,000	\$25,000
7.	Sand Volleyball	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
8.	Bocce / Pétanque	2	\$3,600	\$7,200
9.	Benches	12	\$1,000	\$12,000
10.	4'6" wide Concrete Sidewalks	3,519 SF	\$5.50/SF	\$19,355
11.	Landscaping			
11.A	Seeding/Mulching/Sodding of Playground Area	10,000 SF	\$.50/SF	\$5,000
11.B	Shade Trees	5	\$350	\$1,750
11.C	Groundcovers	LS	\$1,200	\$1,200
12.	Parallel On-Street Parking (7' x 22')	345 SY	\$27/SY	\$9,315
13.	Fencing (4' Black Vinyl Clad)	850 LF	\$16/LF	\$13,600
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$329,470.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>\$32,947.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL SAY</b>		<b>362,417.00 363,000.00</b>

Notes:

- A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.
- B. See Sheet 1.b of 4 for Other Improvements outside of Phase II-A and II-B.
- C. Demolition pertains to existing Pavilions, sidewalks, and play apparatus.
- D. If the connection distance for the Sanitary Sewer is greater, the lump sum cost will be greater.  
For example, if the connection distance is 625 feet, the cost would increase to \$29,000.

(10-22-12)

## Charlestown Park: Other Master Plan Improvements

### COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

*Estimates based on the "Master Plan: 2012-2022" for Charlestown Township Park dated 10-1-12*

Item	Description of Improvement	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Modernized Clubhouse	LS	\$35,000	\$35,000
2.	Improved Park & Rec Headquarters	LS	\$12,000	\$12,000
3.	Resurfaced / Restriped Parking	5,560 SY	\$12/SY	\$66,720
4.	New Parking Area	6,335 SY	\$27/SY	\$171,045
5.	Removal of Dead & Damaged Trees	LS	\$2,500	\$2,500
6.	New Shade Trees	16	\$350	\$5,600
7.	New Park Signage	3	\$2,000	\$6,000
8.	New Amphitheater	LS	\$45,000	\$45,000
9.	New Activity Center (2,700 SF)	LS	\$472,500	\$472,500
10.	Sixth Avenue Extension	615 LF	\$138/LF	\$84,870
11.	4'6" wide Concrete Sidewalks along Sixth Ave	990 SF	\$5.50/SF	\$5,445
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$906,680.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>\$90,668.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL SAY</b>		<b>\$997,348.50</b> <b>\$998,000.00</b>

Notes:

- A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.

(10-22-12)  
TCA: 11-5-12

## Master Plan: Brightside Farm

### COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

*Estimates based on the "Master Plan: Brightside Farm" dated 6-4-12*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description of Improvement</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
1.	Mobilization & Layout	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
2.	Parking Areas: Preparation and Gravel	2,825 SY	\$14/SY	\$39,550
3.	Driveway Turnaround	395 SY	\$14/SY	\$5,530
4.	8-foot wide Paved Trail (Asphalt)	3,733 SY	\$20/SY	\$74,660
5.	5-foot wide Grass Trail	9,250 LF	\$2/LF	\$18,500
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$141,240.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>14,124.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL SAY</b>		<b>\$155,364.00</b> <b>\$156,000.00</b>

Notes:

A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.

(10-22-12)

TCA: 11-5-12

**Master Park Plan: Jenkins Property**

**COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS**  
**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

*Estimates based on the "Master Park Plan: Jenkins Property" dated 7-10-12*

Item	Description of Improvement	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Mobilization & Layout	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
2.	Erosion Control	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
3.	Clearing	1	\$6,000	\$6,000
4.	Grading	LS	\$4,000	\$4,000
5.	Parking Area / Paving	700 SY	\$27/SY	\$18,900
6.	Pavilion	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
7.	Playground Apparatus and Surfacing	LS	\$30,000	\$30,000
8.	Picnic Tables with Concrete Pads	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
9.	Shade Trees	5	\$350	\$1,750
10.	5-foot wide Paved Sidewalk (Asphalt)	195 SY	\$20/SY	\$3,900
11.	Unimproved Trail	1,700 LF	\$12/LF	\$20,400
12.	Sign	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$133,950.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>13,395.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL SAY</b>		<b>\$147,345.00</b> <b>\$148,000.00</b>

Note:

A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.

(10-22-12)

TCA: 11-5-12

## Master Recreation Plan: Devault

### COST ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

**(10-22-12) 11-5-12**

**(Probable 2013 Construction Cost Opinion)**

*Estimates based on the "Master Recreation Plan (as part of the Devault Plan)" dated 11-5-12*

Item	Description of Improvement	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Mobilization	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
2.	Clearing and Grubbing	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
3.	Erosion and Sediment Control	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
4.	Parking Area: Grading, Paving, Striping	3,560 SY	\$27/SY	\$96,100
5.	Pavilion	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
6.	Multi-use Playfield			
6.A	Multi-use Playfield: Earth Work	LS	\$22,175	\$22,175
6.B	Multi-use Playfield: Seeding/Mulching/Sodding	76,800 SF	\$.50/SF	\$38,400
7.	Other Earthworking and Seeding	LS	\$20,000	\$20,000
8.	Landscaping	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
		<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$246,675.00</b>
		<b>+ 10% Contingency</b>		<b>\$24,667.50</b>
		<b>TOTAL SAY</b>		<b>\$271,342.50</b> <b>\$272,000.00</b>

Note:

A. Costs will increase an average of 4% for each year after 2013.

(10-22-12)

TCA: 11-5-12



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
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**Appendix D – Demographics & Demand**

The view toward 2020 and 2030 is presented herein relative to projected population and associated park facility demand.

This Appendix serves as an update to pages 71 through 85 of the 1993 OSRERP.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

**CHAPTER 6**  
**PLAN FOR RECREATION LANDS AND FACILITIES**

**Overview**

According to the U.S. Census, there were 5,671 residents living in Charlestown Township within 1,969 dwelling units in 2010. This reflects an absolute growth of 1,620 people since 2000, a growth rate of forty percent (40%). The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has recently released new population estimates based on the 2010 Census data. Their projections are shown in Table 2A.

**TABLE 2A. Population Projections: 2010 to 2030**

	2000	2010 Pop Actual	Percent Change 2000-2010 (Actual)	2020 Pop Estimate	Percent/ Absolute Change 2010-2020	2030 Pop Estimate	Percent/ Absolute Change 2020-2030
1. DVRPC (existing)	4,051	5,671	656/ 40%	6,419	748/ 13%	7,705	1286/ 20%

In order to assess Charlestown Township’s need for additional recreational, park and open space facilities, an inventory and analysis of park facility standards, existing facilities based upon these population projections was conducted.

Table 2B, Existing Open Space Areas and Recreational Facilities, lists the municipally owned and quasi-public resources. Fortunately, the Township already has a Community Park, Charlestown Park, the 44.5 acre active recreational facility on the grounds of the former Valley Forge General Hospital. In addition, the Township owns 95.6 acres of passive open space along the Pickering Creek, and a 6.2 acre tract in Devault.

From a standards point of view, the Township is well served by community parkland, less served by neighborhood and mini-parks, and less served geographically due to the fact that Charlestown Park is in the far northern corner of the Township. As a result, it is incumbent upon the PRDs and the TNDs to fill gaps in park types and locations, especially in terms of neighborhood parks.

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Before analyzing supply of and demand for recreation, we need to understand the major park types which are relevant on the Township level.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large scale parks and preserves serving an area greater than Chester County. Because of their regional significance, such parks are usually provided by federal or state governments. They typically provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities - both active and passive, particularly those requiring large land or water areas. Emphasis is often placed on recreation opportunities beyond the scope of those typically provided at local parks, including, for example, camping, boating and swimming.

Charlestown Township is served by Valley Forge National Historical Park and Marsh Creek State Park. Based on widely accepted standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), most regional parks in southeastern Pennsylvania do not adequately meet the regional park needs of their service areas. In any case, it is in the interest of Charlestown Township to support and promote the expansion of regional parks and associated recreational opportunities to meet the demands for such parks.

Subregional Parks

These parks fill the gap between regional parks and local parks. Ideally, they provide relatively large tracts of public open space within a short drive of home. Fifteen minutes is considered a reasonable threshold. Serving less than an entire county, subregional parks are usually beyond the scope of the Township responsibility. They are typically provided by the County, but could be provided jointly by more than one municipality. Subregional parks should be geared toward regular use on weekdays and weekends. They should offer the trails, fields, courts, water recreation areas, picnic area, and woodlands that local parks can only partially provide.

The Exton Park site in West Whiteland Township provides a Subregional Park opportunity close to home. Exton Park, at the former Church Farm School property, can provide significant opportunities for Charlestown residents, and accommodate demands for certain types of active recreation which could never be provided in the Township.

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Community Parks

Community Parks provide a local place for group and individual sports and exercise, both casual and organized typically within a two to three mile radius from home. Such parks serve local outdoor recreation needs on a regular basis. Both active and passive uses are ordinarily provided within a community park.

It is generally appropriate to provide undesignated “natural” or passive areas at least equal in land area to the area occupied by courts, fields, buildings and other active recreation facilities. In other words, approximately one-half of a community park typically offers active recreational opportunities and one-half is passive in nature.

Charlestown Park, although not fitting the classic criterion of being centrally located, does serve as a viable Community Park. The 44.5 acre site offers a variety of sports, family recreational opportunities, a playground, pavilions, and trails.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks should provide spaces and facilities for recreation close to home, typically within a ¼ mile radius or five to 10 minute walk from home. Exercise and sitting areas for adults, play areas for children, and field and court areas could all be part of a neighborhood park. Larger-scale active recreation facilities may be included if the size of the park permits.

Although five acres is the minimum recommended size, neighborhood parks typically range in size from 5 to 15 acres. Sufficient land should be available to provide landscaped or natural buffer areas between different park activity areas and between the park and other adjoining land uses.

The selection of facilities for neighborhood parks should reflect the demographics of the service area of each park. For example, in neighborhoods where young and middle-aged adults without children predominate, there might be a greater concentration of court sport areas and a jogging or exercise trail. Where senior citizens are prevalent, benches in conversational groupings and walking trails are more desirable.

In all cases, neighborhood park facilities should be designed with multi-use in mind, to facilitate response to varying demographic needs. Appropriate numbers of individual facilities should be determined based on an analysis of neighborhood and community-wide recreation needs relative to the degree those needed are met at other parks and recreation areas. In general, however, the three PRDs and TNDs are best suited to be the locations for the neighborhood parks.



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Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are small walk-to parks within 1/8 to 1/4 mile from home which supplement limited “backyard” recreation opportunities in densely developed residential areas. They primarily serve the daytime recreation needs of senior citizens and pre-school children with supervising adults. Mini-parks should be centrally located relative to their service areas. They should be in quiet locations, away from heavy traffic or conflicting land uses and should be easily accessible and highly visible. In general, primary users are pre-school children with parents or other supervising adults, and senior citizens. Primary facilities are play areas for children and passive sitting areas for adults, with walks, benches and picnic tables. Again, the PRD and TND sites are best suited to provide for mini-park lands.

TABLE 2B.

**EXISTING OPEN SPACE AREAS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

<u>Open Space Area/ Recreational Facility</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Primary Existing Facilities</u>
1. Charlestown Park	44.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Two Practice Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Picnicking Area</li> <li>• Miniature Golf</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Two Concession Buildings</li> <li>• 120 Parking Spaces</li> <li>• Football Field</li> <li>• Pavilions</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>
2. Charlestown Open Space	95.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Area</li> <li>• Hiking Trails</li> <li>• Fishing Areas</li> </ul>
3. Township Property in Devault	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current recreational facilities</li> </ul>
4. Charlestown Historical Society (headquarters)	.48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wisper-Rapp House</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>
5. Brightside Farm	54.54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Farm</li> <li>• Community Garden</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
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**EXISTING OPEN SPACE AREAS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

<u>Open Space Area/ Recreational Facility</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Primary Existing Facilities</u>
6. Jenkins Tract	8.74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current recreational facilities</li> </ul>
7. Great Valley Nature Center	10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Offices</li> <li>• Education Building</li> <li>• Outdoor Exhibit Areas</li> <li>• Gardens</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Amphitheatre</li> <li>• Animal Sheds and Paddock Area</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>
8. Charlestown Elementary School	12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer/Multi-Purpose Field</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Amphitheatre</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>
9. Charlestown Play House	3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>
10. Swiss Pines Park	16.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botanical Gardens</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Lleywellen House</li> </ul>
11. Hollow Run Farm Open Space	15.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Area</li> <li>• Pond</li> </ul>
12. Horseshoe Trail	4.3 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail</li> </ul>
13. Burgoon Equestrian Center	67.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>
14. Henrietta Bumeder Property	52.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>
15.a. Bartschi Foundation	68.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>
16.b. Bartschi Foundation	55.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>
17. Baughman Farm	55.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>
18. Stinson Markley Property	23.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Easement</li> </ul>

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19.	Chester Valley Grange	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grange Building</li></ul>
20.	Revolutionary War Cemetery	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cemetery</li></ul>
21.	Charlestown Summer Day Camp (Stonorov Property)	90.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer Day Camp</li></ul>
22.	Walter Lamb Property	27.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation Easement</li></ul>
23.	William M. Large/ U. of Pennsylvania Property	56.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation Easement</li></ul>

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Standards

The establishment of open space, park and recreation standards for Charlestown is more of an art than a documented science. We know how large of an area certain types of activities require and, for more organized recreation, how many people can use a facility over a given time. It is far more difficult to determine just how much open space we need or how many specific facilities there should be in a given area.

The experience of park, recreation and planning experts from around the country has created a pool of observations and judgements. This experience has been translated into standards for parks and recreation facilities. Park area standards for this Plan are derived from standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and are shown on Table 3. These standards are presented in terms of land area or number of facilities required to serve a given population.

The NRPA standards presented in this Plan provide a method for generally measuring need. Recreational facility standards for this Plan as based upon guidelines established by three sources: the NRPA, the Chester County Open Space and Recreation Study (CCOSRS), and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). These standards are shown on Table 4. They can be used to evaluate how well existing lands and facilities meet those needs and thereby determine the extent of unmet needs.

Standards cannot provide a complete or detailed basis for designing parks or for determining the exact number or location of specific facilities. Detailed design decisions cannot be made according to strict formulas, but must be based on the specific needs, desires, and financing and operating capabilities of the Township. Nevertheless, the following objective analysis is presented as a partial basis of park facility needs. Another basis for this evaluation comes from public preferences, such as the questionnaire/survey process as reported at the end of Section 2 of this report, wherein Township residents expressed their views pertaining to recreational and open space needs for the future.

**Inventory of Existing Recreation Conditions**

Lands and Facilities

Before conducting an evaluation of the demand for open space and recreational areas within the Township, an analysis of the supply of existing recreational facilities was conducted. Table 2B lists the sites within the Township where some form of active and/or passive recreation takes place. From an active/passive recreation standpoint, there are generally three types of open space and recreational areas in Charlestown: public owned land (Township and School District); quasi-public land (e.g. The Great Valley Nature Center, Horseshoe Trail); and privately owned facilities such as the land maintained by a homeowners association.

The Township owned and maintained properties in Charlestown comprise 209.58 acres. There are 4.3 miles of the Horseshoe Trail in Charlestown.



CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

TABLE 3.

**PARK FACILITY STANDARDS**

<u>Type of Facility</u>	<u>Acres 1,000 People</u>	<u>Size Range</u>	<u>Popu- lation Served</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mini-Park	0.25 to 0.5	1 Acre or less	500-2,500	less than ¼ mile	Small area for children or senior citizens
Neighborhood Park	1.0 to 2.0	5 to 15 Acres	up to 5,000	¼ - ½ mile radius	area for active and passive activities for neighborhood residents
Community Park	5.0 to 8.0	25 to 40 Acres	5,000 - 10,000	1 to 2 mile radius	multi-purpose facility for the entire community
Subregional Park	5.0 to 10.0	100 to 400 Acres	50,000 - 100,000	¼ hour driving time	large area for active and passive activities for several communities

- 
- Sources:
1. National Recreation and Park Association, Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, 1995.
  2. Urban Planning and Design Criteria, Third Edition, Standards for Parks and Recreation, 1982.
  3. Adaptation of the above standards, by Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc., (TCA) 1992.
  4. Charlestown Park, a 44.5 acre facility, is considered to be a community park.
  5. The parks within the PRD communities are considered to be neighborhood parks, as are those proposed within the TND communities.
  6. Refer to Table 5 for interpretations of the above.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

TABLE 4.

**RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS**

	<u>NRPA</u> <sup>1, 4</sup>	<u>CCOSRS</u> <sup>2, 4</sup>	<u>DVRPC</u> <sup>3, 4</sup>
<u>Field Space</u>			
Baseball/Softball	1/ 5,000	1/2,000	1/3,000
Soccer/Football	1/10,000	1/2,000	1/1,500
Field Hockey/Lacrosse	1/20,000	-	1/1,500
<u>Court Space</u>			
Tennis	1/ 2,000	1/2,000	1/1,000
Volleyball	1/ 5,000	1/3,300	1/1,000
Basketball	1/ 5,000	1/2,500	1/ 500
<u>Other Outdoor Activity or Area</u>			
Picnic Area	-	-	1/6,000
Play Apparatus	-	-	1/2,000
Swimming Pool	-	1/5,000	1/5,000
Trails	1/region or MCD	-	1 mi/2,000
Fishing	-	-	1/2,500
Ice Skating	-	-	1/2,500

- 
- Notes:
- Standards from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, 1995.
  - Standards from the Chester County Open Space and Recreation Study (CCOSRS), 1982.
  - Standards from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Open Space Standards and Criteria for the Delaware Valley, 1977.
  - The standards are expressed in one facility per the requisite population.
  - MCD = Minor Civil Division (i.e. a municipality)
  - Refer to Tables 6 and 7 for interpretations of the above.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

Recreational Programs

The recreational programs which take place at Charlestown Park are outlined in Appendix E. There are no programs, per se, at the 95.6 acres of open space along the Pickering, the 6.2 acres in Devault, nor on the 8.74 acres on the Jenkins tract. In addition, a wide range of programs take place at The Great Valley Nature Center which have regional appeal.

Other recreational programs accessible to Charlestown Township residents are available at the YMCA and at nearby parks. The Phoenixville YMCA, located on Pothouse Road in neighboring Schuylkill Township, offers a multitude of recreation programs. The YMCA programs are comprehensive and involve adult, youth/teen and pre-school. The adult programs consist of aerobics, basketball, dance, fitness center, racquetball, swimming, tennis and volleyball. The youth/teen programs consist of ballet and dance, basketball, court hockey, indoor soccer, racquetball, tennis and swimming. The pre-school programs consist of ballet and dance, day care and swimming. The YMCA sponsors an after-school program for children.

Although not a public recreation facility, the YMCA fills a need for recreational demand of Charlestown Township residents. Additional recreational facilities/programs accessible to Township residents include: School District facilities (Charlestown Elementary School, Great Valley Middle School, and Great Valley High School); the Horseshoe Trail; Valley Forge National Historic Park; Marsh Creek State Park; French Creek State Park; Exton Park and other parks in the region.

All age groups of the Township appear to be reasonably well served by the recreational programs in the region, although detailed information on participation levels and trends specifically by Charlestown Township residents is not available.

Refer to Appendix E. and G. for additional events and program data.

Financing, Personnel, Administration and Maintenance

Overall, it should be noted that the Board of Supervisors is gradually increasing their support for recreational, open space, and trail facilities and opportunities within the Township.

A summary of the programming, financing, personnel, administration and maintenance data is as follows:

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

- Programming (Primary):
  - Phoenixville Area Soccer Club programs (Intramural Soccer, Traveling Soccer League)
  - Phoenixville Marian Youth Club programs (Midget Football, Field Hockey)
- Financing:

The Operating Budget for parks and recreation including maintenance has increased every year since 1987.
- Personnel:

All personnel are volunteers, consisting primarily of the Park and Recreation Board, and the Trails Committee.
- Administration:

The Park and Recreation Board has been active since September 1988; meets monthly; and work continuously to maintain recreational opportunities and programs, especially at Charlestown Park in association with the Phoenixville Area Soccer Club and the Phoenixville Marian Youth Club. The P&R Board coordinates their activities with the Board of Supervisors, and the Trails Committee.
- Maintenance (Primary):
  - Mow Charlestown Park
  - Brightside Farm
  - Nature Trails and Open Space

**Evaluation of Park and Recreation Needs**

Park and Recreation Areas and Facilities

An evaluation of park and recreational needs stems from the identification of the three principal types of recreation facilities typically provided on the Township level - a community park, a neighborhood park and a mini-park. Based on the standards of the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) entitled "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines," 1995, neighborhood and mini-parks are currently in demand in an absolute sense. Utilizing current and projected population data and the "population served" standards, there is a clear surplus in community parkland, but an assumed deficiency in neighborhood and mini-parks (see Table 5), as well subregional parks.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

The “textbook” deficit in mini-parks and neighborhood parks is due to the absence of these public recreational facilities within the Township. However, given the relatively small population that is dispersed throughout the Township, it may be possible in the future that certain “close to home” needs could be met at the PRD and TND sites, the 6.2 acre tract in Devault, or the 8.74 acre Jenkins tract.

Table 5 reports a 2011 deficit of up to 11.34 acres for neighborhood parks and 2.8 acres for mini-parks. The current and projected Township population related to the NRPA standards (see Tables 5 and 6) clearly support the need for approximately 14 acres of additional parkland by 2030. The allocation of these acreage needs to a particular location remains the major issue. Several options are available to the Township including the upgrade of the 6.2 acre tract in Devault and the 8.74 acre Jenkins tract. (Refer to pages 2-7 through 2-10 for proposed park enhancements.)

Recommended Activities and Facilities for Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks

The Park and Recreation Facility Standards in Tables 3 to 6 lay the groundwork for the possible facilities for mini-parks and neighborhood parks.



CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

TABLE 5.

**PARK ACREAGE NEEDS**

Type of Facility	Existing Acreage 2011	Acreage Needs 2011	Needs 2020	Needs 2030	2030 Summary
Mini-Park	0.0	1.4 – 2.8	1.67 – 3.34	1.9 – 3.8	deficit
Neighborhood Park	0.0	5.67 – 11.34	6.69 – 13.38	7.63 – 15.25	deficit
Community Park	44.5	28.36 – 45.37	33.45 – 53.52	38.15 – 61.02	surplus
<i>Subtotal</i>	44.5	35.43 – 59.51	41.81 – 70.24	47.68 – 80.07	surplus
Subregional Park	0.0	28.36 – 56.71	33.46 – 66.9	38.14 – 76.27	deficit
<i>Total</i>	44.5	63.79 – 116.22	75.27 – 123.76	85.82 – 156.34	deficit

- Notes:
1. The acreage needs are based upon applying the NRPA standards to the population for 2010, and to the projected population for 2020 and 2030.
  2. The population data used to determine the park facility requirements is as follows:  
 2010 – 5,671 (U.S. Bureau of Census)  
 2020 – 6,691 (Consultant’s Analysis)  
 2030 – 7,627 (Consultant’s Analysis)
  3. If the 6.2 acre undeveloped tract in Devault and the 8.74 acre Jenkins Tract, which are owned by the Township, were improved to become neighborhood parks, they would hypothetically meet the demand for such facilities through the year 2030.
  4. The 95.6 acres of open space along the Pickering Creek is not reflected in this analysis as a community park, per se.
  5. The subregional park demand could be readily met when the Exton Park is developed at the former Church Farm School tract.
  6. The 54.54 acres of open space at Brightside Farm are not considered to be any of the above open space facility types. However, refer to page 2-8 for the Brightside Farm Master Plan.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

Notes (continued)

7. Community Park resources are recommended for the Devault Area.
8. Refer to page 2-10 for the Master Recreation Plan for the Devault Area.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PLAN

TABLE 6.

**NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED**

	<u>Existing 2011</u>	<u>Needs 2011</u>	<u>Needs 2020</u>	<u>Needs 2030</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<u>Field Space</u>					
Baseball/Softball	0	2-3	3-4	3-4	deficit
Soccer/Football	4	2-3	3-4	3-4	surplus
Field Hockey/Lacrosse	1	1	1	1	Needs met
<u>Court Space</u>					
Tennis <sup>2</sup>	0	2	4	4	deficit
Volleyball	0	1	1-2	2	deficit
Basketball	0	2	2-3	3	deficit
<u>Other Outdoor Activity or Area</u>					
Picnic Area	1	1	1	1	Needs met
Play Apparatus	1	2	3	3-4	deficit
Swimming Pool	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	deficit
Trails	2 miles	2-3 miles	3-4 miles	3-4 miles	deficit
Fishing	1	1	1	1	Needs met
Ice Skating	0	1	1	1	deficit

- 
- Notes: 1. The number of facilities needed is based upon applying the standards liberally from Table 4 to the population for 2010 and the projections for 2020 and 2030.
2. Tennis courts are included in increments of two due to common design practice and ease of construction.
3. The population data used to determine the facility needs is the same as indicated in Note 2 of Table 5.
4. Facilities needed in any new neighborhood park could include: one baseball/softball field; one field hockey/lacrosse field; two tennis courts; one volleyball court; one basketball court; a swimming pool; and possibly an ice skating area, based on the above data.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix E – Events & Programs**

A partial listing of Charlestown Township Events & Programs is as follows:

Brightside Farm – Community Gardens Harvest Picnic (September)  
Brightside Farm – Girl Scout Troop clean up (MLK Day of Service)

Charlestown Day: Bus Tour of Township (landmarks; trail walks; events)

Charlestown Elementary School – regular school year events

Charlestown Historical Society – annual dinner celebration

Charlestown Park – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Great Valley Bark For Life, June 2012

Charlestown Park – Pavilion rentals (200 visitors per year)

Charlestown Park – Phoenixville Area Soccer Club at Charlestown Park (over 1,000 children)

Charlestown Park – Phoenixville Marion Youth Club at Charlestown Park

Earth Day: Parks Clean-Up (April)

Great Valley Nature Center – refer to <http://gvnc.org/>

Great Valley Nature Center – education programs for over 40,000 persons per year (school & scout groups, and general public)

Great Valley Nature Center – nature camp for over 1,100 children each year

Tree Planting: Rt. 29

Trail Use – Horseback Riding

Trail Walks – Trails Committee

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix F – Fee in Lieu (of Recreational Resources)**

Ordinance #96-01, which follows, was adopted July 16, 2001.

This Ordinance will be Amended in 2013, and will include adjusted values per dwelling unit and per 2,500 square feet of non-residential development. Adjustments will be based on the information in Appendix C & D.

The \$2,500 fee per unit, and per 2,500 square feet of non-residential development established in 2001, will be increased based upon the park improvement costs of \$2,135,000 listed in Appendix C, the 1,286 person increase in population by 2030 listed in Appendix D, as well as projected non-residential development from 2013 to 2033.



**CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE #96-01**

AN ORDINANCE OF CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING SECTION 513 OF THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLIC DEDICATION OF LAND; CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, THE PAYMENT OF FEES-IN-LIEU THEREOF, FOR PARK OR RECREATION PURPOSES, AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO FINAL PLAN APPROVAL.

IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania as follows:

Section 1. Article V – Design Standards of the Charlestown Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of 1982, As Amended, is hereby further amended to revise Section 513 – Recreation Areas, as follows:

**SECTION 513      RECREATION AREAS**

- A. Provisions shall be made for the creation of passive and active recreation areas as required in the Zoning Ordinance, as set forth in Article XV, Open Space Provisions, and as set forth below.
- B. All major subdivision and/or land development applications shall provide for active and passive recreation areas on the tract which is the subject of the application, in accordance with the provisions of the Charlestown Township Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- C. The Board of Supervisors may require the public dedication of land suitable for the use intended; and, upon agreement with the applicant or developer, the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, the private reservation of land, or a combination, for park or recreational purposes as a condition precedent to Final Plan approval, in accordance with the following provisions.
  - 1. Each application for subdivision and/or land development shall set aside and clearly identify land to be used for park and recreation purposes, in an amount which shall be equal to 2,178 square feet (0.05 acres) for each proposed residential dwelling unit, and 1,089 square feet (0.025 acres) for each acre of land proposed for use other than for a residential dwelling unit (non-residential use) whether or not the property is intended to be improved under the application.

2. The applicant or developer shall receive a credit for any land reserved for park or recreational purposes and dedicated to the Township under this Section 513 towards the requirements of any provisions within the Township Zoning Ordinance requiring recreational facilities.
  3. Land dedicated to the Township under this Section 513, shall be by fee simple deed of special warranty. At the time of dedication, title to said land shall be good and marketable, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances. The applicant or developer shall supply a Title Report evidencing the foregoing to the Township, prior to final approval of the subdivision and/or land development plan. The Deed of Dedication shall be delivered to the Township at the time of final subdivision and/or land development approval, and recorded at the time of recording of the Final Plan. All costs associated with said dedication shall be borne by the applicant or developer.
  4. In the event that the Township does not accept the proposed land for dedication, the applicant or developer shall provide for other means of ownership of the proposed land, by an entity approved by the Township in accordance with Article 15, Section 1505 of the Zoning Ordinance. In such an event, the Township may still require limited rights of entry onto the proposed land for maintenance and similar purposes, should the owner(s) of said land fail to do so, and such failure shall in the opinion of the Township pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the Township or its residents.
- D. The provisions of this Section 513 shall not apply to any subdivision and/or land development application:
1. Approved and developed pursuant to the Planned Residential Development provisions of Article VI of the Township Zoning Ordinance, or
  2. Approved and developed pursuant to an Open Space Option development as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance #80-1999, Ordinance 98-2000), or
  3. Creating two (2) or fewer additional lots and which makes use of all of the contiguous land then owned by the applicant or developer such that no additional subdivision or development of land is possible, or

4. That is pending, whether Preliminary or Final, at the time of enactment of this ordinance.
- E. If the land proposed to be dedicated to the Township is not suitable for the use intended because of its size, shape, location, or features pursuant to paragraph G. of this Section 513, or if park or recreational lands are already available and accessible to the proposed development, or the Township and the applicant or developer agree otherwise, the applicant or developer:
1. May provide sufficient and suitable land for dedication within the Township, but which is not part of the proposed development, or
  2. Make payment of a fee-in-lieu of the public dedication of land as set forth in this Section 513.
- F. The amount of said fee-in-lieu of dedication shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with the Charlestown Township Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resource Plan, adopted May 3, 1993, as may be amended or updated from time to time, and the Master Plan for Charlestown Township Park adopted June 19, 2000, as may be amended from time to time. Said fee shall be payable to the Township prior to recording of the Final Plan, and as condition precedent to the issuance of any building permit. At the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, the payment of the fee may be deferred if the purpose of the subdivision is conservation or estate planning.
1. A combination of dedicated land and fee-in-lieu payment thereof shall be made as set forth in the Section 513 by any applicant or developer to the Township if it is determined that suitable park or recreational land is not available for dedication in a particular subdivision and/or land development, or if the Township and applicant or developer shall agree otherwise; in such cases, the fee-in-lieu shall be applied to the number of lots or units for which no land is dedicated. Any such fee shall be payable to the Township prior to recording of the Final Plan and shall be included in the Developer's Agreement between the applicant or developer and the Township as a condition precedent to the issuance of any building permits.
  2. The amount and location of land to be dedicated or the fees to be paid in lieu of thereof shall bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by future inhabitants of the subdivision and/or land development. The

land dedicated or fees paid or the combination thereof shall be used by the Township only for the purpose of providing park or recreational facilities reasonably accessible to the subdivision and/or land development.

- G. Any fee collected under the Section 513 shall be used by the Township for acquisition and improvement of park or recreational sites and land in accordance with the Charlestown Township Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resource Plan, adopted May 3, 1093, as may be amended or updated from time to time, and the Master Plan for Charlestown Township Park adopted June 19, 2000, as may be amended from time to time and shall, upon payment to the Township, be deposited in an interest-bearing account, which account shall identify the specific park or recreational facilities for which the fee was received. Interest earned on such account shall become funds of the account.
  
- H. The determination of the suitability of land which is acceptable for dedication, or use or park or recreational purposes, shall include its overall size, shaper, location and natural features and shall also be based on the following additional criteria:
  - 1. The dedicated land must be easily accessible to all inhabitants of the development by virtue of at least one side of each parcel of dedicated land abutting an existing or proposed public street for a minimum distance of fifty (50) feet.
  - 2. The park or recreational land shall be located so that it serves all inhabitants of the subdivision and/or land development.
  - 3. The shape of the land shall be suitable to accommodate those park or recreational activities appropriate to the location and needs of the inhabitants of the development.
  - 4. Any parcel of park or recreation land to be dedicated to the Township shall be comprised of at least one (1) acre in size and no less than one hundred fifty (150) feet in width.
  - 5. The parcels to be dedicated, comprising the intended park or recreational land shall be contiguous.
  - 6. Soils and drainage shall be suitable for the intended park or recreational uses, and shall conform to all Township ordinances.
  - 7. Such land, taken in the aggregate, shall have an average

slope of less than eight percent (8%) and shall have no more than twenty percent (20%) of the land contained within the boundaries of a flood plain, or steep slope area greater than fifteen percent (15%), or a combination of flood plain and steep slope.

8. Vehicular parking shall be in accordance with Article XIII of the Charlestown Township Zoning Ordinance, and such shall be designed, constructed and maintained that any site can be adequately served and accessed.
  9. Provisions shall be made for trails, footpaths, and other pedestrian circulation systems and accessways.
  10. Such land shall be consistent with the findings and recommendations set forth in the Charlestown Township Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan, adopted May 3, 1993 as may be amended or updated from time to time, and the Master Plan for Charlestown Township Park adopted June 19, 2000, as may be amended from time to time.
- I. In the event any applicant or developer of land identified in the Charlestown Township Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan, adopted May 3, 1993, as may be amended or updated from time to time, and the Master Plan for Charlestown Township Park adopted June 19, 2000, as may be amended from time to time, proposes to dedicate land and/or construct recreational facilities, as provided in this Section 513, the applicant or developer shall submit a Recreational Study prepared by a Certified Planner or Recreational Planner to verify:
1. Compliance with the provisions of Section 513.H.1. to 10.
  2. The proposed recreational facilities and/or improvements are not duplicative of those park and/or recreational facilities already available to the inhabitants of the proposed subdivision and/or land development.
  3. The proposed recreational facilities and/or improvements will be properly owned, managed and maintained by a responsible entity such as a Homeowners Association, the governing documents for which shall be acceptable to the Township Solicitor.
  4. The proposed park and/or recreational area shall be subject to



a Declaration of Covenants, Easements, and Restrictions which shall be acceptable to the Township Solicitor.

5. The proposed park or recreational area shall be suitably landscaped as depicted on a Landscape Plan which shall be submitted as part of the applicant or developer's subdivision and/or land development plan and which shall be reviewed by the Township as part of the applicant or developer's Final Plan.

J. If the Recreation Study and related documents are not approved by the Township, then the Board of Supervisors shall require the payment of a fee-in-lieu of the dedication of land and/or the construction of recreational facilities, as set forth in this Section 513.

Section 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts of provisions of this Ordinance, It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Supervisors that this Ordinance would have been adopted as if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, section sentence, clause, part or provision had not been included therein.

Section 3. All ordinance or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days from enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2001.

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hugh D. Willig, Chairman  
Kevin R. Kuhn, Vince Chairman  
Irene W. Ewald, Member  
Michael J. Rodgers, Member  
Paul J. Hogan, Member

ATTEST:

Linda M. Csete

**RESOLUTION 580-2001**

**CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING RECREATIONAL FEE-IN-LIEU SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS: the Board of Supervisors has recognized a need for the establishment of park and recreational facilities for the current and future residents of the Township, and

WHEREAS: the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (the "MPC"), 53 P.S. 10503 (11) provides the Township with the authority to enact an ordinance providing for, among other things, the payment of fees-in-lieu of the public dedication of land for park and recreational facilities, and

WHEREAS: in furtherance of the needs of the current and future residents of the Township for park and recreation facilities and pursuant to the authority granted to the Township under the MPC, the Board of Supervisors has adopted Ordinance #96-2001, which authorizes the payment of fees in lieu of the dedication of land for recreation for subdivisions and land developments within Charlestown Township, and

WHEREAS: in addition, the Board of Supervisors has adopted the Township Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan dated May 3, 1993, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 3, 1993, and

WHEREAS: in addition, the Board of Supervisors has adopted the Master Site Plan for Charlestown Township Park (Plan dated November 1, 1999) adopted June 19, 2000, and

WHEREAS: the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with adoption of Ordinance #96-2001, and the Recreation Plan (Resolution no. 579-01), hereby desires to establish a Fee Schedule for subdivision and land development of property within the Township in which fees are paid to the Township for park and recreation purposes, in lieu of the public dedication of park and recreation facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Supervisors having adopted Ordinance #96-2001, hereby adopt the following schedule of fees to be paid in lieu of the dedication of park and recreation facilities:

Year 2001, until further amended

Fee for residential development per dwelling unit, or	\$2,500.00
For non-residential development per 2,500 square feet of gross floor area of building	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fee Schedule established by this Resolution shall be evaluated by the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis and may be adjusted accordingly by Resolution.

**ADOPTED THIS 16th OF July, 2001**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP**

Hugh D. Willig, Chairman

Kevin R. Kuhn, Vice Chairman

Irene W. Ewald, Member

Paul J. Hogan, Member

Michael J. Rodgers, Member

Attest:

Linda M. Csete, Secretary

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Notes:

1. Cost estimate based on values stated in Chapter 6 of the Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan, dated May 3, 1993, adjusted by 5% per year.
2. Cost estimate also based on the Cost Estimate for Master Site Plan for Charlestown Township Park (Plan dated November 1, 1999) adopted June 19, 2000.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix G – Great Valley Nature Center**

The Great Valley Nature Center (previously known as The Nature Center of Charlestown) was begun in 1974. Recently the Nature Center has embarked upon a Strategic Plan, and has developed a Fundraising Manual.

Excerpts of the in-progress work of the GVNC are included in this Appendix, to foster the possibility that Charlestown Township and the GVNC could partner on certain grant applications in the future.

# GVNC Strategic Plan 2011-2012

**Vision:** To be a regional leader in providing environmental education and recreational programs

**Facilities**

**Governance**

**Education**

**Community**

**Fiscal Health**

**Mission:** GVNC fosters an appreciation and understanding of the natural world and promotes a sense of responsibility for its care.

**Facilities**

**Governance**

**Education**

**Community**

**Fiscal Health**

## Core Objectives

Facilities that provide a great customer experience and support our "brand."

Better oversight of GVNC

Education programs that are relevant, compelling and align with our mission of environmental education.

Engagement with community to increase membership, recruit volunteers and attract individual and corporate donors.

To improve the financial health of the organization to ensure the continuation of our programs and missions.

## Key Outcomes

- A. Facilities that are attractive, clean and organized
- B. Facilities that are more functional to support new and existing programs and events..

- A. Improved policies,, financial controls, and measures for evaluating Director and Staff.
- B. More Board Members and Committees

- A. New educational programs that appeal to wider demographics.
- B. Programs that are compelling & differentiated from other nature center programs.

- A. More awareness of GVNC, recognition of value of programs,
- B. More members, volunteers and donors.

- A. Annual positive cash flow, growing endowment,
- B. Increasing grants and support as % of total revenue.

## Strategies

- A. Improve and enhance grounds/ buildings/ appearance
- B. Use external camp rental facilities

- A. Develop new policies and procedures and metrics for evaluation.
- B. Recruit new board members and start new committees.

- A. Expand corporate education and team building
- B. Create/develop energy awareness program
- C. Upgrade educational tools
- D. Incubate new programs
- E. Explore strategic alliances to expand educational programs

- A. Develop new communication initiatives around awareness and value of GVNC programs.
- B. Recruit new members, volunteers and donors
- C. Target neighborhoods that have compatible demographics with our core program offerings.

- A. Explore ways to pay down debt, including possible sale of Pocono property
- B. Develop dedicated fund-raising function that increases fund-raising ability of GVNC

## Tactics

- a) Purchase new grounds keeping equipment
- b) Develop new meeting room with conference table and chairs
- c) Develop architectural/ landscape design
- d) Establish a capital renovation program utilizing grant making, marketing and fundraising.
- e) Renovate and improve barn facility and Bird-of-Prey facility
- f) Upgrade computer / network / software.
- g) Develop maintenance facility clean-up plan

- a) Appoint new committees and (e.g. property and maintenance)
- b) Improve Board organization ( by-laws, committees, nominating process, charter, policies)
- c) Expand Board members to 12 members by 1st quarter of 2012

- a) Expand Vista/ Americorps programs
- b) Enhance on-boarding and training of volunteers
- c) Expand vocational school partnerships
- d) Form partnerships for new adventure camp site and programs.
- e) Build "Green Energy Demonstration Exhibits and lesson plans; Compost bins, Solar Energy Demo Panel, Wind Energy Demo, Panel
- f) Expand Adult Night School and corporate trip offerings
- g) Develop new curriculum based school programs to align with state standards

- a) Upgrade/ improve website
- b) Implement new public relations strategy/plan with calendar
- c) Develop new logo, t-shirts, and signage
- d) Expand high school and college volunteer program
- e) Sponsor two Community "Nature days "
- f) Implement new plan for targeting specific geographic neighborhoods based on demographics
- g) Implement new marketing program for schools, churches and organized groups.
- h) Implement new membership drive.

- a) Expand the fund-raising events and develop annual fund-raising calendar.
- b) Increase endowment and "legacy" gifts
- c) Increase grant applications.
- d) Develop expanded database of donors, members, potential supporters, and corporate prospects
- e) Appoint committee to manage sale of Pocono property and bank financing.



# Great Valley Nature Center



Board of Directors Fundraising Manual



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## Fundraising Project Summaries

This section is composed of several project summaries for which GVNC plans to fundraise. It is for the Board's use in securing contributions, primarily from individual donors though certain projects have and will be used to generate foundation support. Additional summaries for fundraising opportunities will be added to this section as they are developed.



The following sections are included in each summary:

**Did you know?** A few interesting facts about the project subject that might be useful in initiating a discussion with a possible funder.

**Project Summary:** A brief paragraph that gives simple background about the project.

**The Need:** A sentence that clearly states the purpose of the project.

**The Budget:** A line-item budget designed to aid potential donors in their giving decision. A funder may decide to fund an entire project or a portion of a project.

**Because of your Gift:** Any contribution received by GVNC is always greatly appreciated. This section outlines specific ways in which the center, it's staff, volunteers and visitors will benefit.





## Bird of Prey Cage Expansion for the Inclusion of a Saw Whet Owl

- Did you know that owls have been found in the fossil record up to 58 million years ago? The largest was 3 feet tall!
- Did you know that one owl can eat up to 1,000 mice in a year, making it a species critical for rural rodent control?
- Did you know that eight owls native to PA? They are: Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, & the Northern Saw Whet Owl



**Summary:** Owls have an important role in Pennsylvania's ecosystem. As mentioned above, they are a primary nocturnal predator responsible for keeping rodent populations under control. During a trip to GVNC a visitor can expect to see five owl species in our Bird of Prey Center. We are quite proud of this statistic, however as one of Southeastern Pennsylvania's only live, non-releasable wild bird of prey centers, we hope that one day soon, we will be able to house one of every owl species native to this region for the education of our visitors.

**The Need:** Currently we are raising funds to erect a 20 by 30 foot Saw Whet Owl inclosure

### The Budget:

Wood:	\$1,000
Wire mesh caging:	500
Mesh netting:	200
Native shrubs/plantings:	500
Hardware:	100
Perches:	200
Turf and mulch:	300
Labor:	1,500
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$4,300</u>

### Because of your gift:

- Each year thousands of school-aged children will have the rare opportunity to see this elusive native nocturnal bird up close
- Adventure camp students will be given the opportunity to care for and work up close with the owls
- The message regarding the importance of bird of prey protection in PA will be strengthened





## Animal Care & Therapy (ACT) Internship *for students with autism & special needs*

Did you know that simple interactions with animals can help special needs students express themselves?  
Did you know that animal interactions have been known to reduce blood pressure and anxiety levels in humans?



*GVNC is currently engaged in an animal therapy initiative for autism and special needs students. The chief goal of this program is to provide a formalized and on-going animal care learning experience for individual students with special needs. Children with autism often find comfort in dealing with animals. Through exposure to animals and engagement in the daily animal feeding and handling routines, healthcare experts have seen a reduction in blood pressure and headaches in these patients. Psychologists have reported that caring for animals can help special needs students develop decision-making and problem-solving skills while increasing ones sense of responsibility and commitments. During the ACT Internship students will be trained to handle, feed and care for GVNC's resident education animal population. The mainstreaming experience is designed to afford the emotional benefits of a supportive and encouraging learning environment and also assists in increasing each individual's physical coordination and ability to focus while building social skills and self confidence.*

**The Need:** Currently we are seeking funds for the formal development of this program

### **The Budget:**

"Creature Care" Coordinator Salary	\$8,700 (\$12/ hr x 20 hrs/wk x 36 weeks)
Marketing costs for program	300
Training Supplies (manuals/binders/etc.)	400
Animal Care Supplies	500
Home Base Supplies (table/chair/storage cubbies/log books)	700
Special Event Budget (2 per year)	600
"Creature Care" Uniform Shirts (10)	150
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$11,350</u>

### **Because of your gift:**

- GVNC will have one of southeaster PA's only nature center-based special needs training programs
- Ten autistic or special needs students will receive benefits of the Center's animal care training (from members of the GVNC staff) in the coming year
- GVNC will further develop community mentoring experiences for those who are interested in sharing their time and talents with this audience.





## Teepee Village - An On-site Overnight and Education Facility

Did you know that a teepee's door is always supposed to face the east so that the inhabitator will wake with the sun? Did you know that if a teepee flap is left open a visitor may enter? If not, the visitor is expected to ask whether he/she is wellcome.

Did you know that teepees were arranged in circles so that children could play under watchful eyes of their mothers?



*GVNC is currently raising funds for a semi-permanent teepee village and overnight facility. The purpose of the village is two-fold. Primarily, it will provide overnight accommodations for scout and organized group events, corporate retreats, and summer adventure camps. Secondary plans are to develop an educational program to be used in conjunction with our current Lenape Village. This program will contrast lifestyle differences between eastern and western Native Americans. Teepees will be built upon platform decks and can be disassembled and stored during off seasonse*

**The Need:** Currently we are seeking funds for construction of a platform tepee village

### The Budget:

Teepee Structures (to house 15-20 guests)	\$10,000 (5 teepees @ \$2,000 each)
Decking Material	2,500
Astroturf	1,000
Annual Maintenance	1,000
Landscaping Costs	1,000
Program Development Costs	3,000
Props and Program Artifacts	1,500
Bedding and Sleeping Supplies	3,000
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will be able to significantly increase the scope of it's Native American programming and allow it to meet greater standards mandated by the PA state education board
- GVNC will be able to provide valuable emmersive environmental experiences to those participating in overnight programming
- GVNC will be able to boost it's revenue-generating capabilities through an entirely new menu of overnight-based programming





## Lenape Village Expansion and Restoration

Did you know that the Lenape Native Americans were the tribe that originally called Southeastern PA their home? Did you know that the Lenape were a matriarchal society (led by it's women) because of the tribe's reliance on the woman's ability to provide the primary food resources through the harvesting of garden crops?

Did you know that more than 40 elementary school students and scouts visit our Lenape Village annually?



*GVNC's Lenape village was built in 1996 and undergoes extensive restoration each fall and spring of the year because of seasonal weather damages. Current goals are to fortify and cover each residence in the village with bark shingles in order to strengthen and improve the authenticity of the structures. Additionally, the educational staff plans to expand the village in order to include a garden station with pest control platform and a travel and transportation station that focuses on the use of local waterways and foot path.*

**The Need:** Currently GVNC seeks funds for the expansion and improvement of this village.

### The Budget:

Bark Shingles for Wigwam and Two Longhouses	\$4,000
Fortification of Wigwam and Longhouses	2,000
Garden Station Expansion	1,500
Travel and transportation Station	1,500
<u>Total</u>	<u>9,000</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will reduce the restorative needs of the village to once per year
- GVNC will be able to expand program offerings to schools
- GVNC will be able to design new special events venues that increase revenue generation and education opportunities





## All-Weather Teaching Area

Did you know that as of May, 2011 PA had experienced its third wettest spring ever? Climate scientists predict an increase in inclement weather due to climate change.

Due to air pollution and decreased ozone protection, summer campers must find healthier shaded ways to enjoy their outdoor time.



*An all-weather teaching area is needed to accommodate visiting students who participate in our programs during inclement weather. This facility will primarily host visiting elementary classes as well as camp groups who attend during the summer. The all-weather facility will be housed underneath the overhang of the barn. It will consist of a concrete slab floor, overhead lighting and canvas sides which can be rolled down from the ceilings on all three sides (in order to provide protection from sun, rain and/or wind).*

**The Need:** GVNC is engaging in a campaign to build an all-weather teaching area for visiting classes and summer camp groups

### The Budget:

Cement Slab	\$4,000
Canvas Siding	3,000
Overhead Lighting	1,000
Landscaping	500
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$8,500</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will be able to reduce the number of group program cancelations that occur during inclement weather
- GVNC will be able to provide a healthy outdoor learning space where students and teachers will be protected from inclement weather as well as the sun





## Aquatic Learning Laboratory

Did you know that aside of air, fresh water is the most important natural resource essential to life?  
Did you know that between 60 and 70 percent of a human's body is comprised of water?  
Did you know without food, a human could live for several weeks? Without water a human could only survive for 2 or 3 days!



*GVNC plans to design an outdoor Aquatic Learning Lab to modernize it's most popular aquatic studies course offerings. Each year, thousands of students learn about watershed conservation and pond and stream biodiversity through our aquatic education programs. Each program requires numerous supplies including collecting and sampling materials, nets, microscopes and a variety of chemical test kits. For purposes of storage, ease of program presentation, and inclusion of state of the art technology and sampling practices, an outdoor learning lab is required. The pavilion-style structure will be accessible to the Center's stream and pond and will be equipped with storage components and lab work-stations.*

**The Need:** Currently GVNC is engaging in a capital campaign to build an Aquatic Learning Laboratory

### The Budget:

Pavilion	\$5,000
Concrete Slab	3,000
Storage Cabinets	2,000
Laboratory Benches	2,000
Landscaping	1,000
Chemical Test Kits	500
Collecting Tools	500
Scientific Equipment (microscopes)	1,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will be able to offer state of the art aquatic programming to area elementary, middle school and high school students as mandated by Pennsylvania state standards
- GVNC will be able to fulfill it's crucial role in stressing importance of watershed protection and conservation in Southeastern PA





## Butterfly House

Did you know that butterflies play a major pollination role in the natural world and agricultural field? The monarch butterfly, native to PA makes a two thousand mile migration each fall to a forest in Mexico for purposes of over wintering. This is the longest migration known in the insect world.



*A butterfly garden screenhouse will be used to give students and community visitors an up-close opportunity to observe the life cycle of (metamorphosis) of live butterflies, native to PA in their natural habitat. This walk-through screened in facility will house species including monarchs, spicebush swallowtails and tiger swallowtails and will demonstrate how native plants can be used to attract and feed these useful and beautiful insects. Summer camps, school programs and scout badges and special events will be designed around this facility.*

**The Need:** Currently we are seeking funds to erect a butterfly screenhouse and native plant butterfly garden

### The Budget:

Screenhouse Structure	\$3,000
Butterfly Species	1,000 (per year)
Butterfly Food and Care Items	500 (per year)
Native Perennial Plants	1,500
Filler Annual Plants	500 (per year)
Gardening Supplies	500
Cleaning Supplies	200
Small Garden Pond and Fountain	1,500
Pathway Paving Stones	1,000
Program Development	2,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>11,700</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will have additional talking platforms regarding current issues such as species endangerment, climate change, and the importance of native gardens
- This interesting attraction will increase visits by the community, organized groups and school groups



## Adventure Programming Transportation

Did you know that GVNC seeks out hawk migrations, searches for wild ponies, and kayaks the wilds of the Eastern seaboard in travels through the adventure program? Destinations include: the NJ pinelbarrens, Cape May Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague National Seashore, Ohio Pile, Adirondack Mountains, Rickets Glenn



*GVNC travels thousands of miles each year to provide community with adventure programming opportunities. Whether outdoor enthusiasts wish to view the hawks that migrate through Hawk Mountain in the Fall or learn to kayak class four rapids in the spring, GVNC's experienced staff has been providing the instruction and transportation for years. It is now time to retire some of our older 18 passenger vans and current funding sources are sought so that options for a more fuel-efficient, high occupancy vehicle can be considered. Additionally, a storage trailer will be required for the transport of adventure equipment, camping supplies and participant luggage.*

**The Need:** GVNC currently seeks funding for the purchase of an adventure vehicle and trailer. The ideal vehicle will be capable of carrying at least 15 passengers in addition to staff

### **The Budget:**

High Occupancy Vehicle	\$25,000
Trailer	6,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>31,000</u>

### **Because of your gift:**

- GVNC will be able to develop new adventure programming to destinations in New England, Southern Canada as well as the Carolinas and Florida





## Recycling Station

Did you know that the average US citizen uses more than 650 pounds of paper in a year? If all this paper could be recycled, 100 million tons of wood could be conserved!

Did you know that nearly 80 percent of what we throw in the trash can be recycled? Currently we recycle only 30 percent of what we could.



GVNC currently hosts more than 40,000 visitors a year. Large school groups attend for all-day programming as do summer campers. Students, campers and general visitors routinely enjoy their lunch while at our facility which has the tendency to generate significant amounts of trash. As an education facility dedicated to the environment, it is our obligation to provide an area where waste such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and paper can be sorted and ultimately sent to the local recycling facility. A recycling station will serve both functional and educational purposes.

**The Need:** Currently we are seeking funds to build a recycling facility and demonstration area.

### The Budget:

Containers to house various recyclable	\$2,000
Signage	1,000
Fencing to act as visual barrier for "recycling area"	2,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,000</u>

### Because of your gift:

- GVNC will be able to educate hundreds of summer camp visitors and thousands of school students about the benefits of composting, reducing waste, and recycling
- GVNC's waste containment facility will double as a new educational exhibit
- GVNC will become a collection site for printer cartridges and will be able to raise funds by joining an ink cartridge recycling plan.

## EITC: Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

The EITC Program allows PA corporations and businesses to designate a portion of company income tax credits toward non-profit education businesses of their choice. Please consider asking your employer and your contacts if they would be willing to support GVNC in this way.



The PA government assigns income tax credits to select non profit educational institutions during the first week of July, every year. Typically, all tax credits are exhausted during that week. For this reason, a business wishing to participate, must submit paper work in a timely fashion on July 1, 2012

This section includes GVNC's application to be considered as a non-profit business to which tax credits can be assigned. The EITC Business Application (to be filled out by business wishing to designate their tax credits to GVNC) is also included. Additional information about business participation can be found at the EITC website:

<http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc>



## Special Events Fundraising:

This section is composed of 9 Special Events summaries. GVNC hopes to attract local business and corporate sponsorship for these events, but also welcomes the support of individuals who may be interested in providing any level of funding.

While these are the fundraising events that occur annually in a typical GVNC calendar year, it is likely that one or two new events may be added. Please familiarize yourself with these events, their purposes, and the time frames that outline when sponsors should be secured.



## Events In Need of Sponsorship:

### Maple Sugaring Festival (and pancake breakfast) (Please secure Funders by Dec.)

Description: GVNC's Maple Sugaring Festival is held toward the end of the "sugaring season" in late February or early March. It is a half day event during which visitors tour several outdoor stations to learn the art of maple sugaring as it was performed during the time of the native americans, the colonists, and how it is implemented today. Tree ID and biology are also discussed at a demonstration station. Visitors also enjoy a pancake breakfast and real maple syrup during this festival.

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Onsite Education Program

Sponsors Desired: 4 \$500 sponsors (1 marketing sponsor, 1 festival supply sponsor, and 2 food supply sponsors)

### Spring Egg Hunts (Please secure Funders by February)

Description: Children are invited during the weekend proceeding the Easter holiday for a spring festival comprised of an egg hunt (eggs are redeemed for prizes) a spring craft station, and a spring animal station.

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Onsite Education Program

Sponsors Desired: 4 \$200 sponsors (2 marketing sponsors, 2 prize egg sponsors)

### Raptor Run (Please secure Funders by April)

Description: Quite possibly the most well attended and entertaining event of the year, GVNC's Raptor Run is held during the early summer of each year. This 5 or 10 K trail run takes place at Marsh Creek State Park and draws runners from North Carolina to New England! Prizes are awarded for various gender and age categories, food is served, and vendors such as EMS attend. GVNC's resident Birds of Prey are another highlight of this event

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Birds of Prey

Sponsors Desired: 1 general sponsor at \$1,000 and 5 \$200 sponsor (1 water bottle sponsor, 1 food sponsor, 1 t-shirt sponsor, 1 tent sponsor, and 1 marketing sponsor)

### Summer Camp Barbeque, Concert and Reunion (Please secure Funders by May)

Description: This will be a new event in 2012 to celebrate the summer campers who have enjoyed learning about nature over the Center's 38-year history. The evening event will be held in late August and will include a barbecue, camp fire and concert event on the lawn in front of our Education Barn

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Summer Camp Program

Sponsors Desired: 3 \$500 sponsors and 1 overall sponsor at \$2000 (1 marketing sponsor, 2 food sponsors, 1 musical entertainment sponsor)

### Golf Tournament

Description: This annual event takes place in the spring or fall of the year at the Picketing Golf Course in Phoenixville. The golf event includes dinner, beverages during the golf outing and a bird of prey demonstration during the meal.

Proceeds Benefit: Birds of Prey and General Operating Support at GVNC

Sponsors Desired: 18 Hole Sponsors \$200 each 1 Overall sponsor at \$1000

### Halloween Event (Please secure Funders by August)

Description: GVNC's Enchanted Trail is a non-scary, child-friendly halloween trail during which groups are led through GVNC trail system to visit storybook characters to learn about nature. Treats are given at each skit-station.

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Outreach and Onsite Educational Programming

Sponsors Desired: 4 \$500 sponsors (1 treat sponsor, 1 marketing sponsor, 1 costume sponsor, 1 set design sponsor)



## Events In Need of Sponsorship:

### Annual Silent Auction (Please secure Funders by September)

Description: This annual event is generally held in late November or Early December and is run by the Board. The festive event is held in our historic barn and includes a buffet dinner, an open bar, a silent and live auction as well as musical entertainment. It is our largest special event of the year.

Proceeds Benefit: General Operations at GVNC

Sponsors Desired: 10 \$500 sponsors (1 marketing sponsor, 2 food sponsors, 1 decoration sponsor, 6 general table sponsors)

### Bird Seed Sale (Please secure Funders by July)

Description: This event is held in the fall of the year. GVNC teams with a local commercial birdseed provider to offer diverse bird seed varieties to bird enthusiasts.

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC's Resident Animal and Bird of Prey Collection

Sponsors Desired: 2 \$200 sponsors (2 general sponsors)

### Wreath Sale (Please secure Funders by October)

Description: This special event is held late November through early December and involves support from GVNC volunteers. Wreath making clinics are held for interested volunteers who then design and create Christmas wreaths, swags, kissing balls and ornaments to be sold prior to Christmas at the GVNC education barn.

Proceeds Benefit: GVNC Resident Animal Collection

Sponsors Desired: 3 at \$500 (1 greens sponsor, 1 ribbon and craft supply sponsor, and 1 general sponsor)

## Departmental Needs Wish List:

This section is composed of an itemized fundraising wish list for most of GVNC's major departments. Funding will of course, be accepted from any potential donor however, the "asks" are generally below \$1000 dollars and are aimed toward individual support. Additional items will be posted to each category as they are needed.





## Departmental Needs (and estimated costs):

### On-site Education

#### Yearly Costs

Props: Furs/Skulls/Skins/Replicas/Taxidermy - \$500

#### One-time Projects

Portable Sound System for Auditorium Programs - \$460

Storage System - \$520 (2 bin warehouses @ \$80 each and 24 storage bins @ \$15 each)

Laptop Computer - \$500

Prop Backpacks for Nature Hikes - \$320 (8 @ \$40)

### Outreach Education

#### Yearly Costs

Props: Furs/Skulls/Skins/Replicas/Taxidermy - \$500

#### One-time Projects

Storage System - \$260 (1 bin warehouse @ \$80 and 12 storage bins @ \$15 each)

Laptop Computer - \$500

### Adventure Education

#### Yearly Costs

Tents - \$500 (2 per year \$250 per tent)

Kayaks/Canoes - \$800 (2 per year @ \$400)

Paddles - \$280 (2 sets per year @ \$140)

PFD's - \$280 (4 per year @ \$70)

#### One-time Projects

Laptop Computer - \$500

Storage Trailers - \$3000

Camp Stoves and Cookware Supplies - \$200

### Summer Camp

#### Yearly Costs

Signage - \$150 (15 signs @ \$10 each)

Staff Shirts - \$300

Intern Shirts - \$200

Art Supplies - \$300

#### One-time Projects

Reusable Storage - \$260 (1 bin warehouse @ \$80 and 12 storage bins @ \$15 each)

Water Fountain - \$160

High-Power Fans - \$240 (3 @ \$80)

Sprinkler System - \$300

## Departmental Needs:

### Animal

#### Yearly Costs

Bird Gloves/Jess Supplies - \$200

Perching Platforms - \$100 (2 per year at \$50)

Landscaping Plants - \$300

Food and Water Bowls - \$100 per year (\$20 per bowl)

Indoor Animal Supplies - \$300 (bedding, cages and light equipment)

#### One-time Projects

Bird Food Freezer - \$700

Carrying Cages - \$500 (10 @ \$40)

Covers with Embroidered Logo - \$500 ( 10 @ \$40)

### Office

#### Yearly Costs

Bird Food Freezer - \$700

Carrying Cages - \$500 (10 @ \$40)

Covers with Embroidered Logo - \$500 ( 10 @ \$40)

#### One-time Projects

Computer System \$3000

Desks - \$1200 (6 @ \$200 each)

Office Chairs - \$600 (6 @ \$100)

Filing System - \$530 (1 lateral drawer system)

### Facilities Maintenance

#### Yearly Costs

Cleaning Supplies \$300

Cleaning Service - cost TBD

Paint Supplies (for annual Painting Projects) - \$500

#### One-time Projects

Industrial Vacuum - \$500

### Grounds Maintenance

#### Yearly Costs

Annual Planting Supplies (Seeds/Flowers/Trees/Shrubs) - \$500

#### One-time Projects

Tractor - \$3000 (riding mower) \$9000 (commercial mower)

Gator - \$8000

Gardening Tools and Storage System \$400/\$100

Chain saw - \$300

Power Tools - \$300

Wheel Barrow - \$300

Grounds Signage - \$1000



## Fundraising Ideas:

Board members have been quite successful in fundraising endeavors when they have committed their resources utilizing two or three of the following methods described. Please consider helping GVNC in some of the following ways. Additionally, please brainstorm and share other fundraising possibilities that GVNC might attempt.





## Fundraising Ideas

### Host a Wine and Cheese Fundraiser

#### Steps:

- 1) Select a GVNC cause and host an event to which you will invite close friends and family
- 2) Decide whether to host event in your home or at the Nature Center
- 3) Issue invitations and suggest that guest make a donation supporting your chosen cause (in lieu of hostess gift)
- 4) GVNC will provide a program/presentation/animal demonstration as entertainment for the event

Please contact Tom for details.

### Host a Moonlight Canoe Fundraiser

#### Steps:

- 1) Host a canoe or kayak trip to which you will invite close friends and family
- 2) Decide where you would like your canoe trip to take place (NJ, PA, VA)
- 3) Issue invitations and suggest that guest make a \$100 donation supporting your chosen cause
- 4) GVNC will provide transportation, kayak equipment, and dinner

Please contact Tom or Adam for details.

### Sponsor an Education Program in your Child's classroom or at a Neighboring School:

Today, many schools are faced with spending cuts and cannot afford to pay for student field trips. Please consider covering the cost of a program in your child's school or hosting an education program for the children in your neighborhood. Please contact Lynn or Jeremy for details.

### Provide Contact Introductions

GVNC aims to gather five potential donors from each board member in the coming year. Contacts may be senior members of local corporations, owners of local business, or individuals who are interested in supporting environmental education. Please contact Tom for details.

### Recruit Special Event Sponsors

It is hoped that each board member will spearhead one special event per year in terms of event sponsorship, in addition to the collective board effort needed during the "Annual Silent Auction". Please contact Tom for details.

### Visit Foundations or Attend a Foundation Luncheon at GVNC

Periodically, GVNC is asked to attend foundation functions and occasionally we invite foundations to learn more about us. Please make it known if you are willing to accompany the executive director during such events. If you have any affiliations with foundations, please also make this known. Please contact Tom for details.

### Legacy Gifts

GVNC has a planned giving program for those wishing to establish a Legacy in Environmental Education. Bequests may be left to GVNC through personal wills, life insurance policies, appreciated securities or through retirement plans. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Tom.



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix H – Heritage Resources**

In the 1993 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan (OSRERP), numerous maps were prepared to document the heritage resources of Charlestown Township including:

- Water Resources;
- Land Resources;
- Biotic Resources;
- Scenic, Historic and Cultural Resources; and
- Protected Township Lands.

For this Plan, we have updated and consolidated the heritage resources on the map titled: “Character Areas” that depicts:

- Critical Environmental Areas;
- Agricultural Lands & Historic Village;
- Sixteen park and recreational areas; and
- Trails.

We have also included a “Character Areas Transect” to illustrate how the Character Areas line-up with various Open Space Areas including:

- + Natural Areas;
- + Trails & Pathways;
- + Community Parks;
- + Neighborhood Parks; and
- + Village Greens & TND Common Areas.

The cumulative presence of these heritage resources affirms a characteristic that was attributed to Charlestown Township in 1974. When describing the location and overall character of Charlestown, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used the words “Green Agricultural Wedge” to describe the Township due to:

- the pie-shaped or wedge-shaped configuration of Charlestown; and
- the predominant rural character that existed (and still remains).

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

Fortunately, the major road infrastructure, and public sewer and water utilities are located in perimeter locations of the Wedge.

Therefore, the Pickering Creek Valley, outlined in the 1993 OSRERP, still remains as the Rural Landscape of Charlestown. It is in this area that an abundance of the Heritage Resources of Charlestown are located.

It is with respect to the Heritage Resources that this Plan has been guided.



**Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**  
**Charlestown Township – Chester County, PA**

**Appendix I – Implementation**

The responsibilities for the Implementation of this Plan needs to be shared by:

- + the Board of Supervisors;
- + the Township Staff;
- + the Park and Recreation Board;
- + the Trails Committee; and
- + the Planning Commission.

All of these groups have participated in the preparation of this Plan.

Relative to the phasing of improvements at the parks and recreational areas, a capital improvements plan needs to be prepared to apportion the enhancements between 2013 and 2033. Cost data from Appendix C should be used to pursue grants and to help with budgeting.

Grant opportunities should be pursued through:

- \$ the Chester County Commissioners (and the Municipal Park Acquisition and Construction Grants program);
- \$ the Pennsylvania DCNR – Department of Conservation & Economic Development;
- \$ the Pennsylvania DCED – Department of Community & Economic Development;
- \$ the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), especially through their “Municipal Resources Guide; and
- \$ Private source funding.

In addition, Charlestown Township should continue to utilize the Fee-in-Lieu of Recreational Resources program, as described in Appendix F.

A complete list of grant opportunities follows.

## Open Space and Recreation

### Bucks County Open Space Program

**Eligibility:** Bucks County municipalities

**Purpose:** To provide municipalities with financial assistance for open space planning and acquisition

**Terms:** Varies; base allotment of \$200,000 per municipality

**Deadline:** December 2014

**Contact:** Bucks County Planning Commission

**Phone:** 215-345-3400

<http://www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission>

### Burlington County Open Space Program

**Eligibility:** Burlington County municipalities

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in the development and improvement of parks for passive and active recreation and to preserve open space and farmland

**Terms:** Grants up to \$250,000; a 10 percent bonus may be available to projects that meet additional criteria

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation

**Phone:** 856-642-3850

<http://www.co.burlington.nj.us>

### Camden County Open Space Preservation Trust Fund

**Eligibility:** Open space/recreational properties in Camden County meeting application criteria

**Purpose:** To preserve open space, facilitate historic preservation, and improve recreational facilities

**Terms:** Varies

**Deadline:** Open

**Contact:** Camden County Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation

**Phone:** 856- 858-5241

<http://www.camdencounty.com>

### Chester County Municipal Grant Program

**Eligibility:** Chester County municipalities and land-owning municipal recreation authorities

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in providing parks, trails, and preserves

**Terms:** Reimbursement up to 50 percent

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Chester County Department of Open Space Preservation

**Phone:** 610-344-4741

<http://www.chesco.org>



### Chester County Municipal Park Acquisition and Construction Grants

**Eligibility:** Local governments in Chester County

**Purpose:** To acquire parkland or open space and improve facilities

**Terms:** Grants for a maximum of 50 percent of the costs up to \$250,000

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation

**Phone:** 610-344-5656

<http://www.chesco.org/ccparks>

### Circuit Rider Program

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments (multi-municipal)

**Purpose:** Four-year grant program to hire a full-time recreation and/or director to share services through an intergovernmental cooperative effort

**Terms:** 100 percent of circuit rider's salary for first year, then 25 percent less each year

**Deadline:** Open

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 888-783-5877

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Coastal Blue Acres Grants and Loans

**Eligibility:** New Jersey local governments and counties located in the state's coastal area

**Purpose:** To acquire storm-damaged property for storm protection, recreation, and conservation purposes

**Terms:** Grants cannot exceed 50 percent of project costs; requires 50 percent local match

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program

**Phone:** 609-984-0570

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres>

### Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants (CHP)

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments, counties, and municipal authorities

**Purpose:** To prepare preliminary watershed assessments

**Terms:** Grants up to \$5,000

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-787-2316

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments and non-profits

**Purpose:** To plan for, conserve, rehabilitate, and develop parks, recreational facilities, trails, and waterways; to assist land trusts; to build professional capacity; and educate the public on the benefits of recreation and public space

**Terms:** Varies; most require a match of 50 percent

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 800-326-7734

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Community Stewardship Incentive Grant Program

**Eligibility:** New Jersey municipalities or counties with approved forestry management plans and two core-trained individuals

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in implementing management goals and practices as outlined in their Community Forestry Management Plan

**Terms:** Maximum \$6,000 up to 75 percent of project costs

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-292-2532

<http://www.nj.gov/dep>

### Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Planning Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments

**Purpose:** To develop a comprehensive, long-range open space and recreation plan

**Terms:** Grant funding for 50 percent of project costs

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-787-2316

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### County Natural Area Inventory Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania county and local governments

**Purpose:** Provides funds to inventory natural areas, special habitats, open space, and recreation

**Terms:** Grant funding for 50 percent of project costs

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-787-2316

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>



### Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program

**Eligibility:** Public or non-profit private agencies, educational institutions, and local and state governments

**Purpose:** Develop the capacity of local governments, citizens groups, and other organizations to promote community-based stewardship and enhance local watershed-based resource management

**Terms:** Grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Office

**Phone:** 202-857-0166

**<http://www.nfwf.org>**

### Environmental Education Regional Grants

**Eligibility:** Local educational agencies, colleges and universities, state education or environmental agencies, non-profit organizations

**Purpose:** To increase public awareness of environmental issues

**Terms:** Grant amounts range from \$15,000 to \$100,000; 25 percent match required

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Phone:** 202-272-0167

**<http://www.epa.gov>**

### Gloucester County Open Space Preservation Program

**Eligibility:** Gloucester County municipalities

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in the purchase of recreational lands and open space

**Terms:** Grants are usually 25 percent of total project cost

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation

**Phone:** 856-307-6451

**<http://co.gloucester.nj.us/Government/Departments/LandPreservation/Openspace.cfm>**

### Green Acres Grants and Loans

**Eligibility:** New Jersey municipal and county governments

**Purpose:** To acquire open space for recreation and preservation purposes

**Terms:** Varies; includes matching grant, low-interest loan, or combination of both

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-984-0570

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**

### Green Acres Nonprofit Acquisition Grants

**Eligibility:** New Jersey nonprofits that qualify as a ‘charitable conservancy’

**Purpose:** To acquire open space for recreation and preservation purposes

**Terms:** 50 percent matching grant

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-984-0570

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**

### Green Communities Challenge Grant

**Eligibility:** New Jersey municipal and county governments

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in developing Community Forestry Management Plans

**Terms:** 50 percent match

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-292-2532

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**

### Greenfield/Green Towns Program

**Eligibility:** Local governments in Montgomery County and private organizations experienced in land conservation and preservation

**Purpose:** To preserve and enhance open space

**Terms:** Local open space plans required prior; local match of 10 – 30 percent

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Montgomery County Planning Commission

**Phone:** 610-278-3757

**<http://www.montcopa.org>**

### Growing Greener II

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments and non-profits

**Purpose:** Provides redevelopment grants to municipalities and non-profits to help a community's downtown redevelopment effort, focusing on the improvement of downtown sites and buildings

**Terms:** No minimum or maximum; typical grants average between \$250,000 and \$500,000

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

**Phone:** 866-466-3972

**<http://www.newpa.com>**



### Kodak American Greenways Grants

**Eligibility:** Local, regional, or statewide non-profits, public agencies, and community organizations

**Purpose:** Provides grants to improve greenways, trails, or waterways

**Terms:** Maximum grant amount is \$2,500

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** The Conservation Fund

**Phone:** 703-525-6300

**<http://www.conservationfund.com>**

### Land and Water Conservation Fund

**Eligibility:** State and local governments

**Purpose:** To provide matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities

**Terms:** Match required

**Deadline:** Open

**Contact:** National Park Service

**Phone:** 202-354-6900

**<http://www.nps.gov>**

### Matching Grants for Local Environmental Agencies

**Eligibility:** New Jersey municipal environmental commissions

**Purpose:** To assist a variety of environmental projects, resource inventories, trail designs, or rehabilitation studies

**Terms:** Maximum grant amount is \$2,500; required 50 percent match of the total project cost

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-984-0828

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**

### Mercer County Open Space Preservation Program

**Eligibility:** Municipalities and qualified non-profits in Mercer County

**Purpose:** To preserve open space and farmland

**Terms:** Varies

**Deadline:** Open

**Contact:** Mercer County Planning Division

**Phone:** 609-989-6545

**<http://nj.gov/counties/mercerc/about/community/openspace>**

### Municipal Challenge Grant

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania municipalities and non-profits

**Purpose:** To assist municipalities in developing comprehensive shade tree management programs

**Terms:** Vary

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Community Forests

**Phone:** 717-599-8650

**<http://www.pacommunityforests.com>**

### Municipal Tree Restoration Program (MTRP) Electric Utility Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania municipalities

**Purpose:** To stimulate communities to choose appropriate trees for planting locations under utility wires and to encourage the improvement of municipal tree programs

**Terms:** Vary

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Community Forests

**Phone:** 717-599-8650

**<http://www.pacommunityforests.com>**

### National Recreational Trails Program

**Eligibility:** Local, county, and state governments, and non-profits

**Purpose:** To provide for the development and maintenance of trails and trail facilities

**Terms:** Maximum grant award is \$25,000

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-984-0628

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**

### Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants

**Eligibility:** New Jersey municipalities, counties, health departments, regional entities, non-profits

**Purpose:** To conduct nonpoint source management in the 20 watershed management areas in New Jersey

**Terms:** Vary

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Phone:** 609-633-3812

**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep>**



### PECO Green Regions

**Eligibility:** Municipalities in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties

**Purpose:** To protect, acquire, and enhance open space

**Terms:** Grants of up to \$10,000

**Deadline:** Spring and fall

**Contact:** Natural Lands Trust

**Phone:** 610-353-5587

**<http://www.natlands.org>**

### Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

**Eligibility:** State and local governments and non-profits doing work in the Delaware Estuary

**Purpose:** To further the implementation of the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

**Terms:** 1:1 match required

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-772-5622

**<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>**

### Pennsylvania Firewise Community Program Fire Mitigation

**Eligibility:** Certified or aspiring Pennsylvania Firewise Communities

**Purpose:** To mitigate wildfire risk

**Terms:** Maximum \$40,000

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-783-7956

**<http://dncr.state.pa.us>**

### Preservation Partnership Program

**Eligibility:** Chester County non-profit conservation organizations and land trusts

**Purpose:** To fund land preservation and trail construction projects

**Terms:** Varies

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Chester County Department of Open Space Preservation

**Phone:** 610-344-5499

**<http://dncr.state.pa.us>**

### Rail to Trail Feasibility Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments

**Purpose:** Provides grants to determine the feasibility of converting a railroad right-of-way to a multi-use trail

**Terms:** Grants fund 50 percent of total project costs

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 888-727-2757

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Rail to Trail Master Plans Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments

**Purpose:** Provides grants to develop a design detailing the proposed development of a trail

**Terms:** Grants fund 50 percent of total project costs

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 888-727-2757

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Rail to Trail Special Purpose Grants

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments

**Purpose:** Provides grants to develop a detailed study on a particular issue or structure that impacts the conversion of a trail corridor to a multi-use trail

**Terms:** Grants fund 50 percent of total project costs

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 888-727-2757

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Recreational Trails Program

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania county and municipal governments, state and federal agencies, and private organizations

**Purpose:** Provide grants for developing and maintaining recreational trails and trail-related facilities

**Terms:** 80 percent of project costs up to maximum \$100,000 with 20 percent required match

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 888-727-2757

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>



### Regional Trails Program

**Eligibility:** County, municipal, and city government agencies or departments, development corporations and non-profit organizations within the DVRPC nine-county region as well as areas where trails connect into the counties of Cumberland, Salem, Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton

**Purpose:** To plan, design, and/or construct multi-use trails for recreation and alternative transportation

**Terms:** Maximum grant award of \$60,000 for any single project; match of 20 percent of the total project budget as either cash or documented in-kind services; at least 5 percent of the required match must be cash

**Deadline:** Varies; program is broken into three separate phases

**Contact:** Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**Phone:** 215-592-9125

<http://www.dvrpc.org/RegionalTrailsProgram>

### Rivers Conservation Program

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments or appropriate organization

**Purpose:** To conserve and enhance river resources through planning; planning, implementation, development, and acquisition grants are available

**Terms:** Funds cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project costs; \$2,500 minimum

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:** Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Phone:** 717-787-2316

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

### Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance

**Eligibility:** Local governments, states, and non-profits

**Purpose:** Technical assistance to communities for trails and greenway planning

**Terms:** Technical assistance is for one year

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** National Park Service

**Phone:** 215-597-1581

<http://www.nps.gov>

### Schuylkill River Heritage Area Grant Program

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments, counties, federal commission, and non-profits within the Schuylkill River watershed area

**Purpose:** To support projects that improves water quality in the Schuylkill River

**Terms:** Up to \$100,000; a 25 percent match is required

**Deadline:** Annual

**Contact:** Schuylkill River Greenway Association

**Phone:** 484-945-0200

<http://www.schuylkillriver.org>

### Tree Improvement Grant

**Eligibility:** Pennsylvania local governments, volunteer groups, nongovernmental organizations  
**Purpose:** To initiative programs for public trees and to develop local resources for continuing tree care  
**Terms:** Vary  
**Deadline:** Varies  
**Contact:** Pennsylvania Community Forests  
**Phone:** 717-599-8650  
**<http://www.pacommunityforests.com>**

### TreeVitalize

**Eligibility:** County and local governments in southeastern Pennsylvania  
**Purpose:** To provide grants and technical assistance to restore tree coverage in southeastern Pennsylvania  
**Terms:** Up to \$15,000; \$150 per tree; 25 percent cash match and 25 percent in-kind volunteer services  
**Deadline:** Varies  
**Contact:** Pennsylvania Horticultural Society  
**Phone:** 215-988-8795  
**<http://www.treevitalize.net>**

### Vision Partnership Program

**Eligibility:** Chester County municipalities and multi-municipal regions  
**Purpose:** To promote planning in coordination with county-wide plans  
**Terms:** Varies  
**Deadline:** Varies  
**Contact:** Chester County Planning Commission  
**Phone:** 610-344-6285  
**<http://www.chesco.org>**

### Water Quality Management Planning – Pass Through Grant

**Eligibility:** New Jersey water quality management planning agencies  
**Purpose:** To provide grants for conducting wastewater management planning activities and for developing management plans for on-site wastewater treatment systems  
**Terms:** Limited to eligible costs  
**Deadline:** Varies  
**Contact:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
**Phone:** 609-633-1349  
**<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/nps-program.htm>**