



West Pikeland Land Trust

Preserving Open Space • Protecting Land • Promoting Conservation

NEWS

Contact:
Melinda Mercurio
610-879-3734
info@wplandtrust.org

Page 1 of 1

17+ Acres in West Pikeland Township to be Preserved

Conservation easement includes new trail access from Pikeland Road to Pickering Creek

Chester Springs, PA – March 18, 2009 – The West Pikeland Land Trust (WPLT) today announced that West Pikeland Township will participate in the purchase of a conservation easement on 17.1 acres on Pikeland Road in West Pikeland. The easement purchase is made possible by the Township's open space preservation fund and a matching grant from Chester County. The transaction will be the first use of the newly created open space preservation fund, representing the culmination of many months of work by WPLT and the Township to establish the necessary processes to identify, evaluate, prioritize, structure and fund open space transactions. WPLT was named Open Space Advisor to the Township in 2008.

The conserved property is owned by Charles and Alyssa White and contains an historic 18th century house and active horse farm adjacent to Township-owned Pickering Grove. The high quality Pickering Creek winds through or borders the property, which also has 10 acres of woods and 4.5 acres of prime agricultural soils. The conservation easement designates the woods and stream as the highest protection area, to preserve natural resources, and permits the agricultural area to be used for a variety of sustainable uses, such as horse pastures. A 30-foot wide trail corridor was also created to allow public access from Pikeland Road through the protected areas to the fishing-accessible Pickering Creek, which is a PA Fish Commission trout-stocked stream.

WPLT is currently engaged in evaluating similar opportunities in the Township. “The White easement is the first of what we hope will be many conserved properties that expand active and passive recreation opportunities for West Pikeland residents while protecting agricultural lands, scenic views, clean water, and wildlife habitat,” said Curt Grogan, WPLT president. “Preservation of this parcel provides new public-access trails for hiking, horseback riding, and fishing access, and protects beautiful streetscape views for the public in perpetuity.”

The West Pikeland Board of Supervisors approved the transaction at its meeting on March 16. The Township will share transaction costs with Chester County, which will contribute the remaining funds through a Preservation Partnership grant awarded to Natural Lands Trust. The easement will be jointly held by West Pikeland Township, Chester County, and Natural Lands Trust.

“We’re fortunate that West Pikeland residents understand that protecting open space preserves the values that make our Township special,” said Grogan. “Equally important, protecting land from development makes it available for recreation, hiking, horseback riding, and other activities that create a sense of community. Local taxpayer support provides funding to make that happen, and makes the Township eligible for grants that increase opportunities to enhance the quality of life in West Pikeland.”

The purchase of the White property easement is expected to be completed in Spring 2009.

About West Pikeland Land Trust

The West Pikeland Land Trust is an all-volunteer registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving land by assisting landowners and West Pikeland Township in land use decisions; promoting conservation of open space, water resources, and historic places through education and community outreach; and protecting land by accepting and holding donated or purchased easements and monitoring for compliance. WPLT's work is supported primarily through private donations. For more information, visit www.wplandtrust.org.

###