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For Immediate Release

\$270,000 in Grant Funding to go toward the Permanent Protection of 46 acres in Salford Township

July 11, 2005 Lederach, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently awarded a grant of \$270,000 to Montgomery County Lands Trust. Funds will go toward the purchase of a conservation easement on 46 acres adjacent to White’s Mill Park in Salford Township, Montgomery County.

The purchase of a conservation easement will ensure that while the land may continue to be privately owned and maintained it cannot be developed by its present or future owners. Current owners John and Mae Clee Williams are enthusiastic partners in this project. Salford Township endorses the project and has classified the area as the highest priority for conservation.

The land lies within the Unami Hills and is part of the Pennsylvania Highlands Region which has been designated by the four-state Highlands Coalition as “high priority conservation land.” Last year the U. S. Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act which gave national recognition to the conservation value of land within the Highlands Region.

According to Paul Corder, Land Preservation Associate of Montgomery County Lands Trust, the 46 acres rank high for protection for a variety of reasons. The richly

wooded parcel has an impressive number of high value natural resource sites, hosting a wide diversity of plant and animal species, as well as distinctive diabase boulders. As a preservation project it is especially attractive because it lies adjacent to another natural area, White's Mill Park -- a notable wetland area with a viewing platform owned and managed by Salford Township.

Montgomery County Lands Trust will leverage the state grant funding to seek additional funding from Montgomery County's Green Fields/Green Towns program. The Trust's goal is to acquire the full amount needed for the total purchase of the development rights.

As a non-profit land conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works collaboratively with citizens, municipal leaders, community organizations, and other conservation organizations to permanently preserve land and to foster the wise stewardship of open space in our county.

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--- Montgomery County Lands Trust