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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Montgomery County Lands Trust Awarded Grant for
Protection of the Scioto Creek Corridor**

On September 18th, 2003 The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded Montgomery County Lands Trust a Growing Greener grant in the amount of \$24,100 for conservation planning and restoration work along the Scioto Creek corridor. Scioto Creek flows from its source in New Hanover Township, passes through Upper Frederick Township, and connects with Swamp Creek in Lower Frederick Township. Grant funds will be used for analyzing the stream's role as a watershed, identifying key parcels, assessing properties, and providing information to land owners. In addition, important restoration work will be done by Montgomery County Lands Trust in partnership with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Upper Frederick's Township Park, and Upper Frederick Township who will provide some of the labor and equipment.

Restoration priorities include removing invasive plants growing along the Scioto Creek bank and replacing them with native plants and also containing run-off from a nearby parking lot. Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation for Montgomery County Lands Trust says, "We want the project to be a model of restoration. It will include information signs

provided by the County and function as a demonstration project to inform people about stream bank restoration. ”

Barley Van Clief, Executive Director for Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, says that this grant will complement their organization’s work in the Swamp Creek corridor, funded in large part by T.H. Properties and Cabot Supermetals. “We are very excited to work with all of the partners, she says, “and believe that because Scioto Creek connects with Swamp Creek and eventually the Perkiomen, that everyone within the Lower Perkiomen watershed will benefit.”

This grant will augment conservation planning that Montgomery County Lands Trust is doing in other sections of the Swamp Creek corridor. The organization received a grant in May, 2003 from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the amount of \$19,000.

The Pennsylvania DEP has awarded over \$37 million in grants in support of its Growing Greener program with \$18.99 million being distributed in support of watershed grants. Greenways such as those formed by stream corridors are among the state’s highest recreation and conservation priorities. One of the goals of Pennsylvania’s statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is to protect greenways as well as cultural, historic, and scenic corridors for future generations.

--Montgomery County Lands Trust

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