

2008 Green Futures Achievement Awards

Upper Hanover Township and Partners: Peevy Road Open Space Project

The Peevy Road Open Space project is the culmination of a collaborative series of successful conservation efforts in Upper Hanover Township, East Greenville and Red Hill Boroughs. As open space partners, these three communities have created a lasting legacy of miles of scenic vistas along the Perkiomen Creek to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Beginning in the 1970's, Upper Hanover Township and the two neighboring boroughs targeted several properties along the Perkiomen Creek for conservation. Camelot Farm, now known as Camelot Park, was among the first of the acquisitions by Upper Hanover Township. Some twenty years later, all three communities would join forces in protecting the Mill Hill Tracts, creating a significant swath of open space where the Perkiomen and Hosensack Creeks meet. During that same period, East Greenville Borough invested open space grant funds for the purchase of the Bieler flood plain tract, connecting Camelot Farm with the Borough's large water company property along the creek at Fruitville Road. The permanent protection of the Wenz and Bieler Farms provided buffered land and stream protection,

along with many acres of scenic beauty. The last piece of this conservation puzzle was to protect the 85-acre Early property, now known as the Peevy Road project.

In 2007, the puzzle was finally complete due to the leadership of Upper Hanover Township. They took on a significant mortgage, in addition to providing matching funds with county open space dollars. East Greenville directed some of its grant allocation toward the project as well as placing a conservation easement on its Borough-owned water company property. They also granted public access to the property, creating a greenway connection to the Peevy Road property. Continuing with the rich history of collaboration, Red Hill Borough also provided grant funding, assisting in making this collective vision a reality. The three municipalities are now part of an inter-municipal agreement, providing guidelines for the use and management of the Peevy Road property.

In all, this collaborative open space project provides an additional 85 acres of large swaths of open fields, informal meadows, and old-growth hedgerows for visitors to enjoy in the scenic northeastern corner of Montgomery County.



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