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**For Immediate Release**

**81 Private Acres Adjoining Evansburg Park Now Permanently Preserved**

**January 6, 2011 – Worcester Township**

An agreement that was ten years in the making came to a rewarding closure on December 29, 2010 when **Montgomery County Lands Trust**, the Moran family, and Worcester Township signed the documents to permanently preserve 81 acres in Worcester Township. The privately owned Moran property connects in one corner to the 3700-acre Evansburg State Park and lies within close proximity to Methacton High School. Identified as a Montgomery County Natural Areas Inventory landscape, the special parcel will have a public trail installed as part of the agreement. Montgomery County Lands Trust worked closely with Worcester Township who had selected the parcel as its top priority. Worcester used its own substantial contribution of \$337,000 to leverage \$800,000 in funding from Montgomery County and \$700,000 from Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Funds were used by Montgomery County Lands Trust to purchase the development rights and keep the privately owned land open as a preserved landscape.

The Moran property is not only striking in its beauty, it has high natural resource conservation value. Its diverse landscape contains mature woodlands that are contiguous to the Pennsylvania Highlands Region. The parcel also features meadow, wooded stream buffers, tributaries to the Skippack Creek, and nationally significant wetlands – all elements adding to its significant value for conservation. The future trail through the private land will link to Evansburg State Park

affording Methacton Highschool students, teachers, and athletes a safe, off-road place to train and make their way to the state park for field trips.

Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation for Montgomery County Lands Trust, put in countless hours on this project. He reflects that the conservation of the Moran property is particularly rewarding because it satisfies so many conservation goals. “It is a property that contains scientifically significant natural resources, while at the same expanding a county greenway. It connects existing preserved open space to the state park while simultaneously preserving a priority parcel in Worcester’s Open Space Plan. It also provides a long-sought Worcester trail corridor while concurrently protecting beautiful mature woodlands and sensitive wetlands. It was gratifying to have so many different partners work toward the common end of conserving this property.”

As a non-profit conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works to preserve and connect the natural areas, farmland, and neighborhood green spaces which contribute to our quality of life, to a clean and abundant water supply, and to the health of our region’s economy. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at [www.mclt.org](http://www.mclt.org)

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