

Green Futures Workshop - Keeping It Green
Environmentally Friendly Municipal Ordinances

Kennett Township

Location – Southeastern Chester County – shares border with Delaware.

Closest communities – Kennett Borough, Philadelphia, Delaware

Watersheds – Red Clay, Brandywine, & White Clay Creek

Demographics – bedroom community for white collar professionals working for DuPont, Astro Zeneca, Ing, Bank of America, lots of trained scientist.

Wells – 70% of township on private water sources.

Natural Features

- Woodlands- 33% or 3,271 acres
- Streams – 74.4 miles
- Groundwater recharge area – 69% or 6,808 acres
- Visual Significant landscapes – 46% or 4,532 acres
- Steep Slopes – 2% or 213 acres
- Active Farmland – 15% or 1,497 acres

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

Purpose:

- Survey community needs/ wants – open space and passive recreation #1
- EAC work list – identified natural resources needing protection that were not under current ordinances.
- GIS tool - hardware purchased by township – gave EAC funds to hire Brandywine Conservancy to create digitized maps of natural resources.
- Vision Forum – Open Space and Passive recreation very high – quality of life – access to nature.

Hired the Brandywine Conservancy Environmental Center to help with GIS – Science tools to support ordinance development.

Though the EAC steward these efforts all final products were the result of multiple individuals perspectives and inputs. Planning Commission, Supervisors, Township residents, EAC members.

Woodland Management Plan – became working model for ordinance development.

Goal

- Maintain a diverse community of native plants and wildlife;
- protect the quality and quantity of water supplying aquifers, wells, streams and wetlands;
- protect air quality and regulate microclimate conditions;
- Reduce flooding
- Maintain the scenic character of the township;

- Provide recreational and education opportunities for residents
- Produce wood as an economic resource

This means that large, interconnected, mature woodland networks should be managed throughout the Townships to provide critical woodland functions including forest-interior habitat, riparian buffers and corridors, groundwater recharge areas, representative and unusual forest types, and scenic and recreational values.

Outcome

Woodland Classification

Forestry Standards

Woodland Management Ordinance

Class I, II, III

- a) spatial data: size, shape, level of connectivity or isolation between woodlands, and length of stream frontage within woodlands.
- b) Qualitative data: age, species diversity, groundwater recharge potential, scenic character.

Resource Prioritization Process – tool for township planning review and Kennett Township Land Trust preservation work.

Provide an effective guide for land use and open space conservation by identifying and prioritizing open space and resources that best contribute to maintaining the rural character and environmental health of the community.

Composite maps

- Water: Streams, floodplains, wetlands, hydric soils, headwater areas, groundwater recharge areas, sensitive aquifers.
- Land: steep slopes, prime ag soils.
- Biotic: Woodlands, wetlands, meadows, rare species sites, stream and riparian zones.
- Cultural, historic, and scenic: Visually significant resources, active farmlands, heritage trees, historic structures.
- Landscape Corridors

Inventories – updates integrated into composite info

- Meadows
- Scenic resources

Tweaked – creating Summary of High Value Resource Areas

Comprehensive Plan – 2004 updates

Considers need to protect groundwater encourage areas and residents wish for Open Space and Passive recreation opportunities.

Ordinances work influenced

- Woodland disturbance ordinance - integrated into Natural Resources Protection Standards
 - Disturbance limits set per Woodland Classification type.
 - Heritage Trees, hedgerows and type of species also important.
- Timbering Harvesting Standards
- Riparian buffer ordinance – increased buffer from 75 to 100’ each side. (Based on Stroud Center science.)

Kennett Natural Resource Protection Standards are now the model for the regional planning commission for surround five municipalities.

Enforcement – the challenge – the opportunity.

The key is for constant education/ re-education. If township has an EAC they can help with education outreach efforts.

People who care – can and will make a difference.

Dr. Seuss quote from his book “The Lorax”.

“But now, says the Once-ler,
Now that you’re hear,
The word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear.
Unless someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It’s not.”