

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Plainfield Township
www.plainfieldtownship.org
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Plainfield Township Official Map Adoption (Awarded 2018)

SUMMARY

With the assistance of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini-Grant, Plainfield Township was able to create its first Official Map. On July 10, 2019, the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing and are set to take action to formally adopt the first Official Map of Plainfield Township. Creation of the Official Map will have been completed primarily by the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council with help from Township administrative staff, the Township Engineer, and the Township Solicitor.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$5,000.00

Match:
\$5,702.75

Total Project Cost:
\$10,702.75

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

A special thanks to the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council, Ott Consulting, Inc., the Law Offices of David Backenstoe, Esq., the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, all municipalities bordering Plainfield Township, Township staff, and the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors for their vision and commitment to planning for the future.



CHALLENGE

During the Municipal Election of November 6, 2007, the registered electors of Plainfield Township voted to approve a referendum imposing an additional earned income tax at the rate of 0.25% for the preservation of open space.

The Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors sought to develop an Official Map in order to assist the governing body with implementing appropriate planning measures to potentially preserve open space lands for the protection of existing trails, high priority conservation greenways and stream corridors located within the Township.

The adoption of an Official Map is anticipated to possibly expand the use of open space earned income tax to include the acquisition of conservation easements and open space lands that will help the Township achieve the goals set forth in the Township's regional comprehensive plan and open space plan.



SOLUTION

In accordance with the recommendations set forth by the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council, the first Official Map of Plainfield Township primarily focuses on preserving the existing corridor of the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail, protecting mature growth forests (Grand Central Woods and the Blue Mountain) and protecting the existing waterways within the Township (including the High Quality Cold Water Fishery Little Bushkill Creek and the Waltz Creek). Where feasible, the Official Map will be used as a guide for future streambank restoration projects, to enhance water quality, and to protect the existing rural character of Plainfield Township.

The Township is primarily interested in placing conservation easements (as opposed to fee simple title acquisition) along the stream and Recreation Trail corridors. Conservation easements allow residents to maintain ownership of the property and the use of their land while placing a layer of natural protection that would be managed by the Township or another entity that specializes in management of natural space resources (such as the Wildlands Conservancy). The management plan is necessary to ensure that the natural area remains high-quality.

RESULTS

The result of this project is a comprehensive Official Map that was created through a collaborative process involving the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council, the Board of Supervisors, staff, and input from Township residents and community stakeholders.

Plainfield Township primarily received positive feedback from residents, as exemplified within the following quotation:

I live on property adjacent to the trail. My husband and I walk on it all the time. I am in favor of a town map that will help protect streams, riparian buffers, wetlands, and natural features. The trail is a treasure that should be protected. I whole heartedly support any measure that will protect the Plainfield Trail.

Contact



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