

**Breitinger Tract Acquisition
 Chalfont Borough
 Bucks County, PA**

Project Description:

Located where the North and West branches of the Neshaminy Creek come together, the Breitinger Tract became the perfect spot to incorporate both conservation and recreation. The 22 acres of creekfront land and a farmhouse and open farmland is one of the remaining open spaces in Chalfont, where 93 percent of the land is occupied. In addition to being identified as a priority site in the Natural Areas Inventory of Bucks County, the area is crucial to the future plans of the Borough and adjacent New Britain Township and New Britain Borough. A \$200,000 DCNR acquisition grant, matched with \$185,000 from the Bucks County Natural Areas Program and \$15,000 from Chalfont Borough enabled the purchase of 19.66 acres of open space. The Borough purchased the 2.3 acre homestead property separately. The 19+ acre recreational portion of this tract has been renamed "Twin Streams Park", and will be able to access Chalfont's Blue Jay Park to the east over a new pedestrian bridge over the West Branch of the Neshaminy, New Britain Township open space to the south, and



Chalfont's Kelly Park to the north. Access to the Borough's town center is within walking distance just past the former Breitinger homestead.

A future trail plan is being planned, with the Breitinger Tract being a keystone piece of land. DCNR has also provided funding for a tri-municipal trail plan that will identify a connected trail route along the Neshaminy through New Britain Township, New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough. Two boat launches are being planned along the West and North branches of the Creek to enable canoe and kayak access to the Neshaminy. While a grass trail currently exists through the park, a paved trail is planned for 2009. Because the area lies in the confluence of two waterways it is classified as a floodplain. Keeping development off of this area will allow the creeks to flood naturally and not disrupt any buildings that

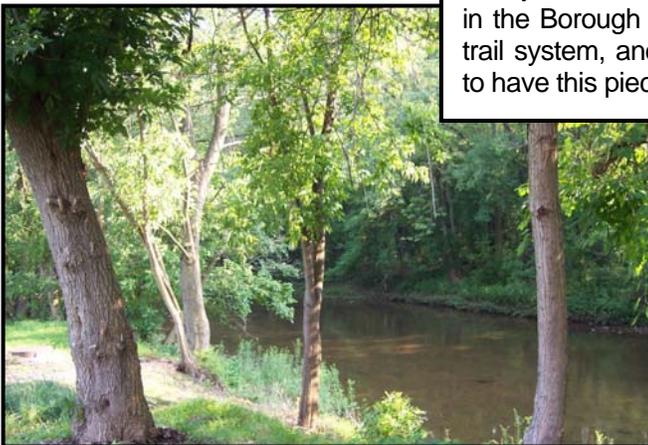
Quote: Melissa Shafer, Chalfont Borough Manager

"The County hopes to develop a linear park along the Neshaminy that goes to Peace Valley Park. Twin Streams Park is a key link in the Borough and Regional greenway and trail system, and the Borough is very happy to have this piece in place."

would be built close to the banks.

The acquisition of this land will be protecting a natural area while also linking local communities to their neighbors and the waterway. Once people can get out onto the water, they will become stewards of the Neshaminy and take pride in their local creek. Twin Streams

Park will become a vital link to the regional greenway and trail system. According to the Borough Manager Melissa Shafer, the County will eventually have a park along the banks of the Neshaminy stretching to Peace Valley Park. This park is an excellent case of using open space to connect people to the outdoors, but also to other open space and parkland.



Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2006:\$200,000 Keystone grant
 Matching Funds – \$200,000
 Bucks County Natural Areas Program - \$185,000
 Borough of Chalfont - \$15,000