

**Drexeline Property Acquisition
 Upper Providence Township
 Delaware County, PA**

Project Description:

Upper Providence Township was able to purchase the last major piece of unprotected land in the area designated for conservation under the "Ridley Creek Conservation Plan" with the help of an \$87,000 DCNR acquisition grant. The 5.6 acre Drexeline Parcel is located along the Ridley Creek in Delaware County. The

Township recognized the importance of purchasing this property since it was a key parcel in a proposed 1.5 mile greenway and trail connecting Ridley Creek State Park to Township owned and controlled lands along Ridley Creek to the north of Baltimore Pike. In 1993, the Township issued a \$6 million bond to help create open space for its residents. The Township provided \$94,400 in

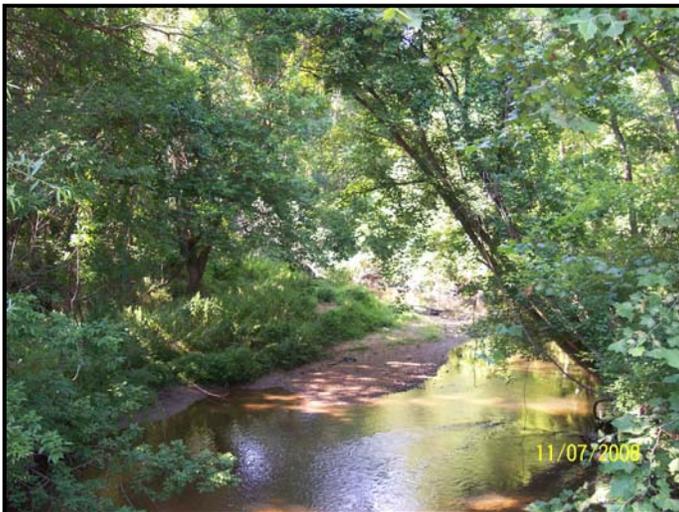
Quote: Anthony Hamaday, Upper Providence Township Manager

"Without this property, there would be no way to fully implement any trail in this area. Hopefully, the Township can develop a future trail system that will serve the residents and highlight the natural features of the region. This property is certainly a large asset for the Township, and keeping it undeveloped is in the best interests of our community."

matching funds using these bond funds and was able to get a grant from the PECO Green Region Program for additional support. The Drexeline Property completes an approximately 1.1 mile stretch of continuous greenway.

This parcel is also critical to protecting Ridley Creek, the source for public drinking water. Drexeline is located with an area known as Media Wetlands, a Priority #2 site in the Natural Areas Inventory of Delaware County due to its importance for water quality. The NAI recommendations were to leave these wetlands in an undisturbed state and limit development in bordering areas.

The Upper Providence for Open Space Association, which assisted the Township in garnering local support for the project, is hopeful that future trails from the Township into this wooded parcel will provide residents direct access to the Creek and the undisturbed natural areas. The Delaware County Open Space Project concluded that Upper Providence Township is lacking nearly 73 acres of public space for its community, so having more open space for passive recreational use will help to fill this need. Additionally, the Ridley Creek Conservation Plan called for a regional park in the area where the property is located.



Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

- 2006: \$87,000 Keystone Grant
- Matching Funds - \$104,400
- \$94,400 Upper Providence Open Space Fund
- \$10,000 PECO Green Region Grant