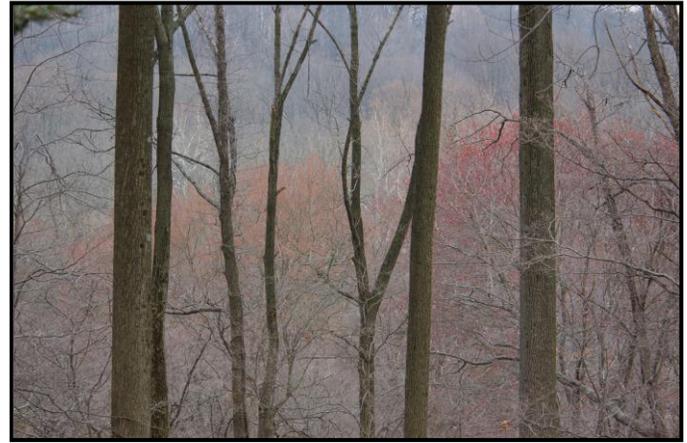


**Paper Mill Road Woods Acquisition  
Bryn Athyn Borough / Lower Moreland  
Township  
Montgomery County**

**Project Description:**

Even though a 66-acre parcel spanned two municipalities, Bryn Athyn Borough and Lower Moreland Township, there was no problem for the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT) to place it under conservation. PERT created a partnership with the two municipalities, Montgomery County, and DCNR, who together raised over \$2M to acquire the land which is a key parcel in the ever-growing Pennypack Greenway. The property lies right along the Pennypack Creek, and there has been a passionate effort by the County and PERT to create a greenway along the Creek. With each additional property placed under conservation, this plan becomes easier to achieve.

Not only will this property help create a natural greenway, but it will also act as a buffer for the adjacent Pennypack Preserve, which the Trust has been creating through acquiring open space. There has been heavy development in the area to the east, and with each building that goes up, more habitat is negatively impacted. Creating a buffer helps to alleviate the pressure put on ecosystems by construction. The Paper Mill site is



home to several forest-nesting migratory birds, such as Scarlet Tanagers and Wood Thrushes. The property used to have two agricultural fields, but the

Pennypack Trust is restoring these fields to woodlands. The two fields bisect forested areas of the parcel, so returning the area to 26 acres of contiguous forest will improve the health of the forest.

In addition, Montgomery County plans to implement a Rail-to-Trail project – the Pennypack Trail - on the western edge of the property, on an unused railroad line. This trail will be connect eventually to the Philadelphia section of the Pennypack Trail which extends south all of the way to the Delaware River and from there, connects to the

north-south national East Coast Greenway trail.

**Quote:** David Robertson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

“The protection of Paper Mill Road Woods—perhaps more so than any other property in the central Pennypack Creek watershed—was key to protecting the ecological integrity of the entire Pennypack Preserve because it contains a large block of forest linked to other protected forest lands. It would have been disastrous to lose these woods. In addition, Paper Mill Road Woods embraces a small stand of ancient and beautiful trees, several springs, and exceptionally scenic views from the route of the proposed Pennypack Trail.”



**Amount of Growing Greener awarded, year and matching sources:**

2007: \$1,025,000 Growing Greener 2 Grant

Local Matches - \$1,025,000

Montgomery County Open Space (Lower Moreland) - \$181,820

Montgomery County Open Space (Bryn Athyn) - \$272,720

Montgomery County Private Organization Grant (Pennypack Trust) - \$525,000

Pennypack Trust - \$45,460