

**Waddington Tract Acquisition  
 Philadelphia, PA**

**Project Description:**

Located in Northeast Philadelphia, the 11+ acre Waddington Tract contains one of the few remaining natural wetlands within the City. The property, located adjacent to the Pennypack Park, will be preserved and act as a buffer for the Park. The undeveloped land contains some meadow areas, steep slopes, and a tributary to the Pennypack Creek. The land parcel fit perfectly into the Natural Lands Trust study "Fairmount Park Adjoining Lands Study". The study examined locations around the city that are close to existing parkland and which land parcels would be ideal to add to the Fairmount Park system. Over 150 letters of support arrived at the Park Commission urging them to acquire this land. The land is now incorporated into the Pennypack Park and into the larger Fairmount Park network.

Fairmount Park will leave this area in its natural state for passive recreation, and it is accessible from Algon Avenue or by existing trails in Pennypack Park. If there were to be development of this area, it would significantly increase runoff and degrade the quality of Krewstown Creek, the tributary of the Pennypack Creek. Since the area falls within the floodplain, keeping it open and in its natural state will help to stabilize the Creek.



Open spaces like the Waddington Property are environmentally beneficial, but also allow residents to enjoy the outdoors without walking around on pavement. The Fairmount Park Commission was awarded a \$350,000 Keystone grant to give the residents of Philadelphia a chance to enjoy green space. There was no cash match, but the property owner received tax credits in the amount of

\$450,000. The land was originally appraised at \$800,000, but has now appreciated to over 1 million dollars. DCNR and the Fairmount Park Commission are glad to have added this property to the growing park system.

**Quote:** Stephanie Craighead, Director of Planning, Preservation, Development, and Facilities Management

"The primary mission of the Fairmount Park Commission is the preservation of open space. Limited opportunities present themselves in our densely developed city. Waddington was a perfect opportunity to provide habitat in the Northeast section of Philadelphia. We could not have completed this acquisition without the support of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and we greatly appreciate the partnership that was created to insure the preservation of this land."

**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

2004: \$350,000 Keystone Grant  
 Matching Funds - \$450,000