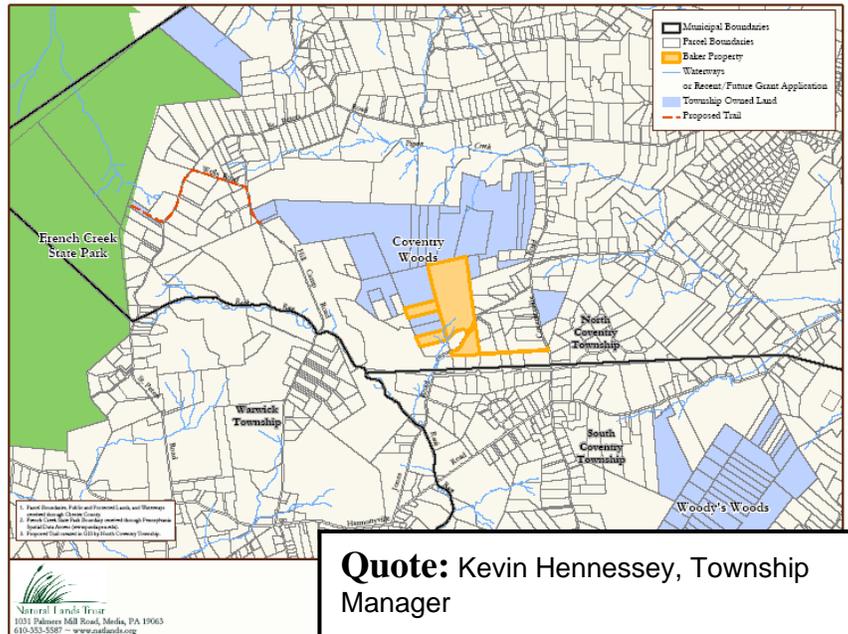


**Baker Property Acquisition
 North Coventry Township
 Chester County, PA**

Project Description:

While animals like the bobcat and black bear are hard to find these days in Southeastern PA, you can spot a few in North Coventry Township. The seemingly untouched 53-acre Baker Property, which lies off Jones Road, contains mature woodlands and supports diverse habitats. The French Creek flows near the site, and its excellent water quality allows a perfect breeding ground for the Louisiana Waterthrush, a small bird species. The PA Audubon Society and PA Wildlife Federation have named this area an Important Bird Area and Important Mammal Area due to the bird habitat and these rare animals. A \$350,000 DCNR acquisition grant combined with an open space grant from Chester County and funding from North Coventry afforded the \$700,000 purchase of this significant parcel. The Baker Property is located in "Coventry Woods", a 400+ acre mature forest area designated for protection by the Township. North Coventry Township owns 140 acres of land within the Coventry Woods, and plans on adding over 100 more. These woods are part of the larger "Hopewell Big Woods" landscape that includes 15,000 contiguous acres of forest recognized as the only viable example of high quality forest block in Southeastern PA and French Creek State Park.

In 2003, the Township passed a referendum that added one quarter of one percent to resident's income tax to help pay for a new open space initiative. Since this initiative was launched, the township has been able to conserve 880 acres, including 283 acres of forest, 22 acres of active recreation parkland and 575 acres of perpetual agricultural easements on farms. With the development of a trail connection to French Creek State Park and to Woody's Woods in South Coventry, this acquisition is a key link to other



Quote: Kevin Hennessey, Township Manager

"North Coventry is lucky that portions of the land purchased have existing logging roads on them which will easily be converted to Woodland Trails. We are in the process of marking these trails and then opening them for recreational use."

greenways. In the Baker property, an older logging road creates the perfect opportunity to make a trail. These trails will not impact the natural area as the roads have already existed. The property will be a great place to walk through an undisturbed environment and experience native Southeastern PA woodlands. Had DCNR and other partners not stepped in, this land would have gone to developers eager to build and destroy this beautiful Pennsylvania forest.

Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2007: \$350,000 Keystone Grant	
Matching Funds:	\$280,000 Chester County \$70,000 North Coventry Township