

North Branch Land Trust/  
 Camp Lackawanna Easement  
 Vosburg Neck Purchase

Wyoming County, PA



**P**roject Description:

The Vosburg Neck property is made up of 1,000 acres of land adjacent to the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. The river winds around the 1,000 acre parcel and narrows at the entrance to the property creating a narrow strip of land on the west side of the river that provides access.

The owners of the Vosburg Neck property were approached by numerous developers and campground operators asking to lease or sell their property along the Susquehanna. It had long operated as a camp and retreat for the Lackawanna Presbyterian Church. The 288 acre property has been a regional asset used by numerous residents of Wyoming County for gatherings and by the largest nearby employer, Procter and Gamble as the site for its employee gatherings. The nearby Tunkhannock School District uses the property for educational programs and its annual Environmental Days Program. The Scouts in Wyoming County hold their camping jamborees at the site. Keystone College holds some incoming freshman

orientation events at the camp. The site also contains remnants of the historic North Branch Canal.

Because the largest part of the neck, The Howland property consisting of 667 acres, had already been gifted to the North Branch Land Trust it was deemed appropriate by the board of the Lackawanna

Presbyterians to sell the 288 acre Camp Lackawanna property to the Land Trust.

The North Branch Land Trust was awarded \$266,000 from DCNR Keystone Fund to complete the total purchase price of \$533,000. The match was the donated land value from the Presbytery of Lackawanna.

The property is preserved for public enjoyment and continues to be well used by the residents of Wyoming County. Visitors

can access the Susquehanna River and the property is recognized as a designated stop on the Susquehanna River Water Trail.

*Wyoming County residents benefit most from this grant. We've talked to Camp officials, so we know they intend to take the dollars DCNR granted for the purchase of their conservation easement and invest them back into their facilities, which are open at various times of the year for County residents to enjoy. This should be a great benefit to the tourism industry in Wyoming County as well. The Camp's property borders 667 acres owned by North Branch Land Trust. Together, these two properties border four miles of Susquehanna River frontage, which are now protected from subdivision and development. The scenic beauty, educational and recreational purposes of these properties truly benefit everyone."*

*Frank Oliver, Executive Director  
 North Branch Land Trust*

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**Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:**

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2006: \$265,000 in Keystone Land Trust  
 Matching funds-Landowner donated value