



Paradise Farms Property
East Bradford Township

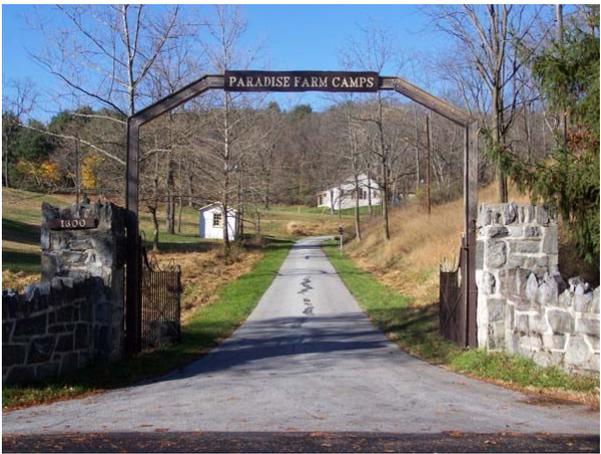
Chester County, PA

Project Description:

Natural Lands Trust, in partnership with East Bradford Township, was awarded a \$400,000 DCNR Growing Greener grant to purchase a conservation easement on 360 acres of the Children’s Country Week Association’s 580-acre Paradise Farm Property in Chester County. Protection of this property is a win-win for all parties. East Bradford Township was anxious to gain protection and public access to this property to enable a trail corridor to traverse the property along Valley Creek, a stocked high quality trout stream that has suffered degradation unless protected for future generations. This large parcel is also key to the township’s preservation and enhancement of its “community character” as it provides a significant natural setting for residents to experience and explore. The Natural Lands Trust was eager to permanently protect this parcel as it ranked very high on its “Smart Conservation” mapping of critical habitats that should be protected for wildlife, water quality and woodlands. Chester County provided extensive funds as this parcel was part of a priority “Wildlife Biodiversity Corridor” in its Linking Landscapes

“Paradise Farm is a gem in a highly developed suburban setting. The DCNR grant will insure that it will be saved for future generations.”

M. John Johnson, President,
West Chester Fish, Game &
Wildlife Association, Inc.



Open Space Plan and also for its ability to provide a trail link to existing public trails that would eventually link Chester County to Philadelphia. The West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association provided strong support for the project, as they had been operating a trout nursery and stocking the Valley Creek for over 30 years and were anxious to keep the creek open

for public fishing forever. Neighboring West Bradford Township was supportive of the trail links and went on to receiving federal transportation funds to link their trails to Paradise Farms. The Children’s Country Week Association, whose mission is to provide outdoor educational and recreational experiences to children and families without sufficient financial resources to afford these experiences, benefited from the capital funds from the transaction that were put towards their charitable mission.



All in all, the public benefits of this project were extensive. It took the strong partnership of a regional land trust, local townships and the county, along with a charitable non-profit organization to make this project a reality and benefit for the many users of this highly scenic and resource-generous property.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

- 2004: \$400,000 Growing Greener funding
- Matching funds - \$2,450,000
- East Bradford Township - \$1,550,000
- Chester County - \$900,000 in grants to NLT and East Bradford Township