



## Resica Falls Conservation Easement

### Monroe County, PA

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roject Description:

Monroe County is one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania. The county has experienced explosive growth, with a corresponding need for additional recreation and housing units often resulting in the loss of open spaces. According to census figures, the population of Monroe County rose from 40,000 in 1960 to 130,000 in 2000. It is expected that this trend will continue.

Situated in Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County, the Resica Falls Scout Reservation is prime land for developers who hope to meet the inevitable demand for more housing and supporting facilities. Most of the acreage is flat terrain. This characteristic, plus the large lake in the center and its proximity to a nearby highway make the acreage a very attractive area for residential development.

In 2006, DCNR provided a \$1 million Growing Greener 2 grant to place a conservation easement on 1,000 acres. The easement will ensure that this vast, pristine and important natural area will remain forever protected from development.

The owners are the Cradle of Liberty Boy Scout Council, the third largest Boy Scout council in the country with 93,000 members. Its troops include scouts from urban and suburban areas; for many, the reservation represents their best opportunity to experience a large natural area.

*“When the project is complete, this conservation easement will cover 4,100 acres-an area larger than 105 Pennsylvania State Parks! I believe the magnitude of this conservation project will resonate for years to come, setting a precedent for large, landscape-scale conservation in the Poconos and preserving expansive tracts of land for fishing, hunting and passive recreation-activities that contribute significantly to the economic prosperity of the region. Furthermore, I feel that this project captures the spirit intended by the legislature in passing Growing Greener II.”*  
John Siptroth, State Representative 189<sup>th</sup> Legislative district

Although the Council is large, the development pressure created myriad opportunities for the Council to divest itself of large portions of the reservation that were not being used for programming. The

property has been in the possession of the Boy Scouts for more than 80 years.

Fortunately, the Council was interested in forever preserving this last remaining large acreage in Monroe County.



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

2006: \$1,000,000

Matching funds:

Monroe County open space \$1.1 million, Middle Smithfield Township 25K, Landowner 71K, NLT \$1000.00

Payment toward the acquisition of a conservation easement on approximately 1000 acres along Route 402, in Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County, for natural area protection and recreation.