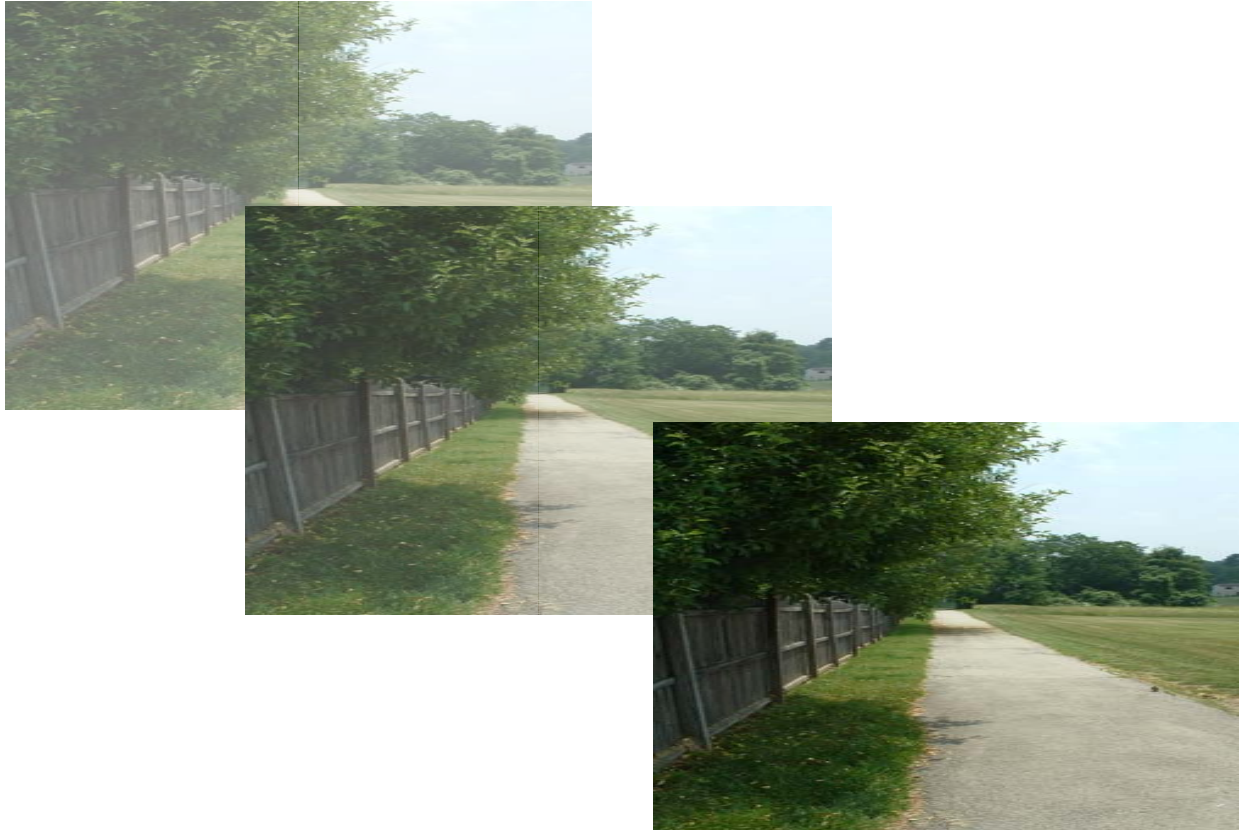


Whitemarsh Township
Greenway Plan



Prepared for:

Whitemarsh Township
August 16, 2007

Stell
SEE Environmental
Enterprises, Inc.
...The Difference!

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Introduction	1
<i>Study Area Setting.....</i>	2
Regional Setting.....	2
Township Character.....	3
<i>Benefits of Greenways</i>	3
Community Benefits of Greenways.....	3
Recreation and Health.....	3
Transportation Enhancement and Safety Benefits	4
Economic Benefits	4
Historic and Scenic Resource Preservation.....	4
Conservation of local Rural and Farmland Legacy.....	4
Creation of Educational Opportunities.....	4
Building Partnerships.....	5
Promotion of Sustainable Development and Sound Land Use.....	5
Environmental Benefits of Greenways	5
Water Quality Protection.....	5
Habitat Protection.....	5
Air Quality Protection.....	6
Global Climate Change.....	6
Revealing the Whitemarsh Township Greenway Network.....	7
<i>Goals and Objectives.....</i>	7
Natural Resource Protection	7
Recreation Opportunities	7
Historic and Cultural Resources Preservation.....	8
Educational Opportunities.....	8
<i>Greenway Types</i>	8
Conservation Greenways	8
Recreation Greenways	8
Multipurpose Greenways.....	8
<i>Natural Resource Greenway Network</i>	9
Water Resources.....	10
Streams and Rivers.....	10
Floodplains and Flood Prone Areas.....	11
Wetlands.....	12
Riparian Buffers	12
Wetland Margins and Pond Shores	12
Earth Resources.....	13
Geology and Soils	13
Steep Slopes	13
Woodlands.....	13
Biological Resources.....	14
The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program	14
<i>Park and Recreational Greenway Network.....</i>	14
Parks/Public Open Space	15
Private Open Space	15

The Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan

School Land	16
Transportation and Utility Corridor Resources	16
Trails	17
Existing Trails	17
The Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail	17
The Schuylkill River Heritage Trail	17
McCarthy Park and Victory Fields Trail	18
Planned Trails	18
County Trails	18
Trails Recommended in the Township Open Space Plan	18
<i>Historic and Cultural Resource Greenway Network</i>	19
National Register of Historic Places	19
Implementing the Greenway Network.....	20
<i>Greenway Implementation Recommendations</i>	20
General Recommendations	20
Land Protection/Property Acquisition.....	21
Land Use Management	21
Land Stewardship.....	22
Trails Recommendations.....	22
District Specific Recommendations	22
Broad Axe District Conservation Greenway	22
Stenton-Wissahickon Conservation and Recreation Greenway	23
Central District Urban Greenway	25
Miquon/Riverfront District Conservation and Recreation Greenway	27
<i>Greenway Management Strategies</i>	28
Short-term Greenway Partners.....	29
Adjacent Municipalities	29
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.....	29
Schuylkill River Greenway Association	29
Montgomery County Land Trust.....	29
Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Board	29
Private Sector Partners	30
Long-term Greenway Management	30
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.....	30
Montgomery County	30
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	30
<i>Greenway Conservation Strategies</i>	30
Land Protection/Property Acquisition.....	31
Temporary Binding Agreements	31
Management Agreements.....	31
Formal Land Lease	31
Greenway Easements	31
Public Access Easement.....	32
Conservation Easements.....	32
Preservation Easements	32
Securing Title.....	32
Fee Simple Acquisition	32
Donations and Gifts.....	32
Purchase and Lease Back	32
Bargain Sale	32
Right of First Refusal	32
Purchase of Development Rights	33

The Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan

Land use management enabled by the Municipalities Planning Code - Regulatory Mechanisms for Greenway Conservation.....	33
Comprehensive Plans.....	33
Zoning Ordinances.....	33
Official Map.....	33
Conservation Design Zoning.....	33
Transfer of Development Rights.....	35
Greenway Overlay Districts.....	35
Subdivision Regulations.....	35
Land stewardship.....	35
Develop landowner outreach and education programs.....	35
Develop and adopt forest canopy and woodland protection ordinances.....	35
<i>Conclusion</i>	36
Appendices.....	37
Appendix 1.....	38
<i>Population Summary</i>	38
Demographics.....	38
Socioeconomic Characteristics.....	38
Appendix 2.....	39
<i>Land Use and Zoning Summary</i>	39
Land Use.....	39
Township Zoning.....	39
Appendix 3.....	41
<i>Greenway Design Standards</i>	41
Trail Design Standards.....	41
Trail User Types.....	41
Pedestrians.....	41
Bicyclists.....	41
Americans with Disabilities Act.....	42
Equestrians.....	42
General Trail Design Guidelines.....	42
For urban, non-motorized trails The Pennsylvania Greenway Partnership recommends the following:.....	42
Other general trail design elements to be considered include:.....	43
Multi-Use Recreational Trails.....	43
Pathways.....	44
Trailheads.....	44
Primary Trailheads.....	44
Secondary Trailheads.....	45
Riparian Buffer Standards.....	45
Appendix 4.....	48
<i>Potential Greenway Funding Sources</i>	48
Township Funds.....	48
County Funding.....	48
Montgomery County’s Green Fields/Green Towns Program.....	48
Montgomery County’s County Farmland Preservation Program.....	48
State Funding.....	49

The Whitmarsh Township Greenway Plan

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Community Conservation Partnership Program	49
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Community Forests Program	50
Municipal Challenge Grant	50
Community Improvement Grants	50
Tree Improvement Grants.....	51
Mini Grants	51
Department of Environmental Protection - Growing Greener I and II.....	51
Environmental Education	52
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancements and Hometown Streets/Safe Routes to School	52
Transportation Enhancements	52
Hometown Streets/Safe Routes to School	52
Federal Funding	53
Community Development Block Grant.....	53
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.....	53
Private Funding	55
PECO Energy’s Green Region Program	55
Partnerships.....	55
Appendix 5	56
<i>Supporting Maps.....</i>	<i>56</i>
Appendix 6	57
<i>Review Comments and Adoption</i>	<i>57</i>

Maps

Natural Resource Network	Map #1
Cultural and Recreational Network	Map #2
Whitmarsh Greenway Network	Map #3
Primary Conservation Resources	Map 1A
Secondary Conservation Resources	Map 2A
Hydrology	Map 3A
Geology	Map 4A
Prime Agricultural Soils	Map 5A
Steep Slopes and Woodlands	Map 6A
Species of Special Concern	Map 7A
Land Use	Map 8A
Zoning	Map 9A
Greenway Network (By Districts)	Map 10A

Tables:

Primary Resources	Table #1
Secondary Resources	Table #2
Hydrology	Table #3
Transportation and Utility Corridors	Table #4
Implementation Strategies	Table #5

Figures:

Regional Location	Figure #1
Hawk Watch Platform	Figure #2
Montgomery County’s Greenway Network	Figure #3
Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail	Figure #4
Trail at McCarthy Park	Figure #5