Bucks County Open Space Program

Open Space Bond Referendum 1997

- $20 million Municipal Open Space
- $13.5 million Farmland Preservation
- $59 million
- $9 million Natural Areas
- $16.5 million County Parks

Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program

- Established in 1989
- Part of PA Farmland Preservation Program
- Preserved 130 farms = 11,324 acres
Easement Values

- $12,000 per acre cap
- Average price per acre is $9,255
- $10,000 to $40,000 acre

Bucks County home to 917 farms = 76,831 acres

In 2006, received a record 20 applications

Waiting list = 62 farms / 4,090 acres

Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program

County’s longest standing commitment to open space preservation.

Bucks County Park System totals 8,500 acres

All county-owned parkland protected by deed restriction.
Through the 1997 Open Space bond, additional 1,000 acres preserved.
- stream banks along designated greenways
- in-fill parcels within existing county parks

Bucks County Parks

Municipal Open Space Program

$20 million
divided among
54 municipalities:

- Base Allocation
  $100,000
- Adjusted Share
  % Overall County Land Area
  % Overall County Population

Municipal Open Space Program

- Required: Local Open Space Plan
- Up to $10,000 planning grant
- Fee-Simple / Easement
  - Farmland
  - Parkland
  - Natural Area

All projects must implement goals and recommendations of local open space plan.
Municipal Open Space Program

County Funding

- Up to 75% appraised value
- 25% municipal match

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

Number 94 - 0485

Date: 10/1/2009

YOUR MUNICIPALITY

Two Hundred Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS

FOR: Open Space Acquisition

SIGNED County of Bucks

Municipal Open Space Program

Completed 96 projects
2,500+ acres

- Parkland 657 acres
- Natural Areas 998 acres

Municipal Open Space Program

Unspent Funding...

- $1.2 million
- 15 municipalities
  - 3 untouched
Natural Areas Program

$9 million

- Competitive Grant Program
  - 2 application rounds / year
- 50% appraised value / $500,000
- Average of 2 appraisals

Who is eligible to apply?
- Nonprofit organizations
- Municipalities

How may funds be used?
- fee simple
- conservation easement

115 priority areas for protection
63 Projects
2,517 acres

Bucks County Open Space Program

Is Public Access Required?

- One factor used to evaluate applications
- Ranges from unrestricted to guided educational tours

November 2007

$25 million Farmland Preservation Program
$11 million Natural Areas Program
$18 million County Parks
$7 million Delaware Riverfront Program
$26 million Municipal Program
$87 million Municipal Program

$18 million County Parks
Municipal Open Space Program  $20 million

- Base Allocation $200,000
- Update Open Space Plan
- $10,000 planning grant
- Fee-Simple / Easement
  - Farmland
  - Parkland
  - Natural Areas

**Improvements**

All projects must implement goals and recommendations of local open space plan.

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Municipal Open Space Program

**Improvements**

- Considered on a Case-by-Case Basis
- Municipalities with Limited Open Space
- Pre-Application Concept Approval
  - Enhance Public Access / Utilization
  - Benefit Conservation Values
- Land must be Owned by Municipality and Deed Restricted

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Delaware Riverfront Program  $7 million

- Subcomponent of Municipal
- 17 Riverfront Municipalities
- Competitive Grant Program
- Public Access to River
Stewardship and Monitoring

- Application include a Management Plan
- Annual Monitoring reports
- County hired staff

Local Open Space Funding in Bucks County

- 49 Local Funding Measures
  - 21 municipalities
  - $266 million

Total Leveraged Funds...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Municipalities</th>
<th>Boroughs</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>TOTAL Leverage</th>
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<td>Farmland</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<td>79.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>17.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 53.5 53.2 39.7 14.6 2.1 **109.6**

Source: The Trust for Public Land LandVote Database
### Bucks, Chester, Montgomery Funding...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Measures</th>
<th>Approved Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bucks, Chester &amp; Montgomery</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1,356</td>
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<td>Bucks, Chester &amp; Montgomery % of PA</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>65%</td>
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</table>

Source: The Trust for Public Land LandVote Database