

New Garden Township
OPEN SPACE REVIEW BOARD

2014 Annual Report

The Open Space Review Board (OSRB) remained very active during 2014. Among the notable activities and accomplishments are the following.

Open Space Preservation Activity

- New Garden Township has an estimated 1180 acres of protected lands. During the year Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 10 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements.
- In the last 4 years the OSRB members had discussions with 31 property owners concerning the purchase or preservation through conservation easement of their property; in excess of 1450 acres. Conversations have proceeded, with BOS approval, to make offers of purchase of land or building rights in 5 cases. 1 property was purchased, 2 conservation easements are progressing. The others are on hold. Two trail easements were completed.
- The OSRB submitted and was successful with two grant proposals and participated in the preparation of a third proposal in conjunction with the White Clay Creek Watershed Association that was also funded. Additionally, Natural Lands Trust has continued work to close out the 2013 Chester County grant the Township received for a portion of the costs of the purchase of the Hendrickson property. A listing of the funded proposals benefitting the trails and open space of New Garden Township are listed below.
 - 1) E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation (Funded for \$7,000). Completed and final report submitted in June, 2014
 - 2) Green Region PECO Open Space Program (Funded for \$10,000) which ended December 31, 2014. The final Report, which is in process, is due January 31, 2015.
 - 3) Growing Greener Grant Project, in conjunction with WCCWA as the Grantee, was submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection and was funded with \$53,000. The planning component of this grant is proceeding. The project, which is funded through 2017, is for the development of riparian buffers along Lamborn Run in New Garden Township Park.

A listing of the funding for the purchase of the property and development of the Landenberg Junction Trail is included as appendix A.

OSRB Administrative and Community Education Activities.

- In January, the OSRB elected new officers: Gary Bell, Chair; Rich Chadwick, Vice-Chair; Ben Marsden Treasurer; Stan Lukoff, Secretary, Don Peters Grant Coordinator, Chris Robinson, Webmaster and Archivist, David Rickerman, Trail Master.
- In May several OSRB members attended the Annual White Clay Creek Fest. Both the OSRB and the Friends of New Garden Trails had a booth at the event.
- In September, the OSRB and The Friends of New Garden Trails shared a tent at the Tri-centennial Celebration of New Garden Township.
- The Board of Supervisors at their September 15th endorsed the OSRB proposed delineation of the structure of responsibilities between and among the Friends of New Garden Trails, the Open Space Review Board, and the Board of Supervisors.
- A poster session on the Landenberg Junction Trail was also presented at the Annual meeting of the White Clay Creek Watershed Association.
- Members of the OSRB volunteered 551.5 hours of their time to their duties as board members.
- Many of the OSRB members were also active with the Friends of New Garden Trails, which was established by the OSRB.

New Garden Township Trail System

2014 was a very busy year for the Friends of New Garden Trails. In addition to maintaining the Laurel Woods Trail and the Mill Race Trail as part of the New Garden Township Trail System they continued the conversion the Hendrickson property into the Landenberg Junction Trail. This involved many major demolition and construction activities, a number of which are ongoing in preparation for an official opening on April 26, 2015. Notable accomplishments include:

- Volunteers worked more than 757 hours on the two established trails and the Landenberg Junction trail head during 2014, usually in small groups of 6 - 10 of the most dedicated participants. A large portion of that time was committed to working with David Rickerman and his major donation of his time and equipment on the tree removal, grading, and drainage issues on the Landenberg Junction Trail. Additionally, in September, during the preparation and planting of the native flower and tree area where the house was until its demolition in January 2014, 51 volunteers provided 204 hours of additional labor. The volunteers, organized by the WCCWA, were a diverse group ranging from young children, to college students, to senior citizens.



- Other major tasks accomplished to date include the following:
 - Widening, grading and increasing the safety of the entrance way using logs and telephone poles to create a guard rail along the creek side.
 - Creating a parking area for about six vehicles.
 - Moving the electrical line from the house to the auxiliary building.
 - Removing the water pump and pressure tank and moving them to the garage,
 - Arranging for the removal of the oil storage tank and its contents,
 - Demolition of the house and grading of the area.
 - Improving and adding drainage connections between the properties three small ponds.
 - Grading a connection between the two railroad bed levels.
 - Building steps for the entry to the trail from the parking area to the first rail bed.
 - Fencing the parking area and the trail boundaries.
 - Adding some of the needed signage.
 - Clearing the trails and demarking them with logs, fencing and other barriers.
 - Painting the exterior of the auxiliary storage building.
 - Installing a rain barrel water supply.

Major tasks that are under way to be completed by the April opening include:

- Installing a kiosk in the parking lot. (Materials are purchased and construction is underway.)
- Building and installing an observation platform and signage at the beginning of the trail at the lower level rail bed. (This is an Eagle Scout Project by a scout from Troop53.)
- Installing benches in the garden area and ponds. (Benches have been purchased but not yet installed.)
- Installing additional fencing and signage. (Materials have been purchased.)
- Painting the interior of the auxiliary building and building shelves. (Paint has been purchased.)
- Building a natural stone wall at the base of the hill adjacent to the planted area.
- Final grading of the trails, parking area and access way.



Drainage work



Trail entrance

Recruitment of additional volunteers is an on-going effort. Anyone wishing to gain more information or to sign up as a volunteer for either the Open Space Review Board or The Friends of the New Garden Trails should visit the Township web site www.Newgarden.org or www.friendsofnewgardentrails.org.

The OSRB meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the township building on Starr Road. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

2014 Open Space Review Board Members

Gary Bell` (2014), Chair

Stan Lukoff (2017), Secretary

Rich Chadwick (2014), Vice Chair

Ben Marsden (2017), Treasurer

Don Peters (2016), Grants Coordinator

Chris Robinson (2016), Member

David Rickerman (2017), Member

**Erin McCormick, Natural Lands Trust,
Consultant**

Appendix A

FUNDING

Property Donated or Purchased with funds from the Following:

Landenberg Village, LCC (William A. Skalish)
New Garden Township Board of Supervisors, Open Space Fund
White Clay Creek Watershed Steering Committee (US National Park Service)
Municipal Grants Program, Commissioners of Chester County, Pennsylvania

Property Improvements and Trail Construction with Grants from:

Green Region PECO Open Space Funds
E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation

Volunteer In Kind Contributions:

Shane Morgan and Claudia West, Planning and Planting Design
Consultants
V.P. Electrical Contracting
Laurel Valley Farms, Inc. Soil Division
David Rickerman, Tree Services Inc.
Friends of New Garden Trails and the White Clay Creek Watershed
Association
Members of the New Garden Township Open Space Review Board

New Garden Township 2013

Showing sub-watersheds in White and Red Clay watersheds, protected lands, trails (active and proposed), easements and Township owned properties.

