

# New Garden Open Space Review Board 2018 Annual Report

## Open Space Preservation Activity



*St. Anthony in the Hills: one of several ponds.*

2018 was an expansive year for conserving open space in New Garden Township. A discussion with a large land owner initiated in 2012 culminated successfully this year thereby significantly expanding preserved open space by 106 acres. Also, this year members of the Open Space Review Board (OSRB) engaged with several property owners inquiring about conserving their property. These inquiries are, potentially, an additional 130 acres that could be added to conserved lands in New Garden Township. Page four shows an overall summary map of New Garden Township protected properties.

## Organization

- In January, the OSRB elected officers: Chris Robinson, Chair & Trail Coordinator; Randy Lieberman, Vice Chair; Dave Unger Treasurer. Secretarial task were assigned on a rotating basis among the members.
- OSRB members Randy Lieberman, Suzanne Geouque, Joe Miscione and Chris Robinson were reappointed for a 3-year term.
- Members of the OSRB volunteered over 400 hours of their time to their duties as Board members; site visits, property evaluations and preparing reports for the Township Supervisors. Several OSRB members are also active with the Friends of the New Garden Trails.
- In October Erin McCormick, Natural Lands Trust (NLT) consultant for the OSRB, introduced her associate and replacement, Kate Raman. Since 2012 Erin helped protect over 325 acres while simultaneously educating the OSRB about the entailed land conservation process. Erin’s valuable assistance preserved the quality of life in New Garden. During her seven years with the OSRB two large properties are now protected open space, Green Valley and St. Anthony in the Hills. Starting in December of 2018 Kate Raman now provides NLT’s excellent consultation service toward the OSRB’s ongoing objective preserving New Garden Township’s undeveloped lands and expanding its Greenway trails.

2018 Open Space Review Board Members	
Chair & Trail Coordinator	Chris Robinson
Vice Chair & Treasurer	Randy Lieberman
Member	Joe Miscione
Grant Coordinator	Kecia Crowl
Member	Suzanne Geouque
Member	David Unger
Member	Richard Meinzer
Consultant (Natural Lands )	Erin McCormick
Secretary	(rotating)

## Reports

- 2017 Annual Report sent to Tony Scheivert, Township Manager.
- OSRB developed methodology listing priority properties for conservation protection and trail easements.
- OSRB provided future list of priority properties map for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan.
- OSRB members presented slide show report to BOS meeting in December recommending purchasing conservation easement for two properties.

## Major Projects/Activities

- Saint Anthony in the Hills is now protected. The OSRB initiated discussion in 2012 culminating in December 2018 when the Township purchased the property’s camp land (137 acres). During 2018 Township manager Tony Scheivert, Erin McCormick and solicitor Vince Pompo finalized an agreement with the St. Anthony Parish to

purchase the property restricting 106 acres for open space and the remaining acres containing a variety of public structures for best public use. Unlike previous land protection acquisitions this property include a fascinating diversity of sturdy facilities used for children, families, individuals and organizations all in beautiful setting of woods, ponds, fields and walkways. St. Anthony in the Hills Camp was founded in 1969 by Father Roberto Balducelli of the Parish of St. Anthony, Wilmington, Delaware.

- Per Board of Supervisors and the 2018 Comprehensive Planning Committee’s requests, OSRB members embarked on prioritizing properties for conservation based on inherent features and attributes.



*St. Anthony in the Hills: multi-use walkways.*

### Other Activities

- Chris Etherington, resident of the McClellan Farms neighborhood, expressed interest in and advocacy for sidewalks and trails, especially along Pemberton Rd. The possibility of trail connections to Kennett Twp. trails under development and valuable asset to both townships, was discussed.
- Sarah Hazelwood from the Historical Commission informed the OSRB about the historic Taylor barn property and recommending preserving the adjacent properties.
- Josie Marsh from Bike Kennett discussed with OSRB regarding trails & sidewalks along Scarlett Rd and South St; a multi-use trail between Somerset and Kennett Middle School and one along Pemberton Rd.
- OSRB received requests from the Historical Commission asking for input regarding proposed demolition of historic house on Middleton property.
- Steve Allaband made an informal visit to the group to discuss the Official Township Map meeting that took place

and talk about upcoming plans for trails. Subsequent discussion followed with the Official Map Committee meeting in November.

- Kate reviewed expanded maps she created at several high-density areas that will help OSRB target property owners to contact to obtain trail easements and connect the trails in one large circuit.
- Friends of the Trails members Bernie McKay, Don Peters, and Dave Hawk shared their insights, priorities, and resident’s input gained through their many years building and maintaining the New Garden Trail System.



*St. Anthony in the Hills: one of two large fields.*

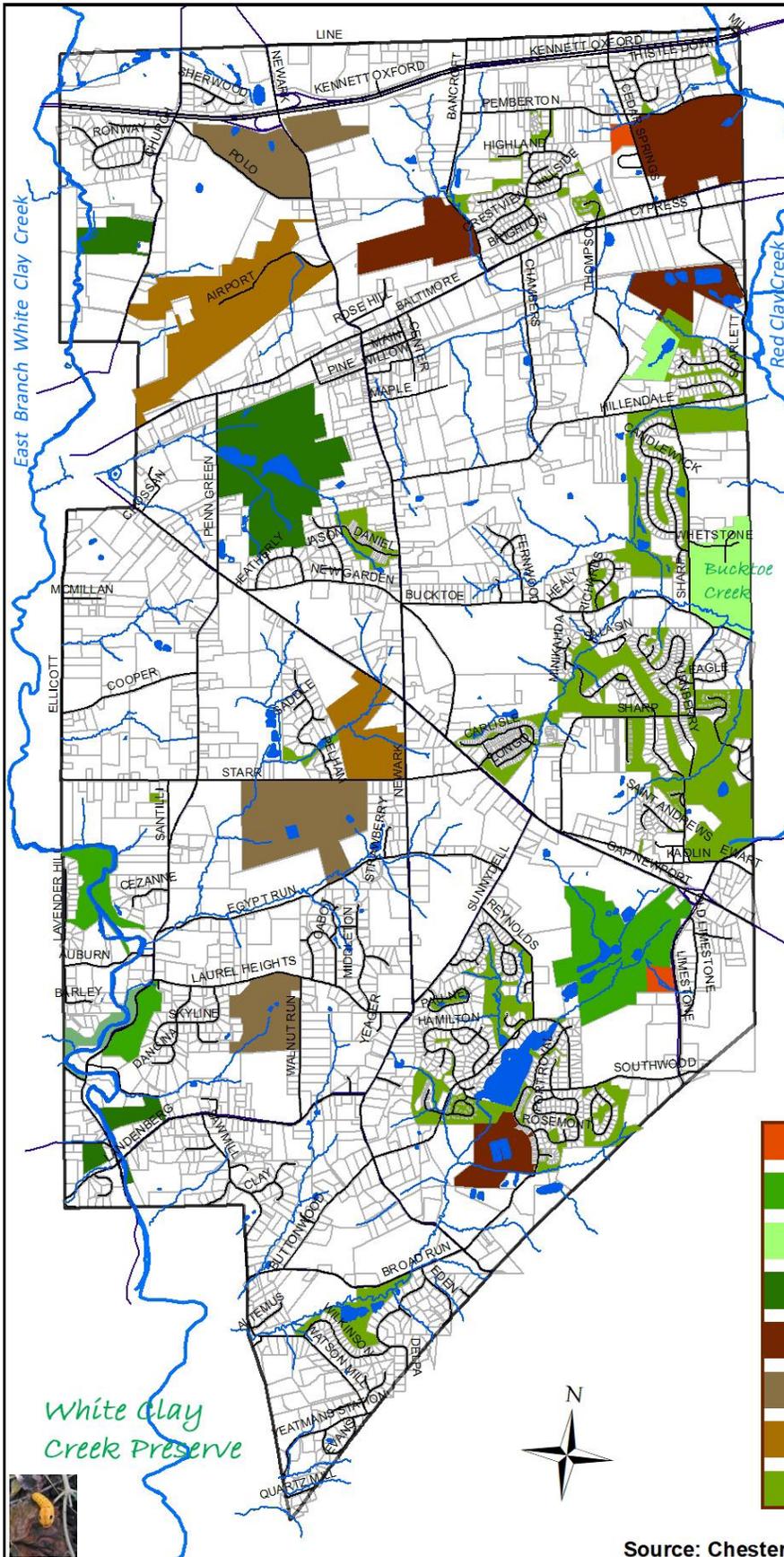
For information or to sign up as a volunteer visit the [Newgarden.org](http://Newgarden.org) and [Friendsofthenewgardentrails.org](http://Friendsofthenewgardentrails.org).

*Note: The OSRB meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the Township building on Starr Road. The public session of the meeting are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. An executive session follows the public session where all Open Space Review Board discussions about proposed or ongoing property and easement acquisitions are kept confidential and privileged. The Board of Supervisors holds a public hearing for the proposed expenditure of open space funds for each proposed acquisition. The OSRB invites residents to attend its public session to learn about the Township’s protected lands, trails, wildlife, agriculture, history and the process to preserve land.*

# New Garden Township Protected Properties 2018

During 2018 the Township (OSRB) added 106 acres to preserved open space bringing the total to 327 acres. A total of 1,823 acres, or 17% of New Garden Township, are to a degree protected from development:

- \* 221 acres under a conservation easement. Some with trails.
- \* 202 acres are in preserves, some with trails.
- \* 244 acres contain the Township Park, Township Airfield and trails.
- \* Land Trust easements preserve 93 acres.
- \* Municipal undeveloped open space contains 15 acres.
- \* Three farm properties are under an agricultural easement totaling 288 acres.
- \* 263 acres provide land for sewer treatment.
- \* Though they may look gerrymandered, 497 acres are preserved by Home Owner Associations. (HOA)



	Municipal open space (15 acres)
	Preserves (202 acres)
	Conservation Org Owner (93 acres)
	Conservation Easement (221 acres)
	Township Sewer Authority (263)
	County Ag Easement (288 acres)
	NGTN Park & Airport (244 acres)
	HOA (497 acres)

Source: Chester Cnty Landscapes2 & NGTN OSRB, March 2018