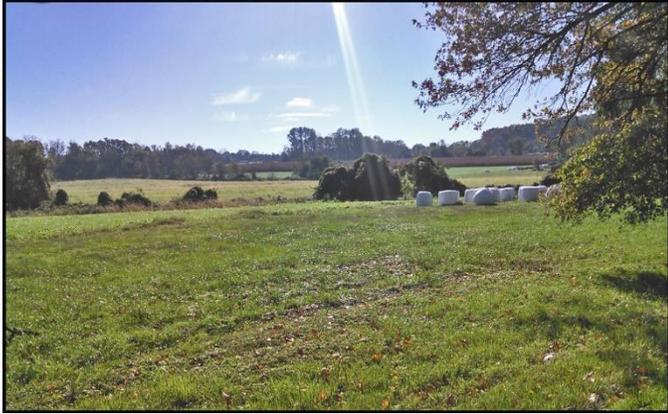


# New Garden Open Space Review Board 2017 Annual Report

## Open Space Preservation Activity



Green Valley Farm: Conserved organic farming.

2017 was a productive year. Two conservation easement negotiations from 2016 were completed this year. This increased the total acreage under a conservation easement to 221 acres. Discussions continued on conservation options for the Saint Anthony in the Hills property (135 acres). Furthermore, members of the Open Space Review Board (OSRB) engaged with several additional property owners inquiring about conserving their property. These inquiries are, potentially, an additional 90 acres that could be added to conserved lands in New Garden Township. An overall summary of New Garden Township protected properties is shown on page 3.

## Organization

- In January, the OSRB elected officers: Chris Robinson, Chair & Trail Coordinator; Randy Lieberman, Vice Chair & Treasurer. Secretarial task is rotated among the members.
- David Unger, Rich Meinzer and Suzanne Geougue were appointed to the OSRB.
- OSRB member Kecia Crowl reappointed for three years.
- Members of the OSRB volunteered 317 hours of their time to their duties as Board members during 2017. Several OSRB members are also active with the Friends of the New Garden Trails.
- Member (Chris Robinson) joined the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

2017 Open Space Review Board Members	
Chair & Trail Coordinator	Chris Robinson
Vice Chair & Treasurer	Randy Lieberman
Member	Joe Miscione
Grant Coordinator	Kecia Crowl
Member	Suzanne Geougue
Member	David Unger
Member	Richard Meinzer
Consultant (Natural Lands )	Erin McCormick
Secretary	(rotating)

## Reports

- 2016 Annual Report sent to Tony Scheivert, Township Manager.
- Board reviewed and approved Lyceum Newsletter article: "Protected Land in New Garden Township".

## Major Projects/Activities Completed

- Township manager Tony Scheivert, solicitor Vince Pompo and conservation consultant Erin McCormick (Natural Lands) finalized the conservation easement purchase on Sunset Farm (Sinclair-Morris property). 23 acres forever preserved as open space.



Green Valley Farm: Conserved woodlands

- Township manager Tony Scheivert, solicitor Vince Pompo and conservation consultant Erin McCormick finalized the conservation easement purchase on Green Valley Farm (Reynolds). A historic farm comprising 178 acres now preserved forever.
- Per Board of Supervisors' and Comprehensive Planning Committee's requests, OSRB members embarked on prioritizing properties for conservation based on inherent features and attributes.
- Board members reviewed trail connections to the under-construction Airport Trail in context of the Township's Greenways Plan.
- OSRB approved Don Peters' grant request to Dockstader for Township extra park trail maintenance (~2.5 miles).



Sunset Farm: Conserved open space

### **Other Activities**

- Member met with Gwen Lacey (The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County) to explore trail connections between the Hartefeld Community and Chandler Mill Nature Preserve.
- Several property owners representing around ninety acres contacted the OSRB for information on conserving their property. Discussions are continuing.
- Erin updated OSRB members of the County work being done in the area to preserve local watersheds.
- Land appraiser Steve Collins refreshed members about the land appraisal methodology.
- OSRB received requests asking for feedback regarding proposed demolition of historic house on Middleton property.
- Board of Supervisor member and longtime resident, Steve Allaband, shared his perspective on open space protection priorities.

For information or to sign up as a volunteer for the Open Space Review Board and The Friends of New Garden Trails visit the [Newgarden.org](http://Newgarden.org) website 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.*



Green Valley Farm: Conserved ponds sanctuary for fish and birds.

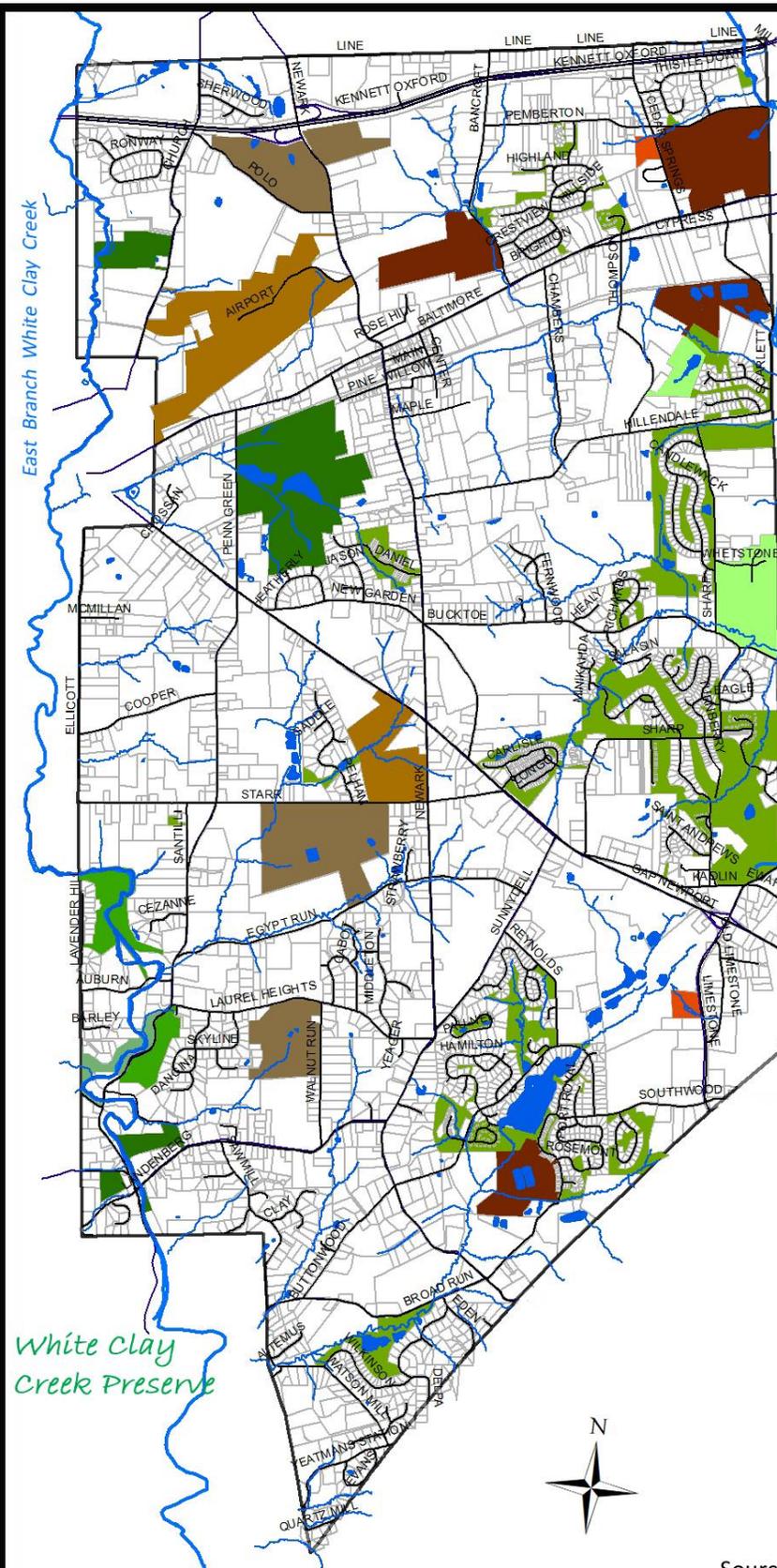
# New Garden Township Protected Properties 2017

During 2017 the Township (OSRB) increased the acreage placed in a conservation easement bringing the total to 221 acres (shown in dark green). A total of about 1,680 acres, or 16% of New Garden Township, are protected to various degree from development:

- \* 221 acres under a conservation easement. Some with trails.
- \* 65 acres are wooded 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)



Source: Chester Cnty Landscapes2 & NGTN OSRB, 2018



Thanks for reading the OSRB 2017 Annual report.