



Natural Lands Trust

Stewardship on a Shoestring

The Role of Land Trusts

November 30, 2011

What We Do

- ❖ Save Land
- ❖ Land Stewardship
- ❖ Connecting People to Nature



Own and manage almost 22K
acres at 40 Preservers

Conservation Easements on
272 properties/18,900 + acres

Assist townships and other
conservancies protect
important landscapes through
acquisition, stewardship and
planning





Glades Wildlife Refuge



Fulshaw Craeg



Hildacy Farm Preserve



Bear Creek Preserve



Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve



Stroud Preserve

What Do Land Trusts Bring To The Table?

- We are not “Big Government”
- We offer alternative avenues of financial support
- We are technically savvy in open space planning, protection, and management





The Center for Conservation Landowners

*working with landowners
to rediscover and restore
the natural features on their land*

The CCL Offers

Stewardship Planning
Implementation Assistance
Education and Outreach
Stewardship Coaching



East Bradford Township, Chester County PA



- Stewardship Assessment
- Inventory, Mapping, Issues, Tasks and Priorities
- Natural Area vs. Park Planning
- Grants and Funding Sources



Township's Implementation of Stewardship Report

Chart listing report recommendations
 Schedule
 Capital budgeting
 Prioritization

Mr. Bradford Preserve Stewardship Report Implementation Plan/Schedule

Report Category	Page	Recommendation	Entity to Implement	Cost
Hazards	N/A	Remove trash and debris.	PW staff w/ volunteers	120 m/h (5men @ 3days) 2 days dumpster @ \$400
Hazards	17	Develop a plan for using or removing the pond and accessory building...	PW staff	80 m/h backhoe 2 days dumpster 2 days @ \$400
Boundaries and Public Access	18	Develop a plan for improving the parking area at the Scanneltown Road access. Consider installing a kiosk at this location to display a trail map, photos of wildlife that may be seen during particular seasons, and upcoming volunteer events.	Staff (M.J.L, AMC), volunteers, land planner	Parking area = ____; Kiosk = \$500 (bulletin case only)
Boundaries and Public Access	17	Repair and improve the gate/chain barrier at the Scanneltown Road driveway (below the parking area) and the Miner Street access.	PW staff	24 m/h (3men @ 1 day) tool cat 1 day; 4 posts; 40 ft of chain & 2 locks
Invasive plants	11	Cut vines on canopy trees, starting in the interior of the mature forest and moving to the forest-meadow edges.	PW staff w/ volunteers	600 m/h (5 men @ 3 weeks)
Boundaries and Public Access	17	Develop a trail plan for the property and identify trail routes and construction techniques that are compatible with the topography of the landscape.	Staff (AMC), trails committee, land planner	Paved trail ~ \$20,000; Other trails ~ \$____; Planning ~ \$
Invasive plants	11	Control the Japanese knotweed along Miner Street by cutting stems and treating resprouts with a foliar application of 2% Rodeo with 0.5% non-ionic surfactant.	PW staff	320 m/h (4 men @ 2 weeks) 2.5 gal herbicide @ \$275.00 ONGOING
Invasive plants	11	Improve the integrity of the forests and the terrestrial meadow (see below for additional recommendations) on the property by managing invasive shrubs, particularly the autumn-olive, multiflora rose, and Japanese barberry. These invasive shrubs can be cut to the stump and a glyphosate herbicide applied to the cut stump. Alternatively, after cutting, the shrub can be left to resprout and the young foliage treated with a glyphosate herbicide.	PW staff w/ volunteers / Plant expert	400 m/h (5 men @ 2 weeks) \$275.00 herbicide ONGOING
Native Meadow Restoration	13	Remove islands of trees and shrubs in the terrestrial meadow and smooth edges of adjacent forest and hedgerows.	PW staff	200 m/h (5 men @ 1 week) backhoe 1 week; toolcat 1 week
Invasive plants	11	In gaps where invasive shrubs and trees have been removed, replant with native species to improve wildlife value and protect exposed slopes from erosion.	Volunteers w/ PW staff if needed	120 m/h (5men @ 1 week)
Water Quality and Pond Management	14	Manage the field upslope from the pond as a meadow to slow surface runoff and increase infiltration.	PW staff	16 m/h (1man @ 4hrs \$x year) mower 16 hours
Hazards	17	Monitor high use areas for hazard trees by foot once each year and following severe storms.	Staff w/ volunteers	N/A
Native Meadow Restoration	14	Mow paths through the terrestrial meadow to enhance visitor experiences and environmental education.	PW staff	36 m/h (1 man bi-weekly @ 2 hours) mower



Upper Dublin, Montgomery County, PA

















Resources for Landowners

Native Warm-Season Grass Meadow
Converting an abandoned field

Project
To establish about 4 acres of native warm-season grass meadow.

Several have been on the farm for many years but are getting a summer the soil and find are worn. Perched climate of annual calls for ground to

Project
To establish about 4 acres of native warm-season grass meadow.

Site
Barker, Pa. West Pike.

Site Hist
The best representation of the 1990s the fields 1992, the meadows on 1000s acres, the 20 ac neighbor "edge" of forests, to ages 100 or more ago.

Project Goals

1. To improve water quality and wetland habitat for wildlife.
2. To filter sediment, nutrients, and pesticides from runoff water into nearby Crum Creek.
3. To provide a living to establish a natural water management basin.

Site
Hilkey Farm Preserve, owned by Natural Lands Trust, Maple Township, Delaware County, PA.

Site History and Installation
The 2000-square foot spring-fed pond below the farmhouse at the Hilkey Preserve was created approximately 40 years ago as a farm pond and, like most ponds in the area at the time, provided a water source for livestock and fire control. The pond drains into nearby Martin's Run and Crum Creek. By 2002, the pond had become a sink for nutrient- and sediment-rich surface water from surrounding slopes. During the warmer summer months, excess nutrients led to elevated algae and bacteria levels in the stagnant pond water, compromising water quality and habitat value not only in the pond, but also downstream in the watershed. Grasses were planted in the mowed banks of the pond and their deepening further deteriorated the pond water.

To enhance and diversify wildlife habitat and to improve water quality in the pond and the Crum Creek watershed, Natural Lands Trust (NL7) made plans to

convert the pond into a wetland basin. The restored wetland would provide a shallow and deep water

indices for a variety of native plants and animals and also serve as a more effective stormwater drainage basin for NL7's expanded headquarters.

In the fall of 2003, the pond was drained and bottom sediment was excavated and replaced by dry soil that was better suited for contouring of the wetland basin. A sediment forebay (a small depression) was excavated just upslope of the wetland as a settling filter for sediment and potential pollutants draining into the basin from impervious surface. Shallow, small holes and grass-filled ditches were excavated in the basin to create a varied topography typical of a natural wetland habitat. Shallow mounds and slopes would support outdoor herbs (dock, wild radish, arrowweed) and shrubs (blackberry, red-osier dogwood) while small depres-

LAND STEWARDSHIP CASE STUDY

Stewardship Handbook

for Natural Lands in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Natural Lands Trust

www.natlands.org

www.conservationlandowners.org



**For More Information
Natural Lands Trust
Center for Conservation Landowners
Drew Gilchrist
215 256-9758
dgilchrist@natlands.org**