

Creating a Tapestry of Land and Water

Early Action Item Goals

- Ensure local land-use decision-makers are protecting the Schuylkill Highlands Greenway by working with municipalities to create plans or land use regulations that conserve resources.
- Protect a substantial portion of the land and water in the Schuylkill Highlands Greenway by providing assistance to municipalities and private landowners to conserve land in the Greenway through acquisition, both fee simple and conservation easements.
- Foster stewardship of the important resources, especially the forests of the Hopewell Big Woods, Oley Hills, Green Lane/Unami, and Lake Nockamixon landscapes. Research existing conditions to understand the current stewardship needs, providing stewardship plans for natural, historic, and cultural resources demonstrating on-going measures to conserve habitat.



Longer Term Greenway Implementation Techniques

- Acquire critical lands within the Resource Areas.
- Maintain the current level of tree cover and add protected land to the forests of the Hopewell Big Woods, Oley Hills, and the Green Lane/Unami area.
- Promote sustainable local agriculture.
- Encourage local open space bonds to leverage federal, state, and county acquisition funds.
- Develop a forest stewardship and monitoring program.
- Protect wildlife corridors by improving road design.
- Develop stewardship plans for large landholdings and public parks.
- Educate stewards of and implement best land management practices for natural areas.
- Work with the Bureau of Forestry to encourage private-land forest stewardship through established programs such as the Fire Wise and Forest Stewardship programs and Woodland Owners Association.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing forest and carbon banking programs.
- Designate additional Important Bird Areas.
- Protect the night sky by supporting a Dark Sky Reserve within the Greenway.
- Provide technical assistance to municipalities so that local land use policies protect the Greenway resources, and local decision-makers and landowners understand the importance of the Greenway.
- Protect streams by establishing and maintaining forest canopy along all Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) streams in the Greenway.
- Improve water quality by promoting sustainable water practices for citizens including rain barrels, rain gardens, and riparian plantings.
- Implement demonstration projects and assist municipalities in adopting stormwater management Best Management Practices, including those for agriculture.
- Continue and expand stream monitoring efforts in order to gauge the effectiveness of water quality programs.