

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Ralph Goodno, President & CEO
(717) 392-7891
rgoodno@lanasterconservancy.org



Lancaster County Conservancy to construct new education center and invites the public to help design the project

LANCASTER, Pa.—The Lancaster County Conservancy has announced a new project to create an “Urban Forest Center” with its future location along Little Conestoga Creek in East Hempfield Township.

While still in the exploration phase, this project will create an urban nature preserve with facilities connecting residents to the environment through recreation and creative learning. The Conservancy is asking the public to join in the design effort. Neighbors, organizations, institutions, and businesses will have the opportunity to share their vision for the type of programs offered at the center.

The first community meeting to introduce the project and seek public input is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 PM in the Manheim Township Public Library, located at 595 Granite Run Road in Lancaster. All Lancaster County residents are invited to attend the public meeting.

The site, currently owned by the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA), is located between Harrisburg Pike and Good Drive. It includes about 75 acres adjacent to Franklin & Marshall’s Brickyard property and Noel Dorwart Park located in East Hempfield Township.

Since its purchase in 2002, LCSWMA has maintained the land as open space and constructed the popular Farmingdale Trail, a recreational trail for Lancaster residents. LCSWMA had a vision that, one day, another agency would use the land for the benefit of the community. “The Authority is thrilled that this open space will benefit residents. The Conservancy’s plan to create an Urban Forest Center for Lancaster County fits perfectly with our vision,” says James Warner, CEO for LCSWMA.

- More -

117 South West End Avenue • PO Box 716
Lancaster, PA 17608-0716
Tel.: 717.392.7891 • Fax: 717.392.8220
www.lancasterconservancy.org • conserve@lanasterconservancy.org



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The Conservancy's strategic plan calls for an initiative to bring its work into urban and suburban parts of Lancaster County. According to Ralph Goodno, President & CEO of the Conservancy, "We are eager to help expand people's, and especially our young people's, connection with nature to promote public wellness and an environmental understanding in Lancaster County residents. We hope interested residents will come and help us design a great facility".

For more information on the Conservancy and the Urban Forest Center project, visit www.lancasterconservancy.org.

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The Lancaster County Conservancy is a membership-supported, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Lancaster County's (PA) rapidly diminishing supply of natural land. The organization's mission is to save and steward the ecosystems and landscapes upon which we depend for food, clean water and air, economic and public health, and the restoration of soul and spirit.

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