

Native Plant Ordinance Adopted by the Township

The new Landscaping ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors incorporates current environmental standards to encourage greater use of native species, to promote greater biodiversity amongst new plantings, to adopt plantings suitable for naturalized retention basins and to restrict the use of invasive species. The new landscaping ordinance also sets forth uniform design parameters for proposed landscaping plans.

The new Landscaping ordinance was a collaborative effort between the Planning Commission (PC) and The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). In particular, the technical advice and drafting efforts of EAC members Lynn Laurelli and Ivy Ross were of great value in furthering the work product of the Township Landscape Architect, John Ives RLA, Carroll Engineering Corporation. Roy Rieder, P.E., Director of Codes, Inspections & Emergency Services and Shirley Yannich, PC Chairwoman, assisted in drafting administrative aspects of the subject ordinance amendment. The PC Ordinance Subcommittee (Madeline Sturm & Joe Balent) recommended changes to the proposed ordinance to clarify duties and responsibilities in enforcing the proposed ordinance.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed ordinance, Chapter 22, section 325 "Landscaping" at its November 17, 2011 meeting. The Environmental Advisory Council voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed Landscaping ordinance at its December 7, 2011 meeting.

Earth Day 2012

Warrington Township and the Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) celebrated its 11th annual Earth Day event on April 28, 2012. This year's Earth Day activities occurred at several different locations throughout the Township.



The largest of the projects took place at the Twin Oaks Day Camp and the adjacent Igoe Porter Wells (IPW) Park. Approximately 95 volunteers worked at this location. Volunteers included members of the Central Bucks South High School National Honor Society, Environmental Club and Key Club; the Central Bucks South, East and West German Honor Societies; and various Boy and Girl Scout Troops. Twelve rain

barrels were constructed by these volunteers using 55 gallon barrels. Other volunteers constructed composters out of 35 gallon barrels. The composters are a pilot project for the WEAC. There were ten flower beds beautified throughout Twin Oaks Day Camp and IPW Park. The Rain Garden and Butterfly Garden, constructed during previous Earth Days, were maintained.

The Storm Drain labeling project, which first began five years ago as an Earth Day event was also completed. Approximately 1,000 labels have now been placed on storm drains throughout the Township. These labels alert people that these drains connect directly to our streams. Trash, pet waste, motor oil, paint and other materials dumped into storm drains pollute our local streams and thereby our drinking water.

Bluebird houses we installed at the naturalized detention basins located at the Township Building and Warwick road.

Another Earth Day beautification and cleanup project took place at the Mary Barness Tennis and Swim Club. In short, it was great and we accomplished all of our objectives! Fifty yards of mulch were added to the playground, all of the beds were weeded and mulched and annual and perennials were planted. This year the volunteers also painted all of the picnic tables as well as other areas in need of improvement. The turnout was outstanding with a total of approximately 75 volunteers who worked tirelessly all day. Many swim club families, members of the Warrington Dragons Swim Team and the Central Bucks South National Honor Society worked on different projects throughout the day. The younger aged children did a great job cleaning trash from the pool grounds and the surrounding basin and wooded areas.

The WEAC would like to give a special thanks to some local businesses that generously donated food and contributed monetary donations to our Earth Day event. Because of their extreme generosity, all of the volunteers were able to eat both breakfast and lunch! *These contributors included Giant Foods, Wegman's, WAWA, Panera Bread, Chick Fil-A, Sopranos Pizza, Chickie's and Pete's, and Huntington Bank. We would also like to give a special thanks to Grow-N-Sell for their donation of perennials and annuals!*

Eagle Scout Project – Naturalizing the Green Ridge Detention Basin

Over the course of several months, Mr. Josh Jordan, an Eagle Scout candidate, worked closely with the Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC), the Bucks County Conservation District, and volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 24, to naturalize the Guinea Lane and Green Ridge Drive detention basin. This was made possible by a grant obtained by Mr. Jordan and the WEAC from the Pennsylvania Tree Vitalize program as well as generous donations received from local merchants.



Using solely native Pennsylvania trees and shrubs, Mr. Jordan, the WEAC and Boy Scout volunteers, worked to convert this previously inefficient and barren detention basin into a natural, highly functioning and more attractive area. Over 50 trees and shrubs were planted, a rock diversion was installed to redirect flow from the concrete flow channel and two Blue Bird houses were installed. *The total cost of the project was \$4400 of which over \$3600.00 in labor was donated by our volunteers and materials were donated by Eureka Stone Quarry, Victory Gardens, Land-Tech and Lewis Nurseries.* Naturalized basins, such as this one, help to increase water quality and improve wildlife and local species diversity while cutting maintenance costs for the Township.

Wood Duck House Construction

Members of the WEAC recruited volunteers from the Central Bucks South National Honor society and assembled 14 wood duck houses. Public works staff provided the tools and custom cut the wood for easy assembly.



Warrington Township Day

The WEAC hosted an information booth during Warrington Township Day located at Valley Square. Member of the WEAC along with several volunteers from Central Buck South High School National Honor Society helped assemble rain barrels and hand out educational pamphlets relating to a range of local issues from rain water runoff controls like rain barrels, rain gardens and naturalizing detention basins to native plants and invasive species control.



Open Space Task Force and Referendum

The WEAC continues to be an active member on the Open Space Task Force and worked closely with the Township Supervisors to develop the Referendum that was placed on the November ballot. The WEAC conducted an educational campaign to inform voters of the ballot initiative created posters and handouts and staffed each polling station. The Referendum passed by a 2:1 margin and will allow the Township to purchase up to \$3 million dollars of Bonds to enhance existing and acquire new open space.



WARRINGTON OPEN SPACE REFERENDUM

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WISHES TO BORROW UP TO \$3 MILLION OVER A TWENTY (20) YEAR PERIOD TO PURCHASE LAND TO IMPROVE AND TO PRESERVE OPEN, UNDERDEVELOPED OR HISTORIC LAND IN WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP.

ON AVERAGE, HOMES IN OUR REGION ARE WORTH
\$ 10,000 MORE BECAUSE OF ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE.

THIS REFERENDUM WILL PROVIDE THE TOWNSHIP WITH A GREATER ABILITY TO BUY NEW LAND AND PRESERVE THE LAND AS OPEN SPACE.

OPEN SPACE INCLUDES:

ACQUIRING ADEQUATE FIELD SPACE FOR ORGANIZED SPORTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



BARNES FIELD

LINKING OUR TRAIL SYSTEM WITH OTHER INTER-MUNICIPAL TRAIL SYSTEMS



BRADFORD DAM TRAIL

PURCHASING HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR HISTORIC INTEGRITY



PICKERTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE



Kelly Road Dump Site Clean Up

In 2011 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB) completed a survey of Bucks County and found 123 illegal dump sites. Shortly thereafter Bucks County Conservation District (BCCD) in partnership with the Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown (GOAL) became KPB affiliates to fulfill the KPB mission of empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Working under the KPB name, GOAL has completed several clean ups in the lower Bucks County area.



Kelly Road
Clean Up
12/01/12



The Kelly Road dump site area in Warrington was the first site which BCCD office took the lead in organizing for a cleanup. BCCD contacted the WEAC for additional support and the WEAC reached out to the local community for assistance. The group removed over 200 tires and 3 tons of trash, including a refrigerator, toilet, mattress, television and other electronics and recyclables from the site. The WEAC organized volunteers from Central Bucks South, supplied hot chocolate to fuel the students, and helped

arranged for the pickup of the remaining tires and trash by the Warrington Public works department. The BCCD present the EAC with a Certificate of Appreciation. *Special Thanks goes to Thompson Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche for providing cases of water, A dump truck with driver who loaded up and carted away well over a hundred tires. They also provided parking for the volunteers and the use of their restrooms.* The BCCD present the EAC with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Green Infrastructure Partnership with Villanova University

The Sustainable Engineering Program of Villanova University will oversee an interdisciplinary group of graduate level students who will work with members of the Township's Open Space Task Force, Environmental Advisory Council, and Park and Recreation Board with technical support and or advice from the Township Engineer, Bucks County Planning Commission, Heritage Conservancy and US Environmental Protection Agency to complete the following 3 activities: 1) Enhance our existing Open Space plan with an identification and valuation of existing green infrastructure (GI), and identify additional GI areas, consistent with the plan, for acquisition. The economic value of the green infrastructure will be calculated in order to show the community the money they are saving by maintaining their open spaces. The main natural resource features that will be evaluated include soils, woodlands, wetlands, watersheds, and floodplains. Stakeholders from Warrington Township and adjacent communities that will benefit from the open spaces will be broken down into individual stakeholder groups and involved in the process. The GI valuation developed through this project will be made available for future reference for neighboring communities. 2) Create an outdoor classroom along an existing trail that explains GI, using signs and demonstrations to showcase items like existing constructed wetlands, deer feeding plots, native species etc. and describe the value of GI. It is a goal to incorporate stakeholder involvement through all stages of this component. 3) Develop conceptual designs of a new section of trail, either on Township owned property, PennDOT property or PECO right of way. Support from this effort is being sought through a PECO Green Communities Grant.

Tree Vitalize Grant Applications

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) submitted the following application for the 2013 TreeVitalize Watersheds Program. This grant will be utilized to naturalize two existing detention basins in Warrington Township.

The first basin is located on Morning Walk Drive. This basin is being proposed by Mr. Dan Rogus, an Eagle Scout Candidate, with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 139. The WEAC, as well as Township Public Works staff, will work with Mr. Rogus to complete this project. The basin will be planted during the WEAC's April 2013 Earth Day Event.

The second basin is located on Billingsley (southwest) and Stump Roads. Work will be conducted by WEAC members and volunteers. Township Public Works staff will assist as needed. This basin will be planted during the Fall of 2013.

When completed, the naturalized basins will include newly planted trees and shrubs of various types, all native and suitable for the environment. The two basins will be designed differently from one another. The spacing and species will vary between the basins. Different vendors will be used so we can evaluate the quality of plant materials and customer service. Tree tubes will be added as protection from wildlife (e.g. deer).

The ultimate goal of both basin retrofits will be to recharge ground water supplies while reducing downstream degradation from flooding events. It is also our goal to create habitats for birds and insects through the installation of native vegetation. Projects such as these will help to keep sediment and toxic loadings out of waterways.