

York County Open Space and Land Protection Grant Program

Grants Workshop

August 24, 2021

1:00-3:00 PM via ZOOM



Today's Presenters

Wade Gobrecht and Anne Walko, York County
Planning Commission

Lori Yeich, PA Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources (DCNR)



Overview

- ❖ Brief History of the Program
- ❖ Grant Program Objectives
- ❖ Who can apply?
- ❖ Eligible Projects and Activities
- ❖ The Application Process
- ❖ Program Administration
- ❖ How this Program can work with DCNR
- ❖ Anticipated Timeline
- ❖ Questions and Answers



How did we get here?

- ▶ York County Commissioners adopted Open Space and Greenways Plan in 2006
- ▶ Annual benchmark to protect 2,500 acres. York County strategy to reach benchmark
- ▶ York County Land Protection Committee formed to work on securing stable and predictable funding source
- ▶ Comprehensive public education and outreach campaign
- ▶ Public survey-favorable responses
- ▶ Commissioners formally recognize Committee and designated funding in 2020 County budget for land protection
- ▶ **Dedicated funding = annual land protection goals are met!**



Funding

- 0.1 mill in York County budget dedicated to land protection
 - 0.09 mill for projects
 - Ag Preservation Easements
 - Natural Lands Easements
 - County Parks Reserve Fund
 - 0.01 mill for additional staffing (York County Conservation District, York County Ag Land Preserve Board, Farm and Natural Lands Trust, and YCPC)



2020 at a glance

About \$2.2 million for
land protection

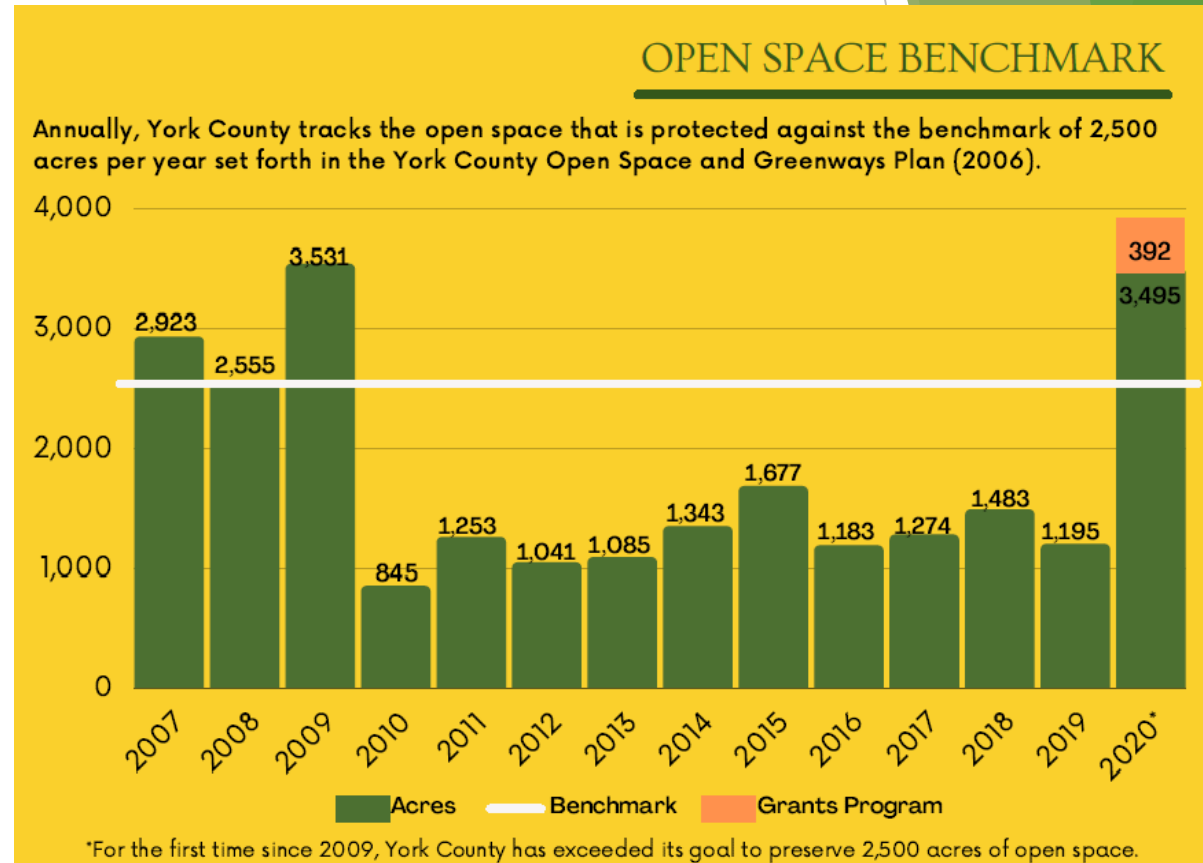


~\$350,000 awarded
through the Grant
Program



392 acres

**Total of 3,887 acres
preserved or
protected!**



2020 Grant Recipients

Land Acquisition

- York County Rail Trail Authority, \$55,380 - 8.5 miles/ 48.4 acres to advance the Hanover Trolley Trail
- Susquehanna National Heritage Area, \$100,000 - 67 acres (Hellam Township) for future heritage park and nature preserve
- Spring Grove Borough, \$48,428 - 6.87 acres for parkland within the Borough limits
- Lancaster Conservancy, \$100,000 - 270 acres (Lower Chanceford Township) for a nature preserve



2020 Grant Recipients

Planning

- Dover Township and Dover Borough, \$35,000 - multi-municipal Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
- West Manheim Township, \$14,544 - comprehensive plan update with funding targeting parks, open space, recreation, and natural resource protection



Program Objectives

Supplement existing open space protection efforts by providing funding that will be used to acquire and protect additional open space in York County

Program will provide funding for York County municipalities, York County Parks, and non-profit 501 (c) organizations.

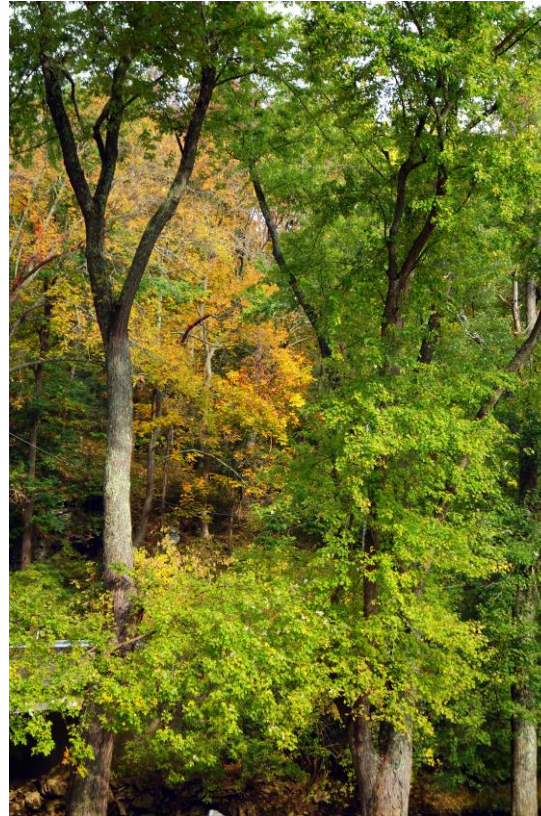
Funding can be used to purchase land (for parks or to protect natural resources) or to update local plans and ordinances to address the County Comprehensive Plan's open space, land protection, sensitive natural features, and agricultural protection-related goals and objectives.



Land Acquisition

Will assist in the purchase of land that will be publicly-accessible.

- ▶ **Natural Resource Protection** - land that protects water or other natural resources or provides wildlife habitat
- ▶ **Parkland** - land that provides active or passive recreation opportunities
- ▶ **Maximum grant amount is \$100,000**



Grants can be used only to purchase land, not to acquire structures or improvements.



Land Acquisition

Eligible Costs

- ▶ Purchase price of land
- ▶ Associated fees (including but not limited to legal, appraisal, title search, title insurance, environmental review)
- ▶ Sum of related fees should not exceed 10% of the total eligible costs.

Ineligible Costs

- ▶ Grant preparation, project administration and staff costs.

PROJECT MATCH

- ▶ Program will not fund more than 50% of the total cost of the acquisition.
- ▶ Applications that exceed 50% match will receive priority consideration



Planning and Ordinance Assistance

Enables applicants to conduct planning studies, update comprehensive plans and ordinances related to land protection, natural features, and agriculture.

- ▶ Comprehensive plans
- ▶ Zoning ordinances
- ▶ Official map ordinances
- ▶ Special plans (master site, recreation, natural resource protection plans)
- ▶ **Maximum grant amount is \$25,000**



Planning and Ordinance Assistance

Eligible Costs

- ▶ Professional planning and consulting fees
- ▶ Mapping and graphics
- ▶ Review by professionals (engineers, attorneys)
- ▶ Drafting of enabling documents
- ▶ Printing

Ineligible Costs

- ▶ Grant preparation, project administration and staff costs.

PROJECT MATCH

- ▶ Program will not fund more than 50% of the total cost
- ▶ Multi-municipal applications will receive special funding consideration (up to 70% of total project cost)



The Application Process

- ▶ Applications available at www.yorkopenspace.org or by calling YCPC at 717-771-9870
- ▶ Committee will review based on completeness and consistency with the review criteria
- ▶ Funding announcements will be made in October
- ▶ Three (3) year contract agreement signed.
- ▶ YCPC is the Program Administrator for the York County Open Space and Land Protection grant program

