

FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION INSERT

Franconia Township Board of Supervisors has been very aggressive in their efforts to preserve farmland and open space throughout to the township. This brochure will profile the various farms that have been preserved along with the parks and other areas of open space. In 2001, the Board of Supervisors asked the voters the following question: "Do you favor the imposition of an Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% by Franconia Township to be used for financing the acquisition of open space; for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements; for the acquisition of property development rights; and for the acquisition of recreation and/or historical lands?" The referendum was approved by an overwhelming majority of voters. The funds generated by this tax are dedicated entirely to the purchase of open space, agricultural, recreational and historic lands.

As outlined in the Franconia Township Open Space Plan of 2005, the number one objective of the Township Supervisors was to make farmland preservation the top priority. The Supervisors have been very successful in achieving this goal. Read on to learn more. 🌻

FARM PROFILES

BNR FARM COMPANY

(Formerly Marcho Farm)

Preserved in 2005

- Location: 778 Morwood Road
- Acreage: +/- 29.51 acres

This picturesque farm is located along Morwood Road although it is most visible just beyond Ridge View Drive.

DALE & AIDINE FRANKENFIELD FARM

Preserved in 2004

- Location: 98 Allentown Road
- Acreage: +/- 28.16 acres

As you're traveling down Allentown Road you can see this large farm off to your left in the village of Elroy. In the fall the field is full of pumpkins.

WILBUR & REBECCA HENDRICKS FARM

Preserved in 2002

- Location: 202 Green Hill Road
- Acreage: +/- 33.48 acres

This farm borders the northern portion of the township. It stretches out to the banks of the Perkiomen Creek.



Hunsicker Farm

HAROLD & PATRICIA HUNSICKER FARM

Preserved in 2006

- Location: 798 Hunsicker Road
- Acreage: +/- 82.83 acres

This large farm can be found off of Hunsicker Road between Fell Road and Mill Road.

MARCHO FAMILY PARTNERSHIP FARM

Preserved in 2006

- Location: 835 Mill Road
- Acreage: +/- 40.33 acres

This farm is located along Mill Road. It straddles the road and stretches to the Lower Salford Township Border.

EARL & CLYDE MOYER FARM

Preserved in 2007

- Location: 703 Hunsicker Road
- Acreage: +/- 69.26 acres

This farm is located on Hunsicker Road near Keller Creamery Road. It is located on both sides of the street and is adjacent to another preserved farm.

CURTIS & GLADYS NICE FARM

Preserved in 2004

- Location: 668 Harleysville Pike
- Acreage: +/- 77.68 acres

This farm is one of the most visible in Franconia Township. It is the large farm along Route 113 across from the Franconia Mennonite Church. This large piece is a constant reminder of the farming heritage of Franconia Township.

JOHN W. NYCE

Preserved in 2003

- Location: 720 Keller Creamery Road
- Acreage: +/- 56.70 acres

This farm is located along Keller Creamery Road and is adjacent to the Moyer Farm that is also preserved.

JAMES RITTENHOUSE FARM

Preserved in 2005

- Location: 731 Allentown Road
- Acreage: +/- 52.97 acres

This farm is located along Allentown Road near Indian Creek Road. It stretches across both sides of Allentown Road.

GARY & BETTY JANE SCHULER FARM

Preserved in 1998

- Location: 750 Cowpath Road
- Acreage: +/- 46.42 acres

This farm is located along Cowpath Road. It reaches the back corner of the Chestnut Grove Park.

BLAINE & LINDA SOUDER FARM-#1

Preserved in 2002

- Location: 763 Hunsicker Road
- Acreage: +/- 68.06 acres

This farm is one of two that have been preserved by the Souder Family. It is located along Hunsicker Road and Fell Road. It can be seen from both Morwood Road and Clemens Road.

BLAINE & LINDA SOUDER FARM-#2

Preserved in 2003

- Location: Hunsicker Road
- Acreage: +/- 43.66 acres

This farm is the second of two farms that have been preserved by the Souder Family. The farm is also located along Hunsicker Road just off of Heath Road and Crestwood Drive.

MERRILL YODER FARM

Preserved in 1993

- Location: 761 Cowpath Road
- Acreage: +/- 60.67 acres

This farm is located on Cowpath Road. It backs up to Township owned property across the street from the newly developed Forrest Meadow Park.

Township Open Space

OPEN SPACE: PUBLIC PARK SYSTEM

- **Banbury/MOPAC:** Godshall Road over to Allentown Road and the Banbury Development; 2 mile trail; pond area and open space
- **Branchwood Park:** Camp Road; 25 acre park jointly owned and managed with Salford Township



- **Chestnut Grove Park:** Cowpath Road; 8 acre passive park
- **East Branch Park:** Allentown Road; 1.6 acre pocket park
- **Enos B. Godshall Park:** Godshall Road; 11 acre park with pond
- **Forrest Meadow Park:** Forrest Road & N. 4th Street; 31 acre active/passive park
- **Franconia Community Park:** Allentown Road & Godshall Road; 58 acre active/passive park
- **Laurel Lane Park:** Laural Lane & Spruce Lane; 7 acre active/passive park

OPEN SPACE PARCELS



- **Greaser Tract:** 16.18 acres; Forrest Road across the street from the Forrest Meadow Park
- **Leidy's Woods:** 5.85 acres; Cherry Lane purchased through open space in 2005
- **Longacre Tract:** 8 acres; Allentown Road adjacent to the Franconia Community Park, added to the park in 2007
- **Mill Road Open Space:** 23.31 acres; Mill Road - open space parcel along Mill Road and Indian Creek Road



- **Moyer Tract:** 57.03 acres; Moyer Road - undeveloped open space parcel currently farmed



- **Nguyen Tract:** 13.46 acres; Morwood Road/Heath Road - parcel acquired in 2007 for future passive park development
- **West Tract:** 3.31 acres; Forrest Road & County Line Road - parcel acquired in 2007 and will be added to the Forrest Meadow Park

OPEN SPACE THROUGH RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Banbury/MOPAC** - 52 acres
- **Harrington Village** - 19.74 acres
- **Hidden Springs** - 5 acres
- **Hunters Greene** - (tot lot) .04 acres
- **Indian Valley Meadows** - 19 acres
- **Kingscoate** - 29 acres
- **Lederach Station** - 10 acres
- **Lion's Gate** - 47 acres
- **Strawberry Fields** - 5 acres
- **Pear Tree Village/Orchard Hill** (tot lot) - 13.4 acres

The Financial End of It

Presently the township has participated in the preservation of 14 farms and over 325 acres of public open space through its Open Space Program which was endorsed by the residents of Franconia Township in 2001. Since enacting its Open Space EIT Tax of ¼ %, the township has collected approximately \$4.4 million to secure the acquisition of Development Rights (farmland preservation) or full land acquisition (open space) in the amount of approximately \$20 million. The township continues to work closely with Montgomery County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other conservation groups to achieve additional financial support for Franconia Township in its preservation efforts.

Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz has been the direct liaison with property owners that have participated in the open space program and his motivation to ensure the preservation of working township farms has been instrumental to the BOS and their efforts to reach settlement on these farms.

The township continues to explore and negotiate for additional development rights via farmland preservation or open space acquisition. The BOS expresses its appreciation to those farmers and property owners within Franconia Township that have participated in preserving the heritage and traditions of our township while supporting the BOS in their efforts to maintain managed growth while achieving the goals set forth in their Open Space Plan and the Indian Valley Regional Comprehensive Plan. 🌱

"I am grateful to the Residents, farmers, County and State Leaders, and fellow Supervisors for the partnership support developed to preserve agriculture in Franconia Township. This truly is a good investment for us and future generations. Yes, we are not done yet!"

Some people thought it could not be done, we have proved them wrong. We are a forward looking team, with our residents in mind, to preserve at least a part of our traditional heritage farm land. Thank you all for your support as we move forward."

- CURTIS KRATZ, Franconia Township Supervisor