



LIMERICK TOWNSHIP

Comprehensive Open Space Plan

Public
Meeting #1
11.07.2019

- ❖ Project Introductions
- ❖ Project Schedule
- ❖ Project Background
- ❖ Existing Conditions Inventory & Data Collection
- ❖ Brainstorming Session
- ❖ Next Steps



Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

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Township Professional Staff Contacts

Angela Russell - Parks & Rec Department Director

Ryan Yanchocik - Parks & Rec Department

Tim Haas - Administration

Marcy Mancini - Administration

Greta Martin Washington – Director of Community Planning

Limerick Open Space Citizen Advisory Committee

Erin P. Cohen	Parks & Recreation Committee
Keith G. Daywalt	Planning Commission
Allen Dowhie Jr.	Parks & Recreation Committee
Gregory Gray	Parks & Recreation Committee
Christopher Haring	Streetscape & Buffering Committee
Jennie Jonas	Streetscape & Buffering Committee
Dennis G. Keen	Parks & Recreation Committee
Liam Kaufman	Parks & Recreation Committee - Student Rep
Patricia Kaufman	Streetscape & Buffering Committee
Kenneth McLaughlin	Planning Commission
George Mokonchu	Citizen
John (Jack) B. Seber	Streetscape & Buffering Committee
Margie Schweitzer	Citizen (Former Parks & Recreation Committee)
Robert G. Richardson	Planning Commission

- ❖ Existing Conditions Inventory & Data Collection
- ❖ Catalogue Parks / Open Space by Township, County, State, & Non-Profit / Private
- ❖ Set Vision, Goals & Objectives
- ❖ Plan for Open Space
- ❖ Implementation Strategies



Public Input Process

Advisory and Public Meetings – 4 Each

- Meeting 1 - Programming, Brainstorming & Visioning
- Meeting 2 - Analysis of existing conditions & Initial Concepts
- Meeting 3 - Draft Comprehensive Recreation Plan
- Meeting 4 - Presentation of Final Plan to Board of Supervisors



Committee Meeting #1	Thursday, October 17th	7:00 - 8:30 PM
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Internet Public Opinion Survey from November to May

Public Input Process

LINKS

Public Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LimerickOSP>

Township Project Link:

<https://www.limerickpa.org/367/Open-Space-Update-Plan>



Limerick Community Park Survey Results

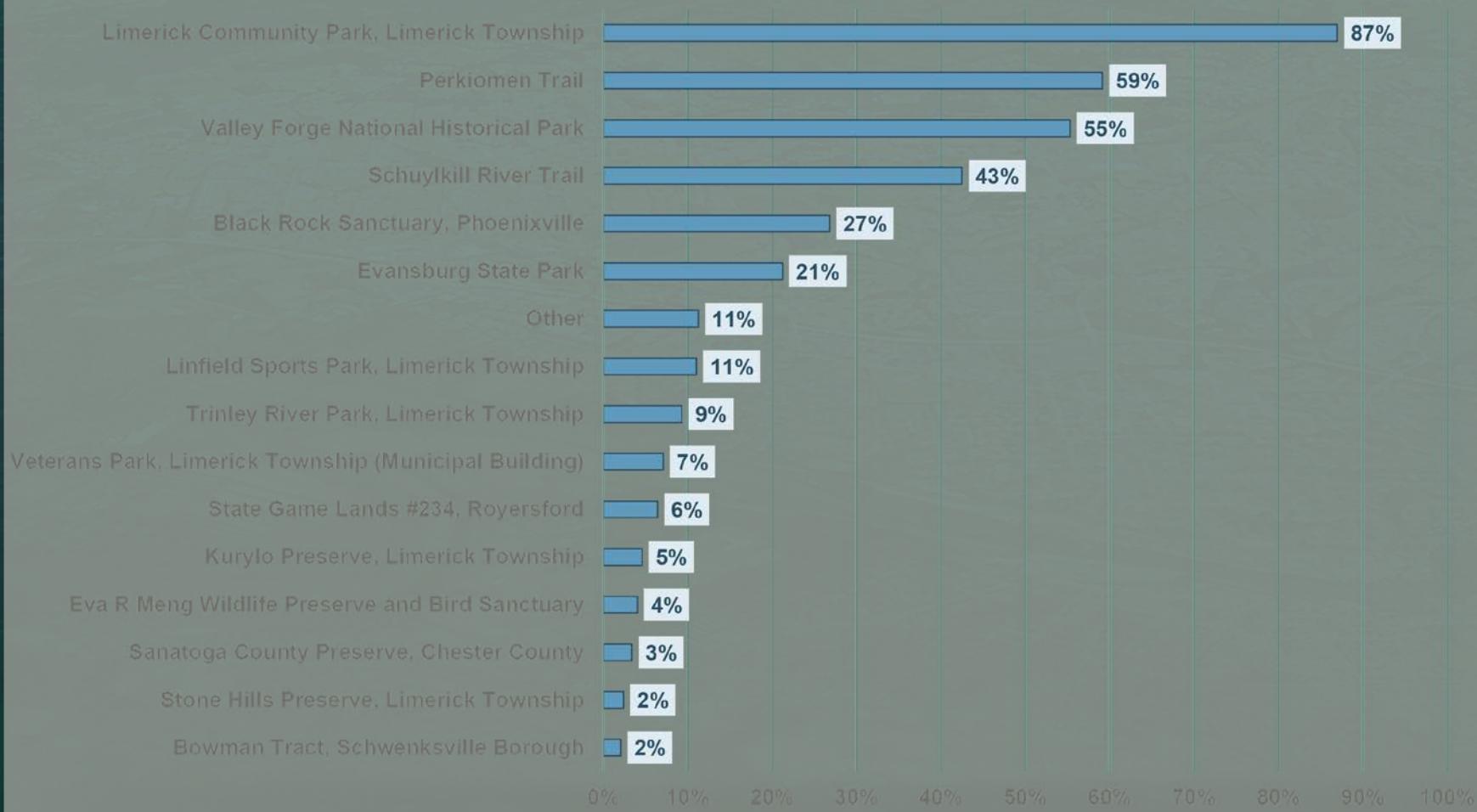
Oct 2017 - April 2018

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Which parks, natural areas or open space areas do you visit for recreation purposes? (Please check all that apply) 913 Answers



What is an Open Space Plan?

An Open Space Plan will guide the Township in future decisions on park lands and preserving open spaces. It will provide:

- ❖ Description of existing protected lands and open space system
- ❖ Evaluation of vulnerable natural resources, unprotected areas, vacant or underutilized land, and the park & open space needs of the community
- ❖ Recommendations and implementation strategy for next 20-30 years

The Open Space Plan will not address:

- ❖ Specific park amenities such as benches, playing fields, etc.
- ❖ Specific park master planning
- ❖ Specific trail planning

Vision, Goals & Objectives

We suggest that these preliminary goals are only a starting point for discussion and will be thoroughly revised and refined as the plan advances.

- ❖ Engage in an open and transparent exchange of ideas where all ideas are considered and where everyone's voice can be heard throughout the design process.
- ❖ Provide for the open space needs of all age and abilities groups.
- ❖ Protect the Township's Open Space and Historic and Natural Resources from future development.

Tools for Creating & Implementing a New Open Space Plan:

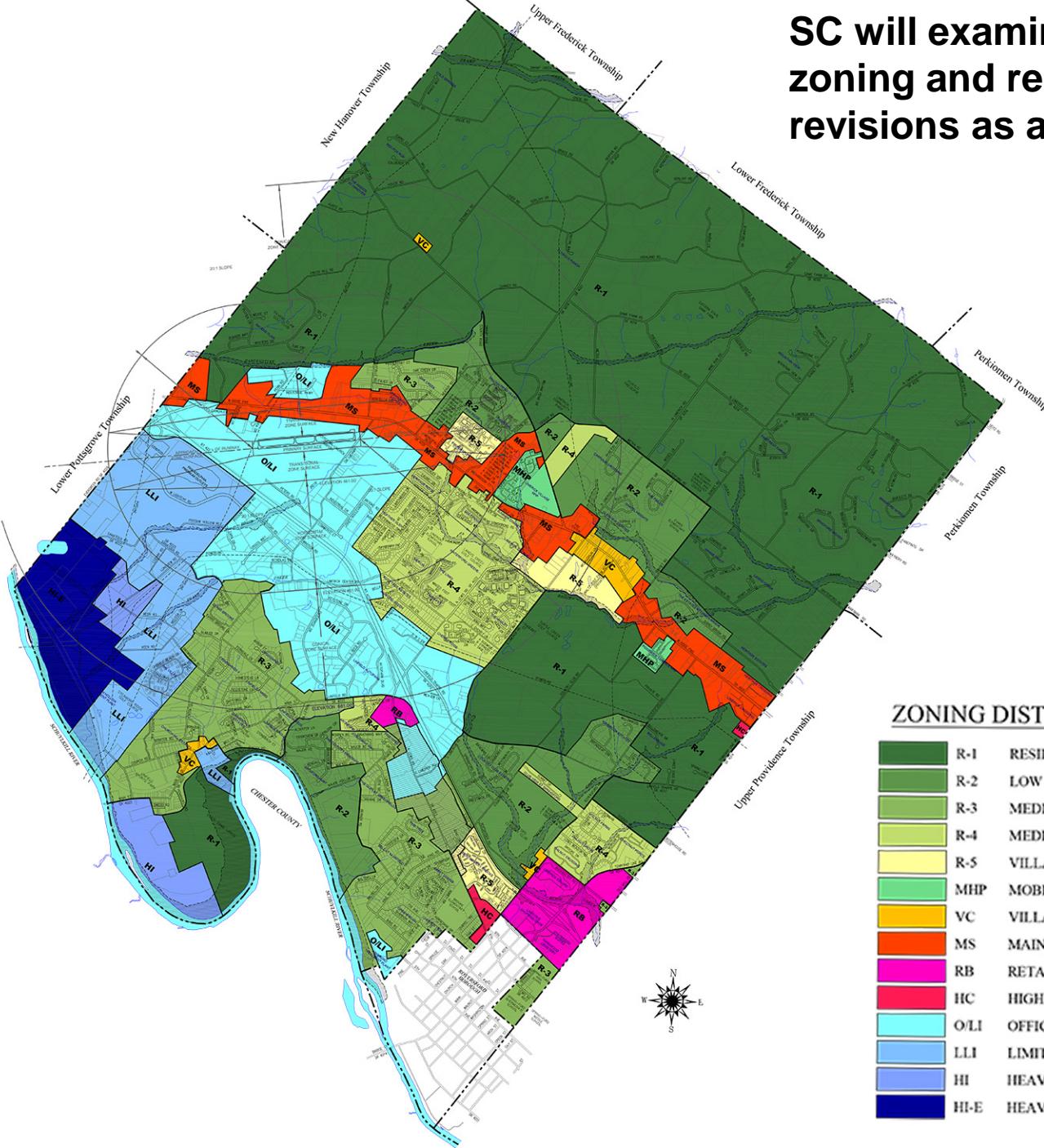
- ❖ Township Zoning & SALDO Ordinances
- ❖ Official Map
- ❖ Funding Alternatives
- ❖ Education
- ❖ “Out of the Box” Thinking / Creativity

Zoning as a Conservation Tool

Zoning regulations can assist in protection / conservation of:

- ❖ Open space
- ❖ Forested areas
- ❖ Prime agricultural soils
- ❖ Riparian buffers
- ❖ Steep slopes
- ❖ Historic and cultural resources
- ❖ Scenic Areas

ZONING MAP



SC will examine existing zoning and recommend revisions as appropriate.

SALDO Regulation can Help Implement an Open Space Plan Vision Through:

- ❖ **Design standards that promote beauty**
- ❖ **Use of native plants**
- ❖ **Designs that account for facility life cycles**
- ❖ **Use of sustainable materials and products**
- ❖ **Connectivity Standards that are equitable**
- ❖ **Treating storm water as a resource**

What is an Official Map?

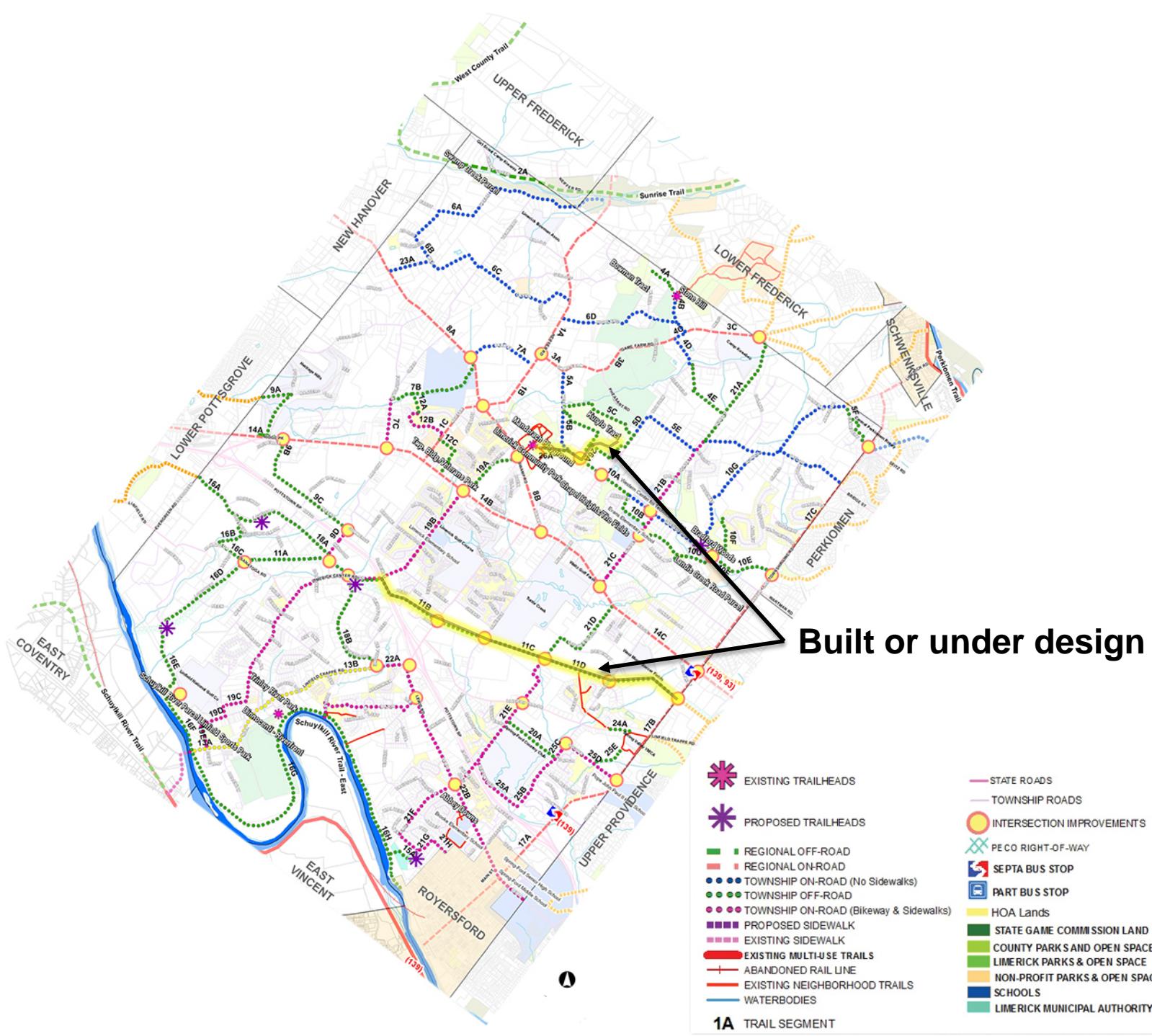
- ❖ A combined map and ordinance designed to implement goals and community vision set by Comprehensive Plan
- ❖ Shows locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as transportation, recreational parks and trails, and open space
- ❖ Effective negotiating tool for municipalities to ensure development is compatible and supportive of public goals
- ❖ Advances implementation of infrastructure and open space improvements (sometimes at no cost to taxpayers, ex: Westfield 41 Apt Homes trail)

OFFICIAL MAP



**Plan recommendations
may lead to additions to
the Official Map.**

TRAIL PLAN



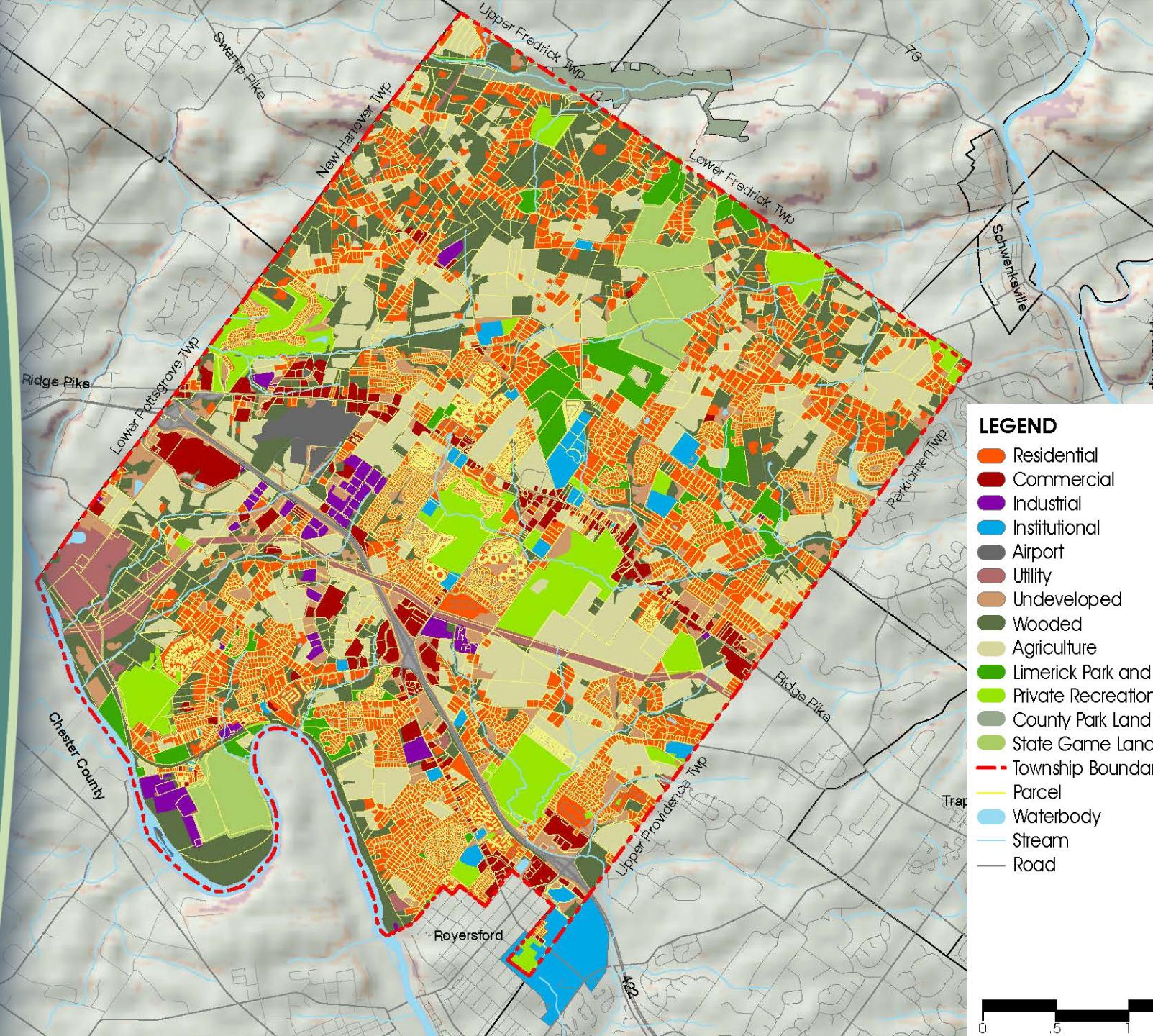
Education

- ❖ This Open Space planning process can help educate the community and your consultant team about YOUR community values regarding open space
- ❖ Create advocates for continued open space preservation in Limerick
- ❖ Community Education is a requirement of MS4 permit plan

“Out of the Box” Thinking / Creativity

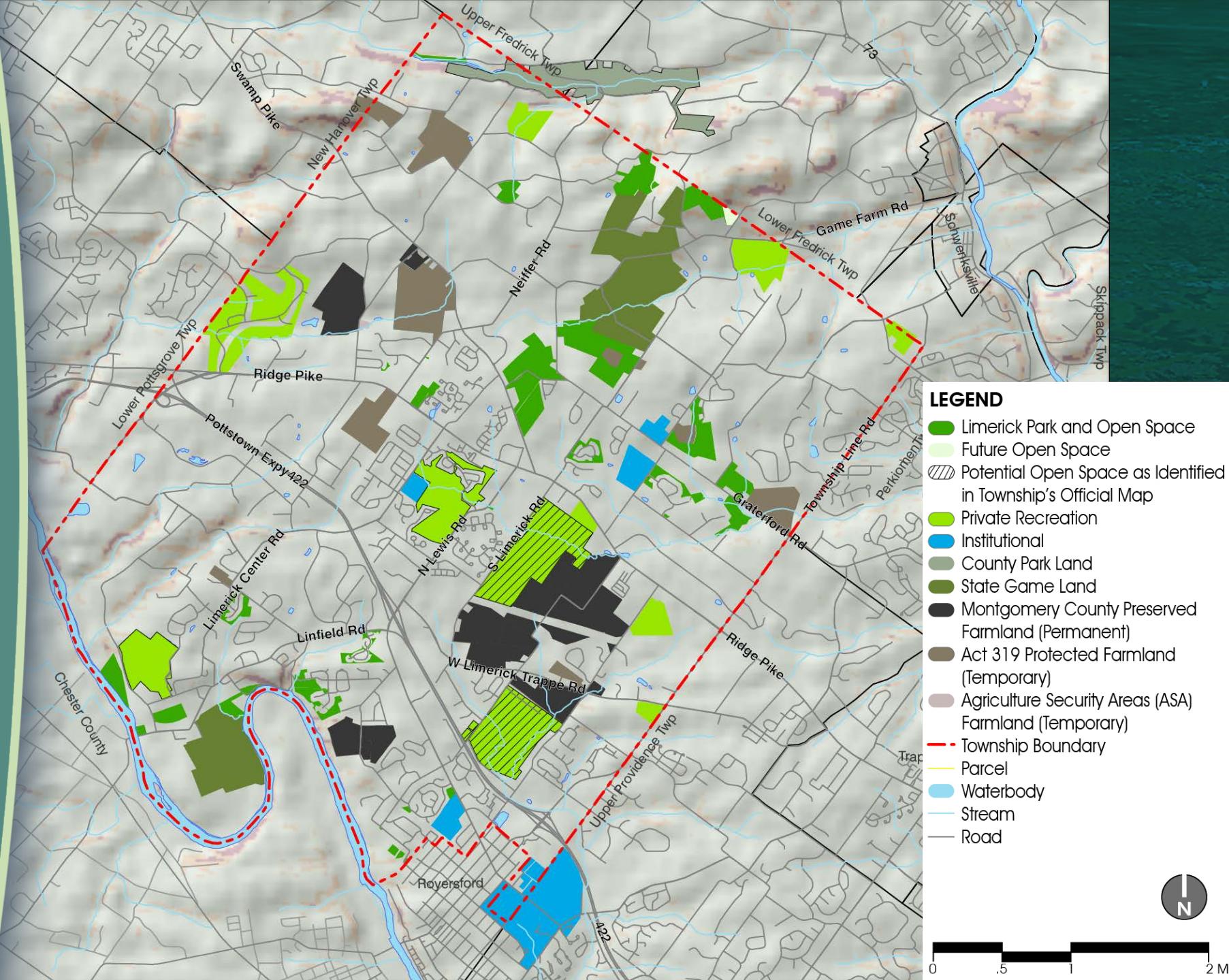
- ❖ YOUR ideas are incredibly valuable in this planning process. No one knows Limerick better than YOU.
- ❖ Creative ideas for funding and stewardship are important. NO municipality can care for open space lands by themselves.
Community help is critical.
- ❖ Partnerships with community organizations, businesses, religious and fraternal organization is essential.
“Adopt an open space”.

LAND USE MAP



0 .5 1 Miles

OPEN SPACE MAP



Existing Open Space Data

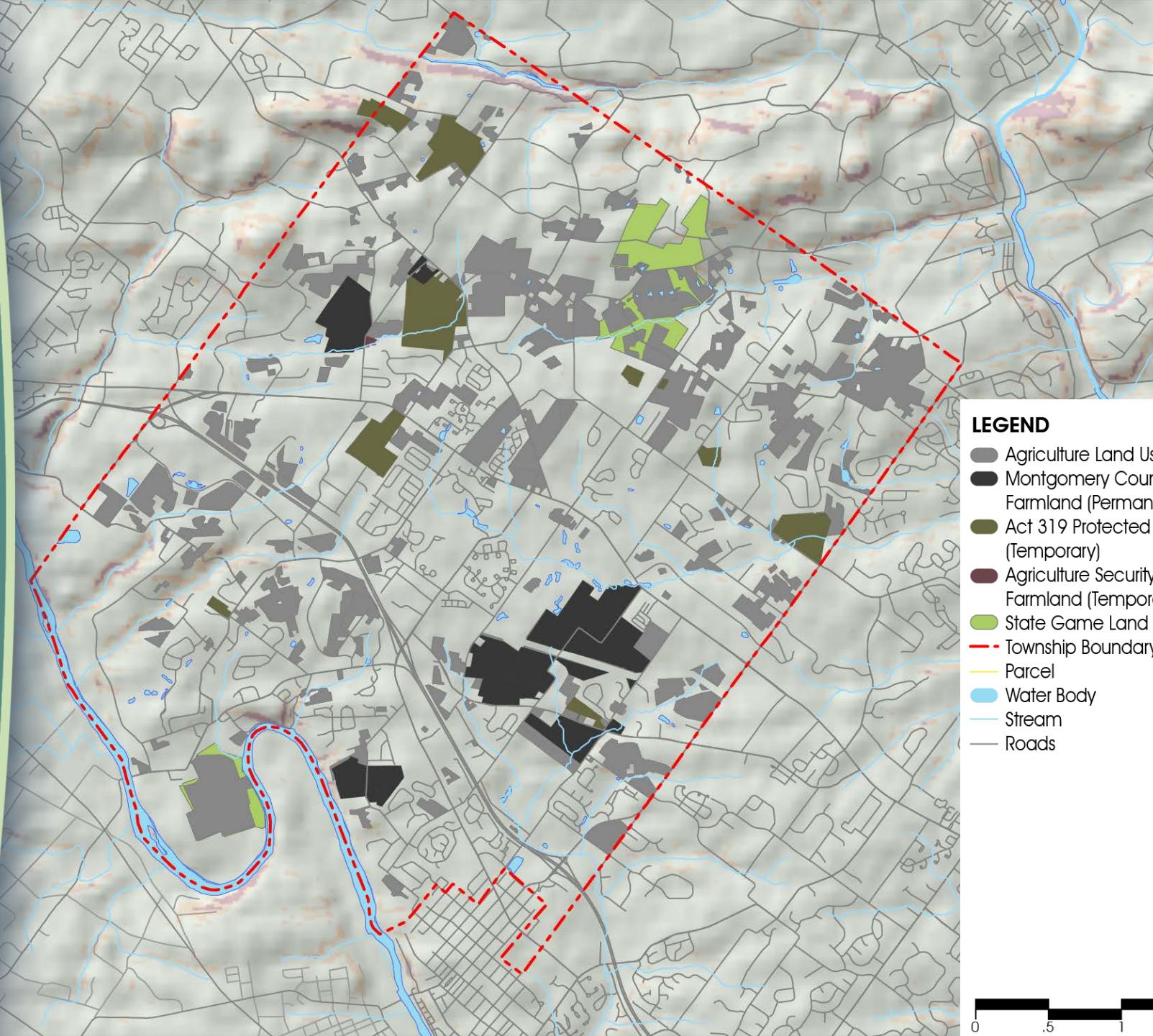
Open Space	Acres	% of Twp Land
Limerick Township Total Area	14,576.43	
Township Owned	445.59	3%
Private Recreation (Permanently Preserved / Covenant)	376.72	2.6%
Montgomery County Preserved Parkland	19.69	.1%
State Game Lands	485.10	3.3%
Montgomery County Preserved Farmland (Permanently)	562.20	3.9%
Total Permanent Open Space	1,889.30	12.9%
Private Recreation (Temporary)	526.84	3.6%
Act 319 Protected Farmland (Temporary)	366.46	2.5%
ASA Protected Farmland (Temporary)	2.25	0%
Total Temporary Open Space	895.55	6.1%

* Note that this data will be updated as more information is gathered and confirmed

Types of Agricultural Land Protection

- ❖ **Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Program** – Permanent preservation of farmland through purchase of agriculture easements
- ❖ **Act 319 (Clean and Green Law)** – non-permanent conservation of agriculture and forested land through benefits such as reduced property tax
- ❖ **Agriculture Security Area (Act 43)** – non-permanent conservation of agriculture land through benefits such as protection from local ordinances affecting normal farming activities

AGRICULTURE MAP



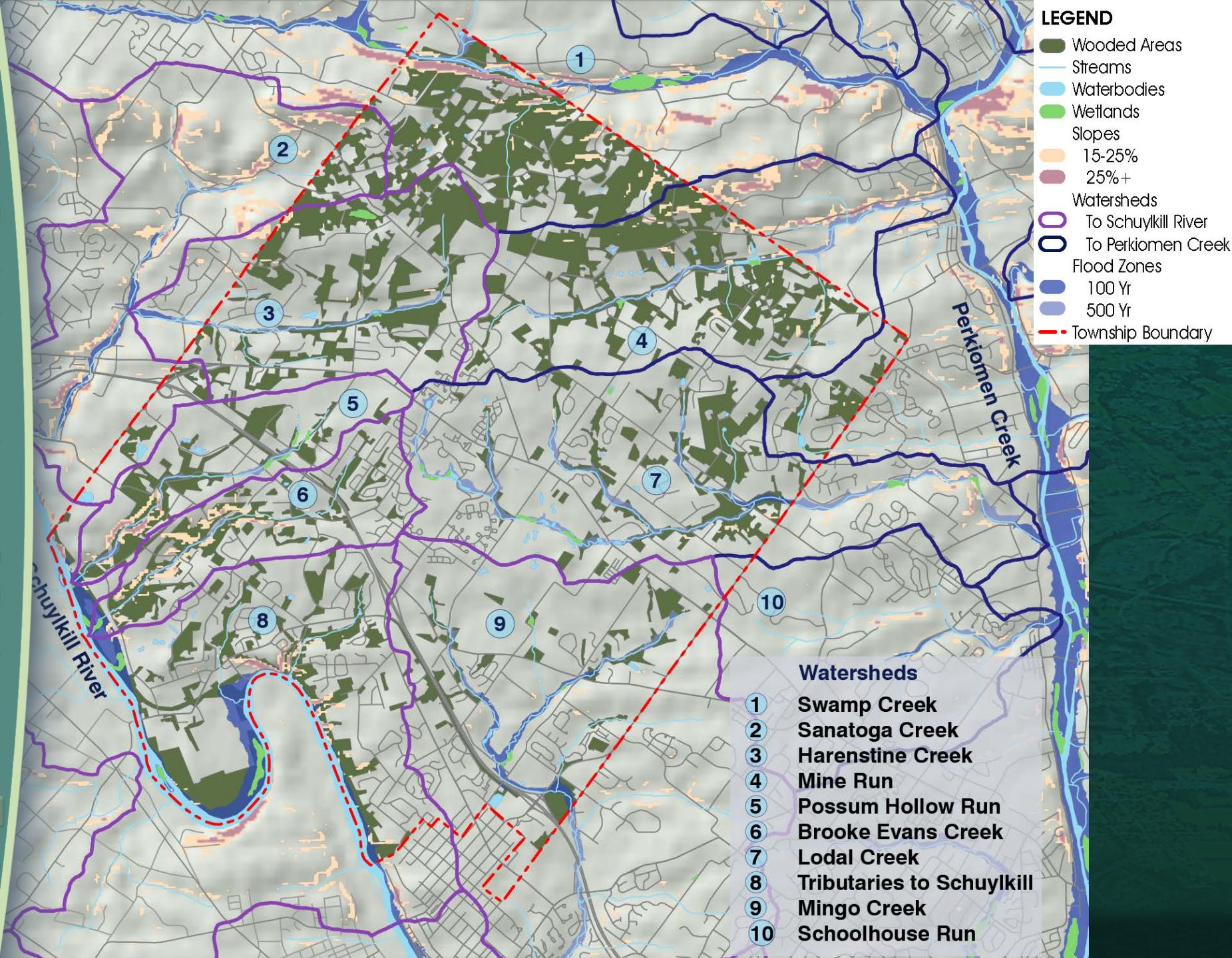
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Preservation of Natural Resources

- ❖ Improved water quality protection within watersheds
- ❖ Stormwater management
- ❖ Improve ecological functions / diversity
- ❖ Beauty
- ❖ Steep slope stabilization
- ❖ Passive recreation opportunities “for the soul”

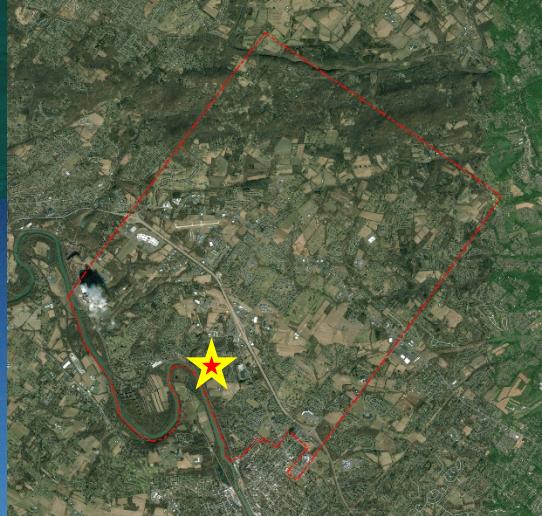


NATURAL RESOURCE MAP



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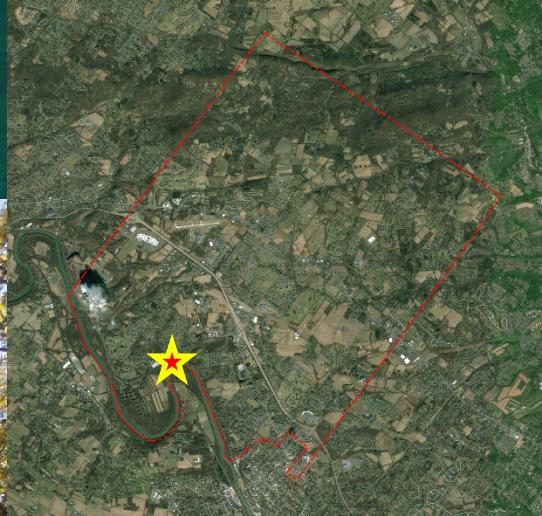
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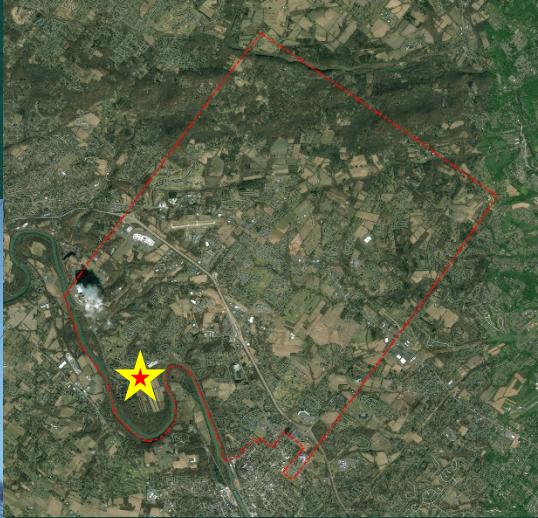
**Montgomery
County Preserved
Farmland – Misty
Knoll Farm**

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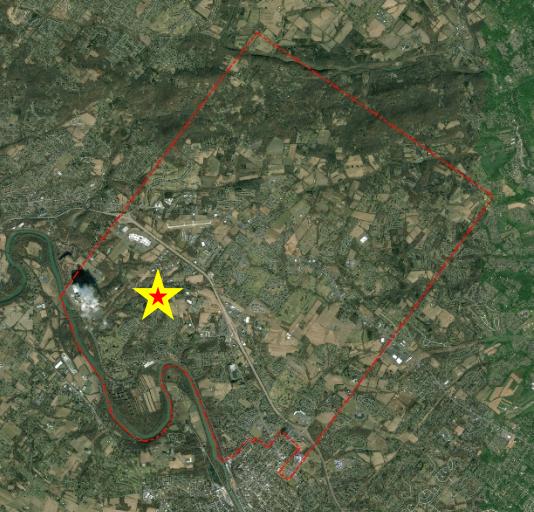
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Trinley Park



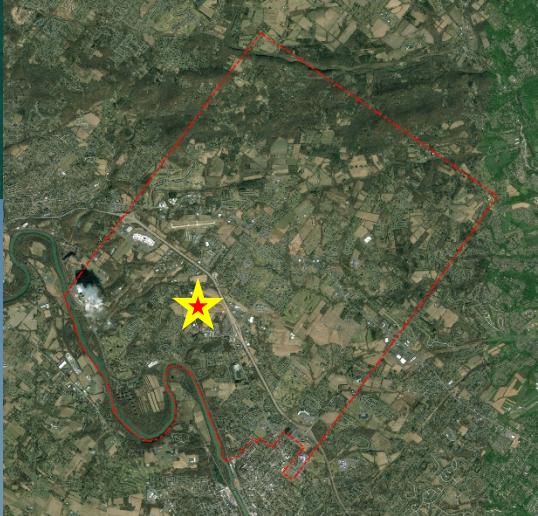
Linfield Sports Park



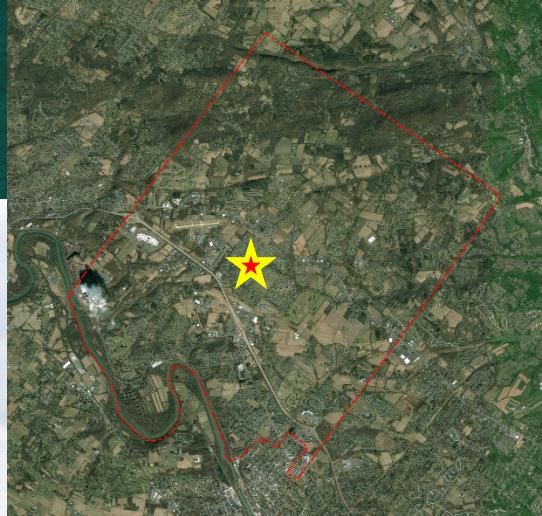
**Philadelphia
Gaelic Athletic
Association
Field Complex –
presently not on
open space plan**

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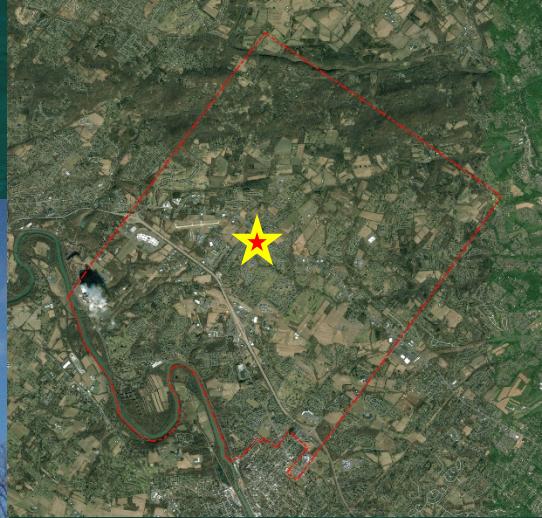
**Pottstown Vortac
Weather Station –
currently
surrounding land
is not preserved**



**Limerick
Community Park**

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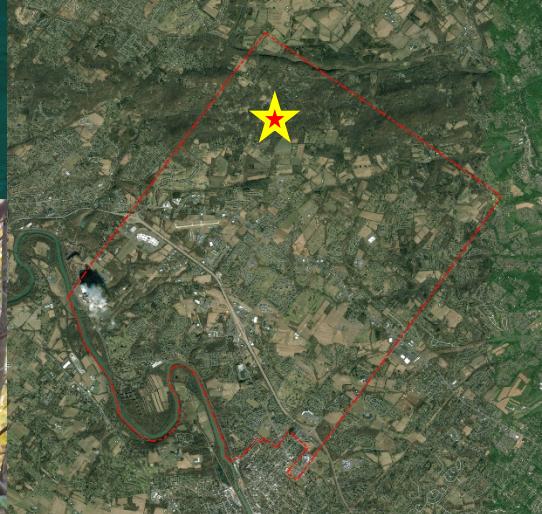
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Kurylo Preserve

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**Stone Hills
Wildlife Preserve**

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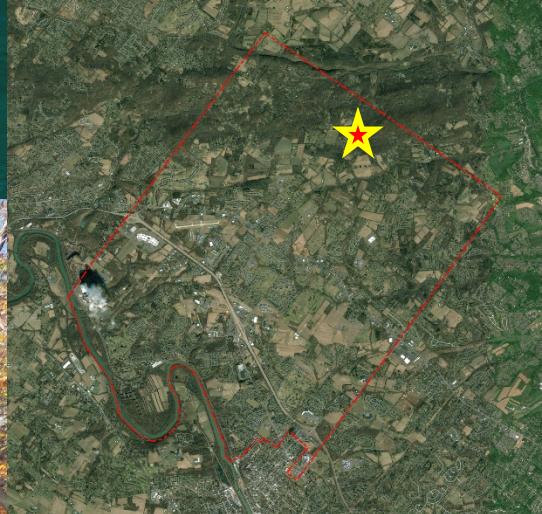
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**Grebe Road –
scenic road**

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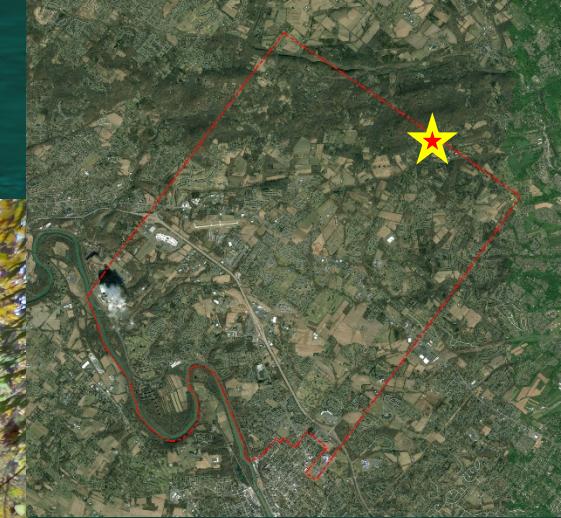
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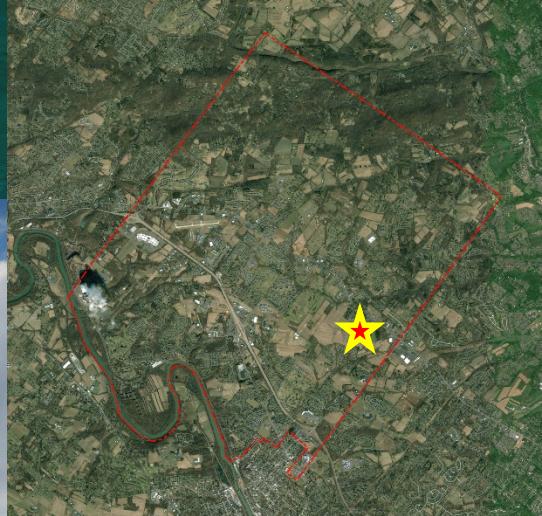
**Historic
Herstein's
Mennonite
Church building -
1803**

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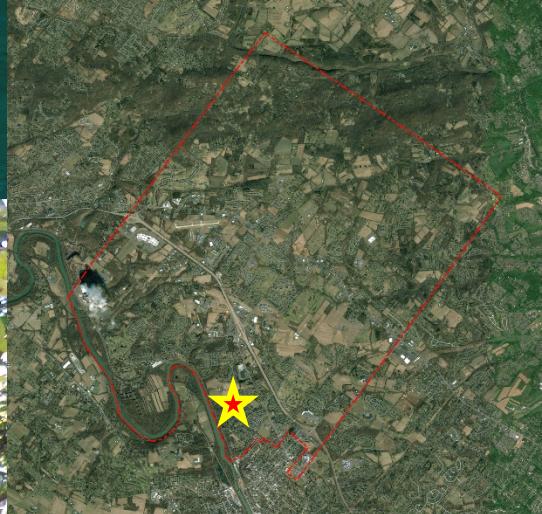
**Trail into Eva R.
Meng Wildlife
Preserve and Bird
Sanctuary**



**West-Mont United
Soccer
Association
Hilltop Farm
Soccer Complex**

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**Schuylkill
tributary – not on
preserved land**

Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

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GOALS

GOALS FOR THE PROJECT - initially broad, then specific: "Develop Priority List" or "Provide for the open space needs of all age and abilities groups".

"

FACTS - Existing land use, site conditions, outstanding natural resources, adjacent properties, existing trails, nearby open space sites, partners.

FACTS

CONCEPTS

IDEAS FOR ATTAINING PROJECT GOALS - "Connect to existing trail systems", or "Preserve Rural Areas" "Develop Mission Statement"

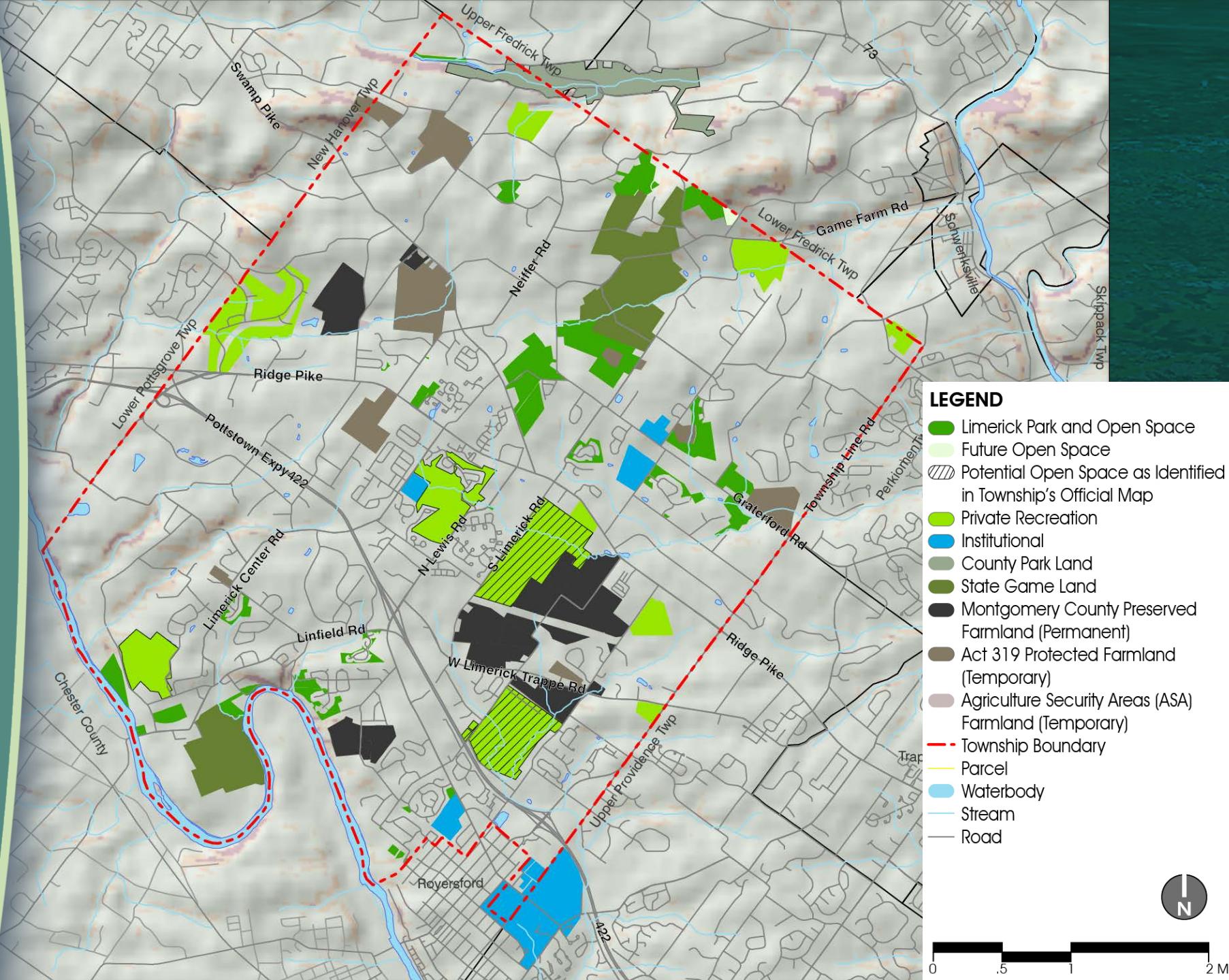
Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

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<u>GOALS</u>	<u>FACTS</u>	<u>CONCEPTS</u>	<u>PARTNERS</u>
PROVIDE FOR ALL AGES	SOME STATE GAME LAND USED FOR FARMING	STRENGTHEN ZONING TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE	DCNR
ESTABLISH PRIORITIES	EXISTING TRAILS	PRESERVE SCHUYLKILL RIVERFRONT	COUNTY
PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER	EXISTING OPEN SPACE	PRESERVE MORE FARMLAND	LOCAL BUSINESSES

OPEN SPACE MAP



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Thank you,

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