



# THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN CHESTER COUNTY Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

## FACT SHEET

### Guiding Principles

1. Focus on a clear public purpose
2. Build upon existing data
3. Engage partners and the public
4. Define needs locally
5. Find hidden opportunities
6. Envision a regional strategy with local action items
7. Leverage regional vision and willing partnership for larger benefits
8. Jump-start implementation

### What is this project about?

This project will define a vision and lay out a plan for regional parks, recreation, and open space that blends active, healthy living with the conservation of scenic and natural resources to promote a way of life unique to Northern Chester County.

### Why is this project needed?

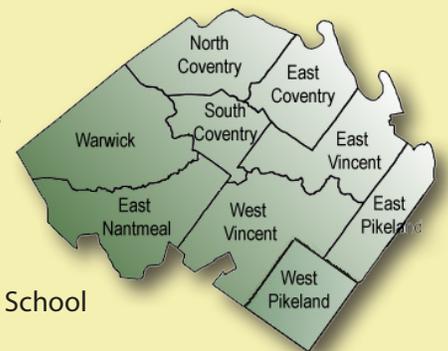
Northern Chester County is facing major challenges. The scenic rural character of Chester County, its proximity to major employment centers, and renowned high quality of life is attracting many new residents with needs and expectations of public services, including recreation. The partner municipalities are small and have limited human and financial resources. Determining how and where to provide recreation, greenways, and trails through partnerships, pooled resources, and shared responsibilities will maximize opportunities and benefits to the participating organizations for the good of the people who live, work, and play here.

### What will be the outcomes?

A cohesive vision for regional parks, recreation, and open space; a plan to achieve that vision that is customized for each municipality's needs but coordinated regionally; and guidance to help ensure steady progress toward the region's goals.

### Who is involved?

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| East Coventry Township    | French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust |
| East Pikeland Township    | Downington School District                     |
| East Nantmeal Township    | Owen J. Roberts School District                |
| East Vincent Township     | Phoenixville School District                   |
| North Coventry Township   | Other Recreation and Nature Groups             |
| South Coventry Township   |  |
| Warwick Township          |  |
| West Pikeland Township    |  |
| West Vincent Township     |  |
| Green Valleys Association |  |





## THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN CHESTER COUNTY Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

### Project Milestones

May 2009

*Project Kick-off*

October 2009

*Inventory and Assessment  
Report*

January 2010

*Choices and Directions  
Report*

June 2010

*Draft Action Plan Report*

September 2010

*Draft Priorities and  
Partnerships Report*

November 2010 - January  
2011

*Review and Adoption*

April 2011

*Development of Pilot  
Projects*

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### What topics will the plan address?

**Parkland and Linkages** – the lands to be designated for building the envisioned parks, recreation, and open space system.

**Natural Resource and Open Space Conservation** - the lands, programs and initiatives to coordinate land and water conservation and watershed protection with protection of the region's rural scenic beauty.

**Programs and Services** – the types of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of all ages and abilities year round—from self-directed play to organized sports to community special events.

**Recreation Facilities** – the number and type of parks, sports fields, and natural areas; amenities such as lights, benches, and walking paths; and appropriate landscaping to “fit” facilities into the rural landscape.

**Administration and Management** – the framework for operating, managing, and maintaining the system with roles and responsibilities for each partner.

**Coordination with Regional Planning Initiatives** – relating the plan's benefits to other initiatives, such as clean air and water, improved health, higher property values, attraction and retention of visitors, and improved quality of life.

**Financing** – methods for leveraging public and private monies toward cost effective services and maximum benefit.

### What is my role?

**As a resident**, participate in the sample survey (if selected), attend and ask questions at the open house, and give ideas to your township officials.

**As a recreation provider**, participate in the league survey and interviews, attend and ask questions at the focus group(s) and steering committee workshops, and attend and ask questions at the open house.

**As a local official**, share ideas and concerns with the Central Coordinating Committee (CCC), and stay informed via representation on the CCC or its reports to the Federation.

### Can I access information online?

Yes—the project Web site will be launched in June 2009 and updated as the plan develops. Look for public meeting schedules, meeting summaries, podcasts, maps, surveys, comment forms, and draft recommendations.

### Who is paying for this?

- » The Chester County Commissioners' Vision Partnership Program
- » The participating municipalities
- » PA DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund