

**Williams Property Easement  
 Salford Township  
 Montgomery County, PA**

**Project Description:**

Salford Township in the upper northeast corner of Montgomery County has seen a population increase of over 7 % in the past years. The Township's Open Space and Environmental Resources Protection Plan recognized that the Township would need to mitigate the new development by conserving more land. The 51-acre Williams Property located on both sides on Hill Road, was an ideal parcel to conserve due to its extensive natural resources and habitat for rare plants and bird species.

The Montgomery County Natural Lands Trust partnered with the Township and Natural Lands Trust to establish a conservation easement on the property, with a \$285,000 acquisition grant from DCNR matched with County Open Space bond funds and contributions from the Williams family.

The Williams property is located adjacent to a Gun Club, Township owned land, and close to the 1197 acre conserved Musser Boy Scout Camp, thus adding to the growing network of conserved land in the area. The property has been identified by the Montgomery County Natural Areas Inventory as a high priority for conservation as the Unami Creek runs through it and the Ridge Valley Creek is located nearby. The entire property contains hydric soils, which are important for the health of these Creeks.



**Quote:** Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation, Montgomery County Lands Trust

“Montgomery County Lands Trust is proud to preserve this 51 acre land plot. We are looking forward to acquiring more land in Montgomery County as valuable as this.”

Located within the mature-wooded Unami Forest, this parcel is also home to seventeen plant species of concern, one warbler bird species of concern as listed by Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI), and one federally listed species of concern. There is also a trail

easement that circles the property, and a planned trail that would link the property to the public 130 acre White Mills Park.

This project is an excellent example of local, county, state and non-profit land trust partners working to create and protect a critical habitat greenway that will be protected both to assure the community's continuing high quality of life and to the habitat for the critical species that depend on its continued health.

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**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

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2005: \$285,000 Keystone Grant  
 Matching Funds - \$285,000  
 Montgomery County Open Space Bond Funds  
 Williams Family