

Earned Income Tax Will Fund Open Space Initiatives

At the general election held November 2003, Londonderry Township residents voted in favor of a referendum to collect a 0.25% earned-income tax for the purpose of funding open space initiatives within the township. Following approval of the referendum the township supervisors authorized the formation of an open space committee. The committee can help residents looking for information on agricultural or conservation easements. The committee can get applications and assist with completing them. The Chester County Agricultural Conservation Easement Challenge Grant program has been extended to include all rural townships, allowing townships to partner with county funds to preserve farms at risk. Applications for 25-acre or larger farms (or those of 10 or more acres when adjacent to an eased farm) are considered. Approved farm uses now include boarding and training of horses. This is only one of many opportunities to put your open space tax to work.

Choosing to sell or donate development rights is a difficult decision. The Open Space Committee recognizes this and wants to help landowners gain as much accurate information as possible to help them with the decision process. The Open Space Committee is planning a presentation to educate residents and property owners about many open space preservation and conservation opportunities that are available. The committee would like to hear from interested landowners so the presentation can be scheduled at the most suitable time and date. If you are interested or have any questions contact the Open Space Committee chairman, Hank Detering, at 610-869-3631.