

Green Valleys Association Comments
East Vincent Township
December 10, 2008 Public Hearing

RE: Open Space Acquisition of @ 37 acres, Reiff Farm

Green Valleys Association wishes to express its strong support for the acquisition of the nearly 37 acres (portion of Reiff Farm) by East Vincent Township and at this time would like to commend the township for taking this action as well as extend our appreciation to all the stakeholders who have had a hand in bringing about this special opportunity .

Green Valleys Association has no doubt of the multiple benefits to the greater community through this acquisition.

As a headwater sub-basin to the French Creek watershed, this property plays an very important role in helping to maintain both the water quality and quantity of this specially protected water resource whose existing use is currently listed as “exceptional value” by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is commonly known and accepted that as the conditions of headwaters go so goes the overall health of the watershed. Ultimately, water from this system becomes part of the water supply system for thousands of downstream residents.

Acquisition of this land helps to maintain its function of buffering storm events thus helping to reduce flooding impacts.

Additionally, acquiring this property helps to provide and maintain important supportive habitat for many types of wildlife that exist on site. Given the proximity of this site to the nearby elementary school, classes would be able to walk to this area along a passive trail to greatly enrich their education experience of all these local natural wonders.

Furthermore, our proud rural character will be enhanced by the protection of this open space and will serve as another important milestone in our 175th celebration of our township’s history.

It is not often that an opportunity like this comes along. Especially, when you imagine what could have been. The quality of life for the residents of East Vincent Township and the region as a whole will be well served through this acquisition.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

John Hoekstra
Director of Watershed Advocacy
Green Valleys Association