

Smithfield Township Open Space Criteria & Open Space Clusters

When evaluating open space opportunities, the Township should prioritize properties based on the following criteria:

- **Willing Seller at Appraised Value:** Only pursue properties where the owner is willing to sell at assessed/fair market value.
- **Sufficient Acreage:** Target properties with a minimum of ~20 acres unless smaller parcels abut existing parks or open spaces, or have significant cultural value (e.g., Buttermilk Falls, Twin Falls, or anthropological sites).
- **Grant Funding Eligibility:** Preference for properties that qualify for state or federal grant programs such as DCNR or LSA – which will significantly leverage township resources.
- **Freshwater Resources:** Prioritize properties containing freshwater features such as lakes, wetlands, and/or streams.
- **Cultural Value:** Consider properties with significant historical, cultural, or community importance such as scenic overlooks, waterfalls or anthropological sites.
- **Accessibility:** Properties must be prioritized where they will either connect to an already existing open space property (regardless of agency) or if direct connectivity is not possible, ensure large enough acreage, and street frontage to allow for a future small parking/trailhead area.

To visually aid in this process, the Environmental Advisory Council in 2025 has developed a flow chart to visualize the criteria and decision-making framework for acquisitions. (See appendix).

Open Space Priority Bubbles: Overview

The following narrative summarizes the open space priority bubbles identified through extensive work conducted from 2019 to 2024 by the Smithfield Township Open Space Committee and the Smithfield Township Environmental Advisory Council.

Mount Nebo Park Expansion Complex

Mount Nebo Park is located on the western ridge of the Shawnee Valley. Several large acreage properties exist to the west within the Marshalls Creek Watershed. These properties span the ridge and extend down to the Marshalls creek along Route 209. The properties in this cluster feature steep slopes, some with direct access to Marshalls Creek, and present a significant opportunity for a hypothetical expansion of Mount Nebo Park.

The parcels in question offer a combination of direct creek access across Route 209, ridge forests, and some open, old farmland suitable for recreational use. These characteristics make them highly favorable for acquisition. Prioritizing parcels that connect directly to Mount Nebo Park should be the first step to establish a seamless expansion. Once this connection is achieved, expansion efforts can extend outward to include additional parcels.

It is important to note that some of these parcels were previously included on the township's official map, highlighting a longstanding precedent and cultural value for a desire to expand Mount Nebo Park. Given the parcel size, ecological significance, and potential for recreational, prioritizing these parcels would significantly enhance the community.

Upper Marshalls Creek / Marshalls Falls Expansion Complex

The Marshalls Creek Cluster of open space properties in Smithfield Township can generally be described as encompassing the mountain with exposed ~100 ft bluff of bedrock to the east of Marshalls Falls Park, extending down along Marshalls Creek itself, and reaching the eastern end, which consists of large, flat, currently non-forested areas that extend deep into the residential portions of the township. This cluster of properties, as identified on the bubble map, holds significant conservation value due to its direct inclusion of Marshalls Creek—the namesake of Marshalls Creek Village—and its adjacency to Marshalls Falls Park.

With direct street frontage, a mostly forested landscape interspersed with large sections of open land ideal for future recreational opportunities, and parcels of generally substantial size, the area's central location from a geospatial perspective makes it uniquely suited for a hypothetical open space preserve. Such a preserve would be eligible for matching funds and grants.

The mountain to the east of Marshalls Falls Park offers potential for scenic viewsheds, enhancing the area's aesthetic and recreational appeal. The properties within this cluster span both sides of Marshalls Creek Road and include numerous parcels, some of considerable acreage.

Beyond its ecological significance, the area holds notable cultural value, as members of the public regard it as a cherished part of the township—possibly even a township center, also potential anthropological value by the native Minsi and/or Lenape tribes residing in the area, using the stream, surrounding woods, fields, and bluff, as a sustaining year-round cultural habitat. Overall, this area has an intrinsic, palpable, positive energy.

Goffrey's Ridge

This beautiful, unspoiled geographic landmark is visible to residents and travelers in Delaware Water Gap, along the Gateway of PA. The property contains and has the Brodhead Gorge, and directly adjacent to County Open Space land. There's healthy forest, diverse plant and animal life, and has large enough acreage to qualify for grants and has road accessibility for a parking area along 611 on the Delaware Water Gap side of the ridge. This is a unique and majestic parcel of land, which contains abundant Fly Fishing recreational opportunities, contains a scenic Overlook, with historical waterfalls created from old hydroelectric dams.

The headwaters of the Little S*mbro Creek

Situated just north of Waterfront Park, encompass approximately 150 acres of well-preserved boggy wetlands. These wetlands form the vital source waters of Little S*mbro Creek, which flows downstream to Lake Valhalla contributing to the water quality of the lake and local groundwater/drinking water wells. This wetland complex offers significant freshwater value, providing essential ecosystem services such as water filtration, flood mitigation, and habitat for diverse plant and animal species.

In addition to its ecological importance, the cluster holds recreational and educational potential. Boardwalk trails and interpretive signage, akin to the Tannersville Cranberry Bog, could significantly benefit local residents and serve as an outdoor classroom for schools and community groups. Furthermore, depending on the specific parcels acquired, road access to these properties would allow for a small parking area to enhance accessibility.

Although these properties do not currently adjoin any already protected land, they remain highly valuable for conservation. Their close proximity to one another and collective large acreage create an opportunity to establish a substantial and contiguous conservation area. Given its alignment with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) funding criteria—including conservation of vital freshwater resources, promotion of public recreation, and community engagement—this project is likely to qualify for DCNR funding.

Shawnee Valley Cluster of Properties

The Shawnee Valley is home to several large-acreage properties that the committee has identified as top priorities for open space preservation in Smithfield Township. These lands, though not all containing freshwater resources or directly adjoining existing open spaces, hold tremendous potential for conservation. Some include deed-restricted portions of the PRD and could seamlessly integrate into a larger, ecologically and culturally vital preservation corridor. Situated within a critical migratory flyway of the Delaware River Valley, these predominantly connected properties offer a unique opportunity to establish a vast open space and recreational park that would serve as a sanctuary for wildlife and a haven for community recreation. Together, they span over 500 acres, representing a rare and invaluable resource that could enhance the township's ecological health, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation offerings. Their preservation should be a top priority, especially since they align with the eligibility criteria for DCNR/LSA grant funding, unlocking the potential for matching funds to make this vision a reality.

Waterfront Park Expansion & Twin Falls

The 31.24-acre property is located on Twin Falls Road adjacent to Waterfront Park on Red Fox Road. It contains the culturally significant and easily accessible Twin Falls on its eastern border, which is located on Twin Falls Road, a short dead-end roadway. Most of the acreage is not visible from the road, but the Marshalls Creek portion also contains a wetland with a pond behind the falls.

The property would seem to be a logical extension of the existing public park, with considerable stream access, a scenic view of the falls and potential for a small parking area and a hiking trail.

This property was once a multi-generational family farm with roots in the colonial era. There's significant cultural and sentimental value for the property, and by directly abutting Waterfront Park and containing sizable acreage, abundant fresh water resources, and easy access makes a logical potential expansion of this critical parkland.

Buttermilk Falls, Upper Sambo, Lands

Buttermilk Falls has been identified as a top priority for preservation due to its exceptional cultural significance in Smithfield Township. Located prominently along Route 209, this property, which features the iconic falls, along with some adjoining parcels, has the potential to become a centerpiece of the township's natural and cultural heritage. Preservation efforts should prioritize acquiring the falls property first, followed by adjacent lands, while exploring the possibility of conservation easements for walking trails on neighboring properties that cannot be purchased outright. Safeguarding this culturally important waterfall is not only a valuable step in preserving the township's identity but also an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for future generations. Its protection should remain a foremost priority as Smithfield Township advances its open space initiatives. Other properties exist in the upper Sambo Creek watershed that are directly adjacent to the East Stroudsburg Water Company property and would make excellent candidates for acquisition. These may also be eligible for grant funding.

EXISTING REGULATIONS

DRAFT UPDATES

<p>SECTION 16-107 Smithfield Township Park Rules and Regulations.</p> <p><u>1.</u> The sports fields are maintained by Smithfield Township for recreation and the enjoyment of its residents. Use of these fields must be in accordance with the following rules and regulations. Fees for use of park facilities may be assessed at certain times by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p><u>2.</u> Penalties for violations of one or more of these rules and regulations are set forth.</p> <p><u>A.</u> Parks and recreation areas shall be open during daylight hours only unless special arrangements have been established with the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p><u>B.</u> Parking is allowed in designated areas only. Also parking of licensed vehicles shall be in accordance with the Smithfield Township Code, Chapter <u>15</u>, as amended. No unlicensed vehicles are allowed in or on Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p><u>C.</u> Sports fields must be assigned a group leader when they are used by a group. Assigned groups have priority on sports fields.</p> <p><u>D.</u> Only one game at a time shall permitted on a sports field.</p> <p><u>E.</u> Sports field/fields are open to the public when not assigned.</p> <p><u>F.</u> No vehicles are allowed on sports field/fields at any time except for mowing and maintenance.</p> <p><u>G.</u> Group leaders are personally responsible for the control and behavior of their respective group/groups.</p> <p><u>H.</u> All groups and individuals will collect all litter after use of the field or fields.</p> <p><u>I.</u> All pets are to be kept on a leash at all times, and pet owners shall be responsible for cleaning up after their pets.</p> <p><u>J.</u> No alcoholic beverages are allowed on or in any Township park or recreational area.</p> <p><u>K.</u> No horses are allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p><u>L.</u> No snowmobiles or ATVs are allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p><u>M.</u> No hunting or target practice is allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p><u>N.</u> No fires are allowed in any Township parks or recreation areas without special permission of the Township Supervisors. The exception shall be for cooking on charcoal or gas grills.</p> <p><u>O.</u> Digging or intentionally searching or scavenging for any artifact, collectible, or other item of value by any means in any of Smithfield Township's parks and recreation areas is prohibited. Any artifact,</p>	<p>SECTION 16-107 Smithfield Township Park Rules and Regulations</p> <p>1. The sports fields and parks are maintained by Smithfield Township for recreation and the enjoyment of the public. Use of these fields and parks must be in accordance with the following rules and regulations. Fees for use of park facilities may be assessed at certain times by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. Organizations granted the right to utilize park facilities by agreement or lease are subject to all applicable rules and regulations; however, fees for use of park facilities may be waived for certain organizations at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>2. Penalties for violations of one or more of these rules and regulations are set forth.</p> <p>A. Parks and recreation areas shall be open during daylight hours only unless special arrangements have been established with the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>B. Vehicles parked after the closing hours of any park, conservation area, or recreation area are prohibited, except for those operated by duly authorized Department or Township employees, emergency services personnel performing official duties, or individuals operating a vehicle in accordance with a valid Township-issued permit.</p> <p>Vehicles parked or left unattended in violation of this section are hereby declared a nuisance and may be impounded in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 101 et seq., or any similar law authorizing impoundment with or without citation and without prior notice to the owner.</p> <p>C. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. Also parking of licensed vehicles shall be in accordance with the Smithfield Township Code, Chapter 15, as amended. No unlicensed vehicles are allowed in or on Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p>D. Sports fields must be assigned a group leader when they are used by a group. Assigned groups have priority on sports fields.</p> <p>E. Only one game at a time shall permitted on a sports field.</p> <p>F. Sports field/fields are open to the public when not assigned.</p> <p>G. No vehicles are allowed on sports field/fields at any time except for mowing and maintenance.</p> <p>H. Group leaders are personally responsible for the control and behavior of their respective group/groups.</p> <p>I. All groups and individuals will collect all litter after use of the field or fields.</p> <p>J. All pets are to be kept on a leash at all times, and pet owners shall be responsible for cleaning up after their pets.</p>
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DRAFT UPDATES

<p>collectible, or other item of value found in any of the Township parks and recreational areas shall not be removed, and the Township office shall be notified immediately of the find. Any inquiries regarding lost artifacts, collectibles or other items of value shall be made to the Township Office or to the Smithfield Township Park Commission.</p> <p>P. In addition to any of the penalties set forth in § 16-108 of this Part, any infraction of the above rules and regulations will be cause for the Township Supervisors to automatically suspend privileges of any offending individual, group or group leader for the entire season.</p>	<p>K. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on or in any Township park or recreational area.</p> <p>L. No horses are allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p>M. No snowmobiles or ATVs are allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas; and operation of Drones is prohibited.</p> <p>N. Hunting or trapping of live animals, including reptiles or capturing, harassment, injuring, or killing of wildlife is prohibited in any of the Township parks and recreational areas. No target practice is allowed in any of the Township parks and recreational areas.</p> <p>O. No fires are allowed in any Township parks or recreation areas without special permission of the Township Supervisors. The exception shall be for cooking on charcoal, wood, or gas grills.</p> <p>P. Carrying or discharging of firecrackers, fireworks, or similar propelling explosives is prohibited.</p> <p>Q. Digging or intentionally searching or scavenging for any artifact, collectible, or other item of value by any means in any of Smithfield Township's parks and recreation areas is prohibited. Any artifact, collectible, or other item of value found in any of the Township parks and recreational areas shall not be removed, and the Township office shall be notified immediately of the find. Any inquiries regarding lost artifacts, collectibles or other items of value shall be made to the Township Office or to the Smithfield Township Park Commission.</p> <p>R. It shall be prohibited to damage, deface, write on, carve on, destroy, move, or otherwise alter any Township-owned property, including but not limited to vegetation, turf, signs, buildings, bridges, benches, structures, lighting, fixtures, equipment, or any other material belonging to the Township. Climbing on fencing, backstops, goals, or similar structures is also prohibited.</p> <p>S. In addition to any of the penalties set forth in § 16-_____ of this Part, any infraction of the above rules and regulations will be cause for the Township Supervisors to automatically suspend privileges of any offending individual, group or group leader for the entire season.</p> <p>§ 16-108 Additional Rules and Regulations.</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors may, from time to time, adopt by resolution such additional rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper operation, management, and conduct of Township parks and recreational facilities.</p> <p>§ 16-109 Discrimination prohibited.</p> <p>A. It is the policy of the Township, in the exercise of its police powers for the protection of the public health, safety and general welfare and for the maintenance of peace and good government, to assure equal opportunity for full enjoyment and use of park facilities to all persons, free from</p>
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EXISTING REGULATIONS

DRAFT UPDATES

§ 16-108**Penalties.**
[Ord. 117, 2/26/1991; as amended by Ord. 128, 4/26/1994; by Ord. 141, 4/28/1998; and by Ord. 160, 6/25/2002]
Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, or who violates or who fails or refuses to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Commission and the Township Supervisors shall, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a district justice in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

restrictions because of race, color, sex, marital status, political ideology or affiliation, age, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin or disability as defined by state or federal law.

B.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the exercise of constitutional liberties or the use of a bona fide qualification or restriction that does not infringe upon civil rights or civil liberties recognized by federal or state law or Township ordinance.

16-110 Penalties

1.
Any person who violates the above rules and regulations shall be subject to immediate eviction from park, conservation, and recreational areas owned and/or operated by the Township, to be enforced by all Pennsylvania State Constables, Township-appointed or hired security personnel, and other authorized Township personnel.

2.
Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, or who violates or who fails or refuses to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Township Supervisors shall, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a district justice in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine as follows:

(1)
For a first offense, the sum of \$300 plus costs.

(2)
For a second offense, the sum of \$600 plus costs.

(3)
For all subsequent offenses, the sum of \$1,000 plus costs.

In default of payment of said fine or penalty, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.



Smithfield Township Environmental Advisory Council
1155 Red Fox Road | East Stroudsburg | Pennsylvania 18301
Ph: 570-223-5082 | Fax: 570-223-5086
www.smithfieldtownship.com

APRIL 15, 2025

Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors
Attn: Chairman Jacob Pride
1155 Red Fox Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18360

RE: Environmental Advisory Council Recommendation
Dirty Fill Ordinance

Dear Chairman Pride,

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) discussed the issue of fill in Smithfield Township during its regularly scheduled meetings on December 18, 2024 and April 15, 2025. Dirty fill is an issue in bordering towns in PA, along the New Jersey border.

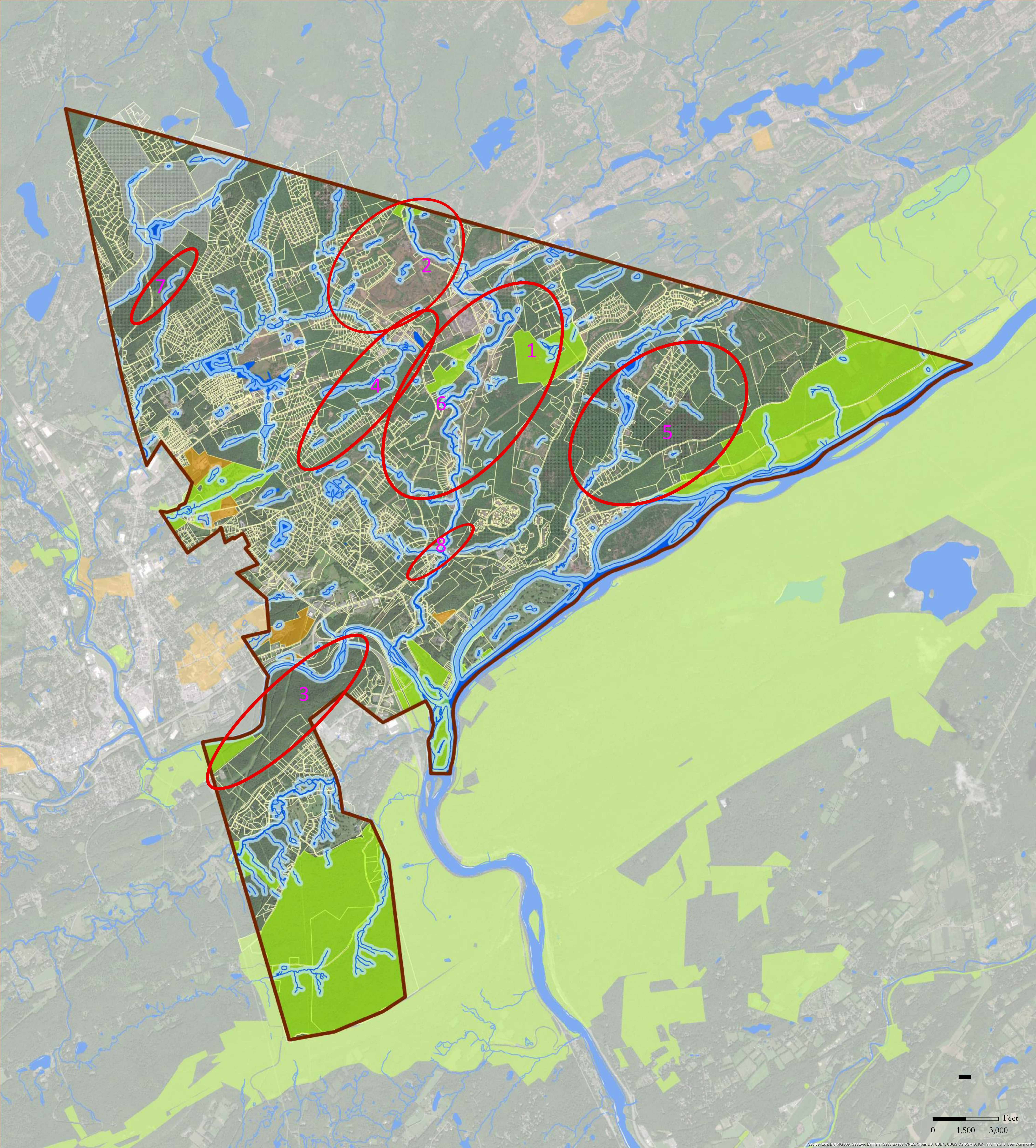
The Council discussed the creation of an ordinance to regulate dirty fill, emphasizing the need for a proactive approach to address dirty fill in the community. This issue is particularly critical for Smithfield Township, given its location as a border town with New Jersey, where the impact of dirty fill is disproportionately higher compared to other areas in the Commonwealth. The Council also noted recent incidents underscoring the urgency of such measures. Recognizing the lengthy enforcement timelines of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the Council highlighted the advantages of a Township-level ordinance to enable more timely and effective responses. Additionally, the Council recommended seeking technical assistance from the Monroe County Conservation District on this matter.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 15, 2025, held at 7:00 PM, the EAC voted unanimously to recommend in favor of the Township adding the “dirty fill ordinance” to its priority list.

On Behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council,

Alex Jackson, PhD

Conservation & Recreation Director



Acquisition Priorities

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Monroe County, PA

- Acquisition Priorities
- Riparian Buffer (150 Ft)
- Forested Headwaters (Parcels >50 Ac)
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- Public and Protected Lands
- Schools and Educational Facilities
- Owned by Borough of East Stroudsburg
- Waterways

1. Mount Nebo Park Expansion cpx.
2. Marshalls Falls Park Expansion Cpx.
3. Goffrey's Ridge
4. Headwaters of Little S*mbro Creek
5. Shawnee Valley Cluster of Properties
6. Waterfront Park Expansion
7. Upper S*mbro
8. Buttermilk Falls

1. Parcels, roadways, and waterways from Monroe County.
2. Public and protected lands from Monroe County and TNC.
3. Schools and educational facilities from Monroe County parcel data.

Compiled By: CMA 6/13/19

Disclaimer: This map is not a survey. The information imparted with this map is meant to assist Natural Lands Trust, Inc., describe the placement of certain retained, reserved, or excluded rights and to calculate acreage figures. Property boundaries, while approximate, were established using the best available information, which may have included: surveys, tax maps, field mapping using G.P.S., and/or orthophotos. Natural Lands Trust, Inc., makes no representation as to the accuracy of said property lines (or any other lines), and no liability is assumed by reason of reliance hereon. Use of this map for other than its intended purpose requires the written consent of Natural Lands Trust, Inc.