



PATTON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS: 2014 TO PRESENT

November 2014 to February 2015

Open space referendum passes and the Patton Township Open Space Task Force is created.

- Voters approve a referendum for \$3,500,000 to preserve open space in the Township in November 2014.
- Board of Supervisors solicits volunteers to form an Open Space Task Force (OSTF) representing Township neighborhoods.
- Members of the OSTF appointed by the Board of Supervisors in January 2015.
- First OSTF meeting occurs on February 4, 2015.

March 2015 to October 2015

Determined process, began to collect background information, identified potential properties using criteria similar to those discussed in the 2004 Framework for Open Space Preservation, and identified a reasonable number of properties to consider.

- The OSTF, Township staff, and Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) staff reviewed the “2004 Framework for Open Space Preservation”. This document guided the review and selection of property that resulted in the preservation of the Haugh Tract. The 2015 OSTF used the document as the model for determining parcels that should be considered in this process.
- CRPA staff prepared profiles of individual properties using a two acre minimum for parcels inside the Regional Growth Boundary (RGB) and Sewer Service Area (SSA), and a twenty acre minimum for parcels outside the RGB and SSA. CRPA staff developed a total of 90 property profiles. A total of 44 properties were inside and 46 were outside of the RGB and SSA.

Criteria used during this assessment included:

- Accessibility
 - Value as recreation, trail connections
 - Value as habitat or woodland
 - Likelihood of development
 - Development potential
 - Value as residential area buffer
 - Value as water feature
 - Value as agricultural lands
 - Value as ridge of distinct vista
 - Endangered species protection
- During this work period, the OSTF discussed and considered the merits of each property or portions of properties during a series of meetings and developed a scoring matrix to determine the top 24 properties to consider. The list was further divided into the “first 12” and the “second 12” properties.



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November 2015 to May 2016

Narrowed the potential properties, or portions of properties to a reasonable number for detailed consideration by Township staff.

- The Township Manager contacted individual property owners to determine their interest in continuing the process.
- In March 2016, the OSTF completed a tour of 17 properties for property owners that were potentially interested in continuing in the process.
- The OSTF conducted a public meeting on May 3, 2016 to gather input on the properties or portions of properties under consideration.

June 2016 - forward

Consideration of public input, preparation of OSTF report to the Board of Supervisors, and Board of Supervisors action.

- The OSTF will forward comments and suggestions from the public to the Township Board of Supervisors for their consideration.
- The Board of Supervisors has a number of options, but may accept the report and authorize the Township Manager to negotiate with individual property owners to include their property, or a portion of their property in the open space program.
- The Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing regarding the selection of a final property, or portion of the property prior to any final action.

