

## Glossary of Terms

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The definitions and acronyms in this glossary are provided for clarity and to promote a greater understanding of the contents of this Plan. The following Definitions have been included and are consistent with Chester County's *Linking Landscapes* and *Watersheds*, where applicable.

### DEFINITIONS

**ACRE** - A unit of area equal to forty-three thousand five hundred and sixty (43,560) contiguous square feet.

**ACT 167 (Historic District Act)** - Pennsylvania enabling legislation which protects historic resources through authorizing counties and municipalities to create historic districts within their boundaries through local ordinance, and to regulate building activity, including demolition, within the district. The historic district must be certified by the State Historic Preservation Office in the form of National Register eligibility. The Act requires the creation of an historical architectural review board (HARB) to advise on building activity within the district. A certificate of appropriateness must be granted before building activity continues.

**ACT 247** - The "Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code", Act 247 of 1968, as amended (53 P.S. §10101 et seq.).

**AGRICULTURAL OPERATION** – An enterprise that is actively engaged in the commercial production and preparation for market of the resulting crops, livestock and livestock products, including canneries, tanneries, and slaughter houses, and in the production, harvesting and preparation for market or use of the resulting agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural, and aquacultural crops and commodities. The term includes an enterprise that implements changes in production practices and procedures or types of crops, livestock, livestock products or commodities produced consistent with practices and procedures that are normally engaged by farmers or are consistent with technological development within the agricultural industry.

**AGRICULTURE/FARM** - The cultivation of soil and the raising and harvesting of products of the soil, including nurseries, horticulture, commercial greenhouses, forestry, dairy farming, and the raising of livestock, horses, and poultry not to exceed a combined total of one thousand (1,000) pounds per acre, or one (1) animal equivalency unit (AEU) per acre, but excluding intensive agriculture.

**AGRICULTURE/FARM, INTENSIVE** – Agricultural uses involving the processing or production of agricultural products with a certain density which meet either the Environmental Protection Agency's definition for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's definition for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) depending upon which type of operation is in place or a mushroom production facility, composting facility, or slaughterhouse.

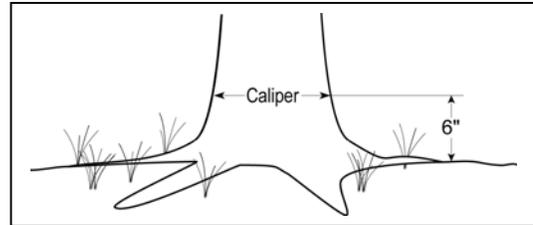
**ANIMAL EQUIVALENCY UNIT (AEU)** – One thousand (1,000) pounds live weight of livestock or poultry animals, regardless of the actual number of individual animals comprising the unit. [Pa. Code § 83.201]

**ANIMAL EQUIVALENCY UNIT (AEU) PER ACRE** – An animal equivalent unit per acre of cropland or acre of land suitable for application of animal manure. [Pa. Code § 83.201]

**AQUIFER** – A geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated, permeable material to yield useful quantities of ground water to wells and springs.

**BASEFLOW** – Portion of stream discharge derived from ground water; the sustained discharge that does not result from direct runoff or from water diversion, reservoir releases, piped discharges, or other human activities.

**CALIPER** – The diameter of a tree trunk measured six (6) inches above the ground.



**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG)** - A program established in 1980 by amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 whereby local governments that meet certain criteria, e.g. create a historic commission by local ordinance, which attest to their commitment to historic preservation are designated by the National Park Service. The program encourages participation in preservation at the local level and partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)** - a mutually beneficial partnership between a farmer and the people who consume the food produced by the farmer. The partnership is based on an annual commitment to one another, which ensures the survival of local agriculture today and for future generations. Members of the community agree to purchase a “share” of the farm’s anticipated harvest in advance at an agreed-upon price. Participating CSA families and individuals receive the highest quality food possible, grown without chemicals and picked fresh from the garden.

**CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION (CAFO)** –Agricultural operation with more than one thousand (1,000) animal equivalency units (AEUs); agricultural operation with animals with a discharge to surface waters during a storm event of less than 25-year/24-hour storm; or a CAO with greater than three hundred (300) animal equivalency units (AEUs). [25 Pa. Code § 92.1]

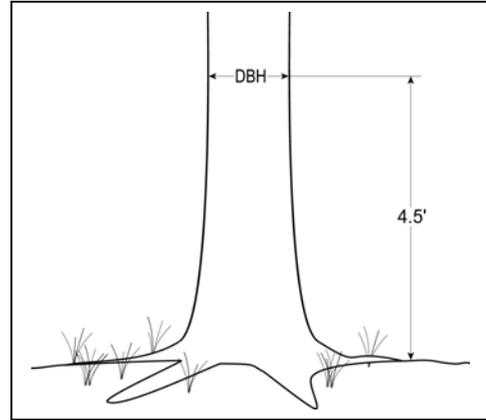
**CONCENTRATED ANIMAL OPERATION (CAO)** – Agricultural operations where the animal density exceeds two (2) animal equivalency units (AEUs) per acre on an annualized basis. [Pa. Code § 83.201].

**CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT** - An arrangement of residential structures that allows for grouping the structures by reducing lot area and yard requirements and incorporating the remaining area as open space. AKA Cluster Development, Open Space Development. See Figure 2-6.

**CONVENTIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - Individual residential lots that encompass the entire development tract or area without retaining common open space associated with Cluster Development. See Figure 2-6.

**DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)** – The diameter of a tree trunk measured at a point four and one-half (4 1/2) feet above ground level at the base of the tree.

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY (DOE)** - An action through which the eligibility of a property for National Register listing is decided, but the property is not actually listed on the Register. Nominating authorities and federal agencies commonly request determinations of eligibility for federal planning purposes and in cases where a majority of private owners object to National Register listing. Obtaining a determination of eligibility is the first step of the National Register nomination process.



**EASEMENT** – An interest in land owned by another that entitles the holder of the easement to a specific use or enjoyment of the land.

**EVAPO-TRANSPORATION** – The total loss of water to the atmosphere by evaporation for land and water surface and by transpiration from plants.

**FARM MARKET/ FARMER’S MARKET** – A place where farmers, growers or producers from a defined local area are present in person to sell their own produce, direct to the public. All products sold should have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed by the stallholder. The public can be confident of the origins of the foods, ask questions and get closer to the sources of local foods.

**FARM STAND** - A farm stand is a place where a single farm sells its produce, either from the back of a truck parked on Main Street, or from a roadside stand near or on their farm. Farm stands are generally only open during warm weather, and may be "self serve."

**FAUNA** – The animal life of a region or geological region.

**FIRST ORDER STREAMS** – Upper-most perennial tributary in a watershed that has not yet confluenced with another perennial stream. The confluence of two first order streams forms a “second” order stream. See Figure 7-3.

**FLOODPLAIN** – That portion of a stream valley adjacent to the channel that is created by erosion and sediment deposited from the stream and covered with water when the stream overflows its banks at flood stage. Also, the nearly level land situated on either side of a channel that is subject to overflow flooding. See Figure 7-4.

**FLORA** – The plants of a particular region, geological period, or environment.

**FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFER** – An area of trees, usually accompanied by shrubs and other vegetation, adjacent to a body of water and managed to maintain the integrity of stream channels and shorelines to: 1) reduce the impact of upland sources of pollution by trapping, filtering, and converting sediments, nutrients, and other chemicals, and 2) supply food, cover, and thermal protection to fish and other wildlife. See Figure 7-6.

GIS - a computer mapping system for analysis and display of physical features, such as land parcels, roads and streams and other data.

GRAMINOIDAL – Plants with a grass-like growth form including rushes, grasses, and sedges.

GREENWAY – A loosely defined term for any linear open space. See WILDLIFE BIO-DIVERSITY COORIDOR.

GROUNDWATER – Water that occurs in the subsurface and fills or saturates the porous openings, fractures, and fissures of underground soils and rock units.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTED AREA - The Ground Water Protected Area (GWPA) is an area within the Delaware River Basin that is regulated by the Delaware River Basin Commission to prevent depletion of ground water and protect the interests and rights of lawful users of the water source, as well as balance and reconcile alternative and conflicting uses of limited water resources in the region.

HEADWATERS – The uppermost tributaries of a stream or river; often refers to first order streams. See figure 7-3.

HEDGEROW - A linear plant community dominated by trees and/or shrubs. Hedgerows often occur along roads, fence lines, property lines, or between fields, and may occur naturally or be specially planted (e.g. as a windbreak).

HOPEWELL BIG WOODS – An area of Northern Chester and Southern Berks Counties identified by a partnership of federal, state, county, and municipal government and non-profit organizations as containing critical natural resources of contiguous forest, the upper reaches of the French Creek watershed and rare and endangered species worthy of protection.

HYDRIC SOILS - A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of wetlands vegetation. For the purposes of this Ordinance, hydric soils include any soil inventoried or described as hydric or as a soil with hydric inclusions according to the *Soil Survey of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania*, or other information provided by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Where site conditions indicate that the location of hydric soils or the hydric inclusions differ from locations indicated by the SCS, the burden shall be upon the applicant to verify such location(s) to the satisfaction of the Municipal Engineer, otherwise the SCS information shall be presumed to be accurate. Where the applicant seeks reclassification of hydric soils and their location, such reclassification shall be undertaken by a Certified Soil Scientist or other similarly qualified professional. See Figure 7-5.

IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE and SURFACE – ground cover that does not allow, or minimally allows, for infiltration of water (e.g., roofs, paved parking lots, and roads) and which increases the volume and speed of runoff after a rainfall. See Figure 2-4.

INDIGENOUS VEGETATON – See NATIVE SPECIES.

INFILTRATION – Movement of surface water into the soil, where it is absorbed by plant roots, evaporated into the atmosphere, or percolates downward to recharge ground water.

**INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES** – Predominantly non-native, non-indigenous, alien tree, shrub, vine, or herbaceous species that grow or reproduce aggressively, usually because they have few or no natural predators, and which can so dominate an ecosystem that they kill off or drive out many indigenous plant species. See Appendix D.

**LAND DISTURBANCE** - Any activity which exposes soils, alters topography and/or alters vegetation, except for removal of a safety hazard, diseased trees, or invasive vegetation.

**LAKES AND PONDS** - Natural or artificial bodies of water which retain water year-round. Artificial bodies of water may be created by dams, or result from excavation. Lakes are bodies of water two (2) or more acres in area. Ponds are bodies of water less than two (2) acres in area.

**LAKE AND POND SHORELINES** - The landside edges of lakes and ponds from established shoreline to an upland boundary.

**LIVESTOCK** - Animals of any size kept or raised for agricultural purposes which includes, but is not limited to: cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry, furbearers, and fish.

**MANURE** - Animal excrement used for fertilizing land.

**MONOCULTURE** – A plant community in which one plant is excessively predominant. Examples include lawns, crop fields, or habitat overpopulated with invasive exotic plants.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES** - The official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

**NATIVE SPECIES** - A species of plant or other organism that currently or previously inhabited or grew in a specified location, and which was not introduced to that location as a result of human activity, either intentional or accidental. The term “native” species generally refers to a species whose range was located within a large area like a continent or a nation. The term “indigenous” species is typically used to refer to a species whose original range extended into a smaller area like a state, county, or watershed. See Appendix D.

**NATURAL or BIO DIVERSITY** - In general terms, it is the variety of plants and animals in a given habitat, or the variety of features found in a given population of one type of plant or animal. More technically it is the variety of species, the genetic variation within them, and the spectrum of ecological communities in which they occur. It is the sum total of compositional, structural and functional diversity of genes, species, and ecological communities. It can be described on a continuum of spatial and temporal scales; from local to global; from days to millennia.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA)** - This Act established a strong legal basis for preservation of resources through a framework of measures to be used at the federal, state, and local levels including expansion of the National Register, creation of historic preservation standards, creation of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, review of the effects of federal projects (Section 106), funding for the National Trust, and creation of the State Historic Preservation Offices.

**NORTHERN FEDERATION** – The Federation of Northern Chester County Communities.

**OLD-GROWTH FOREST** - An area of forest that has attained great age and exhibits unique biological features. Old growth forests typically contain large live trees, large dead trees (sometimes called "snags"), and large logs. Old growth forests usually have multiple vertical layers of vegetation representing a variety of tree species and a variety of different age classes.

**OPEN SPACE** – In general, it is a large undeveloped tract or area of land that is designated for public or private use.

**PRESERVATION or PROTECTION** – When used in connection with agricultural resources, this shall include means to conserve and safeguard these resources from other wasteful or destructive uses, but shall not be interpreted to authorize the unreasonable restriction of forestry, mining, or other lawful uses of natural and agricultural resources.

**PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND** – Land used for agricultural purposes that contains soils of the first, second, or third class as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource and Conservation Services County Soil Survey.

**PRIME AGRICULTURAL SOILS (CLASS I, CLASS II, and CLASS III)** – Prime agricultural soil classifications established by the United States Department of Agriculture as Agricultural Capability Units I, II, and III, as amended.

**REGION** – For the purposes of this planning document, region refers to land area encompassed by the member municipalities of the Northern Federation.

**SCENIC VIEWSHED** - A viewshed is a physiographic area composed of land, water, biotic, and cultural elements which may be viewed and mapped from one or more viewpoints and which has inherent scenic qualities and/or aesthetic values as determined by those who view it. See Figure 4-1.

**SEDIMENT** - Fragmented material that originated from weathering rocks and decomposing organic material that is transported by, suspended in, and eventually deposited in the streambed.

**SEDIMENTATION** - Occurs when the sediment particles that have been suspended within the flowing water are deposited on the stream bottom or floodplain.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO)** - The official designated by the Governor to administer the state's historic preservation program and the duties defined in the National Historic Preservation Act and Pennsylvania History Code including nominating properties to the National Register. In Pennsylvania, the State Historic Preservation Office is the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the executive director of the commission is the SHPO.

**SILVICULTURE** – The development and/or maintenance of a forest or wooded preserve.

**SPECIMEN VEGETATION** - Individual trees or other vegetation determined to be of specimen quality as determined by a registered landscape architect or other similarly qualified professional.

**SPECIMEN TREE/VEGETATION** - A unique, rare, or otherwise specifically selected plant or tree considered worthy of conservation by the municipality because of its species, size, age, shape, form, historical importance, or any other significant characteristic, including listing as a Species of Special Concern by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or in the visual resource inventory of the township open space and recreation plan; particularly as applied to trees over 20 inches in caliper. (West Vincent Zoning Ordinance)

**STREAM** – Includes all rivers, creeks, brooks, tributaries and other flowing surface waters within a natural channel. More specifically, a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral watercourse having a defined channel (excluding man-made ditches) which contains flow from surface and/or ground water sources during at least a portion of an average rainfall year.

**STREAM, EPHEMERAL** - A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation. It receives little or no water from springs and no long-continued supply from melting snow or other sources. Its channel is at all times above the water table. The term may be arbitrarily restricted to streams which do not flow continuously during periods of the month.

**STREAM, INTERMITTENT** – A defined channel in which surface water is absent during a portion of the year, as ground water levels drop below the channel bottom.

**STREAM, PERRENIAL** – A defined channel containing surface water throughout the year.

**STREAM ORDER** – A numerical system (ranking from headwaters to river terminus) used to designate the relative position of a stream or stream segment in a drainage basin. See Figure 7-3.

**STORMWATER** – Runoff water that results from a storm (usually rainfall) event.

**TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (TDR)** – The process permitted in some municipalities in which a landowner in a “receiving zone or area” can sell the development rights to his or her land to a landowner who owns land in a “Sending Zone or Area.” See Figure 2-7.

**TIMBER HARVESTING OPERATION** - The uprooting or removal of more than four (4) trees of greater than six (6) inches dbh per acre from any lot for the purpose of allowing or encouraging the natural regeneration or preservation of a tree stand, on a lot which has a gross area prior to any subdivision or land development of more than three (3) acres and which is undertaken in compliance with a municipal approved timber harvesting plan.

**TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN** - A description, by means of text and maps, of proposed actions involving the removal of trees from a tract of land. Such plan shall have been prepared by a forester with demonstrable expertise in forest management, and shall document measures to be taken to: protect water quality; minimize impacts from skid trails and logging roads and the tree removal process; minimize destruction of habitat; and ensure site restoration. The timber-harvesting plan shall include the minimum contents requirements (Section 5) and be consistent with the minimum forest practices (Section 6) of the Pennsylvania Model Forestry Regulations published by the Penn State School of Forest Resources.

**TRANSPIRATION** – Direct transfer of water from the leaves of plants or of the skins of animals into the atmosphere.

**TREE PROTECTION ZONE** - An area that is radial to the trunk of a tree in which no construction activity shall occur. See Figure 2-5.

**VERNAL POOLS** - A vernal pool is a contained basin depression lacking a permanent above ground outlet. In the Northeast, it fills with water with the rising water table of fall and winter or with the meltwater and runoff of winter and spring snow and rain. Many vernal pools in the Northeast are covered with ice in the winter months. They contain water for a few months in the spring and early summer. By late summer, a vernal pool is generally (but not always) dry.

**WATER BUDGET or CYCLE** – An accounting of the movement of water through the components of the hydrologic cycle in a watershed, including precipitation, evapo-transpiration, surface runoff, ground water recharge, and ground water discharge to stream baseflow.

**WATER, GROUND** – Water that occurs in the subsurface and fills or saturates the porous openings, fractures and fissures of under ground soils and rock units.

**WATER, SURFACE** – Bodies of water that are exposed at the surface of the earth including rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

**WATERCOURSE** - A channel or conveyance of surface water, such as a stream, creek, or run, having a defined bed and banks, whether natural or artificial, with perennial or intermittent flow. For the purposes of this Plan, a watercourse shall not include manmade swales constructed expressly for the purpose of stormwater management.

**WATERCOURSE, EPHEMERAL** - A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation. It receives little or no water from springs and no long-continued supply from melting snow or other sources. Its channel is at all times above the water table. The term may be arbitrarily restricted to streams which do not flow continuously during periods of the month.

**WATERCOURSE, INTERMITTENT** - A defined channel in which surface water is absent during a portion of the year, as ground water levels drop below the channel bottom.

**WATERCOURSE, PERENNIAL** – A defined channel containing surface water throughout the year.

**WETLANDS** – Those areas that are inundated and saturated by surface or groundwater a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bog, and similar areas. Any area meeting the official wetland definition of the U.S. Army corps of Engineers or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as amended, shall be considered a wetland for the purposes of Chapter 129. In the event the definition of a wetland accepted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conflicts with the definition of a wetland accepted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the more restrictive definition shall apply.

**WILDLIFE BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR** – As defined in *Linking Landscapes*, A 2,000 foot wide conceptual planning zone that is an ideal location for the establishment of a wildlife corridor.

## ACRONYMS

ACRE - Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment Initiative

AEU – See ANIMAL EQUIVALENCY UNIT

ANSI – American National Standards Institute

BHP – Bureau for Historic Preservation.

CCCD – Chester County Conservation District

CCPC – Chester County Planning Commission

CIG – Conservation Innovation Grants

CLG – See CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

CSP – Conservation Security program

DBH – See DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT

DCED – Department of Community and Economic Development.

DCIS – Chester County Department of Computer Information Services.

DCNR – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

DOE – See DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

DVRPC – Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

ECP – Emergency Conservation Program

EQUIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EWP – Emergency Watershed Program

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FSA – Farm Service Agency

GIS – Geographic Information System

GRP – Grassland Reserve Program

GVA – Green Valleys Association

HARB – Historical Architectural Review Board

MPC – See ACT 247

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act

NLT – Natural Lands Trust

NMP – Nutrient Management Plan

NPS – National Parks Service

NWI – National Wetlands Inventory

NRCS – National Resources Conservation Service

PennDOT – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

PFBC – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

PGC – Pennsylvania Game Commission

PHMC – Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

PNDI – Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index.

PPP – Preservation Partnership Program

SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer

TEA21 - Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

TDR - Transfer of Development Rights

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program