

Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association

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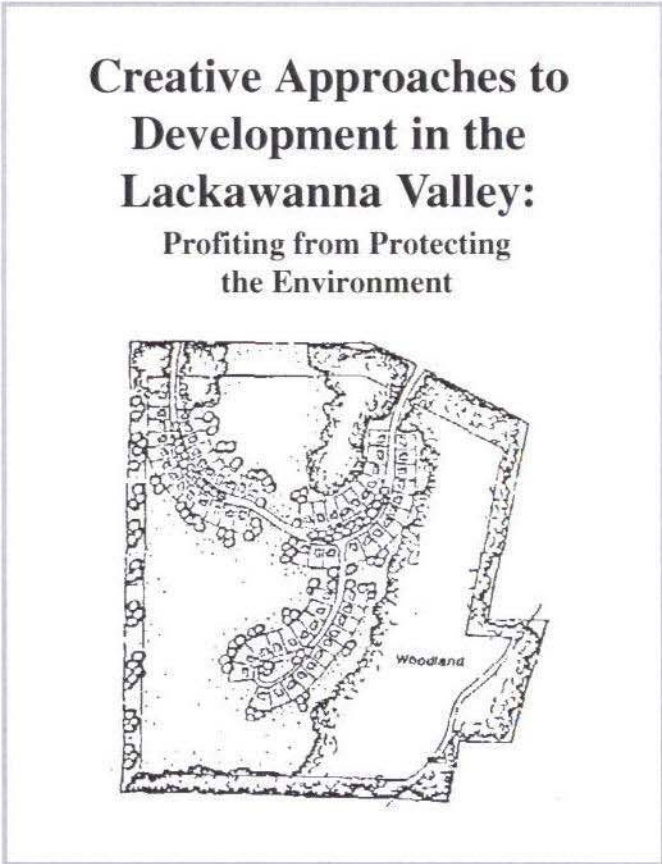
Grant Amount: \$16,500

Community Workshops featured a series of programs and consultations that addressed the issue of land use planning and open space preservation in growing communities. The workshops were held in the Lackawanna Valley and oriented towards local residents, developers, planners, and design professionals. The program's intention was to promote awareness on principals of conservation and provide a forum that addressed obstacles and opportunities of development expected upon completion of the Lackawanna Industrial Highway. Similar workshops began in 1994 through a partnership between the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association of the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council, the US EPA, the National Park Service, Natural Lands Trust, Inc. and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Four public workshops and three consultations were held in 1996 to help educate communities about the comprehensive planning processes. The "Creative Approaches to Development" workshops involved the nationally known, award winning author, lecturer and rural town planner, Mr. Randall Arendt of Natural Lands Trust, Inc., Media, PA. Mr. Arendt used the planning concepts addressed at the workshops and made recommendations on improvements to three municipal ordinances. Township subdivision ordinance consultations were awarded via lottery. Workshops were videotaped and are now available to planning commissions throughout the region. Workshops included: *Designing Open Space Subdivisions*; *Designing Commercial Developments*; *Creating Opportunities for Community Open Space*, and *A Greener Vision for Community Growth*.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$16,500
Cash Contributions	\$10,000
In-kind Contributions	\$11,326
Total Project Cost	\$37,826



Project Accomplishments

- Educated 300 local developers, residents, municipal officials, and professionals on the regional benefits of conservation zoning and subdivision standards.
- Provided 100 copies of the book “*Open Space Subdivisions*” by Randall Arendt to workshop attendees.
- Distributed 500 conservation design pamphlets and 2000 flyers.
- Worked with 24 volunteers who committed 454 hours of service.
- Improved site design skills for developers and planners.
- Promoted profitable conservation based development.
- Provided municipal officials with the means to adopt higher development standards to control poor development, urban sprawl, and the degradation of the natural environment.
- Completed a workshop evaluation that documented attendees’ understanding of the need for conservation planning.
- Increased awareness of regional benefits from adopting conservation zoning and subdivision standards.
- Achieved a 1 to 1.08 cost share ratio on the grant.

Partners' Contributions

- Countryside Conservancy – Workshop assistance
- Environmental Protection Agency – Workshop assistance
- Lackawanna County Conservation District – Technical assistance
- Lackawanna County Planning Commission – Technical assistance
- Lackawanna Homebuilders Association – Financial assistance
- Lackawanna River Corridor Association – Volunteer services
- Natural Lands Trust, Inc. – Donated speaker services
- PA Urban & Community Forestry Council – Financial Services
- Penn State Coop. Extension Service – Technical Assistance



