



# Policy/Information Briefing Summary

## Board of Supervisors

**Date of Proposed Action:** March 18, 2026

**Regarding:** Pilot Maintenance Agreement Partnership for Parish Property

**Prepared By:** Theodore D. Otteni, PE, Director of Public Works

**Date Prepared:** March 13, 2026

### **ACTION FORCING EVENT**

To authorize the Township Manager to sign Kennett Area Shared Open Spaces Partnership Agreement – Parrish Property for the for maintenance of the open space and recreational elements on the Parish Property.

### **BACKGROUND**

Several open space and recreation elements exist on the Parish property including a portion of the Greenway Trail and the bicycle pump park. Additionally, a stream restoration project will be implemented by BRC this fall which will include bank stabilization, tree plantings and creek access. The “Parish Property” is a 38-acre parcel in Kennett Township which is owned by Kennett Square Borough.

With the growing number of open space and recreation features throughout the Kennett Area, several organizations have gathered to discuss maintenance responsibilities of the features and how best to utilize our respective capabilities and strengths while minimizing duplication of staff and equipment costs. The ultimate goal is to maximize experience to the user while minimizing costs for the individual organizations.

In addition to Kennett Township, the Partnership includes:

- Kennett Square Borough\*
- Kennett Trails Alliance (KTA)\*
- Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC)\*
- Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA)

\*These organizations have signed the Partnership Agreement

### **ANALYSIS**

The responsibilities assigned to Kennett Township (see highlighted elements on attachment B of the agreement) are well within our standard capabilities and will not require significant effort. Frequently, Kennett Township Public Works assists these organizations in a cooperative manner to maintain recreational facilities.

The goal of this Pilot Partnership Agreement is to evaluate how the sharing of resources works with the ultimate goal of a Kennett area-wide maintenance agreement which can utilize the strengths and resources of the individual organizations to maintain our recreational and open space features without having to maintain duplicate/individual resources.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

For the Pilot Partnership Agreement there will be very little cost to Kennett Township.

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

To authorize the Township Manager to sign the Kennett Area Shared Open Spaces Partnership Agreement – Parrish Property.

# Kennett Area Shared Open Spaces Partnership Pilot – Parrish Property

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Date: March 13, 2026

## 1. Purpose of Partnership

The Partnership is a coalition of like-minded leaders that manage or have interest in Kennett’s parks, preserves, greenways, and open spaces. The purpose of the Partnership is to have an organized group to share resources, tools, staff, and responsibilities for the operations and maintenance of open spaces in Kennett. The aim is to share for the benefit of all, while at the same time keeping costs down.

## 2. Purpose of the Pilot

This Partnership Pilot aims to advance collaborative stewardship of the Parrish Property—including the Parrish Trail, ecological restoration efforts, and the Bike Park area—to maintain its role as a safe, welcoming, and valued feature within Kennett’s network of shared open spaces. The Parrish Property functions as an essential community asset, offering recreational opportunities, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and supporting the preservation of natural resources. With planned ecological and creek restoration (managed and implemented by BRC), focused care and stewardship of the area and this significant investment are both timely and necessary.

## 3. Partners

- Kennett Square Borough
- Kennett Township
- Kennett Trails Alliance (KTA)
- Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC)
- Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA)

Collectively referred to as “the Partners”.

## 4. Scope of Collaboration

The Partners agree to work together on maintenance and upkeep of the Parrish Property. Different zones require different levels of maintenance, including:

- Asphalt trail: maintaining asphalt, tree and branch clearing after storms, removing silt/leaves from trail, and addressing water runoff issues.
- Wooded area (north of Bike Park): annual vine cutting, and removal of hazardous trees.

- Creek restoration area, when completed: maintaining bank stabilization, maintaining new tree plantings, mowing meadow between trees, and spot treatment for invasives.
- Beach access, when completed: mowing access trail and beach hang out area.
- Central meadow: annual mowing.
- Trail through meadow: mowing the trail until the trail is paved, and then maintaining the asphalt, while mowing clearance on the sides of the trail.
- Bike Park area: mowing, maintaining mounds, and addressing water or drainage issues as needed.
- Entries and Bike Park: maintaining signage for the public.

Additional tasks include:

- Cultivating and managing volunteers to help with Bike Park maintenance, litter pick up, invasives removal, and vegetation care.
- Planning and implementing public events, fundraising, and grant writing.
- Quarterly meetings for assessing the Partnership, evaluating roles and responsibilities, and identifying and prioritizing needed improvements.

The physical boundaries of this area are shown on a map as detailed in Attachment A, and specific tasks and responsibilities are detailed in Attachment B.

## **5. How We'll Share the Work**

Attachment B details the categories, tasks, frequencies, and assignments needed to maintain the Parrish Property. These assignments may be revisited and adjusted annually or as conditions require. Maintenance tasks are assigned based on the Partner's ownership and responsibilities, as well as strengths and resources. Maintenance tasks generally fall into the following categories:

- Kennett Square Borough: Basic maintenance including mowing, leaf blowing, storm drain clearance, watering new trees, and graffiti removal.
- Kennett Township: Storm response, hazards response, tree trimming and removals, and asphalt repair.
- KTA: Signage maintenance, visitor counts, volunteer days, volunteer coordination, fundraising support (funding to be kept within the Parrish property), public outreach, and support for and administration of the Partnership.
- BRC: Ecological restoration maintenance, creek restoration maintenance, ecological oversight, invasive management, herbicide application, volunteer days, and volunteer coordination.
- KAPA: Additional ecological and vegetation expertise, and contracted labor when needed.

## **6. Funding and Resources**

The Partners will share the costs of caring for the Parrish Property to the extent feasible and will look for outside resources together. This means:

- All Partners agree responsibilities and tasks will be a donation of services to the collective, and Partners are responsible for the hard costs associated with their responsibilities.
- The Partners will apply together for grants (federal, state, or private) to support improvements and stewardship.
- The Partners will explore fundraising opportunities like events, sponsorships, or donations.
- The Partners will be open and transparent with budgeting and cost-sharing and will review division of tasks annually.

## **7. Maintenance Area**

This agreement applies specifically to the Parrish Property, as shown and detailed on the map in Attachment A. This map can be updated over time to reflect any changes as needed.

## **8. Timeline**

This Partnership Pilot will start March 1, 2026. This Pilot will be in place for an initial term of three years, and after that, the Partners will decide together whether to renew, adjust, or expand the Partnership.

## **9. Amendments**

The Partners will meet quarterly and adapt this Partnership as needed by discussing together and adjusting roles or responsibilities.

## **10. Agreement**

This Partnership is a good-faith commitment to work together for the benefit of the community, the environment, and everyone who enjoys the Parrish Property.

## 11. Signatures

By signing below, the Partners affirm their shared commitment to maintaining and stewarding the Parrish Property.

Kennett Square Borough

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date:

Kennett Township

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date:

Kennett Trails Alliance

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date:

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date:

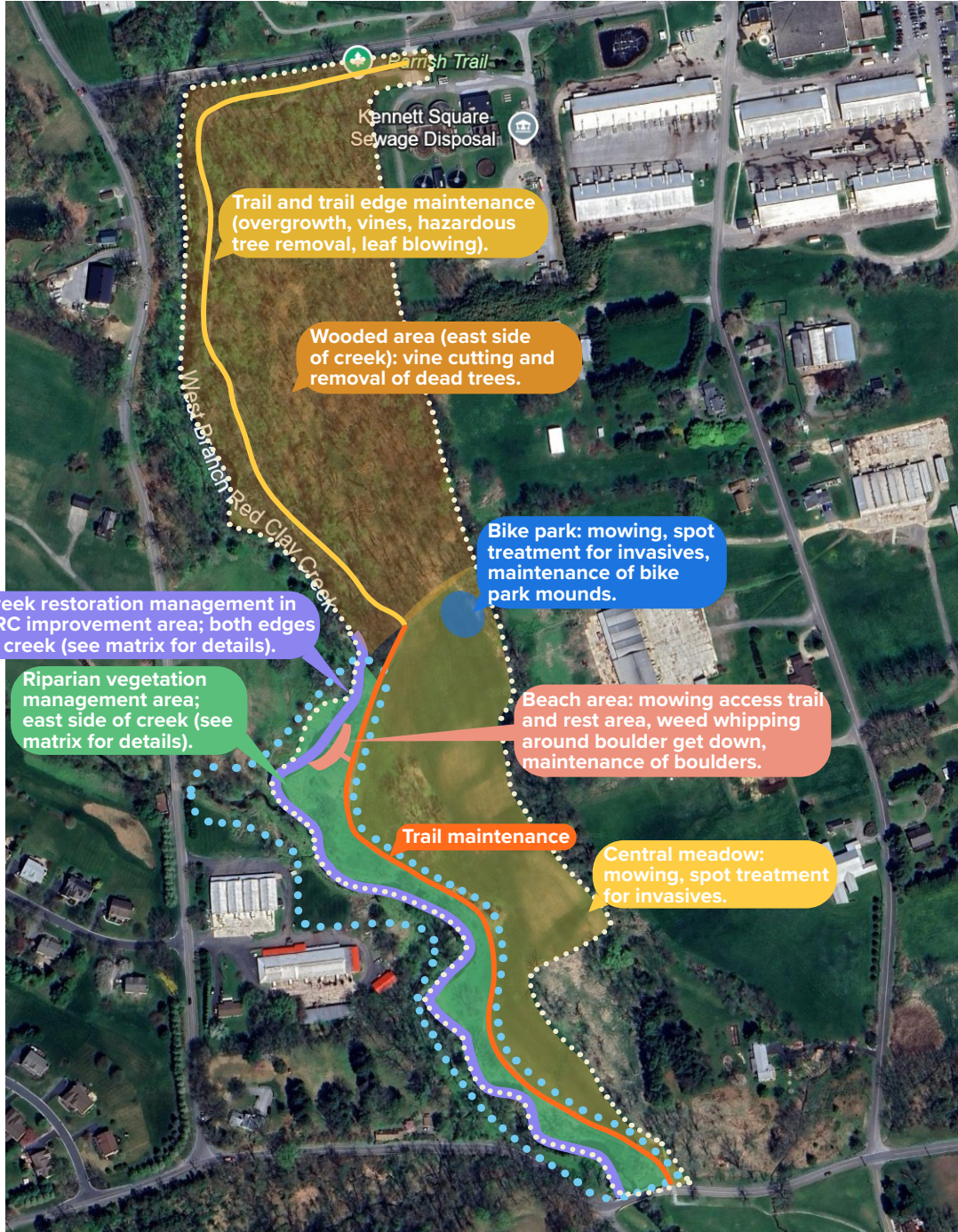
Kennett Area Park Authority

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date:

# Attachment A: Parrish Project - O+M Areas of Care



**Key**

- ..... Boundary of Parrish Project O+M area
- ..... Boundary of BRC improvements
- Stepped boulders and beach area
- Greenway trail (currently paved)
- Greenway trail (to be paved)

## Attachment B: Parrish Project Tasks and Responsibilities

Category	Task	Frequency	Responsibility /	Notes	
Trail surfaces	Asphalt inspection/repair	4x a year	Township	Check for water pooling, drainage issues, buckling; spring + post flood inspections most important; fill in bare or worn spots	
	Natural surfaces inspection/repair*	4x a year	Township	Check for water pooling, drainage issues, and excessive debris; important after storms; includes boulders and creek access; fill in bare or worn spots	
Amenities/fixtures	Bike park mounds inspection/repair	2x a year	Bike Kennett	Filling in ruts, reshaping mounds and landings (clay mix), compacting soil, removing debris, making sure drainage is working and unclogging if needed	
	Signage inspection/repair	4x a year	KTA	Check for damage, remove any graffiti or stickers	
	Stepped boulders (at creek access) inspection/repair	Annually	Borough	Check for trash or vandalism; remove unwanted vegetation or debris jams; make sure access is secure (no loose boulders)	
Creek management	Creek restoration inspection/repair	2x a year and after storm events, for first 5 years	BRC	Inspect to be sure stream structures (post restoration) remain intact; inspect erosion control matting; remove log jams to prevent any erosion	
	Erosion control, bank stabilization inspection/repair	2x a year and after storm events, for first year	BRC	Check erosion control matting while vegetation is being est; patch loose, torn, displaced matting or where soil exposed; secure staples where loose	
Vegetation management	Tree trimming along trail (north forested area, not riparian buffer area)	1x a year, in winter	Township	Maintain clearances and prune for tree health and appearances	
	Hazardous tree removal due to pests/disease (north forested area)	As needed as a result of Emeral Ash Borer	Township	Removal of infested trees is necessary to prevent the spread of the pest	
	Clearing overgrowth off of trail in north forested area	3x during growth season (May, July/Aug, Oct)	Township	Maintain clearances of easement and prune for shrub/plant health	
	Cut back vines (invasive species) away from trail in north forested area	2x a year (spring and fall)	BRC/volunteers	Cut down any invasive vines, should be supervised by someone with experience.	
	Leaf blowing off of paved trail surfaces in north forested area	1x a mo (during growth season), 2x a mo during fall leaf drop	Borough/volun	Leaves to be blown off of paved trails	
	Shoveling silt off of paved trail surfaces in north forested area	4x a year	Borough/volun	Use a flat shovel to remove silt of trail once a season	
	Weed whipping around boulders at beach area	3x a year, spring, summer, and fall	BRC	Inspect for undesirable vegetation during the growth season; weed whip as appropriate	
	Weed whacking / hand pulling weeds at new riparian trees	2x a year	BRC	Weed whacking and hand equipment potentially needed around every new riparian tree, 8" from the tree	
	Lawn mowing at bike park and weed whacking around mounds	Every 2 weeks during growth season	Borough / BK	Mow during growth season; may need to use weed whacker around mounds; discontinue mowing November through March	
	Lawn mowing alongside trail (S of forest, starting at trail near bike park)	Every 2 weeks during growth season	Borough	Create and maintain a 4-6' mown buffer alongside trail	
	Grass mowing of beach access trail and beach hang out area	Every 2 weeks during growth season	Borough	Access and hang out will be a native grass; mow during growth season; discontinue mowing November through March	
	Meadow mowing of riparian buffer + riparian tree planting area	3x a year, during growth season	Borough	Mow to control weeds during growth season (weed and woody stem suppression); late fall mowing needed to prevent voles from living in tall grass over winter	
	Meadow mowing of central meadow (b/w bike park and Hillendale)	1-2x a year	Volunteer	Mow to control weeds during growth season (weed and woody stem suppression); work done by nearby farmer	
	Herbicide treatment for invasives at riparian buffer	2-3x a year	BRC	Apply foliar herbicide / pre-emergent in early spring before native vegetation has sprouted to prevent seed germination; if needed, apply 6 wks later and/or in the fall; do not apply in hot weather	
	Spot herbicide treatment at central meadow	2x a year	BRC	Apply foliar herbicide / pre-emergent in early spring before native vegetation has sprouted to prevent seed germination; spot treat again in the fall; do not apply in hot weather	
		Inspect new trees; adjust/replace tree guy wires or stakes	Bi-annually, and as needed after storms, for first 5 years	BRC/volunteers	Trees that fall over should be put back upright and re-staked for first 5 years. Biggest issue is deer rubbing on the poles. Hand weeding can be done when the poles are straightened or replaced.
		Tree replacement	Annually, as needed	BRC	Aiming for 80% survival rate of trees, if survival gets below 80% then trees will be replaced
Fertilize large trees		3x a year, during establishment period	KAPA	GreenRoots recommends applying bio-plex (liquid fertilizer) to trees 1x in June, Aug, Sept	
New tree watering / drought watering (large trees only)		1-2x a week during dry spells in growth season	Borough	Only needed for three year establishment period, and only needed when dry and during growth season	
Storm response	Hazardous tree removal; clearing felled trees/limbs from storms	As needed after storm events	Township	Safety hazards should be removed immediately from trails and from creek	
	Storm drainage clearance	4x a year and after storm events	Borough/TS	Clear debris from drainage systems including culverts, swales, etc. Currently there are several drains in north forested area.	
Waste management/custodial	Graffiti/vandalism removal	as needed	Borough	May be needed at beach area if it gets a lot of use	
Partnership management	Meetings/communications	4x a year	KTA	KTA manages communications, meetings	
	Partnership coordination/oversight	Ongoing	KTA	KTA gives oversight to partnership and manages coordination and effort	
Volunteer management	Clean-ups/litter and plant debris pick up	3 events a year	BRC/KTA	KTA leads	
	Habitat restoration	3 events a year	BRC/KTA	BRC leads	
	Weeding/clearing invasives, vine cutting	3 events a year	BRC/KTA	BRC leads	
Programmatic/Revenues	Permit issuing for events/festivals	Ongoing	Borough/TS		
	Bike Park events / fundraising events	2 events a year	KTA		
	Signage and wayfinding development/management	Ongoing	KTA		
	Management of visitor count (via counter)	Ongoing	KTA	Check monthly data, check to make sure counters are capturing data and positioned correctly	
Fundraising	Donor/member cultivation, management, comms	Ongoing	KTA		
	Donor/member events	2x a year	KTA		
	Grant writing + fundraising oversight	Ongoing	KTA		

Notes:

Line items in blue will start after BRC restoration.

\* This task will no longer be needed once asphalt paving is complete.