



THE LAND CONSERVANCY FOR SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY

LOCATION

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Avondale, PA 19311

CONTACT

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2021 LAND MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

*Submitted to Kennett Township by
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County*

May 4, 2021

Background:

The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) has worked steadily over its 25-year history to protect open space and natural resources, with much of this work having been focused in Kennett Township. Kennett Township has long supported this work via funding conservation easements and fee simple land acquisitions. TLC manages five public preserves in Kennett Township and holds conservation easements on or assisted with the three park/preserve properties the Township owns.

As TLC's partnership with the Township has evolved, TLC has been approached about taking on more management elements for the Township-owned properties. With this in mind, TLC sets forth the following proposal regarding land management work conducted within and for Kennett Township. The proposal puts forth what we propose to assist with or handle regarding land management tasks as part of the overarching goal of promoting strong stewardship practices within the Township.

Kennett Township Fee Properties:

Barkingfield Park:

- Implementation of the Brandywine Conservancy Management Plans
- Guide and advise the volunteer group with projects and management of the various areas
- Work with the Township on additional improvements within the terms of the easement
- Inspect and maintain the tree planting as needed to supplement the work of the volunteers and Township staff
- Manage the mowing schedule of the large fields and various plots based on best management practices for the management intent (pollinators, warm-season grasses, hay, etc.) while also managing invasive species such as thistles, decorative grasses, etc.

PROTECT. RESTORE. ENGAGE.

- **NOT** included: trail mowing due to the inefficiency of moving TLC equipment to the site when the Township facilities and equipment are on the adjacent parcel

Lord Howe & Spar Hill:

- Maintenance of trails on both properties.
 - Clearing downed trees, encroaching foliage, and debris as needed.
 - Mowing the pipeline trail on Lord Howe and natural trails on Spar Hill.
- Maintenance of riparian buffer and PECO planting as conditions allow.
- Continued invasive management as needed (primarily targeting vines and barberry).
- Management of meadows in active agriculture and coordination with farmer regarding crop fields.

Equipment:

The following equipment is available and will be used on the above properties as needed to complete the tasks outlined within the proposal. In addition, consumables are calculated in the cost for the equipment and work.

- Use, Maintenance, Insurance of Equipment, accounting for depreciation over time:
 - 2013 Ford F250
 - 18ft Belmont trailer
 - John Deere compact tractor and implements
 - John Deere zero-turn mower
 - John Deere Gator ATV
 - DR Power field and brush mower
 - Stihl chainsaw
 - 2 Stihl string trimmers
 - Stihl hedge trimmer
 - Stihl leaf blower
 - Hand tools

Best practices:

- Adhere to DCNR Stewardship best practices and certifications
- Follow herbicide application standards with all land management staff holding certifications through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Land management staff are trained and certified via the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative on chainsaw safety.

Staff structure and capacity:

- Executive Director – Full-time TLC staff member overseeing the TLC team and all aspects of TLC work.
 - Abbie Kessler continues to manage the conservation work for TLC while serving as Executive Director. She joined TLC in 2015 to assist the Director with land conservation work and took over the full scope of conservation work in 2018. She has been managing the land management team since that time as well.

- Land Manager – Full-time TLC staff member coordinating and performing all land management-related tasks as outlined earlier.
 - Tim Zador is the Land Manager at The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. He previously managed a large private property and then came on as the Assistant Land Manager with TLC before taking on the Land Manager role in 2017. In 2011 Tim graduated from Juniata College with a Bachelors in Environmental Science and a minor in Geology.

- Stewardship Manager – Full-time TLC staff member assisting land manager and organization with all land management-related tasks outlined earlier.
 - Carl Hutchinson started with TLC as the Assistant Land Manager and was promoted to the Stewardship Manager in 2018 with the increasing needs of TLC’s public use preserves. In 2015, Carl graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a bachelor’s degree in Geography and Environmental Studies.

- Teens Turning Green (TTG) interns – TLC will hire approximately four teen interns for our paid internship program for 2021 in Kennett. In non-Covid years, we employ more, but with limitations on carpooling, we are limiting the numbers hired. These interns learn land management techniques and best management practices under the guidance of our land management team. Having these interns allows our staff to conduct more labor-intensive trail and invasive species management tasks while promoting good stewardship practices and were crucial to the vine management on Lord Howe in previous summers.

Effective Date: June 3, 2021-December 31, 2021. The costs referenced within are based on a partial year and will be adjusted if a 2022 contract is desired.

Costs:

Proposed costs for each component are as described below. Some work has been done to assist the Barkingfield volunteers this spring; such work has been factored into the proposal as time completed under the good faith belief that an agreement would be completed. The level of work is hard to capture in the proposal, but costs calculated include staff time, equipment, management work, etc., and represent the number for the year through December 2021.

Barkingfield Management Assistance:

\$5,000

- work with the volunteers and farmer and provide assistance with the tree planting maintenance as needed

Lord Howe & Spar Hill Management (TLC staff and interns): \$26,000

- trail clearing/maintenance and invasive management
- tree planting maintenance and monitoring
- trail mowing
- farmer coordination
- rental of equipment for clearing the “meadow” at Lord Howe along Burnt Mill Rd as recommended in the management plan

TOTAL REQUEST: \$31,000

If Kennett Township accepts the above proposal for Land Management services on Township properties, please sign below and return a copy for our records. We will then take over the property management duties as described herein.

Township Representative:

Date: