



Chester County Historical Society • 225 North High Street, West Chester PA 19380 • 610.692.4800

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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*For Immediate Release*

### **CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ASKS, “WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?”**

#### **Newly Launched Exhibit Raises Critical Questions About Meaning of Open Space in Chester County**

West Chester, Pa.--January 25, 2009--The Chester County Historical Society, a cultural institution in the heart of downtown West Chester, is offering a historical perspective on a contemporary issue and encourages people to consider the role of open space in their lives thanks to the premier of the new exhibit titled *What is Open Space?* The exhibit is open through August 1, 2009.

*What is Open Space?* explores the past and present conditions of Chester County land management through areal images of urban sprawl, information on native plants as well as a detailed water shed diagram. The exhibit encompasses topics related to natural habitats, wildlife, recreation and development. The information is presented through artifacts, interactives, and handouts. *What is Open Space?* is made possible in part through the financial support of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Natural Lands Trust, Aqua, The Children’s County Week Association, and the Chester County Planning Commission.

A series of programs is planned to compliment the exhibit by answering questions around the future of open space in Chester County. The first event is an open forum scheduled for February 21 from 1 – 4 p.m. The forum features a keynote by Michael DiBerardinis, Pennsylvania Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources, and is open to the public.

Pennsylvania Humanities Council speaker Walter Greason will lead an interactive discussion titled “Community, Sprawl, and Taxes,” March 26 at 7:30 at Chester County Historical Society. This even is open to the public free of charge.

Chester County Historical Society with its partners, the Natural Lands Trust, The Children’s County Week Association, West Chester University’s Biology Department, the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Mill at Anselma, also are planning celebrations of Earth Day between April 18 and 26. A traveling trunk of resources for teachers of grades 5 and up is available through the support of PECO and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

### **About Chester County Historical Society**

Located in downtown West Chester, The Chester County Historical Society is a center for exploring the exciting three-hundred year history of Chester County through museum, library, and archival collections. Hours of operation are Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit [www.chestercohistorical.org](http://www.chestercohistorical.org).

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