

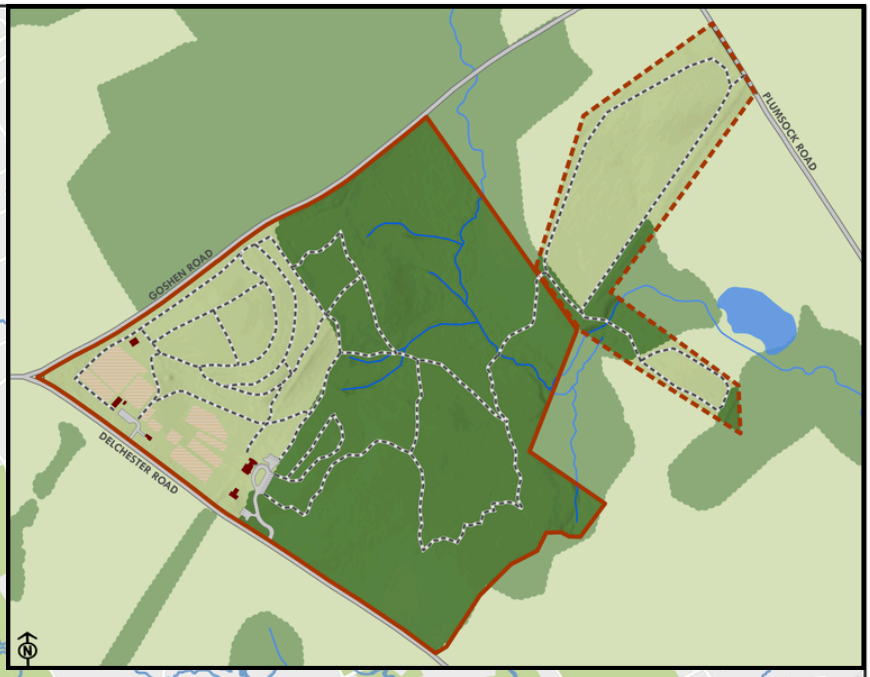
WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

Presents

FRIENDS MEADOW

Continuity, Conservation, and Connection

FRIENDS MEADOW



PAOLI PIKE
SUGARTOWN ROAD
PROVIDENCE RD
GOSHEN RD
DELCHESTER RD
WEST CHESTER PIKE

ASHBRIDGE
RUSHTON WOODS PRESERVE
FRIENDS MEADOW
KIRKWOOD
WOODPECKER WOODS
KESTREL HILL

Okehocking Preserve
Ridley Creek State Park

Friends Meadow
WCT Preserves
Public Open Space
Privately Conserved Lands
WCT Program Area

0 0.5
Miles

FRIENDS MEADOW

Continuity, Conservation, and Connection

PRESENTING FRIENDS MEADOW

Step into Friends Meadow where soft grasses whisper, tall trees rustle in the breeze, and a cool stream wanders through the woods. A grasshopper sings, and a red-winged blackbird echoes the refrain. A monarch ministers to milkweed plants.

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

Deeply rooted in native ecology and indigenous history, serene and secluded Friends Meadow has provided a haven for wildlife and the local community since the Lenni Lenape served as stewards of this land, and for thousands of years prior, as well.

Near the entrance to Friends Meadow, a sign commemorates the original inhabitants of this land, the Okehocking band of the Lenni Lenape, a Native American people who hunted and foraged the fields and forests and fished in the stream referred to as Okehocking Run.

The 1798 Willistown Friends Meetinghouse next door recalls early Quaker settlers who, like the Okehocking, helped to establish the agricultural community that thrived in this area for centuries, a tradition that continues today at neighboring Rushton Farm.

CONTINUITY, CONSERVATION, AND CONNECTION

In recent years, the fields and forest have served as extensions of both the Willistown Friends Meeting and Willistown Conservation Trust's neighboring Rushton Woods Preserve. A sign at the meadow entrance invites visitors to enjoy a contemplative stroll and connect with nature.

Now, with the forest, fields, and freshwater stream for sale, and this oasis at risk, Willistown Conservation Trust ("WCT") is stepping in to permanently protect Friends Meadow. Through a targeted acquisition of 20 acres, WCT will not only protect native flora and fauna, but also a headwater tributary of Ridley Creek.

In addition, WCT will permanently connect Friends Meadow with neighboring Rushton Woods Preserve, extending miles of hiking and equestrian trails from Rushton Woods Preserve to nearby Kestrel Hill Preserve and, further afield, to Kirkwood Preserve and the network of trails beyond that.

In establishing Friends Meadow, thousands of acres of conservation easements and public nature preserves will now play a role greater than the sum of their parts; as for thousands of years in the past, these connected lands, now stewarded by Willistown Conservation Trust, will provide refuge, respite and renewal for wildlife and for the human spirit.

Some places connect
us to the past.
By protecting them,
we usher in the future.



For further information and ways to give please contact:

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