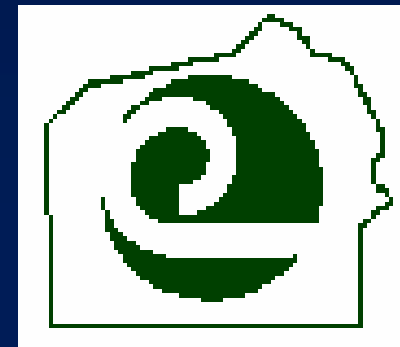


MARSH CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT

Sidney Kuhn

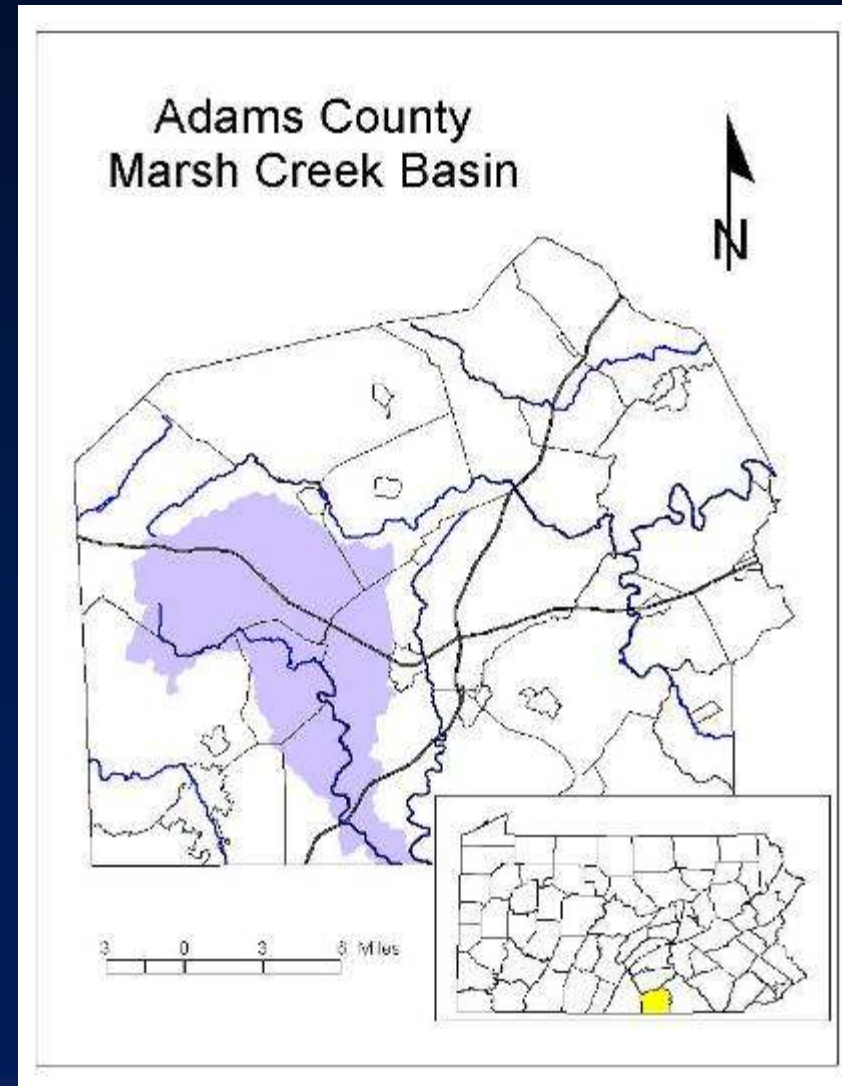
Land Conservancy of Adams County





Marsh Creek

- **Gettysburg Municipal Authority (GMA) source; streamflow augmented**
- **Several GMA wells also in basin**
- **Cold Water Fishery plus important ecological habitats**
- **Rural - Agriculture & Forest main land uses**
- **Development pressure (Adams is 3rd fastest growing county in PA)**
- **Tributary of Monocacy River (Potomac Basin and Chesapeake Bay Watershed)**



Marsh Creek Watershed Protection Project

- **Goal: Protect, preserve & enhance land/water resources in Marsh Creek basin; focus on public water supply (PWS) for Gettysburg**
- **Grant to Adams Co. Cons. District (ACCD)=>
Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC)**
- **Means:**
 - » **LCAC: Conservation Easement purchases (bargain sale offers)**
 - » **ACCD: Implementation of BMP's**
- **Source of \$: DEP grant from civil penalty for GW contamination incidents by Westinghouse**
 - » **\$519,500 slated for acquisition costs**
 - » **\$70,000 for associated costs (appraisals, surveys, legal fees, title search, stewardship endowment)**
- **Timing issue: Project commenced before SWAP for Marsh Creek**

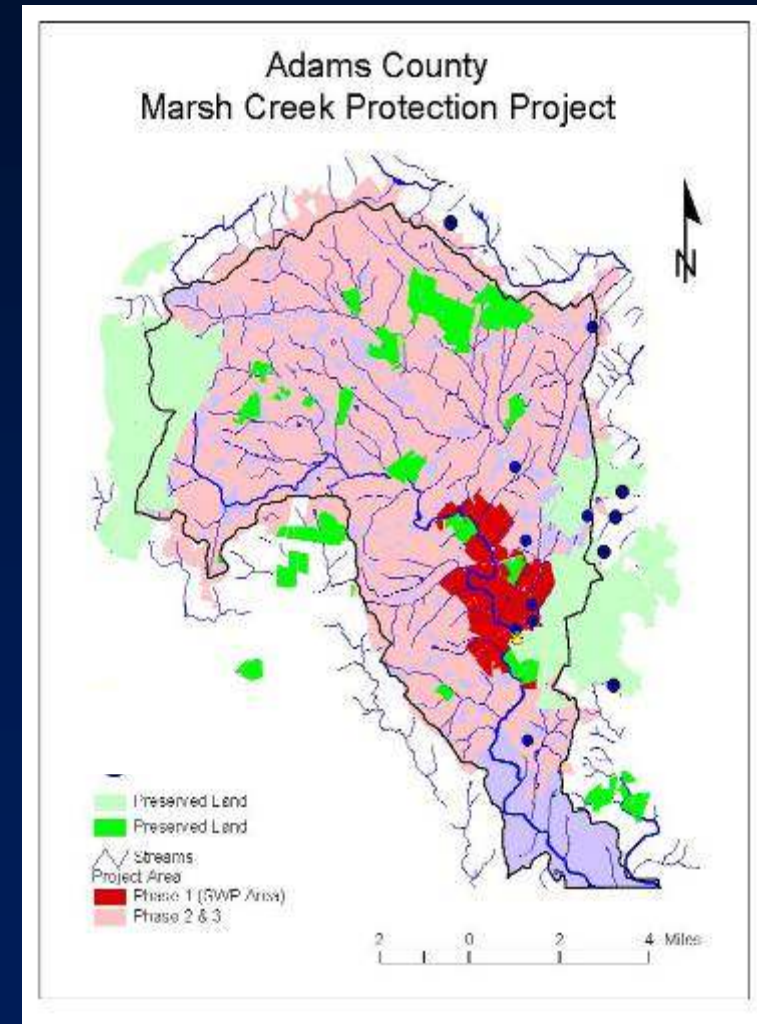


An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A large area of green fields is outlined with a bright green line. A blue line follows a path through the landscape, possibly a road or a natural feature. The text "Preserved Land" is written in yellow in the center of the green area. The landscape includes various fields, some with buildings, and a road running diagonally across the scene.

Preserved Land

Marsh Creek Watershed Easement Acquisition

- **Phase I ~ SWP area surrounding GMA surface intake and Public Supply Wells**
 - » Minimum criteria: 5-10 acres
- **Phase II ~ Remaining watershed upstream**
 - » Minimum criteria: 50 acres, adjacent to Marsh Creek or preserved lands, or have expressed interest in land preservation (can be less than 50 acres)



Marsh Creek Watershed Property Evaluation System

- Rank land parcels and determine easement offers
- Criteria weighted toward protection of public water supply
- Input into criteria by several partners: Gettysburg Municipal Authority, Conservation District, DEP
- Evaluation Criteria:
 - » property size
 - » wellhead or intake proximity
 - » Marsh Creek or tributary proximity
 - » wetlands
 - » hydric soils
 - » floodplains
 - » amount of forestland
 - » soil classes
 - » scenic contribution
 - » historic features
 - » adjacency to preserved lands
 - » development pressure



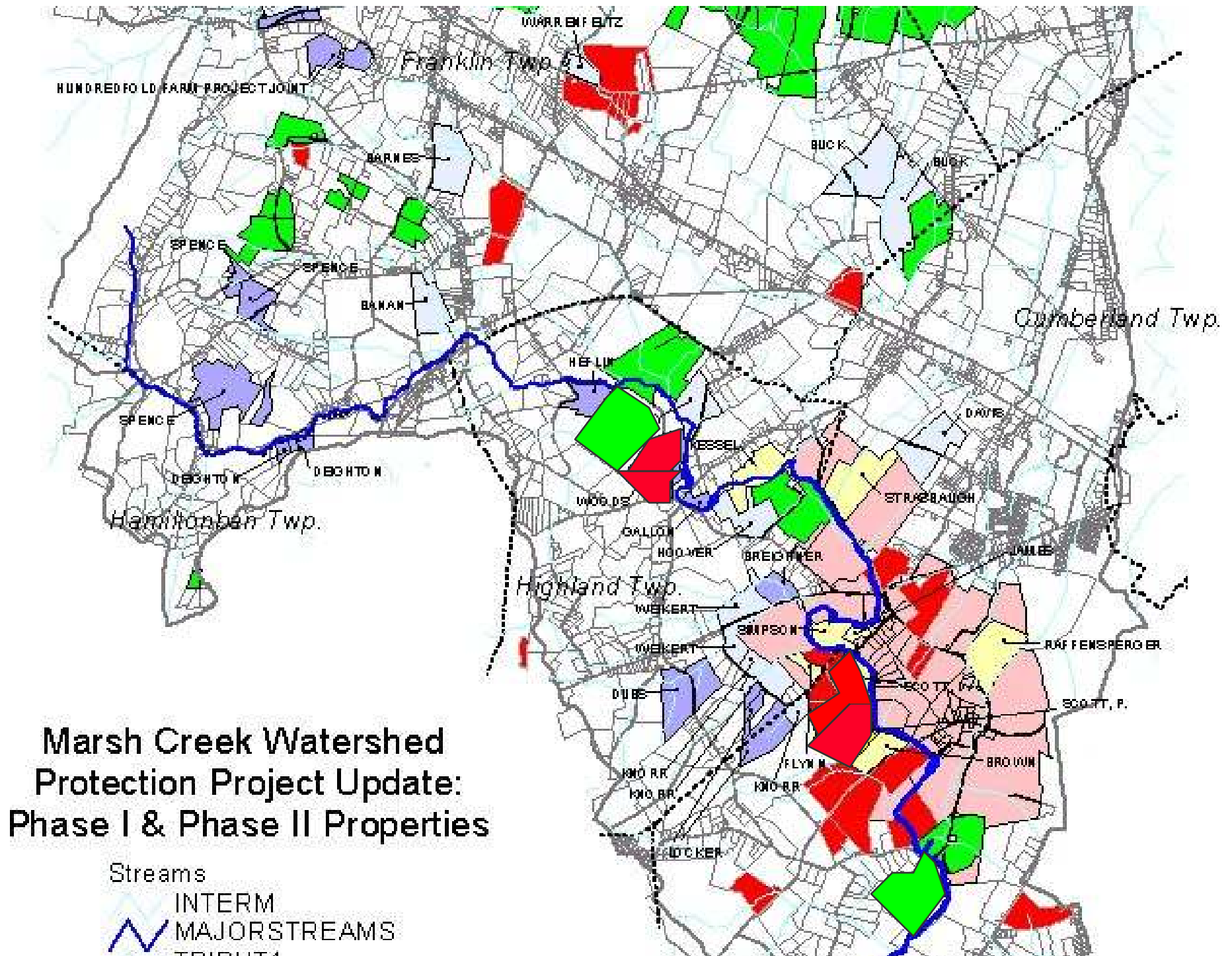
Marsh Creek Conservation Easement Restrictions

- **Permanent legal agreement about how land can & cannot be used; monitored by LCAC**
- **Impervious surfaces: 10% or less**
- **Future residences: no more than 1 home per 25 acres**
- **Restricts livestock from waterways & requires buffer (at least 35 ft) of permanent cover**
- **Requires petroleum/chemical use to comply with fed/state rules; USTs prohibited**
- **Land application of sludge & off-site wastewater prohibited**
- **Mineral extraction, solid/hazardous waste disposal prohibited**
- **Ag production requires Conservation Plan**

Marsh Creek Easements – Completion Status

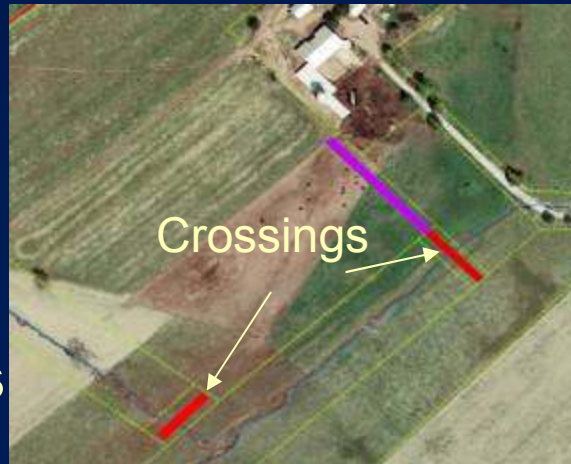
- Easements completed: 9 (~ 800 acres)
- Agreements of Sale Approved: 2 (~210 acres)
- Above projects will exhaust budget w/ at least 24 other interested properties we will be unable to reach

- Average purchase price of \$600-\$700/acre
- Purchase price was generally 20-30% of appraised easement value (no greater than 60%)
- Leveraged ~\$185,000 in matching funds from the County of Adams, USDA/NRCS FRPP, Civil War Preservation Trust, and Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg



Phil Scott Farm

- 105 acre crop and cattle farm along Marsh Creek just north of GMA surface intake
- Conservation Easement to be purchased by Land Conservancy by end of 2005
- Adams County Conservation District implementing barnyard improvements and stream crossings
- NRCS completing CREP plantings along waterways



Final Thoughts

- Important to partner with other groups to make a project such as this successful: share resources and knowledge, different expertise
- One person can make a difference in source water protection
- A little bit of funding can leverage much more
- LCAC, WAAC, ACOPD, and GMA working on education about the threats and protection efforts for Gettysburg's water supply with \$4250 WREN grant



Marsh Creek Watershed Protection Project

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