
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

David Harper

Watershed Conservation Program
Natural Lands Trust

Land Protection at the Watershed Scale

Protection and restoration of natural landscapes is one of the surest ways to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of ground and surface water. The healthiest watersheds in the lower Delaware River Basin are most often those benefitting from extensive networks of upland forests, forested stream corridors, wetlands, and successional areas. But with limited dollars, increasing development pressures, and varying attitudes among landowners - which lands are the priorities for protection? Which types of natural areas should be protected to benefit watersheds, how much of each, and in what configurations?

Natural Lands Trust is one of several land trusts working on Watershed Conservation Plans in the Philadelphia region to identify and prioritize undeveloped lands best suited for protection and restoration. The prioritization process involves detailed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis of watershed data, field surveys, and property assessments to guide land conservation and restoration activities. Increasingly, agencies and foundations that support land conservation projects are looking to fund priorities identified at the watershed scale. This presentation will feature case studies of rural and urbanizing watersheds providing functions ranging from water supply and recreational uses to habitat for birds, fish, amphibians and botanical communities.

Natural Lands Trust is a non-profit land conservancy protecting land in communities throughout the greater Philadelphia region. Since its founding in 1953, the Trust has helped protect more than 105,000 acres of open space. Today, Natural Lands Trust owns and manages 45 nature preserves, holds conservation easements on over 13,000 acres, and works with municipalities, other non-profit groups and government agencies to preserve land throughout the region.

DIFFERENT DAY & DIFFERENT LOCATION

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003
Time: NOON - 1:30 pm
Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium
On Penn's campus: Chemistry Building
34th & Spruce Street (entrance on 34th Street)
No Food or Drink Permitted in the Auditorium

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164

ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu; <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/geology/ies>
