**Tree Canopy and Woodland Stewardship**

**Community Size [# acres]**

**Woodland area [# acres]**

**# of Street Trees**

**Approx. age of trees [years]**

**Highlights**

**Background:** Homeowners Associations are typically responsible for managing street trees, buffer plantings, and natural resources including woodlands on their communally-owned property. As a result, properly managing these resources can offer a host of benefits including increased property values, reduced runoff, reduced energy bills, wind protection, air quality benefits, and wildlife habitat. Recognizing the connection between tree canopies, woodland stewardship and environmental benefits, residents can be engaged and empowered to steward their tree and woodland resources. To do this, the HOA will participate in the following efforts:

**Governance and Information**

**action TWG1**

**Action: Find your community's recorded development plan and determine if the street trees, yard trees, and buffer plantings shown on the approved plan are still existing and where gaps may have developed over time.**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* Text
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* Development plans may be found on the Chester County Recorder of Deeds’ Records Search website: <https://www.chesco.org/431/Records-Search>
* Chester County Conservation District may have a copy of your development’s plans

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**Action: Coordinate with residents and the Board to plan, design and create a network of nature trails which connect residents to nature without impacting sensitive ecosystems or habitats.**

**action TWR1**

**Resident Engagement**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* text
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* American Trails’ Guidance for Trail Design and Layout: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/basic-elements-of-trail-design-and-trail-layout>
* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWR2**

**Action: Form a Tree Tenders group within your community.**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* PA Horticultural Society
* PSU Extension
* Municipal EAC
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* PA Horticultural Society <https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/get-involved>
* Penn State Extension Tree Tender training <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-tenders>

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWR3**

**Action: Develop a tree dedication program within your community whereby residents can sponsor the planting of a native tree in common open space, along with a dedication plaque.**

**Consider developing a short list of native trees residents can choose from.**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* text
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* text
* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWR4**

**Action: Promote the iTree online tool to residents to help them see where a tree in their yard would provide the most benefit.**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* text
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* iTree: <https://www.itreetools.org/>
* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**Action**: **Partner with a local conservation organization, your municipality, or a local expert to offer an educational woodland walk for residents through common wooded areas. The walk should include tree identification, invasive species identification and removal techniques, and other topics of ecological or cultural interest.**

**action TWC1**

**Connections and Partnerships**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* Local conservation organization
* Local municipal Environmental Advisory Committee

**Potential Resources:**

* text
* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWC2**

**Action: Partner with a local conservation organization, your municipality, or a local expert to host a woodland stewardship day to remove invasive species, plant new trees, etc.**

**Potential Partners**:

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

* Local conservation organization
* Local municipal Environmental Advisory Committee

**Potential Resources:**

* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWC3**

**Action: Work with your municipality/Conservation District/local watershed organization to hold a tree planting event in your community.**

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

**Potential Partners**:

* Chester County Conservation District
* Local Municipal Environmental Advisory Council
* Local watershed organization
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* Keystone 10 Million Trees program: https://tenmilliontrees.org/
* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**action TWC4**

**Action: Write to your municipality requesting they pursue designation as a Tree City USA, and offer to help.**

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

**Potential Partners**:

* Arbor Day Foundation
* Municipality
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* Tree City USA Program <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**Taking Action**

**action TWA1**

**Action**: **Hire a consultant to prepare a Woodland Management Plan for your HOA.**

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

**Potential Partners**:

* American Society of Consulting Arborists: <https://www.asca-consultants.org/search/custom.asp?id=3818>
* Members of the Ecological Landscape Alliance: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/member-directory/>
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* Penn State Extension Forest Stewardship Planning[https://extension.psu.edu/forest-stewardship-planning-your-forest-s-future](https://extension.psu.edu/forest-stewardship-planning-your-forest-s-future%20,)

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* Text

**action TWA2**

**Action: Demonstrate that the community has taken steps to implement its Woodland Management Plan.**

**Complete by:**

[date/year]

**Potential Partners**:

* text
* text

**Potential Resources:**

* text

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**

* text
* text

**General Resources**

**Chester County Planning Commission’s Woodlands and Tree Protection webpage has tree canopy mapping, funding resources, and additional information that can support HOA’s tree and woodland efforts.**