

Open Space Protection in York County

Is open space important to the community? Is enough being done to protect open space?

The York County Land Protection Committee is surveying County residents to find out the answers to these questions.

The Land Protection Committee defines open space as publicly or privately owned land and water that is:

- Predominately in a natural state
- Dedicated to providing areas for passive or active public recreation
- Agricultural lands privately owned and managed for food & fiber production
- Lands protecting natural (water, air, soil, minerals, forests, wildlife) or historic resources
- Land preserving scenic quality and maintaining community character

Open space provides many benefits, including clean water and air, recreational opportunities, and access to fresh, local food, but open space protection faces challenges in York County, including insufficient preservation funding and development pressures. The York County Comprehensive Plan set a benchmark to preserve at least 2,500 acres annually but has been falling short of that goal. A stable and predictable funding source could be used to create a coordinated and connected landscape by preserving our agricultural economy, providing land for recreation, and protecting our natural habitats and waterways.

For more information on open space protection, please visit www.yorkopenspace.org. If you are a York County resident, we invite you to visit this page and take the survey to share your opinion on open space protection efforts in your community. The survey will remain open through September 20, 2019.