



THE MANADA CONSERVANCY


IN A NUTSHELL: CONSERVATION OPTIONS FOR THE SWATARA GREENWAY


What landowners can do

The Manada Conservancy works with landowners who choose to conserve and enhance the natural resources along the Swatara and Manada Creeks. There are several methods used by landowners:

 **Outright land donation.** A landowner may donate land to The Manada Conservancy for preservation. The market (appraisal) value of the land may be considered a tax deductible charitable contribution, since it is for public benefit. This may be a reasonable option for a landowner, especially if the parcel is vacant, or does not have a dwelling on it.

 **Donation of a conservation easement.** This is the most popular method of preserving land. The landowner voluntarily places a restriction on the property which limits development and uses on environmentally sensitive, scenic, agricultural or historical resources which may exist on the land. The landowner retains ownership of the land. In return for the public benefit provided by this voluntary restriction, the donation of the easement is often tax deductible. The land trust is responsible for ensuring that the easement is upheld in perpetuity. The landowner is not required to allow public access.

 **Donation of a partial easement,** such as an easement along the banks of a waterway. This works the same way as a conservation easement on an entire property, but protects the most vulnerable stream-bank corridor. This may be a reasonable option if the Creek frontage is part of a large parcel, and the landowner does not want to place an easement on the entire property.

 **Become a Partner in Stewardship.** Landowners may participate in The Manada Conservancy Greenway Stewardship Registry. Partners in Stewardship believe that protection of Swatara water quality is important and that the Greenway concept is good conservation practice. They know that a well-managed stream-side buffer can help to prevent water pollution, erosion and sedimentation, and improve water quality as far away as the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, as well as close to home. It can provide better habitat for species who move along the land corridor, and also shade stream waters so that the water is cooler and fish habitat is improved. They have committed to use good stewardship practices on their stream-side properties. Please see Stewardship fact sheet for details.

If you would like more information, please contact us, and we will be glad to talk with you.

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