

5 Things to Know About Anderson Township Greenspace

Why does Anderson Township have Greenspace?

The Anderson Township Trustees and residents supported a Greenspace Levy in 1990 and 1995 to buy natural areas in the township in order to preserve the community's natural character and enhance the quality of life of township residents. Greenspace helps protect air and water quality. It also provides habitat for animals, including insects, which provide the building blocks of our whole ecosystem as food for other animals and as pollinators for all the plants that we rely on for our everyday life.

What makes a property desirable to become an Anderson Township Greenspace?

The volunteer member Anderson Township Greenspace Committee, which advises the trustees, looks for property with good natural quality: older forests, wooded hillsides and wooded stream corridors are candidates. The property must have some potential to be developed or destroyed. Natural areas that are visible to most residents or provide natural buffer between developed areas and link other green areas are desirable to protect. Also, the site must be large enough to provide real benefit and be reasonably priced.

Can township Greenspace ever be developed?

Current state law protects Anderson Township Greenspace forever. That regulation prohibits any type of development including development for active recreation. Passive recreation such as hiking, birding, or photography of natural surroundings is encouraged.

Are Anderson Township Greenspace properties open to the public?

Yes, all Greenspace properties are open to the public. New trails may not be developed, but the public is welcome to explore the properties by following old roads or deer trails. A map of Greenspace locations is posted on *AndersonTownship.org* under the Greenspace Committee section. Most properties have Greenspace signs, and all are marked at property corners and on some boundary lines with white five-foot high plastic stakes labeled as Greenspace boundaries. Please respect adjacent private property and residences.

Does Anderson Township currently have an active Greenspace Levy?

There is no current levy collecting tax dollars for Greenspace acquisition or maintenance. The last levy expired in 2000 and there are still limited funds available to acquire Greenspace. There are currently 68 Greenspace properties, which protect nearly 700 acres and this is just part of the protected land within Anderson Township.

Township-owned properties, Greenspace, privately held open space mandated by the Anderson Township Zoning Resolution, and active or passive parks protected by other agencies such as Great Parks of Hamilton County and the Anderson Park District comprise nearly 16 percent of the land in Anderson Township.