Proposal to Provide Expert Consulting Services

for the preparation of

East Marlborough Township's

Open Space, Recreation and

Environmental Resources

Plan





Prepared for:

East Marlborough Township

Attn: Ms. Laurie Prysock Treasurer / Manager 721 Unionville Rd. Kennett Square, PA 19348

February 15, 2018

Submitted by:

Laird Recreation And Land Planning, LLC Angelika K. Laird, CPRP, **Principal Partner** James S. Laird Jr., RLA, Partner, **Project Manager** 1198 Fairview Road, Manheim, PA 17545 814.312.1798 jim@lairdla.com



"Our team will help cast the vision for Recreation and Environmental resource enhancement and protection in East Marlborough Township ...

and there is no other team as specialized, experienced or passionate about assisting East Marlborough Township and Chester County with this regionally significant plan."

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February 15, 2019

East Marlborough Township Attn: Ms. Laurie Prysock Treasurer / Manager 721 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348





Subj.: Professional Services Proposal to Prepare the East Marlborough Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan

Dear Ms. Prysock, East Marlborough Township and Chester County staff:

Laird Recreation and Land Planning, LLC (LAIRD REC) is pleased to present our team's proposal to assist East Marlborough Township in preparing The Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan – as an update to the 1993 Plan.

For this special commission, we have assembled a **uniquely experienced team comprised of Laird Recreation and Land Planning, LLC, KMS Design Group and A.D. Marble –** a local consulting team comprised of dedicated and specialized professionals who are local to the area and have a solid understanding our respective roles in fulfilling the RFP requirements and Scope of Services.

From our early experiences as undergraduates (Penn State and West Chester Universities) and now professional trail and transportation planning consultants with in the region, we realize the significance that this wonderful connective trail corridor has to offer the township and surrounding communities. We recognize that young professionals, students, retirees, athletes, local residents and visitors of all types and abilities will benefit from the recreation, access to, and quality of life enhancements that access to both passive and active recreation and recreation open space and facilities have proven to offer throughout the Commonwealth.

We understand that a considerable amount of planning, anticipation and public support has advanced this plan, which have been listed in the RFP Resource List – a wealth of quality planning and community consensus building. We also understand that the Township very much wants to determine a plan and begin advancing projects to implementation.

We 'Get It'! We want to be the consulting team to assist East Marlborough Township and Chester County in advancing this plan from planning and feasibility phases to <u>'HAVE FUNDING FOR PHASED</u> <u>IMPLEMENTATION'!</u> We believe that our team's proposal for provision of consulting services will fulfill the RFP requirements and:

- A. IDENTIFY sensible, sensitive and highly sustainable, manageable and functional Open Space, passive and active recreation opportunities, and recreation facility needs as outlined in the RFP Identify opportunities and constraints for location of a public access to recreation across an environmentally diverse landscape rich with natural and historic resources.
- **B. PROJECT Feasibility and Probable Cost** Establish feasible methods and parameters for multi-use bicycle/pedestrian and other trail types (ie: hiking, equestrian and cross-country skiing) in response to environmental and historic assets within regulatory compliance; ADA compliance and respective of the site features and surrounding private property interests.
- C. CONDUCT a rigorous and meaningful PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT process— by planning inclusive, diplomatic, thorough and open communication with interaction by involved stakeholders, residents, property and business owners, open space, park and trail users, agencies and authorities.
- D. Prepare a Prioritized PHASED IMPLEMENTATION Plan that will delineate a process of achieving grand scale goals over time with feasible costs.

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A review of our team's experience and credentials will show that we have successfully completed many similar projects and have the visionary and technical skillset required to assist **East Marlborough Township** in identifying **open space**, **active and passive recreation opportunities**, **and environmentally sensitive resources and areas within the Agriculture Security Area**, determining feasibility of the preferred alternative, producing compelling marketing graphics and communicative presentations and then structuring a prioritized phased implementation plan and probable cost of recommended projects.

Our Team is the Best Suited Selection for this project because:

- This is our area of expertise... not our first project and certainly not our last;
- Our professional team are the best at what we do collectively and individually;
- We're local, efficient, conservatively priced with regionally appropriate consulting rates;
- We don't delegate we're intimately and directly engaged;
- WE BELIEVE that this excellent project can be proven feasible and beneficial to the region;
- We won't bait and switch our principals are owners and key involved staff;

For this project, **Jim Laird, RLA will serve as Lead Planner**, communicating directly with you, The Plan Advisory Committee (PAC), stakeholders and our team. Jim may be reached directly at **814.312.1798** (cell phone) from our **Manheim, PA** office landline at 814-614-4707 and via e-mail at: <u>jim@lairdla.com</u>.

We look forward to an **opportunity to discuss this project with you (and the Selection Committee/ PAC)** in **person** either in a team interview or through direct selection as your consulting team to further convey our team's understanding of the township's opportunities and challenges and potential connections to the larger regional open space and trail networks. **We have the capacity, availability and commitment to this commission and are at your service upon notification** and are poised to complete the **East Marlborough Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan as stated in our team proposal.** Our primary goal is to work within your required 12-month schedule (presuming notice to proceed March 4th, 2019) for a completed bound report in **the spring of 2020** so that portions or all of this project may be rolled into award worthy grant applications following closeout of the Chester County VPP grant program.

In addition to the references provided in our team proposal, please feel free to contact East Bradford Township and Chester County staff regarding our current work with the Chester County VPP grant program:

Project: East Bradford Township; Plum Run Corridor Master Plan Phase 1

Rich Phifer, Director of Property and Recreation; East Bradford Twp. 610.436.5108 ext. 108; rphifer@eastbradford.org

Jeannine Speirs, Sr. Community Planner, Chester Co. Planning Commission; 610.344.6285; jspeirs@chesco.org

Sincerely on behalf of The Laird REC Consulting Team,

Angelika K. Laird, CPRP

Principal, Certified Park and Recreation Professional

James S. Laird, Jr., RLA

Project Manager, Partner, Registered Landscape Architect

Recreation and Land Planning Services

East Marlborough Township, Chester County, PA



1.1 – Profile of Firm

LAIRD Recreation and Land Planning, **LLC (LAIRD REC)** is a Certified Woman Owned Small Business (WOSBE/DBE) firm focused on offering our clients committed attention and flexibility, with low overhead, competitive rates and large firm project management experience. Collectively, our staff has served municipal and non-profit clients in trail planning from concept to master plan and from grant application to construction documentation. Our offices are located in **Roaring Spring** and **Manheim**, **PA**.

Our staff consists of highly motivated and experienced open space, park and recreation, trail and greenway planning and design professionals who maintain licenses in Landscape Architecture (RLA) and the Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certificate. Over the past 20+ years, we have completed dozens of DCED, DCNR and FWHA (TEA/TAP) funded studies, plans and projects approved through numerous state, county and local municipal agencies and have a highly successful record of actually built and well-used trails, greenways and linear parks, which is the highest and best testament of our experience, work ethic and commitment to our clients and projects. We are currently finishing our Chester County VPP Grant funded work on The East Bradford Township Plum Run Greenway Master Plan.

Our staff have prepared diverse plans and construction documents for large corridor projects such as the September 11 National Memorial Trail; the Fell Township section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail; Confluence to Fort Hill Section of the Great Allegheny Passage (Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. Trail), and The Salmon River Greenway Trail near Lake Ontario - "The Salmon Fishing Capital of the World", Village of Pulaski, NY.

In our years of project management, site planning and design, our staff has continuously demonstrated the ability to win significant return work with our clients, largely due to our consistent commitment to:

- Identify project opportunities, creative linkages and connections and match our staff's talent in seeking solutions;
- Diplomatically and graphically communicate with clients, team members, municipal leaders and agency
 officials in conveying proposed planning, programmatic, site development and feasible design solutions
 especially along riparian corridors with active fishing, hiking and water sports;
- Maintain respect for people, promoting accessibility and inclusion in all details and services while remaining environmentally responsible with context sensitive and sustainable solutions that embrace and implement best management land practices;
- Prepare high quality, legible, complete and specific recommendations that are meaningful and applicable;
- Plan and Design in a responsible, professional and sustainable manner in the interest of respecting, protecting and celebrating the landscape and environment as stewards of the land;
- Provide our clients with creative, practical and attainable vision, program and strategies for feasible implementation of programs, projects and services.

"As **LAIRD REC** staff, we believe it is important to not only be enthusiasts and active participants, but when it comes to healthy lifestyles, be mentors and educators - leading by example. More importantly, perhaps is the practice of making outdoor activity fun and memorable in order to enable and instill an appreciation for the outdoors in the next generation."

Angelika and Jim Laird

1_2 - Project Approach

First and foremost, we want to express **The Laird REC Team's** intent to approach this project as colleagues and assistants in service to **East Marlborough Township and Chester County staff and the Plan Advisory Committee (PAC).** We want to work as a cohesive and collaborative team, contributing from our experience, but also equally valuing the township and county staff's local working knowledge. We want to approach, conduct and complete this plan with positive energy, enthusiasm and creative vision. We applaud the township for securing planning and grant funds through Chester County's Vision Partnership Program (VPP) to prepare this Plan, which will in part be an update **The Township's 1993 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan**. Jim Laird attended the February 4th Pre-Submission Briefing and found the interchange of information to be most helpful in pinpointing the Township's vision and goals for the project. We very much appreciate the thorough detail included in the RFP as well as insight provided at this informative meeting.

Timeline: We are committed to completing the scope of services within a 12-month timeframe.

We understand that the VPP Program requires the project to be closed out within 18 months, so we plan to process the work within 12 months of notice to proceed. If the township, county or PAC should decide to modify the scope of services, our team is certainly open to additional tasks that may be added for proportionate fees beyond the anticipated 12 month timeframe.

<u>Cost:</u> We propose a not to exceed budget of *Thirty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$37,000.00)*. As illustrated in our Cost spreadsheet (Section 3 – Cost and Timeframe).

We reserve the opportunity to offer the Township additional <u>OPTIONAL</u> mapping and graphics production, which could utilize surplus township contribution budget beyond the required 30% VPP match (and/or other funds that may become available for such items). (Note that these graphics would be above and beyond the graphic production, rendering, plans and exhibits produced within the scope and tasks).

Our **Project Approach** is directly oriented toward the tasks outlined in the Scope of Work, RFP pages 3-9 with heavy emphasis on solicitation of public input and consensus building. The Laird REC Team understands and accepts the Project Tasks within the Scope of Work and therefore will **highlight ONLY our recommended edits and/or additions to the Scope of Work tasks as follows:**

Task 1.1: Project Management - We will be delighted to work with a dedicated Plan

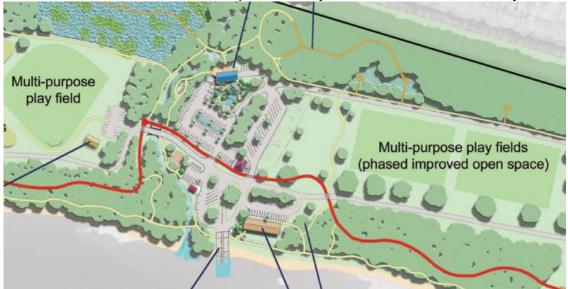


Advisory Committee to establish a detailed project schedule with milestone dates, scheduled Public Meetings, advisory committee (and Twp./County staff) meetings and deliverables. For this project, we have established a project Dropbox file that we all can use to transfer large files, plans, maps and project correspondence – available to all authorized participants. We also dedicate a conference call line that we can use to communicate as a group weekly or biweekly and between PAC meetings as necessary. For this project, Jim Laird, RLA will serve as our Lead Planner of a well organized, efficient team of experienced colleagues with whom we enjoy long term working relationships.

Jim's contact information, credentials, experience and resume are provided in respective sections of our team proposal.

Additional Task 1.1 Deliverables: Summary Directory of all participants (project team, Twp., County staff and PAC Members); Updated Project Timeline; Sample Public Participation Questionnaire.

Task 1.2: Existing Conditions Inventory and Data Collection - Our team will review the available resources, plans, and visionary documents cited in addition to those provided in the Resource List (RFP pg.3). We will study the 1993 plan in further detail, preview Chester County GIS parcel and resource mapping, then schedule an initial field visit for reconnaissance purposes. We will coordinate schedules so that Township and County staff as well as Plan Advisory Committee (PAC) members can



This image is a small clip of the overall rendering prepared as part of the Riverfront Park Master Plan, East Donegal Twp., PA – featuring The Northwest River Trail along the Susquehanna River. The trail has now been designated as a significant portion of the September 11th National Memorial Trail, which features existing and reconstructed wetland habitat, multi-use trail, boat launch, picnic areas and large pavilions, a visitors center, multi-use athletic fields and passive boardwalk pathways.

attend. There is simply no substitute for direct, first hand observations of current field, site and corridor conditions, which will serve as a baseline Inventory and Analysis. Additional site visits will occur as necessary for our team, but we will always invite engaged staff and the PAC to participate.

We will ask that the Township and County coordinate quite quickly to transmit available GIS mapping and data that we will use to prepare

the project base map, which we will combine with our own collection of state, federal and agency data and mapping.

We will coordinate with the Plan Advisory Committee to determine whether to prepare a base map in GIS entirely, or convert to some features to AutoCAD to gain the benefit of more accurately scaled and dimensioned features (either format is fine with us, but we will likely prefer to prepare built features in CAD to work efficiently with real dimensions).

Our intent is to provide a highly graphic, continuously interesting and visually appealing plan (with attractive graphics, renderings, data and exhibits) that folks will not only enjoy viewing, but really understanding how the plan fits East Marlborough Township, what projects would be pursued in phases and how taxpayers and residents will benefit from the Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan. Our written plan and complimentary graphics will provide current and future readers with a clear vision of current conditions, voiced needs and recommendations for implementation – all based upon open public involvement, consensus building and citizens who understand that they had an active role in preparing their plan.

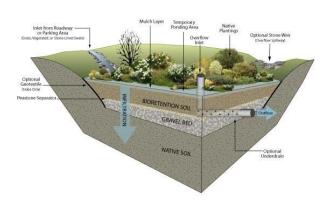
One addition to the RFP detail will be the need to **review and consider results of the not yet publically published School Plan/Study** that is currently not available at the time of this proposal submission.

Additional Deliverables: Mapping of existing Open Space Preservation parcels and policy; Map of potential conceptual connectivity into larger regional multi-use, equestrian and hiking trails.

Task 1.3: Visions, Goals, and Objectives – As stated in the RFP, we will lead the PAC Committee in setting goals and objectives along with an established vision for improving the townships open space, park and recreation opportunities. We will work with the PAC in discovering what forms of passive and active recreation are important to residents and where those activities fit best within the township land and facilities – and where open space should be preserved, protected (conservation easements), enhanced or opened to public use.

It is our understanding that the township will establish the 8-10 advisory committee members.

Colleen Meiswich of A.D. Marble will serve as our team's Environmental and Natural Resources expert, providing insight as to current environmental concerns, future potential enhancements and remedies, best management practices and projection of future costs of environmental projects, permits and phases. Together, we will coordinate with the Environmental Advisory Council to update the natural and historic resources



section of the 1993 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan and also make necessary recommendations for updates to the Unionville Regional Comprehensive Plan as stated in the RFP.

Additional Deliverables: Written summary of known staff and PAC concerns, threats and opportunities.

Task 1.4: Plan for Open Space -

The Laird REC Team looks forward to working with township and county staff together with The Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) as described in the RFP, page 4 with the potential addition of visioning for growth management, possible consideration of a municipal Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program, potential Zoning updates or beneficial revisions.

Additional Deliverables: Map of potential parcels to be protected, preserved, bound in conservation easements or opened for public use.

Task 1.5: Plan for Recreation Facilities -

We anticipate that the PAC already has ideas for accommodating new and improved outdoor recreation facilities, opportunities and programs. We will start with this list and work through a Needs Assessment that will catalogue possible underserved recreation enthusiasts (BMX, Mountain Bike, Bird Watching, Cross Country Skiing to name a few). We will work to determine the latent demand of residents who exist, but currently do not have an adequate connection or facility to enjoy their sport or form of outdoor recreation (physical or accessibility challenges, not enough equestrian connectivity, no skate park, etc.). Our team will also consider Best Management Practices that should be integrated into proposed projects such as raingardens, bio-infiltration swales and pervious surfaces for trails, paths, parking lots, playgrounds and athletic facilities.

Additional Deliverables: Catalogue of potentially underserved activities, list of known and potential accessibility barriers, latent demand assessment of not yet accommodated activities and events.

Task 1.6: Plan for Multimodal and Greenway Connections -

The Laird REC Team will conduct walks on foot and rides on bike 'sniffing out new opportunities' to produce a map of potential connections beyond adjoining municipalities so that the greater regional connectivity to The Brandywine and Chester Valley Trails, The Philly Circuit, East Coast Greenway, 9/11 Trail can be understood and accommodated. We will be delighted to help East Marlborough realize how we can tie schools, parks, local destinations and businesses to the greater regional trail network, which not only produces fine recreational assets, but also economic development through eco and heritage tourism.

Additional Deliverables: Map of potential connections beyond adjoining municipalities to tie into greater regional connectivity.

Task 1.7: Plan for Existing Open space

The Laird REC Team will produce three (3) conceptual layouts for the 26 acre site, then with input from the PAC and county, advance one of the concepts to a more developed Concept Plan that will be ready to roll

into a Master Plan – including renderings, exhibits, photos of relevant projects, products and structures.

Task 1.7 Additional Deliverables: Three (3) conceptual layouts for the 26 acre site, One (1) developed Concept Plan with supporting renderings, exhibits, photos of relevant projects, products and structures.

Task 1.8: Organization, Management, and Financing

We will work closely with the Township and County staff/PAC to match proposed/ recommended open space management practices in a phased and prioritized matrix that will delineate timeline requirements, probable cost and future enhancement programs such as The Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Land and Water Restoration Program (LWRP) in addition to outdoor recreation (DCNR's C2P2 Grant Program) and DCED's Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Funding Program, PHMC, etc. We have applied successfully for these grants and also process plans and project implementation through these funds, so we have excellent professional rapport with key agency staff and understand their respective program requirements.

Of course, we have also worked through funding programs such as PennDOT and FWHA, Safe Routes to School, Act 13, private endowments and other sources of potential project financing.

Additional Deliverables: Funding Matrix, Order of Magnitude Probable Cost and Phased Implementation Plan matched with potential funding sources.

Task 1.9: Implementation Strategies

The Laird REC Team will confirm and document the final goals and objectives of the PAC and format these into a *Final Prioritized Phased Implementation Plan and Probable Cost Matrix*.

Additional Deliverables: Final Prioritized Phased Implementation Plan: Probable Cost.

Task 1.10: Public Participation – Our team is very experienced and well versed in conducting diplomatic, non-bias and open conversations with plan constituents from The PAC to Elected Officials to students to sometimes – YES – indignant property owners. We have been at this long enough to know that patient, listening ears that relate on many human levels and interests (seeing the project through the

lenses of private property owners, parents, neighbors, etc.) can yield huge dividends in furnishing amenable dialogue, quelling hostile conversations and gaining local public support for the project.

Task 1.11: Public Meetings – We plan to conduct 2 public meetings, hosted by the Township staff and PAC and led by the consultant Project Manager. The first will be to present existing inventory and opportunities as well as grasp an understanding of the public opinion on areas of significance that they feel should be protected by the township, gain insight as to underserved recreation types and potential new uses and areas of public open space.

We will also look to gain in-site into what recreation areas and facilities, multimodal paths, and types of programming are important to constituents. It is important to the planning process that the public have a confident sense that their ideas, input and voice have been heard – which we will record both in written form as well as in mark-ups of the input on maps and exhibits.

The second public meeting will be to present draft plans and visions as provided by the public and PAC, and approved by the PAC.



Additional Deliverables: Resulting Notes and feedback from Public Meetings.

Task 1.12: Public Hearings – We plan to present the Final Plan at 2 Public Hearings, which will be coordinated by West Marlborough and scheduled at Newlin and West Marlborough Townships respectively.

NOTE: As a bonus service, The Laird REC Project Manager will present the Final Plan to the County Commissioners at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Additional Deliverables: Resulting Notes and feedback from Public Hearings and (1) County Commissioners' Meeting.

Task 1.13: Other Engagement Opportunities – Our team will prepare a two-page questionnaire (for approval by PAC) that will be used as an online survey. The survey will be posted by township staff on the township and county websites. Interviews with Key Stakeholders will be arranged and hosted at the township by township staff and led by the consulting team. The list of stakeholders will include the agencies identified on page 8 of the RFP.

Additional Deliverables: Resulting Notes and feedback from Stakeholder Interviews; Contact list of stakeholders; and tallied results of online questionnaire/ survey.

Task 1.14: Committees and Board – Our team agrees with the list of PAC representatives and recommends that the local school Administration be included as well.

Additional Deliverables: Contact list of PAC Members.

Task 1.15: Products— Our team will prepare a Draft and Final Report (combined from Tasks 1-10), which will include pleasing presentation of full color graphics, exhibits, plans, renderings, photos and sketches that will convey the intent and need to advance the plan to grant award and implementation phases.

In addition to the list of Deliverables, our team will produce several renderings, highly graphic exhibits depicting the cross section, perspectives, details, sketches and plan views that will communicate and 'sell' the plan.



(We know that 'A picture is truly worth a thousand words' – such as used in the Simpson Trail exhibit with overlay concept on an existing photo).

We anticipate preparing several renderings of visionary concepts in context (illustrating people using the site) of the facilities, spaces and features such as open space, creeks, meadows, wooded areas, stream crossings (pedestrian bridges), road crossings and spaces through wetlands and under tree canopies. Our team's Landscape Architects and Graphic Designers are incredibly talented artists who will personally oversee the production of sketch, conceptual and Final graphic production.

Additional Deliverables: Graphic Illustrations, renderings, conceptual sketch exhibits, full color GIS mapping with aerial digital orthographic (Aerial) photography.

Task 2.0: Timeline for Completion of Tasks – (RFP page 9)

<u>Timeline:</u> We are committed to completing the scope of services within a 12 month timeframe.

We understand that the VPP Program requires the project to be closed out within 18 months, so we plan to process the work within 12 months of notice to proceed, which is anticipated to occur on March 4th. If the township, county or PAC should decide to modify the scope of services, our team is certainly open to additional tasks that may be added for proportionate fees beyond the anticipated 12 month timeframe with proportional adjustments and additions to scope and fee, which would be approved in writing as an Addendum to the initial (original) Consultant Agreement.

Task 2.1: Plan Advisory Committee (PAC) – (from RFP page 6 placed here in numerical order) -

We anticipate conducting 6 meetings with the PAC as outlined on pg. 6 of the RFP with the understanding that one or two meetings in addition could be scheduled if necessary such as on the date that we conduct our group (township wide tour) field views and the field view of the 26-acre parcel.

Our team has devised a spreadsheet (excel) that concisely lists all potential stakeholders, advocacy groups, agency representatives, team members and property owners with a summation of contact information (phone/e-mail/title/role, etc.), which has proven to be an invaluable means of tracking public and private input throughout the duration of the project. We'll document feedback and graphic line work produced at the meetings and integrate the cumulative insight into the considerations of various Open Space Plan recommendations.

Additional Deliverables: Meeting Notes resulting from the PAC meetings, field views and site visits.

Proposed Time and Cost

to prepare the

East Marlborough Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan

| Proposed Time and Cost | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|------|--|
| Task | Month # | Time Duration (months) | Cost | |
| Task 1 - Project Managment | 1-12 | 12 | | |
| Task 2 - Existing Conditions, Inventory, and Data Collection, Base Map | 1-3 | 2 | | |
| Task 3 - Vision, Goals, and Objectives | 1 | 1 | | |
| Task 4 - Plan for Open Space | 3-4 | 2 | | |
| Task 5 - Plan for Recreation Facilities | 4-5 | 2 | | |
| Task 6 - Plan for Multimodal and Greenway Connections | 5-6 | 2 | | |
| Task 7 - Plan for Existing Open space and Recreation Parcels | 6-7 | 2 | | |
| Task 8 - Organization, Management, and Financing | 8-9 | 2 | | |
| Task 9 - Implementation Strategies | 9-10 | 2 | | |
| Task 10 - Public Participation (2 meetings)/PAC Meetings(6 meetings) | 1,3,5,7,9,11,12 | 7 | | |
| Task 11 - Products | 1-12 | 12 | | |

Plan Total Cost: (Refer to Separately Sealed Team Hourly Rates and Cost Summary Page as requried per RFP Pg. 11)





<u>Open Space, Recreation-and Environmental Resources Plan</u>

NOTE: Our preferred method of billing is monthly based on staff hours applied per task.

Proposed Time & Cost

2 – Consultant Qualifications and Experience

For this project, **Jim Laird**, **RLA will serve as Lead Planner and Project Manager**, communicating directly with East Marlborough Township and Chester County staff, The Plan Advisory Committee, stakeholders and our team. Jim will manage the East Marlborough project from our 1198 Fairview Road, Manheim, PA office and can be reached directly at **814.312.1798** (mobile phone), office landline 814.614.4707 and via e-mail at: jim@lairdla.com.

Jim serves with Owner and Principal Partner Angelika K. Laird, CPRP, who brings to the team a unique perspective on health and wellness, environmental and recreation based therapy, inclusion, accessibility and recreation planning and programming as solutions to addressing today's crisis level of childhood obesity, premature diabetes, sedentary and lethargic lifestyles. Her healthy lifestyle perspective and assistance in evaluating open space planning and recreation opportunities will also place her in a valued key role in conducting the public participation process.

Each of our key staff members are included in the following pages, which represent their individual experience, talent and applicable skillsets, which we look forward to applying to the Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan. For this special project, we have again enlisted the expertise of our colleagues at A.D. Marble – a firm well known and respected for their work within the region especially in preparing environmental clearance documentation, environmental sciences and engineering, illustrative graphic renderings and way finding signage plans. We have also called upon our esteemed colleague Carl Keleman of KMS Designs – who is well versed in all things Chester County, but is best known for his decades of significant qualitative planning and design work throughout the region.

In addition to Jim Laird's personal experience provided in Section 4. Lead Planner and Qualifications, we believe that <u>our team is best suited</u> to provide West Marlborough Township with the most well rounded depth and breadth experience in the seven key areas of desired consulting team experience:

- 1. Open Space planning and preservation
- 2. Parks and recreation planning, design, and implementation
- 3. Greenway and Trail (pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian) planning and implementation.
- 4. Concept and Master planning
- 5. Natural Resource planning
- 6. Chester County Grant Administration (see paragraph below)
- 7. Public Engagement, Presentation and Consensus Building

Similarly, a sampling of our relevant projects are provided to highlight projects that we have successfully planned, designed, pursued funding for – and followed all the way through implementation. Each of these projects are highly appreciated, well used and cherished by the communities that they serve.

Simply put, our plans, studies and reports do not sit on the shelf. Frankly, it is easier to explain the ONLY ONE project that we have planned that HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED...The Reading & Columbia Greenway. During the Feasibility Study of this wonderful project in western Lancaster County, we realized that the idea of re-establishing active rail service was far more important to the health and well-being of Columbia Borough than the proposed rail-trail at the time. To this day, the rail remains active and viable providing local freight service to a major recycling center. It is still our hope that someday Columbia Borough will pursue the rail with trail option, but in the meantime it is equally rewarding to see active rail service indicating litmus test of a healthy localized economy.

Please review and enjoy the following pages that represent a sampling of our team's collective relevant projects and work.

Riverfront Park Open Space Management Plan and Northwest River Trail Master Plan

East Donegal Township, Susquehanna River, Lancaster County, PA

Client Contact: Allen Esbenshade, Chairman, Board of Supervisors 717.426.3167

The open space management and park master plan addresses local and regional demand for passive recreation in the form of a renovated boat launch, multipurpose trails, and combination hiking/boardwalk trails through natural, wetland and forested areas of





Riverfront Park. Educational and interpretive opportunities abound that will eventually highlight such amenities as a butterfly rookery, wetlands, forests, and most prominently the riverfront ecosystem. The park is being developed in phases to include renovation of the existing boat launch, implementation of the Northwest trail, improved site access and circulation with parking, welcome signs and orientation maps. There will also be an interpretive center with indoor and outdoor educational and interpretive classrooms for students and visitors who come to enjoy the diversity of landscapes that the park has to offer.

AES Ironwood Park and Avon Playground.

South Lebanon Township, Lebanon Co., PA (2003)

Client Contact: AES Ironwood, LLC, Lebanon PA
The project included preservation of 20 mature 40"+
diameter sycamore trees which form a tree covered
canopy over newly renovated sections of the park
including a playground, picnic pavilion and walking
paths and integration of Best Management Practices
that integrated innovative solutions for stormwater
management and site stabilization. Responsibilities
included land development plan process through local
authority, South Lebanon Township. Plans include
innovative stormwater management, removal and
replacement of aged athletic fields, specification of new
equipment, play apparatus, concession stand and



lighting. Site challenges include grading and stormwater management plans to accommodate proper orientation of new athletic facilities (soccer/softball/baseball fields) and outdoor amphitheater. Permitting included plans for a new driveway entrance on Route 422.

Jonestown Community Park and Athletic Complex Feasibility Study and Open Space Master Plan, Borough of Jonestown, Lancaster County, PA (2004-05)

Client Contact: George Kaufman, Park Namesake Honoree and Previous Mayor, (717) 519-9908

The project included successful park and trail planning built with multiple funding sources based on a Phased



Implementation Plan set to an attainable timeline to achieve a grand vision for athletic facilities, trails, rental pavilions, playgrounds and a passive multi-use recreation trail with fishing access along a natural riparian setting. Success is largely due to a well-managed and advertised Public Involvement Program that garnered local consensus building through various modes of public involvement, graphic presentation and quality full color mapping, diagrams and artistic renderings. DCNR Funded project with contributions from local commercial vendors.

.Johnstown Urban Connectivity Plan

Cambria County, PA

Client: Cambria County Conservation Recreation Authority; Cliff Kitner, Executive Director 814.472.2110

The Scope includes a comprehensive study of five corridors and related streetscape and bike/ped connections that has already successfully been used to pursue grant and matching funding. Our team has facilitated a robust series of public meetings resulting in tremendous public input and support. We've incorporated Erosion and Sedimentation and Stormwater



"Early in our work in Johnstown, we realized that rural scenes like this are one culvert away from another world of vehicle dominated urban concrete jungles that we must help connect to safe, enjoyable open space and service destinations."



Management Plans to integrate Sustainable Best Management Practices in the form of on-site infiltration, restoration of existing structures stabilized drainage ways and removal of invasive plant species. The study will provide a significant enhancement to the walkability and overall quality of life within the city and

surrounding communities utilizing **complete street designs**. As Johnstown emerges as a growing city within the Commonwealth attracting both new businesses and significant investments from the medical arena, this project is expecting to generate economic development boost through diversity through **heritage and ecotourism and outdoor recreation** both locally and county wide.

KMS

Lower Macungie Township Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan

KMS worked closely with Township staff and a dedicated Steering Committee to analyze the Township's open spaces and recreation assets, and collect historic, cultural, demographic, and environmental data. This analysis helped identify opportunities and constraints for a comprehensive open space and recreation network that serves the entire

Township. KMS prepared analysis and concept plans for public education and input. Other public outreach efforts included public opinion surveys, an interactive project team website, and a series of public meetings.



KMS developed a plan and companion report that included recommendations for improvements to existing facilities, construction of new facilities, policy changes, an opinion of costs, phasing and maintenance guidelines that will guide the Township in maximizing recreation opportunities while maintaining control of operating costs. KMS also worked with the Township to identify potential funding and partnering opportunities.

Lower Macungie Township Greenway Plan



Working closely with Township staff and a dedicated Steering Committee, KMS analyzed the Township's physical, cultural, and visual assets; and collected historic, demographic and environmental data to create a picture of opportunities and constraints for a comprehensive greenway network to serve the entire Township. KMS prepared analysis and concept plans for public education and input. Other outreach efforts included web based and printed public opinion surveys, an interactive project website, displays at Community Day events, and a series of public meetings. KMS developed a final concept and report, opinion of costs, phasing and maintenance

guidelines to help the Township determine the way forward. KMS also worked with the Township to identify funding and partnering opportunities. The Master Plan was nominated for planning awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Planning Association in 2013. The Plan also received high reviews from Pennsylvania DCNR. Following the completion of this Plan, KMS and its project partners developed a Park and Recreation Master Plan which included a thorough inventory of open spaces in the Township and analysis of potential improvements to the Park and Recreation System.



A.D. MARBLE A.D. Marble has a long history of environmental, cultural, and water resources engineering experience with specific experience in trail and open space planning. Their projects include specialists services in environmental science, biological

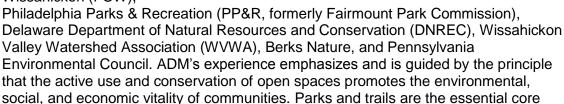
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science, natural resources, threatened and endangered species, trail and open space planning, permitting,

historic interpretation, cultural resources, engineering, planning, and public involvement. ADM's project experience in conducting trail and open space planning for clients includes the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR), Pennsylvania Department of General Services, City of



Reading, Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW),



building blocks to community livability and are a means to promote healthy, active lifestyles and personal

Client Reference: Mr. Robert Folwell, Trail Project Manager, Schuylkill River Heritage area, 484.945.0200

Top 10 Reasons to Select Our Team for the Project:

- 1) We are a Local, Compact and Efficient Team with Relevant Expertise and Focused Energy The LAIRD REC Team (comprised of Laird REC + AD Marble + KMS Design Group) are professionals with personal and collegial working relationships, which translates into creative and efficient project delivery. We are very familiar with the study area, We are open space planners and park and trail enthusiasts who understand the significance and demand for quality outdoor spaces from our early days of teaming together to develop regionally significant projects such as the Chester Valley Trail Preliminary Plan. WE BELEIVE that this plan will lead to enhanced quality of life and environmental protection/ preservation. We are heavily engaged as consultants with many projects within the region, further increasing the efficiency of our team project administration.
- We Understand Open Space Planning, Trails and Greenways in and Around the Commonwealth and Chester County and we certainly appreciate this project's significance to the township and county. Our team consists of highly motivated and experienced trail experts who hold professional licenses in landscape architecture, recreation and environmental planning and graphic communication. We serve many different clients, including municipal and non-profit clients both as planners of parks and trails and designers through construction. Our intimate working knowledge of the open space and land preservation in the region. Our practical in the field observation and experience will prove invaluable as we carry out the work required for a timely completion of The Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan, which will allow for immediate funding pursuits and feasible implementation with short term, mid-range and long-term priorities.
- 3) Meeting Chester County VPP, DCNR, DCED, FHWA and PennDOT 'Consultant Qualifications' We meet and exceed East Marlborough Township's Consultant Qualifications. The LAIRD REC Team:
 - Includes seasoned, licensed professionals in the fields of planning, landscape architecture, architecture, and engineering who have performed numerous Open Space and Park Master Plans, streetscapes, Transportation Plans. Trail, Greenway, Park and Recreation projects - Many funded by Chester County VPP, DCED, DCNR and FHWA/ PennDOT (TEA/TAP/CMAQ) funding;
 - Has completed many Open Space Plans, Feasibility Studies, Master Site Plans with Final Construction Drawings and bid documents under the administration of DCNR, DCED, municipal, PennDOT and FHWA;
 - Has decades of experience in pedestrian mobility and personal lifestyle commuting;
 - Has first hand experience in Open Space Preservation and Conservation Landscape Planning, High Density Zoning and Cluster Developments, Traditional Neighborhood Developments (TNDs) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Programs aimed at densifying residential taxable parcels while preserving quality agricultural lands.
 - Has taken Trail, Greenway and Park projects from conception, through planning, design, construction, and construction management with DCNR, DCED and PennDOT oversight and funding, which we realize will likely be used to implement the next phase of this project.

- Has experience as board members and officers of parks, greenway and trail organizations, giving us the experience
 and perspective necessary to successfully work with development and management issues surrounding planning and
 implementation a new trail project in an environmentally sensitive environment.
- Jim is also currently serving on the DCNR PA Trails Advisory Committee (PATAC), which contributes to DCNR's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as well as The 9/11 Trail Projects Committee and Advisory Board.
- 4) We're Intimately Engaged in each Project and Cost Effective Our Visionary Team of professionals are owners and principals that engage directly in design tasks, each with specialized expertise. Our low overhead allows us the privilege of offering competitive rates, unmatched access, flexibility and availability to our clients. We're focused, engaged and don't delegate..., which means 'no Bait and Switch tactics' typical of larger firms.
- 5) Environmental, Riparian Corridor Design, ADA Knowledge and Trail Experience
 Our team's appreciation for the history of the area and our involvement in park and trail and greenway development is extensive. We've been working on some of the most highly successful and well used trail corridors for decades. We believe in our professional and human duty to ensure that our projects provide safe, accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation for all ages, interests and abilities.
- 6) We Enjoy Excellent Internal Team and Client Communications
 We pride ourselves on excellent communications within our team, and more importantly, with our clients. Our
 team is well represented and respected throughout the Commonwealth and specifically within southeastern
 Pennsylvania. We make certain that our team members are readily available and that all remain in regular verbal,
 personal and written contact with our client. We make sure good work and project achievements are regularly
 recognized and that our clients and the communities we serve know that we have their best interests in mind.
- 7) Professional Working Knowledge of the area being studied As outdoor enthusiasts and trail experts, our team of professionals has spent countless hours researching and mapping open space, parks and potential trail corridors, cultural and historic sites in the southeastern Pennsylvania region. We have viewed and investigated significant portions of the project area. Members of our team are originally from Chester County (Jim Laird) and (Angelika Laird as 1 year WCU student), are local residents (Colleen Meiswich, A.D. Marble and Carl Keleman, KMS Design Group), and are very familiar with large scale planning efforts to develop the 'Great Schuylkill to Susquehanna Passage'. As current residents of Lancaster County, we are eagerly awaiting the eventual connection of the Enola Low Grade Trail (Lancaster) connection with the Chester Valley Trail (Chester County).
- 8) Open Space, Park, Trail, Greenway... Outdoor Recreation Planning and Design is our Passion!
 As a team, we have collaborated on many similar scoped trail design and construction projects over the last decade, many of which are now among the most popular trails, greenways and transportation corridors in the Commonwealth and along the east coast. We have a very successful track record as a team, serving in and around the Chester County region. We have been instrumental as design professionals in the planning and development (through construction phase services) of several renowned segments of the Philadelphia Circuit (Perkiomen Trail, Chester Valley Trail, CVT Extension, French and Pickering Creeks Trails and several key sections of the Schuylkill River Trail).
- 9) We Understand Municipal Code, Subdivision and Land Development Regulatory Environmental Compliance Members of our team have been directly instrumental in similar projects from concept through land acquisition to preliminary and final design phases of municipal planning. We understand that the requirements, purpose and vision as well as the requirements of the governing agencies that will review, approve, permit and implement the next phases.
- 10) User Safety and Quality of Life... We understand that at the end of the day, our best work impacts the lives of people the end user who will use, enjoy and ultimately benefit from the resulting land use recommendations and enhancements. For these reasons, we enthusiastically recommend and humbly ask that East Marlboro Township select our team for this opportunity to serve East Marlborough Township and Chester County in this commission!









James S. Laird, Jr., RLA Registered Landscape Architect

Partner/ Director of Land Planning

<u>Laird Recreation & Land Planning, Ilc</u> (Certified WOSBE/DBE firm)

Principal/ Owner Laird Landscape Architecture, PLLC 2011 – Current

Years Experience: 24

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University; BS, Landscape Architecture, 1994 Lancaster County Planning Commission Master Planner Certificate 2002

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS: Registered Landscape Architect, Pennsylvania LA001420 New York NY 002030

Current Pursuit – APA Planner Certificate (AICP) APA Member #213801 since 2007

Sustainable Stormwater Management (Blair County MS4 Program)

Currently serving Blair County MS4 Program Alliance for The Chesapeake Bay and American Rivers for Design and Implementation of Stormwater Infiltration and Rain Garden Sites.



Director of Land Planning & Site Design, Project Management, Landscape Architecture and Municipal Services. Expertise in Site Design, Streetscape, Trails and Greenways Planning and Design, Park and Recreation Master Plans, Corridor Analysis, Streambank Restoration and Waterfront Accessibility, ADA site accessibility municipal compliance, Athletic Facility design and specification, Motorized Recreation Planning, Development and Design.

Project Management – Responsible for production management duties including preparation of Feasibility Studies, Concept Plans, Master Plans, Probable Cost, Schedule and Specification Preparation, Construction Documents and Construction Phase Services (Construction Observation). Project types include site and streetscape design, park and recreation, trail/greenway, corridor and community planning. Proficiently versed in PennDOT plan and environmental clearance processing, permitting, Federal, State and DCNR project management, grant funding, design and construction process.

Open Space, Park and Recreation Planning Administration – Director of Landscape Architectural design and planning services, concept through final site design, land planning and land development plan processing. Responsible for plan review, Community Visioning, Public Involvement, Project Management and oversight of project planning staff and directly engaged in plan and report production, design and construction plans, specifications and Bid Package.

Site Planning and Land Development/ Municipal Consulting Services – Responsible for writing municipal code and legislation documents, complex land development and transportation projects, representation at Planning Board Meetings and Public Hearings where subdivision and land development plans are acted upon for approval and advancement to permitting and construction phase.

Public speaking/ presentation – Responsible for coordination and delivery of oral and written presentation in public, private, and inter-agency meetings, marketing promotion, Continuing Education training sessions at ASLA and PRPS conferences/ trade shows, production and presentation of digital plan (AutoCAD) and artistic renderings in various graphic media.





Angelika K. Laird, CPRP Recreation Program and Planning Specialist



Principal/ Owner LAIRD RECREATION & LAND PLANNING, IIc (Certified WOSBE/DBE firm)

Years Experience: 18 years

EDUCATION:

Pennsylvania State University; BS, Exercise and Sport Science (Kinesiology)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Directly responsible as principal owner for administration of daily management and execution of LAIRD REC Recreation Planning services and client management. Areas of expertise include project administration, planning and provision of Recreation Programming and Planning Services, Athletic, Active and Passive Outdoor Recreation Event Programming & Program Maintenance with specialty focus on Parks, Trails and Greenway Planning and Extreme Sports Physical Training.

Responsible for Park and Recreation Programming, grant application pursuit, public outreach, facilitation and presentation at Public Information Meetings, preparation of meeting agendas, minutes, online and solicited public opinion surveys, research and technical assistance in proposal writing.

Research and Develop background data, statistics and precedent case for feasibility studies, master plans for Open Space, park, recreation, trails and greenways; graphics and report production.

Responsible for preparation of budgets, invoices, project management schedules, grant budget tracking, client file management, office management, recording of annual memberships, insurance policies and professional insurance and license/ registration profiles.

Primarily responsible for client contact, program analysis and scope for grant application and grant administration process.

Planning and Administration of strength training and agility lessons in Sport, Physical Exercise and Health. Lesson plans and daily fitness programs geared toward teaching elementary, middle school and high school (JV and Varsity) students lifelong "healthy" habits and initiatives as well as sport specific skills and safe training techniques.

Organizing and planning school wide event activity programs for K-12 students. Coordinating and directing student volunteers to run activities and prepare program evaluations at completion of program.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

PRPS – Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society
NYRPS – New York Recreation and Park Society
RTC – Rails to Trails Conservancy
NRPS – National Recreation and Park Society
SHAPE– Society of Health and Physical Educators
PAOHVC – Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Commission



Carl R. Kelemen, RLA, FASLA, Principal

LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: PA, NJ, DE

Professional Summary: Owner/Principal of a small landscape architecture and site planning firm. Diverse practice includes: Open Space, Recreation and Park Planning (master planning and construction document preparation for local, municipal and county parks, open spaces, recreational trails and greenways); Site and Landscape Planning (Landscape Plans, Planting Plans, Irrigation system design, Site and Landscape Lighting).



Employment History:

- Owner/Principal, KMS Design Group, LLC (KMS) 2017 to Present
- Principal, Alta Planning and Design 2017
- Adjunct Faculty, Philadelphia University Landscape Architecture Program 2008-2017
- Principal Partner, KMS Design Group, LLC (KMS) 2006 to 2017
- Principal Owner, Evergreen Landscape Associates 2002 to 2006
- Director of Landscape Architectural Services, Cowan Associates, Inc. 1998-2002
- Principal Owner, Evergreen Landscape Associates 1989-1998
- Landscape Architect, The Rhoads Garden, Inc. 1985-1989
- Studio Landscape Architect, The Kling Partnership 1980-1983
- Landscape Architect, Fairfax County Park Authority, Design Division (1977-1980)

Representative Projects:

- Big Woods Trail Section 5, French Creek State Park to Hopewell Furnace NHS connector: Prepare
 designs, construction documents, and specifications for approximately 2 miles of multi-use trail.
 Incorporate wayside and interactive interpretive exhibits to teach users about the unique environments
 and history of the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site and French Creek State Park.
- Lower Macungie Township Greenway and Trail Study and Master Plan, Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County, PA: Preparation of a study and master plan seeking to create a township-wide comprehensive greenway and trail network. The final plan showed a greenway network with approximately 20 miles of primary trails and a secondary and tertiary trail system adding 20 miles of trails.
- New Hanover Township Recreation Land Acquisition and Preservation Plan and Report, New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, PA: Review of available open spaces and recommendations for preservation, development of park lands, greenways and trail development
- Ellis Woods Park, East Coventry Township, Chester County, PA: Design, construction document preparation, and construction contract administration for a community park.
- Alice Park, Wallace Township, Chester County, PA: Design and construction document preparation for baseball and soccer fields, parking areas, and 1.5 miles of multi-use trails
- Black Rock Sanctuary Interpretive Trail, Chester County, PA: Design, construction document preparation and construction contract administration for a .8 mile multi-use interpretive trail and interpretive exhibits.
- Black Rock Sanctuary Wetland Creation, Chester County, PA: Design, construction document preparation and construction contract administration for the restoration of a brownfield site, creation of wetlands and design/implementation of stormwater BMPs

Education:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, SUNY; CESF 1975
- Bachelor of Science; Environmental Studies, State University of New York;
 College of Environmental Science and Forestry 1974
- Associate Landscape Design, Temple University, Ambler Campus 1972

Professional Registration:

- Registered Landscape Architect, 1981; Pennsylvania # LA-000675-E
- Registered Landscape Architect, 1993; Delaware # ORLA-206
- Licensed Landscape Architect, 1994; New Jersey # AS00071300

Volunteer Activities

- Landscape Architecture Advisory Board, Philadelphia University, 2007-present
- Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor, 2002-2010
- PA Horticulture Society Speakers Bureau, 1992-present

Professional Memberships/Activities:

- Member, Bike Montco (Montgomery County, PA) Steering Committee 2016-present
- Member, Montgomery County Parks and Heritage Sites Advisory Board, 2015-present

COLLEEN MEISWICH

Senior Project Manager/ Environmental Scientist



environmental-cultural-engineering

Ms. Meiswich is an environmental scientist with 18 years of experience conducting and managing environmental and cultural resource studies for transportation projects throughout Pennsylvania. Many of the projects she has managed involved bridge replacements, roadway widening, and corridor studies. Her projects have included, but have not been limited to: NEPA documentation, CEEs, EAs, Environmental Overviews, Section 4(f) evaluations, wetland reports, Phase I ESAs, noise and air studies, threatened and endangered species surveys, historic structure surveys, determination of effect reports, Memoranda of Agreement, Phase I and II archaeological surveys, and Phase III data recovery. Additional responsibilities include attending status and public meetings, agency coordination, internal coordination, and additional project management duties.

Plum Run Greenway, East Bradford Twp., Pennsylvania. Colleen is providing The Laird REC Team with expertise which will project costs of future phases of environmental clearance and permitting for trails, boardwalk and bridges within this riparian greenway project as well as Conceptual Interpretive Educational Signs.

CSX Pedestrian Bridge, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (MPMS 81584). Project Manager. The project is a pedestrian crossing of the CSX Railroad tracks in the vicinity of the existing Locust Street in the City of Philadelphia regarding the unregulated grade crossing at Locust St and Race St, a pedestrian bridge is required to provide safe passage from the existing Schuylkill River Trail, to the City street system. The project includes design of two historic interpretive signs.

S.R. 903, Section 03B. Jim Thorpe Bridge over Lehigh River. Borough of Jim Thorpe, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. PennDOT District 5-0. Project Manager responsible for project management duties associated with the Jim Thorpe Bridge Project. A.D. Marble has been responsible for the Section 106 Clearance including Archaeology and Historic Structures; preparation of the environmental clearance document; Section 4(f) clearance; and assisting the project team in public involvement. The historic structures work involved an Eligibility Report and a Determination of Effect report. Responsible for the preparation of Interpretive Signs to address historic mitigation stipulations.

Valley Forge National Historic Park Missing Link Trail (VF NHP), Tredyffrin Township, Chester County (MPMS 87939). Environmetnal Planner. Completed a wetland delineation and threatened endangered species coordination for this trail improvement and bridge rehabilitation project in VF NHP along Valley Creek, an exceptional value stream.

Experience Highlights:

- Extensive experience in conducting environmental studies.
- Expertise in the areas of environmental overview documents, environmental clearance documents, and public involvement activities.

Total Years of Experience:

19 years

Education:

- M.S., Community and Regional Planning, Temple University, Ambler, 2009
- B.S., Biology and Environmental Science, Marywood University, 1998

Professional Affiliations:

- American Planning Association
- Pennsylvania Planning Association
- Pennsylvania Association of Environmental
- Professionals Society of Women Environmental Professionals
- WTS Philadelphia Chapter, Co-Chair Fundraising Committee

Professional Training:

- PENNDOT, Bureau of Design National Environmental Policy Act, Project Development, and Section 4(f)
- FHWA Title IV/Environmental Justice Training "Preventing Discrimination in the Federalaid Program"
- OSHA 40-hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker and 8-hour refreshers

Wangum Road Bridge Wayne County Bridge No. 29, Paupack Township, Wayne County. Project Manager. Performed Project Manager duties for the Wangum Road Bridge project. A.D. Marble's responsibilities for this project include the following: preparation of a Determination of Effects Report, Section 4(f) Evaluation, and Level 2 CEE. Tasks also include attendance at Section 106 consulting party meetings and public involvement meetings. Completed MOA stipulations including the preparation of a historic interpretive panel that was placed by the completed bridge on the history of the gravity railroad and the preparation of a lesson plan for use at Camp Watonka, a summer camp the project area.

4 – Lead Planner and Qualifications

<u>Jim Laird, RLA</u>, has served in the land planning, landscape architecture, municipal engineering and site development and design industry for 24 years. Registered as a Landscape Architect in PA and NY, Jim applies a long-term experience in developing numerous similar projects that include components of public place making, open space enhancement and preservation, streetscape and accessible accommodation in numerous comprehensive plans for parks, trails and greenways throughout the northeast. For this special project, Jim will rely on three other specially selected colleagues to assist in the planning process including Angelika Laird, CPRP, Carl Keleman, RLA/ Sr. Planning Advisor and Colleen Meiswich, Environmental Scientist.



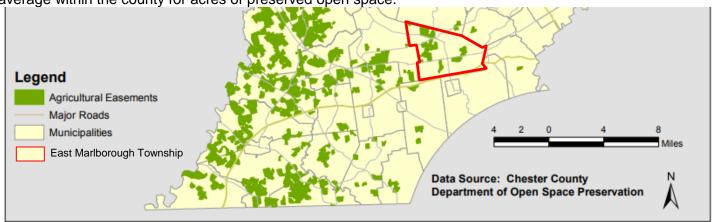


These seasoned professional colleagues will provide Jim with efficient assessment and communication of observations and recommendations within their respective areas of expertise. Jim has purposely defined a focused group of these four complementary professionals who will dedicate direct first-hand attention to serving East Marlborough Township from the Kick-off Meeting through project completion.

<u>Understanding the Local Landscape</u>: Jim's family is deeply rooted in Chester County, with the original Laird family farm located in Eagle, PA, then later located at 'Holly Springs Farm' in Ercildoun, PA - just a short distance west of East Marlborough Township. Our family still reside in the area and consider us to be part of the area's cultural and historic landscape, which now tugs at our heart strings to 'come back home'. Angelika Laird's side of the family are the Darlingtons of West Chester, who lived on properties purchased from the Sam and Eleanor Morris estate near Coventryville along Rt 100, which adjoined the French and Pickering Creeks corridor that Jim and Angelika studied years ago. Both sides of the family reminisce about sunny summer days spent at family reunions in Kerr Park – recounting the recorded history of Lairds that once leased the small white log house located along the edge of the park.

For convenient review, we've organized Jim's relevant experience with the **seven primary consultant experience goals** listed on page 1 of the RFP:

1. Open Space Planning and Preservation: Jim's experience in municipal planning includes a deep working knowledge of state and local zoning and municipal code, agricultural land preservation methodologies, easement and rights-of-way acquisition, subdivision and land development, land transfer and land use legislation. He served on a team of planners and landscape architects who conceived, formulated, planned and implemented one of the first Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Programs within the Commonwealth (Manheim Twp, Lancaster County, PA). While serving for multiple years on the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC), Jim completed The Lancaster County Planning Commission's Master Planner Course proposing a network of county open space and trails that would tie East and West Hempfield Townships into the Reading & Columbia Greenway Plan. He appreciates East Marlborough Township's successful attainment of Agricultural Easements reflected in the County's Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) Map of Ag Easements Completed as of January 10, 2019, which shows E.M. Twp. above average within the county for acres of preserved open space.



Jim took his experience in land planning, trails and Transfer of Development Rights Program to central New York, where he served for six years as the **Town of Lysander's Planning Board Review Planner**. During these years, Jim assisted in developing an Update to the Town's Open Space, Parks and Trails Master Plan, which was directly interwoven into the **first Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program** in the state. Through the program, funds provided through the NY State Dept. of Ag&Markets developed a system of transferring densities of development rights into areas appropriate for infill development while simultaneously preserving proportional tillable acreas of quality farmland.

2. Parks and Recreation Planning, Design and Implementation: Jim decided in the mid 1990's that chopping farms into cookie cutter residential subdivisions was wearing against the grain of his sense of best management practice, stewardship and land use planning ethics. Jim worked to transition his talent to planning and design of outdoor spaces, parks and recreation focused projects. He worked from concept



through master plan to complex site grading plans, permits to specification and construction documents for the 50 acre AES Ironwood Park in Lebanon, PA. The project included preservation of 20 mature 40"+ diameter sycamore trees which form a tree covered canopy over newly renovated sections of the park including a playground, picnic pavilion and walking paths and integration of Best Management Practices that integrated innovative solutions for stormwater management and site stabilization. Responsibilities included land development plan process through local authority, South Lebanon Township. Plans include innovative stormwater management, removal and replacement of aged athletic fields, specification of new equipment, play apparatus, concession stand and lighting.

Site challenges include grading and stormwater management plans to accommodate proper orientation of new athletic facilities (soccer/softball/baseball fields) and outdoor amphitheater. Permitting included plans for a new PennDOT approved driveway entrance on Route 422.

3. Greenway and Trail Planning and Implementation: Jim has served as Managing Landscape Architect on numerous trail and greenway projects including the local Chester Valley Trail, the 1,300 mile long September 11th National Memorial Trail and The Syracuse Connective Corridor Project, a multi-modal urban connectivity and green infrastructure urban streetscape project that integrated pedestrian centric, Smart Bus GPS Technologies and stormwater bio-infiltration features into an inter-urban bikeway between Syracuse University and historic Armory Square. Jim currently serves on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) PA Trails Advisory Committee (PATAC), working with a collaboration of trail representatives to envision, enhance and implement the many wonderful resources that will help PA become the 'go to' state for Outdoor Recreation in the east. His personal values combined with formal training in Landscape Architecture and construction trades compel Jim to be a steward of the land, understanding and respecting the natural environment while always seeking reasonable and responsible low-impact, accessible, sustainable best management design and construction procedures with high quality results for the end user – we the people.







Jim has served as planner and landscape architect on several significant corridor planning projects to align and determine feasibility of The September 11th National Memorial Trail, which will co-locate along portions of trails that he helped plan and design including **The Great Allegheny Passage**, **The Main Line Canal**

Greenway, The East Coast Greenway. These trails include portions of Jim's work on the Schuylkill River Trail, Perkiomen Trail, Chester Valley Trail, trails through Valley Forge National Historical Park and The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove – all now collectively considered arterials of the **Philadelphia 'Circuit'.** Most recently, Jim assisted in preparing a probable cost and phased implementation Plan for 61 miles of the **Mainline Canal Greenway** through Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties, PA.

4. Concept and Master Planning:

Jim believes that complex concepts are best conveyed in graphic form. 'A picture is truly worth a thousand words' – especially when communicating in the public forum. This project consisted of a Park Master Plan with extensive focus on Public Participation. Conceptual layouts and solutions to site drainage were vetted out

Millers ville Borough Freedom Memorial Park

| First Chair

for The Millersville Borough Freedom Memorial Park plan, which involved renovation of a 17 acre park to provide compact and efficient expansion of parking and access areas, enhancement of wetland areas, ADA compliant trails and play areas, veteran's memorial garden, amphitheater, gazebos, pavilions and play apparatus. The project was funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the project design process included numerous public meetings to garner public support and input.

Jim's extensive Master Planning is perhaps best reflected in recent and ongoing coordination of the September 11th National Memorial Trail, which began as a concept, Continued as a Master Plan and is now being implemented

through 22 counties across the Commonwealth, connecting The Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA to The Delaware Water Gap (and into NJ and Manhattan, NYC).

5. Natural Resource Planning:

Jim Laird was commissioned to design the River Street Riverfront Restoration Project that stabilized 200' of public fishing access along the Salmon River, village of Pulaski, NY through implementation of a naturalized boulder retaining wall system and stairway system that forms a small craft boat launch for emergency river access, canoe and kayak launch and privately chartered drift boats. Jim planned a naturalized emergency stabilization, habitat creation and site design, which was coordinated with the NYS DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers and funded through several Senate Member Items. The naturalized system provides a natural alternative to monolithic concrete walls through integration of native boulder, stone



and native plant materials – all of which work together to form an interlocking sustainable 'stair system' that supports aquatic habitat, controls erosion and restores public access to a remarkable stretch of riverfront that was virtually inaccessible for over 50 years.

6. Chester County Grant Administration (VPP) Experience: Jim and Laird REC Team (including AD Marble staff) are currently concluding Final Master Plan documents for neighboring East Bradford Township's Plum Run Greenway, which was also funded through the Chester County Vision Partnership Program (VPP). The plan entails open space planning for future development of a naturalized setting along Plum Run with trails that provide educational and cultural interpretive panels that will tell the story of the role that Strode's Mill played within the greater Brandywine Battlefield Landscape. The historic Strode's Mill and scrapple

20

manufacturing barn will be used as public outdoor classrooms and interpretive facilities. Graphically rich

interpretive panels will convey photos and insight regarding wetland and environmental ecology, riparian habitat, restoration methods and outdoor recreation within a natural setting for the enjoyment of local residents as well as visitors from abroad. The greenway will eventually connect West Chester University campus eastward to the Brandywine Trail, then north to Chester Valley Trail and the greater Philadelphia 'Circuit'.

7. Public Engagement, Presentation and Consensus Building: Jim, Angelika and Colleen have worked together with the East Bradford Township Plum Run Greenway Task Force to conduct a rigorous Public Involvement process that has included numerous public meetings, key stakeholder (property owners and West Chester University), agency meetings and interviews. We



also prepared and tallied feedback from a two-page Questionnaire, which was successful in soliciting candid input from property owners, Task Force members and township residents. Jim believes that there is no substitute for 'boots on the ground' level of understanding of a community's character, landscape, habitat, soil composition, historic context and general sense of place – all of which dictates the natural resources available to build a network of continuously interesting public spaces, trails and greenways, access to nature and waterways. Identifying valuable resources is one task, but of course working to conserve and preserve these resources is quite another. Jim understands the various means and methods of preserving quality landscapes from parks to agricultural acres to passive and/or active recreation areas and facilities.

Often, Jim will lead client/ team and general public group tours that shed light on site opportunities and



constraints that simply can not be understood by surfing the internet, Google Earth or GIS mapping. Understanding how people move through spaces and how they interact with their environment is paramount in being able to plan well and appropriately for the people who will live, work and play in the landscapes and environment we plan and design.

Typically, in a public meeting setting, Jim leads a full participant group presentation with brief introductions followed by a summary of the project intent, vision, scope and status. Following an overview format, Jim likes to disperse participants into pods of more detailed mapping evaluation – typically decentralized around tables of 4-6 participants where more intimate discussion and input can be voiced and documented. We find that

hearing is essential, but really listening is an art and an essential tool that must be carefully used to draw out, record and document public input, support and concern for project attributes that may be their personal area of focus. Everyone needs to be heard and every idea needs to be fully vetted in order to produce high quality planning that the community will be in a position to support, endorse and finance.