

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST BRADFORD
RESOLUTION 11-09**

*A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RENEWING
THE GROWING GREENER PROGRAM*

WHEREAS, the Growing Greener Program has provided funds for preserving open space and farmlands, developing community parks and recreation areas, cleaning abandoned mines and brownfields, restoring impaired rivers and streams, and protecting state forests and parks; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of West Bradford supports such efforts, so to protect the health of its citizens and to enhance the quality of life in our community, in part by planning for and implementing projects that preserve open space and historic resources, provide for community parks facilities, and safeguard water resources; and,

WHEREAS, these projects likewise provide economic benefits by increasing property values and enhancing the community's ability to attract strong businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of West Bradford has learned that Growing Greener II will soon expire, and that funds for Growing Greener I have been precipitously diminished, and that this will affect the community's ability to restore and to protect our local environment and the environment of Chester County; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of West Bradford understands that throughout Pennsylvania, Growing Greener II has helped preserve nearly 34,000 acres of family farms; conserve more than 42,300 acres of threatened natural areas; restore more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine lands; and enhance access to outdoor recreation through 234 community park projects and 132 state park and forest infrastructure projects; and,

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people"; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is losing three times more forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development than it is able to preserve; and the Commonwealth has over 16,000 miles of rivers and streams that are unsafe for fishing and swimming; and that in Pennsylvania more than 2,000 working family farms await protection from encroaching development; and that 189,000 acres of abandoned mine lands scar 44 of the Commonwealth's counties; and that the grant funds available for community and county recreation, greenways and trails projects have been severely diminished; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of West Bradford supports renewed funding for the Growing Greener Program, before the last of the Growing Greener II funds are expended 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The Township of West Bradford supports renewal of the Growing Greener Program, and encourages Governor Thomas Corbett to fund said program a with dedicated, sustainable and long-term funding source,
2. This signed Resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Corbett, the Chester County Commissioners and to our State legislators.

Resolved this 10th day of May, 2011.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF WEST BRADFORD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tommy Ryan, Secretary

Mark J. Blair, Chairman

John A. Haiko, Vice-Chairman

Bruce W. Laverty, Member