



Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Rogers-Hiester Property

Colonial History and Natural Resources Conserved

Colonial history and architecture combined with a lush natural landscape makes the Rogers-Hiester property one of the most significant conservation acquisitions in Montgomery County's history.




Montgomery County Parks & Heritage Services had, for three decades, ranked the 78-acre property as a high priority for land conservation. The property contains prime agricultural soils, wildlife-rich woodland habitat and the confluence of Montgomery County's only two high-quality streams: Unami Creek and Ridge Valley Creek.

The property is the former home of Daniel Hiester, a Revolutionary War colonel and statesman. The acquisition of the property enables the restoration of Hiester's 1757 Georgian-style home.

The Keystone Recreation Park & Conservation Fund served an essential role in the purchase of the property from the Rogers family, which had owned it since 1930. The Montgomery County Lands Trust (MCLT) completed the \$1.6 million acquisition following a 30-month fundraising campaign. While a wide variety of public and private donors contributed to the effort, the Keystone Fund was the first confirmed major contributor, which helped convince other funders to step forward and led the way to MCLT achieving its funding goals.

MCLT subsequently reconveyed the property to Upper Salford Township to establish it as a public park complete with hiking trails that will link to adjacent open space.

According to Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation for Montgomery County Lands Trust "If not for the Keystone funding commitment, this project would never have been able to get out of the starting gate. Keystone provided leverage, incentive, and excitement for the momentous effort." 

Project Spotlight

Keystone investment: \$676,000

Total project cost: \$1.42M

Project leader:

Montgomery County Lands Trust

Key local partners:

Montgomery County, Upper Salford Township, Open Space Institute

County: Montgomery

Fun fact: The property's magnificent woodlands help make up the Unami Forest, one of the largest mature, intact forests in southeastern Pennsylvania and a natural showpiece of the Pennsylvania Highlands.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org