What's our Next Step?

THINK

PLAN

ACT
2. Identify resources to be protected

Ask residents: What places in Worcester are important to you?

- Important natural resources
- Scenic roads and views
- Historic resources
- Farms
- Woodlands
Public Participation Meeting

In November 2004 we held a township meeting in Community Hall to ask members of the public to help us identify important places in Worcester.
November 2004 Public Meeting

- Over 50 residents joined Open Space Committee members to help us identify:
  - Historic properties
  - Working farms
  - Natural resources
  - Scenic roads and views
- We had five large display maps for residents to use
What are our priorities?

Residents told us:
Preserve Worcester’s rural character!

Farmland

Scenic roads and views

Historic buildings
The Open Space Committee’s Goals

1. Preserve our most important open space lands
2. Protect at least 50 percent of the remaining undeveloped land in the township

HOW?
3. Identify protection strategies
Own the Best
Zone the Rest
4. Implement strategies

How do we “own the best”?

1. Purchase the land
2. Purchase a conservation easement on the land
   1. Less cost = money goes further
   2. Landowner can still own the land
Funding Options for Preservation

Farmland preservation
- State farm program
- County nontraditional farm program
- Township program
- Donations
Funding Options for Preservation

Open space preservation

- County open space program
- County parks expansion program
- County private organization matching grant
- County grants to townships
- Township program
- Donations
Historic preservation

- County private organization matching grant
- County historic site expansion program
- Private grants
- Township program
- Donations
Reality Check

We can’t buy everything we want. There’s not enough money to do it all. These projects take time.

BUT the rewards are great!
4. Implement strategies

How do we “zone the rest”?
Preservation zoning -- Strategies

- Natural resource protection
- Historic preservation
- Village commercial
- Conservation development
Natural resource protection ordinances

- Floodplains and wetlands
- Steep slopes
- Stream corridors
Historic preservation

Heritage Resources

Historic Structures
Village/Commercial

Watercolor by William Bourne
Conservation development is not an oxymoron
Conservation Development …

- Preserves at least 50 percent of the parcel as open space
- Protects important natural resources
- Allows the township to work with the developer to decide the best place for houses on the site

… Is the Way To Go
YOU can make a difference!

- Communicate your view on open space preservation
- Support funding initiatives
- Get involved – support groups that are preserving open space
  - Worcester Historical Society
  - Friends of Worcester
  - Open Space Committee
- Landowners -- participate in programs, donate an easement
- Talk to your neighbors -- spread the word that Saving Land Saves Money
This is a farm that could be preserved.

Can we save it in time?
Thank you for listening!

Friends of Worcester

Discussion time