

The Township Engineer, Planner, Zoning Officer, Surveyor and GIS Specialist have worked together to develop the Conservation Easement Inventory, Inspection and Stewardship Program. Conservation Easements are required by the Township Land Development Ordinance, Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Adjustment to protect wetland, wetland transition, stream buffer, steep slope and woodland areas. The intent of this program is to limit soil loss, erosion, flood damage and degradation of surface water while at the same time buffer the effects of pollutants and preserve wildlife habitats and scenic views. Conservation Easements are granted to Bernards Township during the Planning/Zoning Board application process or during the construction permit process.

The easement inventory is constantly expanding as new easements are added. Each individual easement is inspected by the Zoning Officer once every two years. Baseline pictures are taken during the initial inspection and uploaded into our GIS database. The pictures will be used for comparison with future site conditions. Violations discovered during the inspection process will be addressed immediately. An inspection report is completed for each property. All property owners will receive educational correspondence, at least every two years, explaining the restrictions associated with, and the benefits of, the conservation easements.