

## Springton Manor Farm

Springton Manor Farm is a jewel of the Chester County Parks system, and a national historic site. Originally part of the largest Manor reserved in Chester County by the Penn family, Springton Manor Farm has grown from a 265 acre tract surveyed in 1742. Abraham R. McIlvaine built the Manor House in 1833, and turned his father's sheep farm into a diverse operation that produced grains, vegetables, wine and dairy products. George Bartol, a Philadelphia businessman, later developed a gentleman's country home reflecting his interests in architecture and agriculture. Today, the 306 acre county park preserves and interprets Bartol's late 19th/early 20th century farm. The park is Chester County's only demonstration farm, and includes an agriculture museum, working barn, pastures, antique farm equipment, 5 miles of walking / horse riding trails, manor house, Victorian flower garden, stream, fishing pond, picnic areas, and two grand Penn Charter oaks from the 1600s. For the children, there are over 30 farm animals, including horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, rabbits, peacock, chickens, barn cats, and in the summer, cows and pigs. Twenty thirteen was the 25th anniversary of the official dedication of the farm.

Springton Manor Farm is located at 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore, five miles west of Downingtown off Route 322. Farm grounds are open from 8:00 a.m. to dusk. The great barn is open 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..

## Contact the Friends Group:

If you're interested in membership or learning more, please contact the Friends group at:

Mail:  
Friends of SMF  
c/o Springton Manor Farm  
860 Springton Road  
Glenmoore, PA 19343

Or E-mail: [FriendsofSMF@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofSMF@gmail.com)

Website:  
<http://www.friendsofspringtonmanorfarm.org/>

Like us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSMF/>

(or go to Facebook and search for "Friends of Springton Manor Farm")

Annual dues: \$15 individual, \$25 family

For more information on the Chester County Parks, call the Event Coordinator at:

(610) 344-6415, or visit:

<https://www.chesco.org/178/Parks>

## Friends of Springton Manor Farm

Preserving Our Past and Preparing For Our Future



The Friends is a non-profit group dedicated to recreation, education, conservation and preservation at Springton Manor Farm, a 306 acre Chester County Park. To accomplish these goals we work with the Chester County Facilities and Parks Department to preserve the unique heritage of the farm through educational opportunities, to promote hands-on farm experience by preserving the opportunity for children and adults to see and interact with farm animals, to experience history through agriculture, to assist in maintenance of the facilities so they can be available for public use



## Mission Statement:

To preserve the past and prepare for the future of Springton Manor Farm

## Goals:

The Friends group is non-profit group dedicated to recreation, education, conservation and preservation at Springton Manor Farm. To accomplish these goals, we work with the Chester County Facilities and Parks Department to preserve the unique heritage of the farm through educational opportunities, promote hands-on farm experience by preserving the opportunity to see and interact with farm animals, preserve and enhance the natural environment, preserve agricultural history, assist in maintenance of the facilities so they can be available for public use. The Friends group supports farm programs and operations by providing a volunteer network, makes recommendations to the park staff, raises funds for park improvements and serves as an advocate for the community. A further objective of the Springton Manor Friends group is to educate on the historical background of Springton Manor Farm.



Friends of  
Springton Manor Farm

## Friends Group History:

First organized in 1985, the Friends of Springton Manor was started to support the newly opened demonstration farm, by energetic members of community who loved and supported the Farm. The Friends organized and helped staff many wonderful community activities at the farm, including Family Day, Dark in the Park, Junior at Halloween, Scottish Heritage Day, classical Christmas gathering at the manor house, Breakfast with Santa, and a Maple Sugar Festival, among many other events. The Friends also worked with community organizations, clubs, local boards, the local farm community and local environmental groups to support Springton Manor Farm.

Through many fun and interesting fund raisers and membership dues, the Friends were able to support programs at the park, to help fund needed improvements there, and fund special events and projects. For example, the Friends group supervised the furnishing of the manor house and worked with a landscape architect to design and build the formal Victorian garden and gazebo at the manor house.

More than a decade after the last event of the original Friends, a group of highly motivated individuals answered the call to reorganize the Friends of Springton Manor Farm in 2012. The vision of these energetic volunteers is to play a vital role in promoting the use of the only public working farm in the county.

The new Friends executive board was formed in December 2012, and the group was granted IRS 501(c)(3) status in March 2014. ...

... As a non-profit organization, the Friends is a means for people to be involved in farm events and projects, as well as upkeep of the park.

The Friends has hosted and participated in events to promote a sense of community, educate visitors about the history of the farm, ecology, agriculture, and brought many Chester County residents to the park to enjoy its beauty.

The Friends partners with the County and assists on Sheep and Wool Day in the spring. We host family-oriented Ice Cream Socials in the summer and Ladies Teas later in the year. These have been very well received. Other fun and educational events, that vary each year, are hosted as well.

The Friends group meets one evening per month at Springton Manor Farm – the public is welcome to attend. We have several active teams. The gardening team has been working at the butterfly house gardens. The historical team has organized the manor house historical documents. The trail team has done a lot of work clearing and maintaining the trails. The blue bird / purple martin team tracks the progress of these bird houses. And we hope to restart the animal care team at some point in the future.

As of 2019, the Friends has contributed many man-hours and funded ~\$14,000 in pasture sheds, animal rescue/care/training, pollinator meadow, purple martin house, deer tick station, benches, and kids' athletic equipment – with more farm projects to come!