

Celebrate Historic Home Day at Goose Creek Park



Calling all owners of historic homes!

Join us for *Historic Home Day* on **Saturday, October 4th**, at beautiful **Goose Creek Park**.

This special event is your opportunity to connect with fellow stewards of history, share your stories, and celebrate the unique experience of owning a piece of the past.

Whether your historic home has been in your family for generations or is a recent passion project, this event is for you. Meet other like-minded homeowners who understand the joys and challenges of preserving history. Share tips, discuss your favorite restoration successes, and gain inspiration for future projects.

To make the day even more valuable, contractors and vendors who specialize in historic home renovation and restoration will be on hand. From skilled craftspeople to restoration experts, you'll have the chance to meet professionals with the specialized know-how to help you care for your home. Whether you're considering a new project or just want to explore your options, you'll leave with valuable contacts for when you need expert assistance.

Mark your calendar and bring your love of historic homes to Goose Creek Park on October 4th. We can't wait to see you there and celebrate the beauty, craftsmanship, and stories that make historic homes so special. Let's honor the past, together!



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2025 Thornbury Township Budget Narrative

December 17, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Thornbury Township, Chester County
800 E Street Road
West Chester, PA 19382



RE: 2025 BUDGET NARRATIVE

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Township is charged with promoting the safety, health, and the general welfare of its residents. The 2025 budget is the culmination of a process that takes into consideration the state and federal mandated requirements, and the goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Supervisors. The budget is the embodiment of how the Township will promote the safety, health, and general welfare of its residents in 2025.

The Township has five separate funds, each of which has its own budget for 2025. The five funds include the General Fund, Capital Fund, Sewer Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, and Stabilization Fund. This budget summary will provide a brief overview of each fund.

General Fund

The General Fund is used to pay for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of Thornbury Township. The 2025 budget for the General Fund is \$1,966,468.78, which represents a 2 percent increase from the approved 2024 budget. The 2025 budget includes the capital projects for the construction of an entrance sign. The Capital purchases will be paid for from the General Fund.

Revenue:

Due to economic conditions and limited prospects for population growth, forecasts indicate a continued flattening pattern for tax revenues, earned income taxes, and real estate transfer tax for the foreseeable future. No significant changes are expected in the revenue line items. The projected revenues for the 2025 Budget include the summary category of "Local Enabling Taxes," which comprises Local Service Tax, Earned Income Tax, and Real Estate Transfer Tax. This account comprises 58% of the Township's revenue (\$1,145,000.00). The Real Estate Tax accounts for 16% of the Township's revenue (\$316,500.00).

Expenses:

General Government

This portion of the budget includes Township personnel, consultants, communications, rent, tax collection costs, and office expenses.

The 2025 budget allocates \$415,742.00 for the general government and administration services of the Township. (21% of the Operating Budget)

Public Safety

The Public Safety portion of the budget includes funding for police services, fire protection, building inspection, code enforcement, and animal control services. The total budget for Public Safety is \$161,535.53 (8% of the Operating Budget).

The budget also includes \$79,316.00 for the fire protection contract with the West Chester Fire Department and \$17,650.61 for ambulance services with Good Fellowship. The contract with Good Fellowship Ambulance expires in December 2025.

Planning & Zoning

Funding for legal counsel and advertising as it relates to ordinance revisions, as well as Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board administration, is included in the budget. The budget for Planning & Zoning totals \$15,000.00. Most expenses are reimbursed by the applicant to the Township.

Public Works

The 2025 budget includes funding for the continued maintenance and repair of the approximately 18 miles of Township owned roadways. Included is road repair, roadside maintenance, traffic sign maintenance, stormwater inlet maintenance, and snow & ice control. If a particularly harsh winter requires additional funding, Township management will need to make proper adjustments to keep the budget balanced. The Township also shares traffic signal maintenance responsibility with Westtown Township for seven intersections and pays for 50% of these maintenance costs, totaling approximately \$15,000. For 2025, the Township has budgeted \$350,000.00 toward road paving, which will be funded partially by the State Liquid Fuels revenue, which is outlined in the Liquid Fuels Fund below. The total budget for Public Works is \$724,250.00. The total budget for Public Works comprises about 37% of the total budget.

Culture & Recreation

The budget includes funding for the continued maintenance of Goose Creek Park and Squire Cheyney Park. This includes ground maintenance, mowing, landscaping, and playground maintenance. The total budget for Culture and Recreation is \$64,655.00. Discount ticket sales for local activities, parks, and museums will also continue as a service to residents.

Town Center

The budget provides for continued maintenance and repair of the facilities at Town Center. (\$49,492.72)

Operating Transfers

The budget includes the transfer of \$500,000 into the Public Safety and Welfare Fund. This fund is a subcategory of the Thornbury Township Capital Fund which was established in 2024.

Capital Fund

The Capital Fund is used for projects that are normally expensive, have a long useful life, and are usually planned (i.e. buildings, public works projects, and equipment). The Capital Fund does not have a dedicated revenue source, so it only receives funding as it is transferred from other funds. The fund includes the 2024 CD investment, current balance of \$1,305,869.

Sewer Fund

The Sewer Fund was used to implement College Hill's planned sewer project and is now used for its sewer operations. In 2025, the Township expects planned expenses of \$7,443.72 in conveyance and administration costs.

Liquid Fuels Fund

By Commonwealth law, the Liquid Fuels Fund can only be used for repaving and other road maintenance activities. Traditionally the Township uses these funds for repaving. The Liquid Fuels Fund has a dedicated funding source through the State Liquid Fuels Tax. In 2025, the Township will receive \$112,426.23 which is a 1% decrease from the 2024 allocation. Depending on the costs of paving and the assessment of the roads in the spring review, the planned paving projects for 2025 may include Beech Lane, Deer Pointe Road, and Crow's Nest Circle.

Stabilization Fund

The Stabilization Fund was created in 2012 to track the available fund balance for the Board to use. These funds are not restricted and may be used by the Board of Supervisors at their discretion. These funds are also identified to pay expenses until tax monies are received each year. (Balance of Stabilization Fund \$1,619,229)

Maintaining an appropriate fund balance is an important step to mitigate risks. It is critical in weathering an economic downturn, emergency capital repairs, or volatile revenue or unexpected expenditure. This fund also maintains flexibility on capital financing options for the Township.

It is imperative that the Township remain cautious in spending as the year progresses to ensure that revenue targets are achieved. I can assure the Board of Supervisors and the residents that the Administration will aggressively manage the budget to ensure the Township operates within its means. Items with major budgetary impact in the next two years include:

- ◆ The Severity of weather – not just winter but also high windstorms and rain events.
- ◆ Escalations in cost of materials, such as asphalt, concrete, etc.
- ◆ Changes in the cost of contracted labor.

The Board of Supervisors established Tuesday, December 17th at 6:15 pm for the review and adoption of the proposed 2025 budget. The meeting has been duly advertised.

I hereby officially present the 2025 General, Capital, Open Space, Sewer, and Liquid Fuels Fund Budgets for Thornbury Township and recommend their adoption.

Sincerely,
Judy Lizza
Township Manager

Parks and Recreation Update

In our last submission to the Gander, we reported that Matthew Stevenson landscaped the rear and west side of the post office building as part of his Eagle Scout project. We are happy to report that all of the shrubs and small trees he planted have survived the drought the region suffered this past summer. The members of the Commission inspected Goose Creek Park in May and were happy to see the many improvements made to the park. One improvement made was to remove the invasive shrubs and vines that had taken over the small wooded area immediately behind the Township Office Building. The undergrowth was entirely made up of Chinese honeysuckle bush. The Commission plans to restore the undergrowth in the woods with native trees and shrubs, which are beneficial to local, native wildlife.

For the past five years the Commission and Township office staff, have been working to remove the non-native invasive plants from the wildflower meadow area in Goose Creek Park. We embarked on a campaign to rid the meadow of multi-flora rose, blackberry canes, poison ivy, and honeysuckle vine. We have succeeded in ridding the meadow of the blackberry canes and most of the poison ivy through regular cutting, but the multi-flora rose and the honeysuckle vine have proven quite tenacious. We are currently looking to establish a working relationship with the county's Penn State Extension to improve and possibly enlarge the meadow.

The Commission also received a PECO grant to acquire trees for planting in Goose Creek Park. This past Fall we planted a dozen shade trees located to optimize shade along the walking path. We plan to continue this project in the Spring of 2025. We also added one bench in an area along the trail which was some distance from the existing benches. Many of our users of the trails in the park our elderly and sometimes handicapped and find the need to stop and rest more often.

Please note that the Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Watershed Association (CRC) is planning a stream cleanup in Goose Creek Park on Saturday, March 29th, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Last year CRC had nearly 1,000 volunteers throughout the region and removed 34,000 pounds of trash from the local streams. All volunteers are welcome! The Commission commends the hard and beneficial work the CRC provides the Township!

The Parks and Recreation Commission has several open seats on the Commission. If you are interested in volunteering and becoming more active in your community this is a fun place to start. And finally, the Commission thanks the Supervisors and the Office Staff for their continued support! - Ronald Miller

Recycle



Why is this important? Mostly because it demonstrates the Chester County public is concerned about solid waste generation and disposal. Chester County's population is *growing*, and *everyone* creates trash for our two landfills. Can something be repaired, donated or reused? Can the item be recycled somewhere other than your convenient curbside or drop off system? Visit www.chestercountyswa.org for more information.

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Office Hours:
9 am—3 pm, M—T
Friday by appointment only

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