

Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel

Conservation (Natural) Open Space

January 9, 2018

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel adopted the definition below for “Conservation (Natural) Open Space” at its January 9, 2018 meeting. The purpose of adopting the definition is to provide clarity to applicants of what is intended by Conservation (Natural) Open Space and consistency in the Panel’s evaluation of conservation development proposals. The definition was originally developed by the Big Darby Accord Open Space Advisory Committee and adopted by the Big Darby Accord Working Group in 2010 but had not, until January 2018, been adopted by the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel.

The definition below is to be used by applicants in their calculations of Natural Area Open Space within development proposals. The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel Applicant Checklist has been updated with notations to reflect that this definition is to be used for such calculations.

Conservation (Natural) Open Space

Conservation Open Space in the Big Darby Accord area is land preserved and/or maintained in a natural state to protect and maintain natural processes and the waters of the Big Darby Creek watershed.

Other types of open space have primary functions other than the protection and maintenance of natural processes such as: active recreation (ball fields, play grounds, golf courses); cultural (cemeteries, educational facilities); utility (areas for the transmission of water, sewer, electric, gas and other such services); and aesthetic (formal areas such as parks, gardens, and entranceways that enhance appearance or preserve rural character). The construction and maintenance of some types of open spaces can impair or prevent environmental functions that the Big Darby Accord Plan associates with conservation open space.