

Wyoming County
Greenways, Trails,
and Open Space
Plan



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Executive Summary

Lush Forests, burgeoning bucolic expanse, and quaint rural towns are images that evoke the mind when thinking of Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. However, its impressive features don't stop there. The County is filled with rich recreational opportunities through its numerous municipal parks, public boat launches, and a swath of state game lands. For community wellness and the mindful protection of Wyoming County's scenic beauty, it is essential to enact a plan that fosters positive growth for the people and places that make it unique. The Wyoming County Greenway, Trails, and Open Space plan enhances, maintains, and creates new open space.

The Wyoming County Greenway, Trails, and Open Space Plan began in 2019. The report is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) through the Keystone Fund and Wyoming County. The report follows the recommendation of the County's Comprehensive Plan Completed in 2019 to pursue a plan based on recreation and open space. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the plan was delayed. As the pandemic upended everyone's lives, it has proved that public open space, trails, and recreational spaces are essential for wellness by and large and has even promoted more people to be outside.

A significant takeaway of this plan is providing ample recreation opportunities within the County and infrastructure improvements to enhance current recreation spaces. Additionally, more efficient connectivity could be through the County and within townships and boroughs. Greater connectivity could, in turn, develop a network of recreational spaces and trails. Finally, the County and municipalities should advocate for a county-wide council for municipal parks. Creating a dedicated team of proactive individuals that oversee and assist with park improvements, land acquisitions, park budgets would create an opportunity for municipalities and the County to merge resources.

To develop this report, information was gathered on demographics, community resources, natural resources, and past planning documents. Gaining familiarity with this information ensures that the plan has realistic expectations and needs assessments.

Involvement from the public has been a keystone in the planning process. Public participation fosters stewardship and a sense of ownership of the plan by the community members who contributed their time and ideas. The planning process generated surveys with a healthy response. A well-organized public participation process also engenders a positive line of communication between elected officials and citizens. In addition to the public survey, the planning process included:

Several steering committee meetings

Formal and informal interviews

Public meetings to ensure that everyone from the community's voice was heard

From public participation and inventories and assessments of facilities, the plan draws upon recommendations for the future of parks, open spaces, and trails. Some key takeaways from the inventories are as follows.

Making spaces inclusive is essential. Accessibility is a crucial component of any municipal park. Every feature needs a path with appropriate surfacing and slope to be an accessible route and for a park to provide an equitable experience to all. Accessibility includes but is not limited to restroom facilities. Any Park within Wyoming county that does not have permanent restrooms lacked accessible portable restrooms. In addition, when wheelchair-accessible restrooms were present, there often was no accessible route to the facility.

Additionally, municipal parks that include accessible or adaptive play equipment should consider providing accessible restrooms with an accessible route to coordinate between park features. Also, all parking stalls with accessible signs within a park should be inspected to meet current ADA standards and the visitor sequence from the stall to other park features.

Safety is vital to provide visitors with an experience free of hazards. Aging play equipment is one of the

most prevalent safety issues throughout municipal parks. Not only should play equipment be inspected regularly by a certified playground safety inspector it should also be repaired when issues arise.

Several municipal parks also presented some safety issues with relation to watercourses. Water access should always be clearly designated, and any infrastructure issues should be quickly addressed when they are noticed. In addition, regular maintenance should include inspection for safety hazards like fall tree limbs and dead trees, especially when they are near high traffic areas. Maintenance parallels safety. Keeping grass mowed, edges of trails cleared, and frequent trash removal reduces safety hazards and keeps parks beautiful.

Goals

From listening to the public and assessing the current state of parks, trails, and open space through research, mapping, and site assessments, the following goals have been established for this plan. The goals are what guided the recommendations generated in this plan.

- Conserve and Protect Existing Natural Areas
- Maintain Rural Character
- Renew Economic Prosperity Through Tourism and Commerce
- Promote Local Recreation & Tourism Through Marketing, and Grassroots Efforts
- Popularize Outdoor Recreation for Fitness and Wellness
- Maintain and Improve Existing Recreation Spaces
- Explore Concepts to Increase Usership
- Create Interpretive and Educational Opportunities
- Highlight Indigenous and Historical Narratives
- Create New Connections

The goals for this plan are the driving topic areas that created the set of recommendations for greenways, trails, and open space within Wyoming county. Below is the list of recommendations for the County. These can also be found in the plan section of this report.

Priority	Recommendation	Potential Partnerships
Conserve & Protect Existing Natural Areas		
Low	Interpret current Zoning Restrictions (steep slopes, floodplain, agriculture security zones) to foster the development of trail connections.	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Countryside Conservancy, Wyoming County Planning Department, DCNR
Medium	Promote and incentive Farm Land Conservation Easements and Private Conservation Easements locally to engender a positive public perception of open space preservation.	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Bureau of Forestry, Wyoming County Planning Department
High	Implement a strategy to target market available private parcels for land acquisitions to develop trails and open space.	Wyoming County Planning Department, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission

Maintain Rural Character and Scenic Beauty		
High	Encourage the importance of buffers to landowners	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Bureau of Forestry, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, Parcel Owners in Hunter Access Program
Medium	Promote Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to private landowners	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Wyoming County Planning Department
Low	Assure Zoning Restrictions permit for increased recreation and trails, See above	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Countryside Conservancy, Wyoming County Planning Department, DCNR
High	Improve allocation of resources and develop targeted project areas for streambank planting, invasive species removal, agrarian streambank crossings, and green infrastructure in developed areas to mitigate flooding and improve erosion control.	Wyoming County Soil Conservation District, Bureau of Forestry, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, DCNR
Renew Economic Prosperity Through Tourism and Commerce		
Medium	Promote any economic development and available incentives for new businesses and entrepreneurs relating to the recreation industry	Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Planning Department, Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission, Route 6 Alliance
Medium	Collaborate with and provide technical assistance to existing businesses to advocate applying for grants and participate in partnerships that will foster the growth of their businesses	Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Wyoming County Planning Department
High	Promote Room Tax grant and develop a strategy to include public input for transparency in the allocation process	Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau
Promote Tourism through marketing, grassroots, and advertisement		
High	Utilize social media, online marketing, and generate a comprehensive advertisement to enhance county visibility at the regional, state, and national level.	Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Route 6 Alliance
Popularize Outdoor Recreation for Fitness and Health		
Medium	Partner with local health organizations to sponsor outdoor recreation.	Tyler Memorial Hospital, Area Agency On Aging, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Local Outfitters Groups, School Districts, Falls Center for Active Adults

High	Implement features that are engaging to users of every ability	Tyler Memorial Hospital,Area Agency On Aging, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Local Outfitters Groups, School Districts, Municipalities with Parks, Fish and Boat Commission,Falls Center for Active Adults
Maintain and Improve Existing Recreation Spaces		
High	Secure funding for continual maintenance and backlogged capital projects	Wyoming County Planning Department, PENDOT, DCNR, Local Municipal Governments, Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau
High	Address safety and accessibility issues at public parks	Wyoming County Planning Department, Local Municipal Governments
High	Strategize implementation of new features based on existing and projected community wants	Wyoming County Planning Department, Local Municipal Governments, Endless Mountains Heritage Region
Explore Concepts to Increase Usership		
High	Encourage school districts to utilize public open space within the county	Local Municipal Governments, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, School Districts, Friends of Howland, Countryside Conservancy, North Branch Land Trust, Wyoming County Planning Department
Medium	Connect Tunkhannock school to trails and parks through a safe trail extension of the Iroquois Trail.	School District, Wyoming County Planning Department, PENNDOT, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Tunkhannock Borough
High	Promote Park usage to organizations that enable elderly and individuals with disabilities to get outside with groups like the	Tyler Memorial Hospital,Area Agency On Aging, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Local Outfitters Groups, School Districts, Municipalities with Parks, Fish and Boat Commission,Falls Center for Active Adults
Create Interpretive and Education Opportunities		
High	Create a cohesive signage program county-wide to increase way-finding	Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Friends of Howland, Countryside Conservancy, Nicholson Historic Association, Wyoming County Historical Society, Local Libraries, Cemetery Associations, Route 6 Alliance
Medium/High	Invest in narrative signage and interactive display systems include natural interpretation	Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Friends of Howland, Countryside Conservancy, Nicholson Historic Association, Wyoming County Historical Society, Local Libraries, Cemetery Associations

Medium	Forge partnerships with local educational groups and Institutions	Keystone College, Bradford Wyoming County Literacy Program, Head start, Local Libraries, and School Districts
Highlight Indigenous and Historical Narratives		
High	Collaborate with indigenous communities that have lived in the Wyoming Valley.	the Six Nations,Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape,Stockbridge-Munsee Community,Delaware Tribe of Indians, and others
Medium	Address issues with misrepresentations and initiate a process to create better historical signage for historically significant Native American histories within the county.	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Nicholson Historic Association, Wyoming County Historical Society, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Wyoming County Planning Department, Native Groups, Local Historic Experts, County Commissioners
Medium	Initiate process to install historical signage near the native burial place in Nicholson.	The Six Nations, PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Nicholson Historic Association, Wyoming County Historical Society, County Commissioners
Medium/High	Revise historical signage and local narrative of Teedyusung	Tribal Groups Associated with the Lenni Lenape, PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners
Medium	increase and revise accurate depictions of Iroquois nations and Lenape Delaware's as they relate to the colonial settlement of the Wyoming Valley, the French and Indian Wars, and the American Revolution.	the Six Nations,Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape,Stockbridge-Munsee Community,Delaware Tribe of Indians, and others,PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Nicholson Historic Association, Wyoming County Historical Society, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Wyoming County Planning Department, Native Groups, Local Historic Experts, County Commissioners
	Initiate the State Signage Program for the Nicholson Train Station	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Nicholson Historic Association, County Commissioners,Wyoming County Planning Department
Medium	Initiate the State Signage Program for the Noxen Train Station	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region,NBLT, County Commissioners,Wyoming County Planning Department
High	Initiate the State Signage Program for the Trolley Station in Nicholson Park	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Nicholson Historic Association, County Commissioners,Wyoming County Planning Department, Countryside Conservancy
High	Initiate the State Signage Program for Laceyville Oldest House	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region,Wyoming County Historical Society, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Oldest House Society

Medium	Initiate the State Signage Program for the Meshoppen Fire station	PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Historical Society, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Municipal leaders, County Commissioners
High	Collaborate to gain Federal By-way Recognition of Route 6	DCNR, PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Historical Society, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Municipal leaders, County Commissioners, Route 6 Alliance, Wyoming County Planning Department
Medium	Collaborate to gain Federal By-way Recognition of the Viaduct Valley By-way	DCNR PHMC, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Historical Society, Nicholson Historical Association, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, Municipal leaders, County Commissioners, Wyoming County Planning Department
Increase Recreational Opportunities		
High	Develop a master plan and multi-agency collation to support Vosburgh Neck	Friends of Howland, NBLT, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Northern Tier Planning Commission, Wyoming County Planning Department, DCNR, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau
High	Develop a master plan for Riverside Park in Tunkhannock	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Municipal Leaders
Medium	Collaborate between agencies to provide more public camping opportunities	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Municipal Leaders, Bureau of Forestry, Game Commission
Low	Partner with the Game Commission to increase usership and implement a designated trail network within the game lands connecting to Ricketts Glen and the Back Mountain Trail.	DCNR, ASTA, Municipal Leaders, Bureau of Forestry, Game Commission, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioner
Creation of New Recreation Opportunities Section		
High	Create a trail head at the park to connect to the Iroquois trail and consider partnering with the elementary school to see if they could benefit from newly installed amenities at McCord Park	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, School District, Municipal Leaders
Medium	Create a dedicated maintenance plan. Asses usage of the basketball court to determine the level of use and if it should be repaired or reconfigured to offer additional court sports at Lake Winola Park	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, Countryside Conservancy

Low	At Laceyville Park, increase boat access at the park by developing better access to the riverfront. Assess the current usership of the baseball field with the potential to reuse the practice field for other forms of recreation. improve the park entrance to the park to increase vehicular safety.	Fish and Boat Commission, Municipal Leaders, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Wyoming County Planning Department, DCNR,
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Connections

High	Develop a connection to Tunkhannock Borough and Township to the river and town with a trail connection along the rail line and Susquehanna River	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Municipal Leaders
High	Improve Connectivity of Iroquois Trail	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, School District, Municipal Leaders
High	Improve Connectivity of Seneca Trail	Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners, DCNR, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, School District, Municipal Leaders
Medium	Improve Connectivity of Trail at Lake Winola Park to Trolley Trail	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, Countryside Conservancy
Medium	Create a connection between Creekside, Christy Matthewson to each other with consideration to proposed alignments of the Trolley Trail	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, Countryside Conservancy
Medium	Project to Connect the Trolley Trail along its alignment to Nicholson and connecting to Susquehanna County	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, Countryside Conservancy
Low	Extend the Back Mountain Trail	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, ASTA
Low	Roadway Improvements Along State Route Corridors	PENNDOT, DCNR, Conservation District, Wyoming County Planning Department, County Commissioners
Medium	Create a public transportation opportunity within Wyoming County	Wyoming County Planning Department, Transportation Services, Keystone College
Low	Increase Pedestrian Connections	Lake Winola Park Association, Wyoming County Planning Department, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, DCNR, Municipal Leaders, Countryside Conservancy, Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau, PENNDOT

Ranking Definitions

High	High ranking recommendations are recommendations that have widespread support and active partnerships, are an urgent need, or are items that were response from public input
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Medium	Medium ranking recommendations are recommendations that may not have widespread support or partnerships that are yet to be made. These recommendations may have longer range planning that can't be reached without an outlined action plan
Low	Low recommendations are not recommendations that are the least important but may be reviewed at a later date to discuss plans to enact them. These goals may be harder to reach or require outreach to develop partnerships

1. Introduction

1. Wyoming County Introduction

Introduction: The Plan and Process

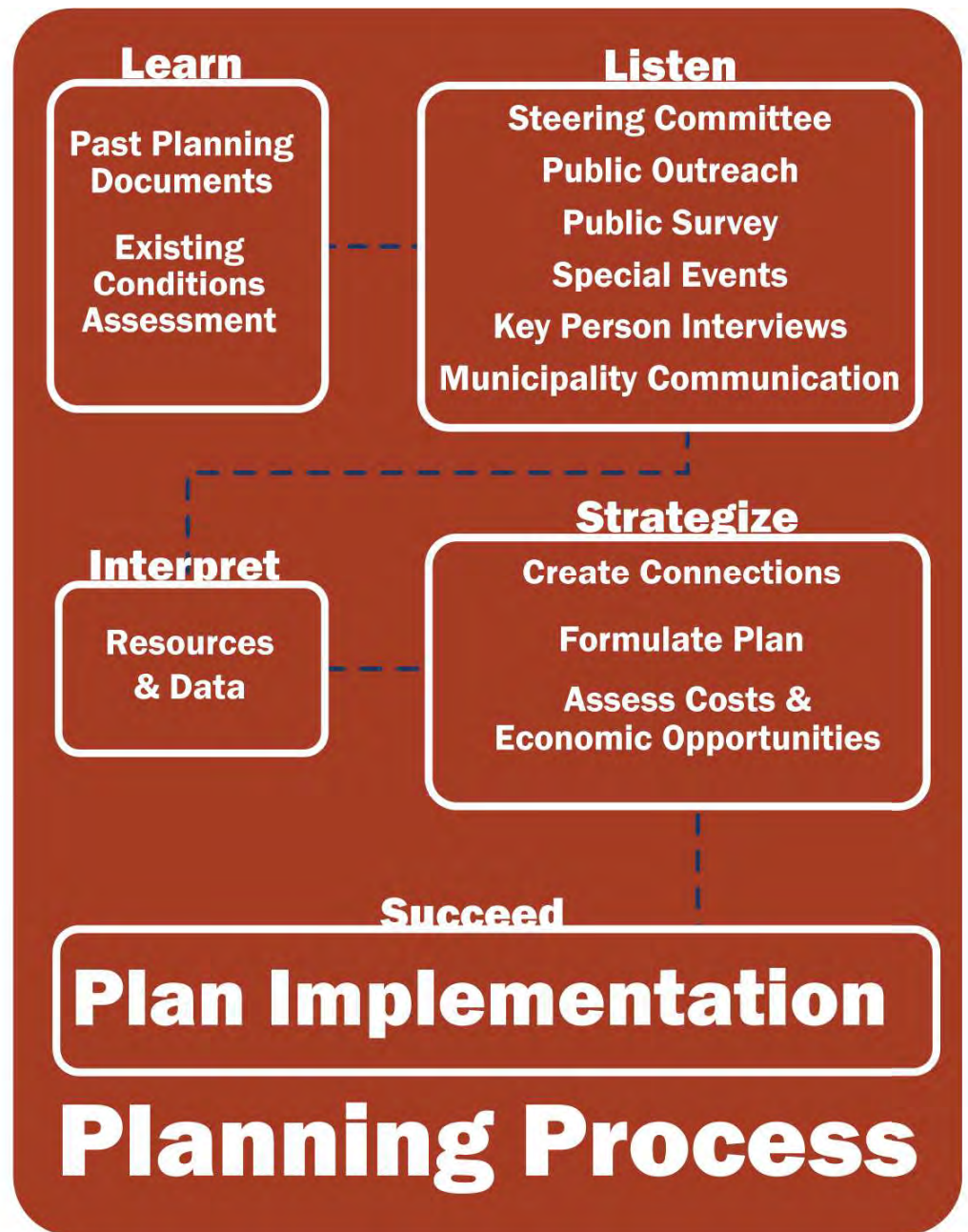
Wyoming County is a rural, 405 square-mile county in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. The North Branch of the Susquehanna River sinuously bisects the entire County at a diagonal and creates a unique and distinctive character to the communities along with it. The River is a tremendous ecosystem resource to the County and its community. In addition, Wyoming is a county with extensive forests and dynamic topography.

Plan Justification and Objectives

In 1998, The Pennsylvania Greenway Partnership Commission was established by Governor Tom Ridge. In 2001, DCNR published the Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections. The Action Plan and Partnership laid the framework for greenway planning across the Keystone State and is the genesis of this plan’s purpose. Because Pennsylvanians place a high value on outdoor spaces and nature, governing bodies should service its citizen by providing, maintaining, and preserving these unique places.

Every community has unique features and characteristics defined by its location, topography, natural resources, and culture. Therefore, it is essential to examine these qualities to determine what a community needs, wants, and has to create a synergistic plan that guides municipalities to foster a healthy place to live for its citizens.

Effective greenways and open space networks create a sense of place and forge local and regional connections. They can develop linkages of town centers with recreational and historic destinations. This network can reveal local histories while providing innovative designs that meet current standards and future needs. Good greenways accommodate as many people as possible, are inviting and safe, and convenient to host or facilitate a wide range of activities for people and the environment to benefit. The purpose of this plan is a collaborative effort to update and improve current approaches to greenways, trails, and open space in Wyoming County.



Defining Greenways, Trails, and Open Space

DCNR Greenway Definition

Greenways are corridors of open space that can connect people, parks, historic sites, and natural areas. They vary significantly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green to wide corridors encompassing unique landscapes.

Greenways can be broken up into two main categories. Greenways primarily service the natural environment and greenways that service people and recreation. Greenways are contiguous by nature and design and create a network of connections for people and wildlife. We classify these types of greenways as Natural Greenways and Recreation Greenways.

Natural Greenways

Examples of natural greenways include River and Stream systems, expansive forests, mountain ranges, steep slopes, floodplains, and other quality environments. These greenways are managed, protected, and maintained by public service agencies specialized in the natural environment. For planning purposes, natural greenways require conservation and management to benefit and sustain the natural environment.

Recreation Greenways

Examples of recreation greenways are hiking trails, utility right of ways, water trails, walking tours, and connective park systems. Recreation Greenways are for human recreational use. However, a recreation greenway can still be a natural greenway, but the natural greenway includes a feature or amenity that benefits or hosts recreation.

Importance of Greenways

As a state, Pennsylvania has an indoctrinated history in the conservation of wild lands. In 1682, William Penn ruled that one must remain wooded for every five acres of developed land. Today, we understand a lot more about the science behind natural systems, their benefits on human health, and what happens when they are destroyed or disturbed. There are countless research, news articles, and case studies that have been written on human health and nature. There is no need to justify the obvious: Nature is suitable for people and provides many physical and mental health benefits. But greenways can service even a higher purpose than that of the individual or collective. They provide opportunities for sustainable growth in communities, enhance the sense of place, foster economic development, and capital gains, promote tourism, assure resiliency of natural systems, and preserve, protect and manage natural resources and ecosystems.

Trails

Trails can be a viable route to alternative transportation solutions and experiences. These passages can also host educational signage, demonstration gardens, and experimental or novel ecosystem management techniques. Trails lead users through their experience with nature.

Trails are linear passages that can traverse unique geologic features, loop water bodies, connect communities, provide recreational activities such as hiking, cycling, ATVing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, boating, and so much more. Trails can extend fractions of a mile to the spans of one side of the country to the other. A trail can be a stand-alone feature from one location to another or be within a place, like a trail within a park, institution, or preserve. Finally, trails can be contemporary expressions of a historical relic. For example, a trail may be a former railway corridor and historic auto trails, such as Historic Route 6 in Wyoming County.

Open Space

The EPA defines Open Space as any open piece of land that is undeveloped and accessible to the public. Open space can include green spaces such as parks, community gardens and cemeteries, schoolyards, playgrounds, public seating areas, plazas, and vacant lots.

Open space in Wyoming County can also preserve rural character, including but not limited to: farmlands, woodlands, and meadows.

Public Participation Process

The consultants employed the following strategies to initiate public participation throughout the development of this plan: A Steering Committee, Special Events, Key Person Interviews, Non-scientific surveys, Municipal Meetings, and General Public Meetings with Workshops. Below is the summary of each method or technique used to get input from the public.

A plan is only as strong as the driver of the people wanting to initiate it. The consultants deepened a personal narrative with a place and people through this process to discover who the critical players are in the community and gauge their interests and concerns. In many ways, the planning process starts with the people who the plan will affect.



Steering Committee

It is essential to include a community in a plan that intends to foster and improve the users and recreational goals of said community. The first action item to this process was developing a committee of individuals interested in recreation and outdoor spaces in Wyoming County. Municipal leaders, business owners, non-profit groups, and advocates for nature and preservation collectively brought the authentic essence of the Wyoming County community to the GTO Steering Committee. The Committee met regularly to discuss their ideas for execution of the plan, opportunities for the consultants to investigate or consider, and give feedback to the consultant's progress.

The dialogue between the committee members generated tremendous energy and excitement towards the vision of this plan. Likewise, the discourse between the steering committee was not unlike that of a topic forum between groups with paralleling goals and ideas. After completing this plan, we hope that the Committee will consider regrouping and continuing discussions with one another to form a county-wide recreation forum.

Our team met X times with the Steering Committee. Please look at the meeting notes from each meeting in the appendix at the end of this report.

The Committee helped craft the WyCoGTO survey. After numerous iterations and constructive discussions, the Committee also distributed the survey through many social media, web-based, and analog channels. An initiative that dramatically impacted the reach of the study.

Additionally, the steering committee guided us towards meaningful research, informative interviewees, and topics that ultimately shaped the format of this report and our prerogative in creating an influential document of utility and ambition to direct profitable growth in Wyoming County as a whole.

Special Events

The goal of attending special events is to reach a community member not part of the steering committee



and people who may otherwise not know the County is conducting a greenway, trails, and open space plan. For the County, this opportunity offers transparency to its taxpayers and community. In addition, events provide a unique opportunity for the consultants to speak candidly with community members, listen to their concerns, educate them about our work, and get firsthand information from the people to whom this plan is catered.

For this report, the consultants attended two special events, Tunkhannock’s River Day Festival and the 107th Association of Townships Convention. These meet-ups were beneficial and provided the team with an aggregate of information, and suggestions weren’t available through research alone. A summary of public events is in the appendix, and some info is referenced further in the report.

Key Person Interviews

During the phases of research and plan structuring, the consultants met with ten individuals. The interview process aims to gather information, collect concerns/ suggestions, and develop support in getting the plan implemented. The consults interviewed an individual with expertise in each facet of the project. Each key person has a level of professional mastery in either greenways, trails, or open space. It was essential to the consultants to collect the directive wisdom for each entity this plan includes. In many ways, this plan views greenways, trails, and open space comprehensively and holistically; however, each piece to the sum of parts has specific needs and goals that must be considered when developing an inclusive plan. Below is the list of Key Persons with a brief description of their title.

Greenway:

Corey Ellison, Executive Director

Organization: Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Trails:

William Kern, Executive Director

Organization: Countryside Conservancy

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director

Organization: Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Attorney Jeffery Mitchell, District Attorney, and Nature Author

Organization: Wyoming County

Author: Paddling Pennsylvania, Hiking the Endless Mountain, Backpacking Pennsylvania, and others.

Open Space:

Allison Wood Wilson, Founder, Property Manager

Organization: Friends of Howland, Howland Preserve

Maureen Whipple, Founder, Property Manager

Organization: North Branch Land Trust

Rebecca Lesko, Director & Naturalist

Organization: Endless Mountains Nature Center

Doug Deutsch, District Manager

Rachael Marques, Agricultural Conservation Programs Coordinator

Bernie Scalzo, Watershed Specialist

Organization: Wyoming County Conservation District

Non-scientific Survey

Surveys provide information that brings to life a picture of the community. The narrow window of time a survey is conducted opens an expanse to intangible autonomous information gathered and expressed in an explicitly democratic manner.

Personal experience is pivotal. An individual's relationship with the natural world is unique. Recreational activities are experiences that give that relationship energy. Asking questions about individuals' recreational interests, wants, concerns, and goals collects valuable information to interpret. Still, it brings awareness of the project to participating residence that builds community support for the plan. It expands the list of supporters and doers to enact a plan and is another level of transparency and inclusion by the consultant/county.

The Wyoming County Greenway, Open Space, and Trails Survey opened on October 4, 2019. The consultant team also created a QR code to generate more attention. The QR code allows people to scan the code with a QR reader and be directly connected to the survey page.

Once the survey was distributed to the Committee, they spread it throughout the community. Social media promotion and visibility helped exorbitantly. The participation of the community poured an enormous response in a tiny window of time. From October 4 to November 27, the consultants got 243 answers. That is approximately 1.1% of the population of Wyoming County that is over 18 years of age. A digital and paper survey formats are in the appendix of this document.

Municipal Questionnaires

The consultant developed two questionnaires for municipal officials to share information about their County related to recreation. One was distributed from municipalities that attended the 107th Convention of Townships Event, and the Wyoming County Planning Office distributed the other. The questionnaires and results can be read in the appendix of this report and referenced later in this report.

Public Meetings

The consultant team attended, presented, and facilitated three public meetings during the planning process. The workshops were held at the 911 center and neighboring community pavilion, a centrally located

facility to encourage high turnout. The First workshop educated the public about greenways and open space networks. The second was held at the midpoint of the project to present interim findings and alternatives. Lastly, the final workshop displayed the final draft design and solicited the last public comments. The consultant team will create a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the planning process, benefits of the new design, and implementation priorities and generate poster displays conveying the current approach of the plan's findings. The consultant team was responsible for providing a written agenda and recorded minutes of the meetings, which are part of the final plan document.

Plan Components

Community Profile

The community profile outlines what the community looks like. This section addresses demographic information and pulls at some of the information gathered driven by public input.

Past Planning Documents

Through extensive research the consultant reviewed seven published planning documents that are about or include Wyoming County. Additionally, from these reports the consultant collected relevant recommendations previously suggested by the reports authors to examine previously explored recommendations to continue to support or to revise to reflect current needs and trends within the county.

Existing Conditions

GIS data and mapping were used to understand better the County's natural resources, manufactured features, and linear greenway corridors that might influence the development of this greenway / open space network plan. In addition, the consultant explored existing trails and greenway corridor plans beyond the county boundary for considering in an enormous regional scope and living and planned land use patterns and zoning.

The consultant primarily explored Natural resources, including natural resources, natural areas, public and protected open space, agricultural land, Soil, and Geological features, and Topography. Additionally, the consultant researched Transportation and utility corridors, Recreation facilities, and Cultural/Historic Sites.

Parks and Recreation Inventory and Analysis/ Greenway Hubs

The consultant created a county-wide Parks and Recreation Inventory and Analysis by utilizing collected existing conditions data and in-field site inspections. This section includes park profiles that involve writing and graphically depicted inventory and assessing existing recreation and open space resources, facilities, programs and services, management and organization, and financing.

Rural Recreation and Tourism

This section outlines current trends and practices of maintaining, improving, and creating recreation destinations within rural communities. It also explores strategic development to improve and increase tourism. Additionally, this section of the report highlights existing programs, initiatives, and groups within Wyoming county that are contributing to enhancing and maintaining recreational and tourist opportunities.

Each township and borough have a variety of existing greenspace amenities, including parks, trails, vistas, or more. It is essential to see how outdoor recreation can connect for people to utilize their location in sequence. Exploring by-ways to connect the various areas of Wyoming county could create a cohesive way to strategize tourist development. It could ease logistical issues of using busy roads or highways in a travel sequence and invigorate new ways to look at rural/recreation-based tourism. For example, Historic Route 6 is an obvious amenity across the County, but some roadway locations inhibit transportation by pedestrian and cyclist locomotion. Prioritizing alternative routes that either bring users

closer to the river or closer to unique recreation opportunities or vistas offer a richness to the quality of experience getting to each location, individually and sequentially—for example, utilizing roads with broad shoulders, gradual slopes, slower speed limits and in general, a pleasant condition for cycling and walking.

The Plan

The plan is described initially through a series of goals outlined by the consultant. The goals were derived from public participation, inventory and analysis, and extensive research. The consultant then outlines targets for each goal to be met. Additionally, the plan describes what types of improvements can be made to facilities, new recreation opportunities. It also describes the groups that function within the county that could help facilitate these goals or for new partnerships.

Implementation of Plan

To implement the plan, the consultant outlines the most important tasks of the plan to be accomplished first and then secondary tasks. This section also is dedicated to recommending partnerships and responsibilities for each task.

Management and Monetary Strategy

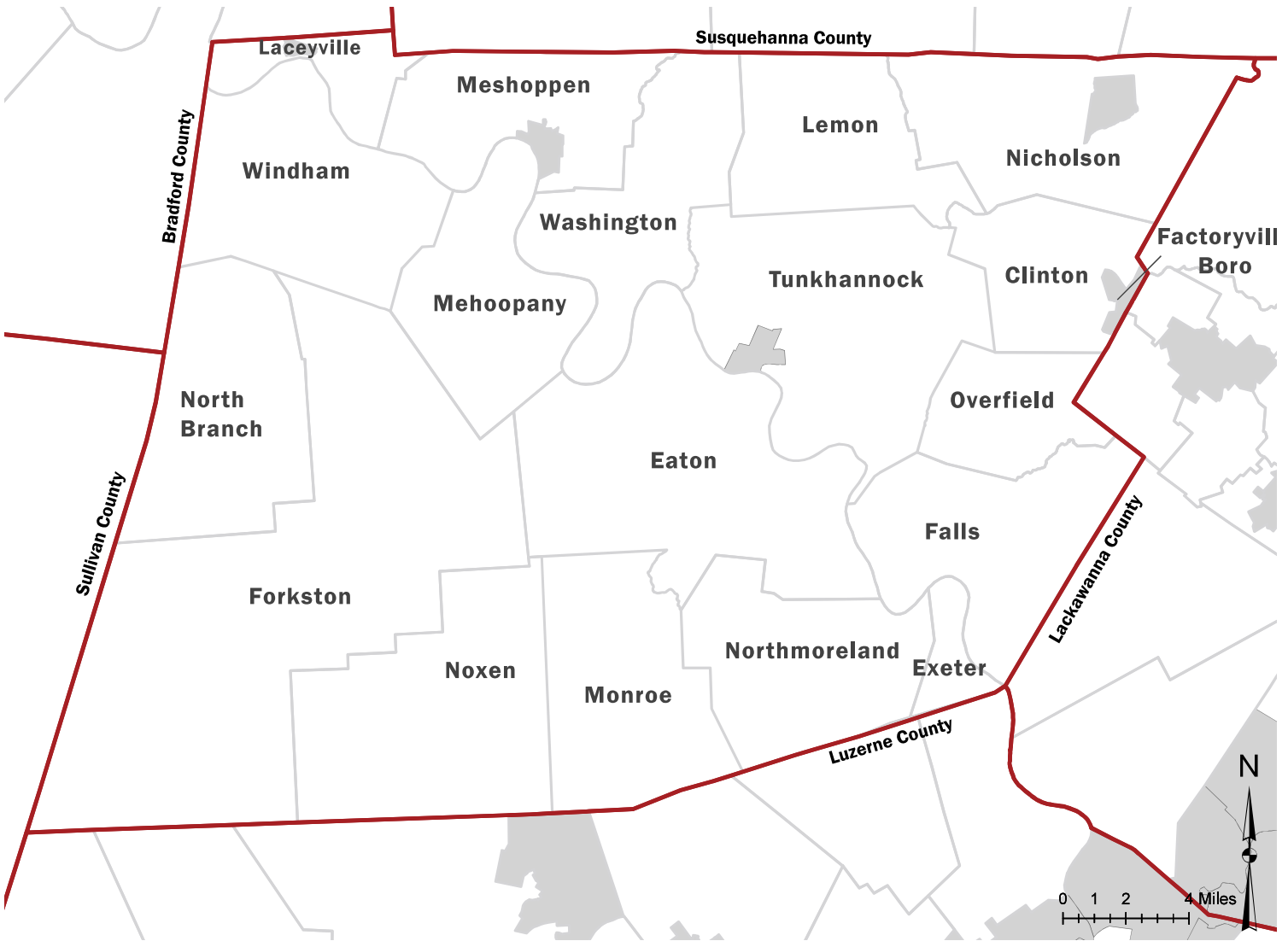
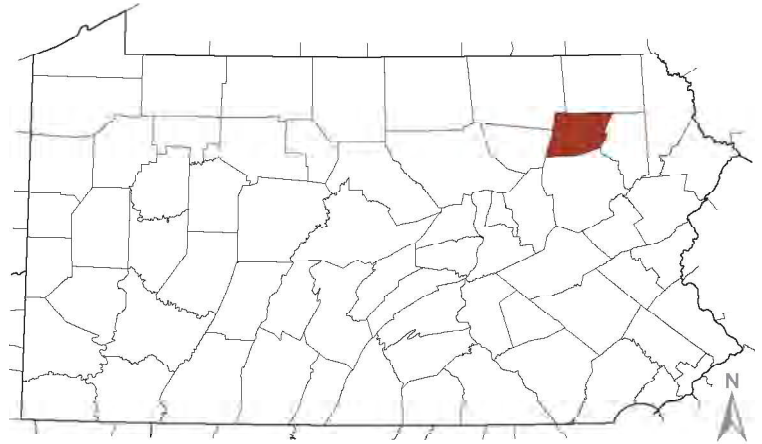
The management and monetary strategy for the plan outlines funding resources and opportunities that the county and individual municipalities may seek to implement plan goals and tasks. The section outlines grant opportunities and internal funding strategies that could be utilized.

2. Community Profile

2. Community Profile

Location

Wyoming County is located in Upstate Pennsylvania, in the Endless Mountain Region. Wyoming County is south of Susquehanna County, west of Lackawanna County, north of Luzerne County, east of Sullivan County, and southeast of Bradford County. The five boroughs of Wyoming County include Factoryville, Laceyville, Meshoppen, Nicholson, and Tunkhannock, the county seat. The townships within Wyoming county are Braintrim, Clinton, Eaton, Exeter, Falls, Forkston, Lemon, Mehoopany, Meshoppen, Monroe, Nicholson, North Branch, Northmoreland, Noxen, Overfield, Tunkhannock, Washington, and Windham.



Demographics

There are currently 26,794 persons living in Wyoming County, with a median age of 44.7 years old. Thus, the age distribution of the population is relatively split between age groups. The average commute for an individual in the county is 26 minutes, and the median household income is \$59,415, with an average household size being 2.46 persons. It is important to note that the most significant populations reside between Tunkhannock and Factoryville.

Survey

The Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Survey was conducted from October 2nd to February 7th. Three hundred twenty-seven individuals answered the survey, which totals approximately 1% of the county population.

In summary, most respondents were female (231 females to 92 males, and two others). Over half of the respondents were between 30-39 or 40- 49 years old, each age bracket representing approximately a quarter of the respondents, respectively. 58% of households have three or more people. 38% of respondents live in Tunkhannock or Tunkhannock Borough. Tunkhannock represented the most significant quantity of answers for a single location, but 61 % of respondents from Wyoming County reported living elsewhere in the County. Though Tunkhannock may represent the largest population of people within the County, it is informative that most of the individuals responding do not live in Tunkhannock.



\$59,415
MEDIAN INCOME



26,794
POPULATION

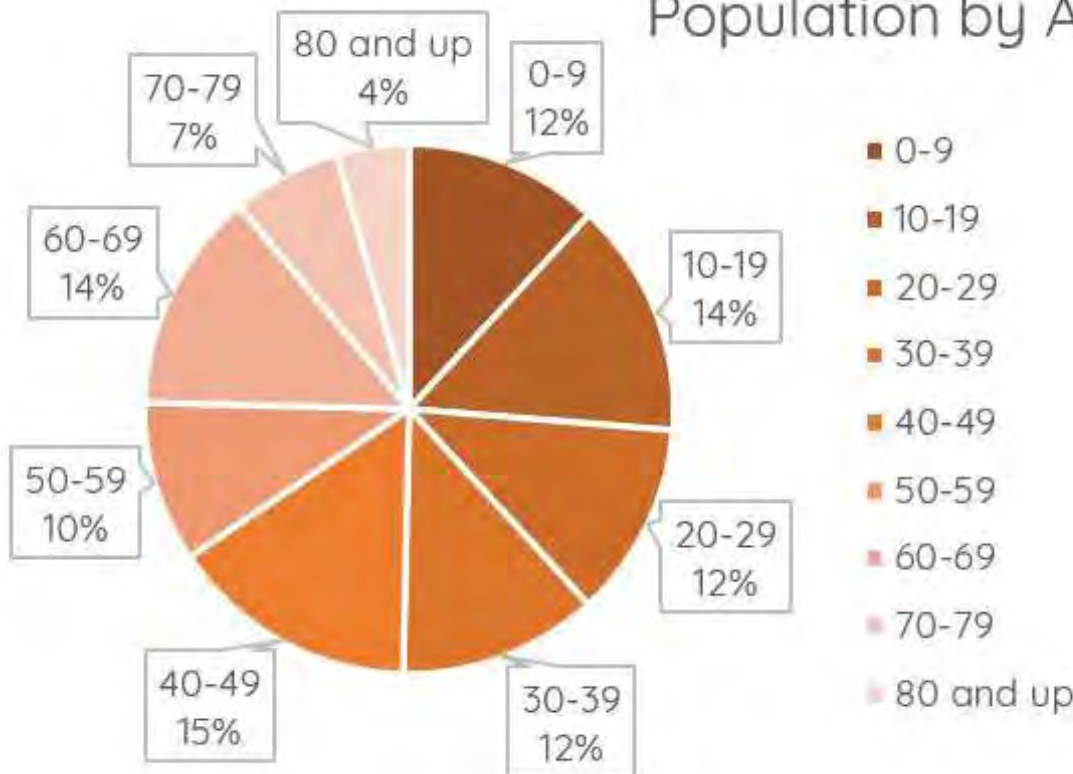


44.7
MEDIAN AGE



26.2
MINUTE
COMMUTE

Population by Age



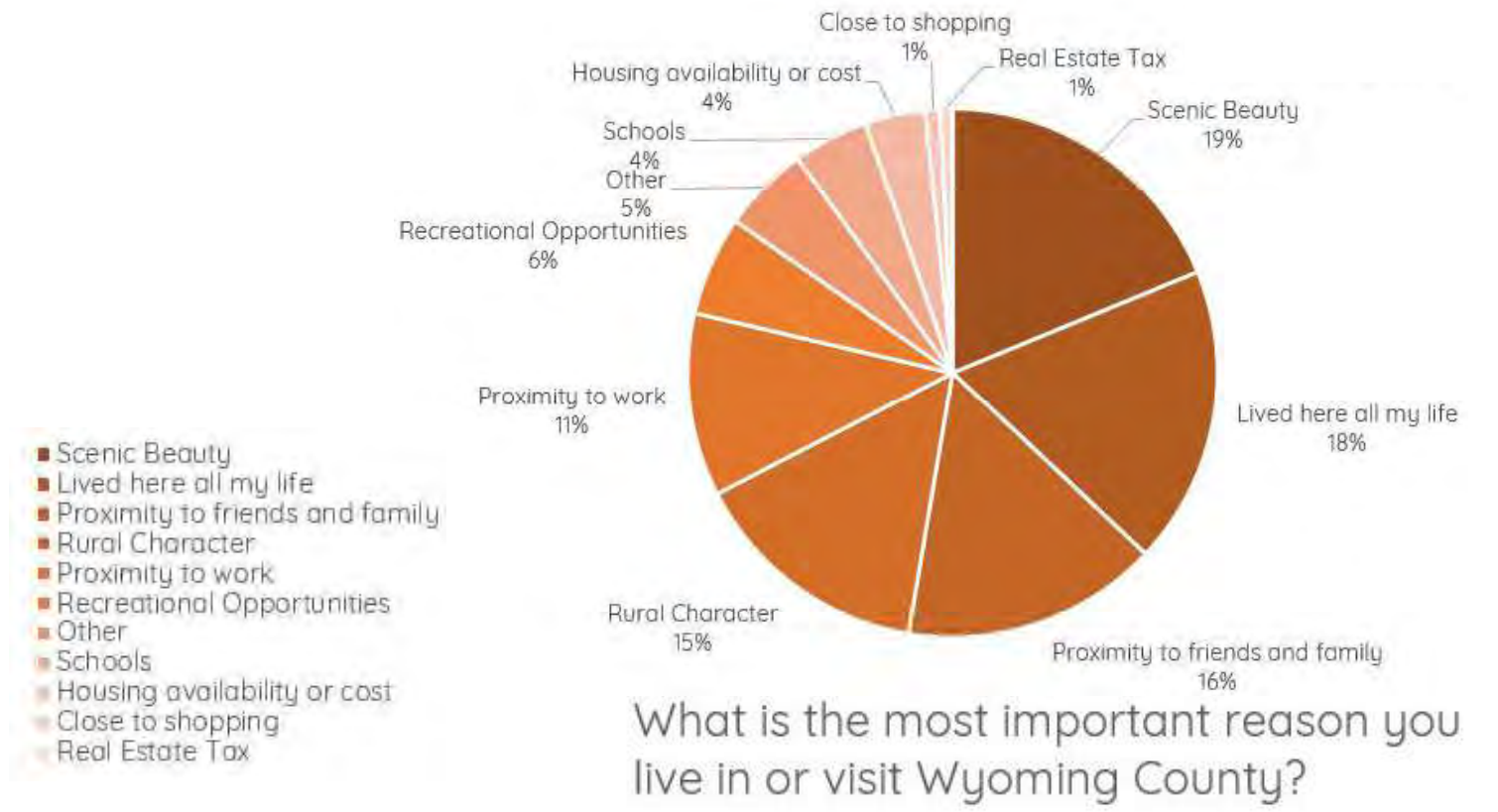
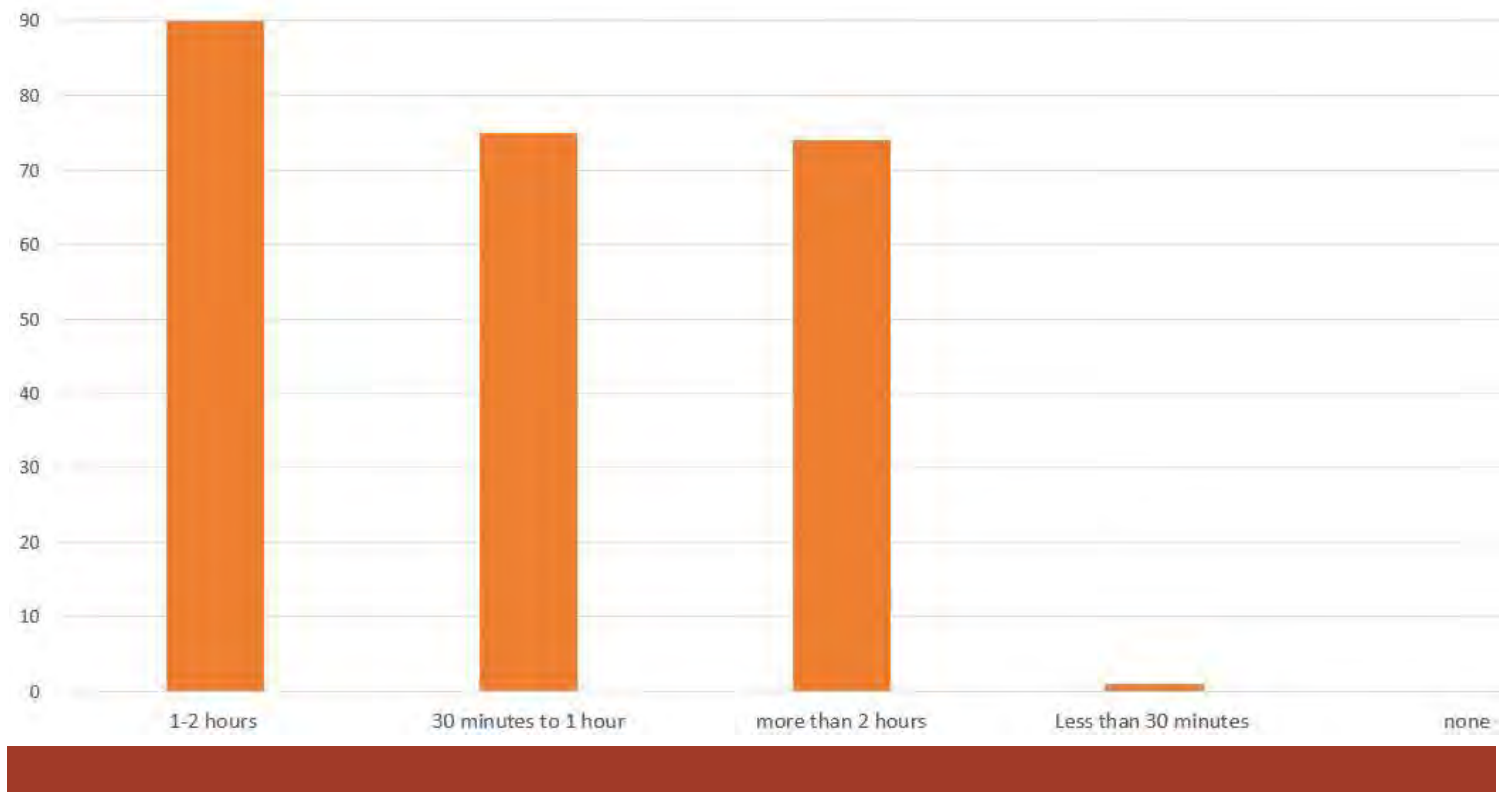
It was essential to understand why people live in Wyoming county and their qualities to generate a narrative of residents’ culture and values. The survey reports that most people live in or visit Wyoming County because of its scenic beauty. They have lived there their whole lives. It is a place close to their friends and family and the quality of rural character in the County.

Learning what residents care most about in terms of the future of where they live also brings to light residents’ needs in their community. The residents of Wyoming county believe that employment, protection of natural resources, and recreational opportunities are some of the most important factors to consider for the future.

When developing a plan, it’s essential to understand what activities people are willing to support. Support of a specific activity can contribute to support for building or maintaining infrastructure for that given activity. So, we asked, what activities do you or would you support in Wyoming County? In order, the top results were walking/hiking/jogging, boating/kayaking, fishing/hunting, camping, shopping, pet walking, and wildlife watching. Usership is a metric that assesses how often and how long people participate in an activity. From the survey, we found that most people participate in outdoor recreation 1-5 times a week for at least 1 hour or more.

This result shows that the respondents are relatively active people who spend some of their free time outdoors.

When engaging in a given activity, how much time to you spend outside?



3. Past Planning Documents Overview

3. Past Planning Documents Overview

Wyoming County has been included in various planning initiatives, from environmental-based protection plans, Natural Area Inventories, Comprehensive Plans, and Greenway Initiative Action Plans. However, the County has not conducted its own Recreation Based Planning Document, which prompts this report. The summaries below are the consultant’s findings from past documents that relate to recreation-based planning. It is essential to review these documents for the consultants to 1. Have a holistic understanding of the County, its character, and past initiatives and 2. Direct our research towards information that may need further research from these documents.

Comprehensive Plan (2019)

Completed in 2019 and submitted to Wyoming County for their approval, URDC created the Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan (WCCP). This document highlighted many opportunities and constraints in Wyoming County, reporting on existing conditions and potential future development schemes. One noted issue with the record was an absence of guiding vision for open space and recreation; wherein there were references to previous recreation planning documents.

A goal for recreation in the “Community Facilities & Services Plan” section recommends to “discuss ways to improve public access to river and creeks, extend and connect recreation trails, coordinate local recreation facilities with public schools.” (p 4). Wyoming County, with its ample open space, can create these connections. With roughly 28,000 citizens, Wyoming County does not have the development limitations of some more urban-centered counties, like adjacent Lackawanna and Luzerne. Growth in the natural gas industry has caused a boom in temporary populations, but not many buy homes due to that lack of permanence. However, most county business owners want to co-mingle with the gas industry. Residents also desire improved infrastructure and more public transit, both opportunities for open space and recreation development.

Open space in the County is plentiful, with just State Game Lands 57 contributing to 15% of the total area. However, direct programming and applied usage are limited, as many hunters and sportspeople do not want trail users interrupting their outdoor experience. Several trails are already blazed in SGL 57, primarily for hunter access, and many others are unmarked and unmaintained across the County. One piece of history in Wyoming County that may offer recreation is the historic North Branch Division Canal. Now defunct and largely removed, sections of the NBDC can be seen near the Susquehanna River at the Vosburg Neck in Tunkhannock and upriver in Laceyville. Through interpretation, an NBDC trail could offer county residents an exciting and educational recreation experience.

In addition, Wyoming County has added boat launches and fishing access points for the “water trail.” These two items also tie into another primary goal as stated in the “Community Facilities & Services Plan” section: to “expand the existing trails, parks and preserved open space system, including improving public access to waterways (p 27).”

Wyoming County is limited in facilitating significant recreation development, primarily due to the lack of population. However, given the boom of the natural gas industry, public-private partnerships may aid in pushing some of these goals to the forefront. When questioned, “Is there any way the County government could help your municipality in any of these areas?” the top given response was to lead efforts to develop more parks and recreational facilities with open space (p 25). When you marry that to some other sections’ stated goals, you begin to see a repeated narrative. In the “Natural Features & Agricultural Conservation” section: “Protect important natural features. (p 26)” For “Economic Development”: “Build upon...other outdoor recreation opportunities (p 27).” “Recreational opportunities can be increased. Open Space Developments [for residential planning] can include attractive areas for walking, jogging, cross-country skiing (p 58).” Therefore, the concept of a greenway becomes an idea and a primary driver in the development of Wyoming County. Residents desire a way to tie together the places and things they love in a way that blends with the natural, rural character of the County. The County should seek to conserve its unique natural areas, maintain open space corridors for wildlife, and provide riparian buffers along the many streams and rivers in Wyoming County.

Permanent easements or voluntary land preservation are two ways for residents of the county to succeed in a greenway development project. Land conservation projects in Wyoming County should be well-funded, and

that includes through greenways and easements. By providing ways for landowners to be directly involved in the process, the County can create stakeholders concerned with the successful implementation of these ideas. Another way that goal can aid is by carrying out the “Land Use and Housing Plan” recommendations by encouraging new growth to include greenways and ample open space. There is a desire to “design and locate preserved open spaces very carefully within the development (p 59),” with a goal that “open spaces should be interconnected with provisions to link public trails (p 60).” “To attract additional tourism and outdoor recreation spending to Wyoming County, the scenic attractiveness of the County absolutely must be maintained (p 67).” So, a guiding factor for new residential development should focus on this balance of residential and recreational spaces in many ways.

The WCCP sought to gain clarity from past planning documents and looked for inspiration from two previous reports: The Northern Tier Open Space, Greenway, and Outdoor Recreation Plan, as well as the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership’s Strategic Action Plan.

One issue that has lingered, as a direct result of the County’s size and lack of funding, is that the recreation goals have not changed in nearly twenty years. So, while there may be lingering projects that need attention, other approaches need to be considered for Wyoming County to achieve these goals. One way to accomplish these goals is to “work to strengthen the downtowns as business, cultural, entertainment, and civic centers.” (p 70). By giving Tunkhannock and the other downtown areas the attention, they deserve, visitors will increase and bring more money into these towns. Wyoming County could enhance this tourism by “working to develop additional trails for walking, hiking, and biking throughout the County” (p 76). When looking at the “Economic Development Plan” section, a survey showed that user satisfaction was highest related to recreation activities (p 74). As another goal of economic development, the County can actively seek to “preserve natural assets” (p 76). Over half (52%) of all residents work in Wyoming County (p 88). And so that means that while there is some commuting, many residents remain local. Every effort should be made to prevent an explosion of development from destroying the open, rural character of Wyoming County. Mitigation and cooperation with the natural gas industry are aspects of action that need to be constantly monitored.

The gas industry is bringing much money to Wyoming County and also some impacts to existing infrastructure. For example, roads across the County are being damaged from heavy truck traffic. However, the problems linger from year to year rather than increasing the ROWs or turning radii and just replacing everything in situ (p 97). Conversely, one suggestion from the WCCP is to favor the natural gas industry’s activities by not over-regulating or penalizing and loosening safety precautions if not at the expense of the municipality (p 82). Washington Township has already enacted laws that prevent dangers to residents and may serve as a model for the County. Pipelines and well pads already checker the landscape of Wyoming County. While industry and economic development are essential, especially in a rural area like Wyoming County, there must be a balance between economic and natural vitality. Route 6 is a primary thoroughfare through Wyoming County and doubles as Bicycle Route Y. By improving and expanding the shoulders. Bicycle users will increase and present new opportunities for connections across the region (p 93). One potential plan was to include Route 6 as a “Scenic Byway,” to recommend measures to preserve the unique scenic, natural, recreational, and historic resources along the corridor” (p 101).

The end of the WCCP is a set of recommendations from the categories presented earlier in the document. Within the section, “Community Facilities and Services Plan,” several ideas were documented. One is to combine the acquisition of and for public recreation with the purchase and preservation of general well sites (p 108). This overlap uses and creates a better dynamic between heavy industry and recreation seekers. Three county parks are an ideal goal, but even the facilitation may be beyond the limited scope of services the County can provide. However, perhaps the inclusion of grants administered to municipalities can aid in creating public spaces (p 111). Including voluntary stewardship as a goal is necessary to offset the County’s financial and human resources limitations (p 116). Sharing recreation programming among the smaller communities can aid in a better deal for both parties, for example, Clinton Twp and Factoryville’s combined recreation budget (p 124). They should also seek to expand upon the existing trails (p 115) and work with the SGLs to define times and areas of access there (p 117).

The Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan is a thorough document with many pearls of wisdom for the County to adopt. However, there is a need to enhance these ideas to push Wyoming County’s recreation forward about recreation and open space. These documents provide a compass to direct our goals and actions for this report.

Northern Tier Greenway Plan (2010)

Northern Tier: Open Space, Greenway & Outdoor Recreation Plan: Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming Counties, Final Master Plan Report September 2010

The Northern Tier Plan, a Project from 2010, developed an Open Space, Greenway, and Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Tioga, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. The report looked at parks and recreation, transportation, land use and economic development, and programming in the region.

The plan examined the Pennsylvania State Comprehensive Recreation Plan (2009-2013) and other local planning documents for the four counties. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening connections between the social-economic benefits of outdoor recreation and its relationship to health in a community. The reconnection of people to the outdoors through stewardship and marketing, social programs, and tourism can improve the visibility of recreation efforts.

The plan expresses the importance of research and public outreach to make improvements and recommendations and restore, maintain, and improve existing parks and facilities to revitalize community identity and involvement with recreation and conservation.

Specifically, Wyoming County services as a bedroom community for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area. The largest employer of the County is Proctor and Gamble. Many government positions are part-time; this could be a reason for some delay in action taken towards recreation. In addition, the County has few publicly owned lands. Some municipalities have no parks, with streams and rivers being one of the greatest assets for connectivity, but adjacent public land significantly limits access.

The area lacks a cohesive identity and would benefit from marketing messages to promote what the County offers. The steering committee suggested that getting the word out to promote existing facilities would be beneficial and partner with neighboring counties to draw new business.

When the Northern Tier Open Space Plan was published, no one could accurately foresee the natural gas industry's impact in the County, which has created a different profile of the County and is now part of the County's identity.

The plan explains that increased collaboration between municipalities and other organizations can help improve the quality and quantity of recreation facilities. Partnership promotes cohesive land development patterns, which ensures that lands are developed for their most meaningful use. The plan warns that if each municipality does not coordinate with one another, abutting edges of space could make spaces incompatible, limiting future development of amenities and access. Also, planning among cities could coordinate larger-scale infrastructures like water and sewer. Municipalities with inclusive land planning can also facilitate more extensive recreational facilities such as regional parks and trail corridors.

Suggestions for further development of recreational narrative county-wide include considering specific age groups, minorities, and underrepresented groups, aiming recreation towards aging community because of shrinking household size, and considering older adults when planning recreation facilities and park amenities.

The stakeholder and community groups felt that more tourism would revitalize many of the downtowns and that strategically partnering with neighboring counties may provide opportunities to lure in new businesses to benefit the region. There may also be opportunities to partner with local colleges to promote environmental education and stewardship programs.

Susquehanna Greenway Action Plan (2006)

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Strategic Action Plan, 2006

The Susquehanna Greenway is a 500-mile linear corridor of land and water. PA Greenway Partnership sees it as the state's most extensive greenway.

Documents Mission:

“The purpose of the Susquehanna Greenway is to protect, value, and enjoy the unique resources of the river, creating an interconnected network of trails and natural areas traversing urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. The Susquehanna Greenway provides endless opportunities for visitors and residents to connect with the river and its bountiful heritage through land and water trails, parks, historic sites, working farms and forests, and many unique river communities.”

The plan identifies the Susquehanna Greenway for the entire river corridor, a greenway framework, key strategies, priority of projects, marketing strategies, and action steps to organize, implement and promote the greenway.

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership highlights the importance of river access and creating a continuous connective corridor. However, it does not explicitly enact recommendations for Wyoming County but offers directive information to the coalition of communities along the water trail.

Susquehanna North Branch Conservation Plan (Unknown Date)

North Branch of the Susquehanna, River Conservation Plan, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Susquehanna River Basin Commission, (No Date)

A Study of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. Counties include Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. The plan gives a brief background of the communities. When the report was published, it stated that local business and industry play a vital economic role and offer financial support for projects that positively impact the quality of life in the river corridor. It includes, “Open space, greenway, river, and land recreation programs enhance the quality of life that has been proven to be a positive force in attracting new business to the area.”

The report explores land resources, explaining the limitations of soil characterized by the river and steep slopes, limited ownership of public lands, waste sites. Additionally, the report describes the relationship between abandoned mines and quarrying about mine reclamation and the potential for water qualities issues associated with mining.

The history of flooding to the area is mentioned through the recent flood events that significantly impacted the corridor, especially Hurricane Agnes, noted as the “benchmark” for flooding in the area. The flood of January 1996 follows closely from which the National Weather Service established a Susquehanna Basin Ice Observation Network.

The plan includes water quality histories, biological resources with a brief inventory of aquatic invertebrates and macroinvertebrates. The narrative briefs a report on plant communities as well “Typically, there are five general plant communities found within the river corridor. These community types are floodplain forest, upland forest, abandoned fields, agricultural fields, and wetland. The wetland plant community type includes submergent, emergent, shrub/scrub and forested wetland habitats.”

In addition, the plan includes an extensive history of the area ranging from a pre-historic era to the era of the railroad. It had the relationships of Native Iroquois Peoples and the Early European Settlers. An interesting fact to note in the history of the Great Warrior Path, which roughly follows present-day Route 6. It also notes the trek of Sullivan’s March that traveled along Route 6 and Route 92 and that the march lives on through historical markers, which record the challenging and devastating passage.

From this plan’s visioning meetings, the public participation highlighted the following areas of concern: Recreation and Public Access, Ecological/ Environmental, Historical and Cultural, Economic and Tourism Development, Partnerships Outside of Study Corridor, and Information/ Education. A significant part of this plan is vision planning through mapping.

Wyoming County Natural Areas Inventory (1995, updated 2001)

A Natural Areas Inventory of Wyoming County, Pennsylvania

The inventory report contains information on rare, threatened, and endangered species and the highest

quality natural areas in Wyoming County. The document was compiled and written by the Pennsylvania science office of The Nature Conservancy.

The document contains site-specific descriptions accompanied by management recommendations that would help to certify the protection and continued presence of these rare plants, animals, and natural communities. Recommendations are based on the biological needs of these species and communities from The Nature Conservancy and do not necessarily reflect the state, county, or township policies.

Mehoopany Creek Study (2007)

A River conservation plan was developed through public and municipal participation and reviewing background information and mapping data. The plan examines water resource issues ranging in ecological and environmental matters of natural stream design issues and streams bank erosion and sedimentation, with the identified project from the public participation process.

The public participation process highlighted the preservation of the public value of green space, open space, and farmlands throughout the Watershed. The document identifies that the Wyoming County Office of Community Development recommended the development of a Countywide Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Sullivan County Snowmobile Club also expressed interest in developing a snowmobile trail system through the Watershed and acquiring more conservations easements under the Wyoming County Farmland Preservation program. Also, the County expressed interest in an ACT 167 Stormwater management plan.

The plan includes an extensive report of the creek's natural conditions, especially related to water quality, a review of their public participation process and survey, and mapping of the Watershed. The plan also includes goals for recreation resources and educational resources.

Tunkhannock Creek Study (1997)

The Tunkhannock Creek Conservation Plan was developed as a guidebook for municipalities, government officials, organizations, and residents to protect and enhance the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed. The Tunkhannock Creek Watershed is in portions of Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. The report briefs the characteristics of the project area, biological resources, physical environment.

It is important to note that according to this plan, Wyoming County has a significant contribution to sedimentation in the Watershed. According to Table 8 of the project, the rate of soil loss is substantial, contributing to soil type or high flow events.

Another unique facet of this plan is the highlighting of certain social qualities of the Watershed. For example, it included culturally significant plants of the area, such as witch hazel which brought farmers additional money. The witch hazel was collected from the understory in the fall and sold to the Pennsylvania Witch Hazel company, which was operational until 1933. It also mentions the significance of the Tunkhannock Viaduct in the Watershed.

A man named Huger R. Saxton was mentioned throughout the plan and received a dedication at the beginning of the report. Mr. Saxton, at the time, was in his 80's and offered a lot of cultural knowledge to the plan. It stated that he had over 1,000 unique and notable native American artifacts. It was recommended by the report that someone contacts him and inquire about the collection being shown or made into a museum. Unfortunately, it has been discovered that he passed away in 2001, along with his wife in 2015.

Previous Planning Documents Recommendations Table

The following pages in this section contain recommendations from the past planning documents referenced above.

Section/Type	Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan
Natural and Agricultural Conservation Plan	Promote proper management of forests, including controlling destructive pests, using sustainable practices and controlling erosion during forest activities
Natural and Agricultural Conservation Plan	Conserve unique natural areas identified in the Natural Areas Inventory
Natural and Agricultural Conservation Plan	Promote strong zoning, subdivision, and stormwater regulations regarding important natural features, particularly to: Limit the intensity of development of steeply sloped lands. Require building and paving setbacks from streams to protect water quality and fishing habitats. A smaller width is appropriate in boroughs, while larger width should be required in the townships. Carry out Best Management Practices in stormwater management, including to protect water quality and encourage recharge in the groundwater. Establish a minimum set back from wetlands and require wetland studies whenever a development site is suspected of including wetlands.
Natural and Agricultural Conservation Plan	Encourage land owners to plant and maintain thick vegetation and trees along creek
Natural and Agricultural Conservation Plan	Seek federal Floodplain Mitigation funds to buy and remove the most flood prone buildings and turn the land into permanent open space
Land Use and Housing Plan	Encourage municipalities to adopt zoning provisions that provide strong incentives to preserve incentives to preserve farmland and important natural areas, particularly through "Open Space Development" (also known as Conservation Development or Clustering): Near active farms, if the resulting preserved open space is not suitable for agriculture, use the land as a buffer between new homes and farms. The open space can also buffer highways, gas facilities or industries. Make sure that any preserved open space is designated to serve a valuable public purpose, as opposed to being leftover land of little value.
Land Use and Housing Plan	Promote the further development of motels, campgrounds, golf courses and other commercial recreation areas to increase tourism. Maintain the scenic attractiveness and water quality of Wyoming County to promote tourism and outdoor recreation.
Land Use and Housing Plan	Work with adjacent municipalities to ensure that compatible land uses and road patterns are in place across municipal borders. Provide adjacent municipalities with an opportunity to comment on proposed zoning amendments and major development plans that may have impacts across municipal borders.
Land Use and Housing Plan	Strengthen the downtowns of the boroughs as the business, entertainment, cultural and civic centers for the region. Maintain the character of the downtowns, and older villages. New development should include setbacks, site layouts and uses similar to existing, older development. Seek state funding to subsidize building facade rehabilitation projects in downtowns. Provide advice to building owners on low -cost improvements, such as changing a sign, adding an awning, or choosing different paint colors. Add additional street trees. Promote a balance mix of uses in older commercial areas in the downtowns, including street level retail/restaurant/ service businesses. Promote additional market-rate apartments and offices in upper stories. Attract persons attending special events or outdoor recreation activities in the region to the downtowns and older villages. For example: Nolen and Mehoopany could be promoted as centers for persons visiting the State Game Lands
Land Use and Housing Plan	Use additional special events to attract additional numbers of visitors, customers and businesses to the downtowns. Encourage downtown businesses to better coordinate business hours. Encourage weekend hours and longer evening business hours (At least until 6 p.m.) Use joint advertising and joint promotions among businesses that are close to each other. Joint promotions are more cost-effective than each business buying separate advertising.
Land Use and Housing Plan	Improve pedestrian safety of main streets in downtowns, including highly visible crosswalks with "stop for pedestrians" signs, and update traffic signals with "Walk" Phases. "Bulb-out" Curb extensions can also reduce the width of street that pedestrians must cross
Economic Development Plan	Promote economic activity involving outdoor recreation and tourism. Maintain the physical attractiveness and scenic beauty of Wyoming County
Economic Development Plan	Jointly promote attractions to lengthen visitors stays. Add additional tourism-orientated signage to direct visitors to downtowns, trails and attractions

Economic Development Plan	Extend quality high-speed internet services to larger areas of the County. Municipalities can also have a role by 1. Cooperating in the use of local public lands and rights-of-way for towers, antenna and telecommunications lines, and 2. ensuring sufficient opportunities on private lands for communications towers.
Historic Preservation Plan	Identify the most important historic buildings in each municipality that are worthy of preservation. Enact zoning provisions to require special zoning approval by the governing body or zoning hearing board before demolition is allowed. The proposed zoning provision would not regulate architecture or routine changes to buildings
Historic Preservation Plan	Provide information to owners of older buildings in order to promote sensitive rehabilitation and to increase awareness of the significance of the buildings. Promote greater interest in the region's history and historic buildings.
Historic Preservation Plan	For municipalities with zoning, add zoning incentives to promote the preservation of historic buildings. Provisions might include allowing certain uses within restored historic buildings that otherwise would not be allowed in the zoning district. For example, a restored historic building in a residential district might be allowed to be used as an office or bed and breakfast inn.
Transportation Plan	Work with PennDOT and adjacent property owners to widen intersections to provide turn lanes and add traffic signals where warranted. Seek the construction of a passing lane or turn lanes along portions of hill two-lane roads with heavy truck traffic (such as route 29) to allow vehicles to pass. Improve sight distances. Apply for funding through the regional Transportation Improvements Program to resolve traffic problems
Transportation Plan	Encourage municipalities to adopt an Official Map to designate locations where additional land will be needed to improve existing road intersections or to build new road connections or trails. An Official Map allows a municipality to reserve land for potential improvements for a limited period of time.
Transportation Plan	In SALDOs, require developers to improve immediate adjacent segments of roads, such as providing shoulders. Emphasize well-marked shoulder improvements along heavily traveled roads to 1. provide a safety factor, 2. provide for mail deliveries, 3. allow room for bicyclist and pedestrians, and 4. allow room for farm equipment
Transportation Plan	Encourage greater use of paratransit. Seek an extension of County of Lackawanna Transit (COLT) services to Factoryville, with connections via paratransit. Seek federal funds for construction of an additional park and ride lot in the eastern and southern parts of the County to promote carpooling.
Community Facilities & Service Plan	Improve existing parks to meet a wide variety of recreational needs. Make the best use of school district facilities, and investigate opportunities for municipal recreation areas next to schools, with shared parking and that can be used by both school students and the general public during non-school hours. Concentrate most active recreation facilities at a few sites.
Community Facilities & Service Plan	Complete the Seneca Trail in Eaton Township and extend the Trolley Trail in eastern Wyoming County. Provide trail links that will connect to existing trails. Provide additional recreation access points to the Susquehanna River with improved boat ramps. Provide clear signage to: 1. Assist trail users in locating trails and river access points and 2. encourage trail users to visit nearby downtowns.
Section/Type	Northern Tier Open Space Plan
Connections	Connect to the Back Mountain Trail in Luzerne County
Connections	Connect to Eatonville to Evans Falls by redeveloping the Eatonville Bridge for pedestrian traffic as part of the Seneca Trail.
Connections	Ensure completion of the Iroquois Trail in the Tunkhannock area.
Connections	Develop additional access points to the Susquehanna River between Ulster and Tunkhannock
Connections	Develop a water trail with signage on Bowman's Creek
Connections	Develop Additional Access points to the Susquehanna River in the Bowman's Creek area.
Connections	Ensure completion of the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail from Factoryville to Lake Winola
Preservation and Conservation	Work to implement the management goals for the Chesapeake Bay program for the Susquehanna River.

Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Improve Existing Bike routes (See table 5.1) and provide shoulder improvements on PA 29 & 92
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Further Promote the Tunkhannock Creek Water Trail.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Little Rocky Glen: Add signage to provide better wayfinding to the preserve as well as warn motorists driving on the road of potential cars and pedestrians.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Improve and Promote usage of existing Trails within State Game Lands
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Endless Mountains Nature Center (EMNC): Add signage and wayfinding to the EMNC from the high-way and to delineate the EMNC vs. Camp Lackawanna and clarify which facilities are for public versus private use.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Add public amenities such as picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc. to river access points.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Provide additional public access to land, particularly in the eastern portion of the county, through purchase of additional public land, access easements and public access to provide lands, such as those owned by conservancies.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Improve trails and add facilities such as parking, seating, restrooms in State Game Lands to increase their contribution to the LOS.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Add additional trails, Consider trail connections from Ricketts Glen State Park to the Susquehanna River.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Add additional trails. Consider trail connections between Nicholson and Factoryville.
Recreation Facilities and Programming Improvements and Development	Investigate right-of-way ownership of the Northern Electric Railway to be developed as the Trolley Trail, from Clarks Summit to Lake Winola.
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Explore Regional Funding Opportunities, Specifically including the Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau Room Tax Grant Program
	Region-Based Recommendations
Planning Integration	Review and utilize and relevant analysis and recommendations of the various planning efforts into the Northern Tier Greenways Action Plan
Connections	Upcoming Transportation Improvement Plans and "corridor safety analyses" studies should target scenic corridors to determine and budget for low-cost improvements to these roadways.
Connections	Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety by improving existing shoulders (4-8 foot width) appropriate to posted speed limits and volumes of roadways, as well as evaluate TIPs for safety standards for future projects
Connections	Consider safety improvements along Bike Routes Y- US 6, G, J, and A, to increase awareness of cyclists on the roads.
Connections, Marketing & Tourism	Identify major greenways, trails and scenic corridors throughout the Northern Tier to enhance connections, provide continuity and help support the development of new and or improved recreation facilities to support the regions growth as a recreation destination. Designate local spokes and connections to develop an integrated network
Connections	Create a statewide trail network, provide access for disabled users and rehabilitate/ improve existing trails to implement recreation access and opportunities, connecting to Susquehanna Greenway to the south through Pine Creek Trail, and to the west with Rochester/ Genesee Wilds Trail.
Connections, Regional Partnerships & Collaborations	Collaborate with oil and gas companies to provide a dual use of pipeline corridors for trail development and greenway connectivity (please refer to Objective 5.4 for specific strategies)
Connections	Promote bicycling in the Northern Tier region based on area's low traffic volumes and inherent scenic qualities of rural roadways. Encourage the use of these roads not only for recreation bicycling, but also for traveling between recreational facilities

Connections	Develop trail connections, wayfinding and access points and promote canoeing, kayaking and rafting. Balance recreational use and environmental preservation to prevent overburdening the watershed. See individual Watershed Plans for specific strategies.
Connections	Utilize areas damaged by coal mining for recreation and environmental education during and post clean up.
Preservation and Conservation	Identify Priority Areas for conservation and enhancement (Utilizing Map R)
Preservation and Conservation	Large blocks of uninterrupted forest should be preserved as opportunities and resources are identified (See Map T)
Preservation and Conservation	Utilize Map U to determine the viability and priorities for conservation of lands in regard to oil and gas drilling operations.
Preservation and Conservation, Regional Partnerships & Collaboration	Work to establish a regional grass-roots lobbying effort through the collaborative effort of recreation and conservation stakeholders to educate elected officials on the impacts of natural resource extraction on the area.
Preservation and Conservation, Regional Partnerships & Collaboration	Emphasize the need to keep a percentage of royalties to enhancing the quality of life through recreation and conservation opportunities in lobbying efforts
Preservation and Conservation	Preserve existing preserved lands from natural resource extraction so that its value as a visual and recreational resource is maintained.
Preservation and Conservation	Work to change land use regulations regarding oil and gas extraction to result in more recreation opportunities and the preservation of open space.
Preservation and Conservation	Facilitate access agreements between natural gas companies, land owners, and easement holders that address the parties concerns regarding public access.
Preservation and Conservation	Preserve unserved lands that include both environmental and recreation resources
Preservation and Conservation	Designate greenways and open spaces to preserve resources, provide outdoor recreation and create connections between existing destination and recreation amenities
Preservation and Conservation	Work to preserve areas with significant ecological and historical considerations including acid mine drainage, stream water quality, wildlife habitat and native plant species.
Preservation and Conservation	Utilize the Rivers Conservation Plans to inform priorities for action regarding open space, greenways and recreation opportunities.
Preservation and Conservation	Work with private and nonprofit conservancies in the Northern Tier Region in order to Preserve environmental and recreation resources and provide public access to additional private lands (See Strategy 12.1.4 specific groups)
Preservation and Conservation	Complete stream assessments in order to identify additional conservation and enhancement opportunities.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Lobby for continued and additional funding for operations and management (See Funding Strategies in Section F)
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Engage county and community organizations in facility and program development and improvements to further supplement the region's recreation opportunities and marketing effort in order to create a sense of ownership and pride in the region.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Manage multiple uses of recreation facilities through educational programs to inform users about potential conflicts with other users such as hunter safety courses, hiking and biking programs. Clearly mark and sign hunting boundaries in state parks, forests, and game lands.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Prioritize restrooms, trails and water access points in future planning.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Utilize conservation easements to increase access and reduce liability for private landowners

Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development, Marketing and Tourism	Collaborate with the DCNR and Audubon Pennsylvania to promote the north branch of the Susquehanna River within the Northern Tier region as a birdwatching and wildlife viewing” hot spots” to increase draw in these activities.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Consider recreation trends that will accommodate those over 55 and to reach out to the residents of the area in order to educate them about the benefits of recreation and to make recreation opportunities easily accessible to all.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Include a range of activities beneficial to all abilities when promoting physical activity and outdoor recreation for older adults.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvement and Development	Improvements and modifications to state lands and facilities should include restroom facilities, camp sites and trails, providing accessibility for disabled users, water access points, bringing older facilities up to current standards, and improving overnight accommodations.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Expand recreation areas in order to attract more tourism and revenue generation to the region
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Diversify recreation offerings through the development of recreation programs and opportunities that target a wide variety of demographic groups and that meet current and future recreation needs and trends
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Develop additional nature tourism opportunities to grow and diversify recreation offerings, Provide necessary training in hospitality and backcountry safety and concentrate marketing efforts towards a predominately urban user base.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Increase programs that celebrate and explain the region’s history, culture and environment enhances a user’s experience
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Consider any special needs or desires of the various races/ ethnicities or other special groups within the area. Focusing on increased marketing to minorities rather than developing specific programs may be more effective.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Look for opportunities to add art and culture programs through public-private partnerships and collaboration with local townships, boroughs and municipalities to aid in financing these programs
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Provide programming to attract youth and young adults to the area as visitors as well as to encourage permanent residency in the region.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Provide additional programming and special events that focus on the activities listed as the most popular in the NTRPDC Survey, (See recommendation for specific details)
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Consider expanding primary facilities, including dedicated ATV and bike facilities, based on survey responses
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Replace existing facilities as they age.
Recreation Facility and Programming Improvements and Development	Diversify recreation opportunities if expansion into state forest lands is pursued. (see recommendation for specific details)
Regional Partnerships and Collaborations	Assess relevant agencies, organization and stakeholder groups’ programs and services in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and/ or consolidation of services.
Regional Partnerships and Collaborations	Increase collaboration between the municipalities and other organizations in order to help increase the quality and quantity of recreation facilities available to all residents (2008 Pennsylvania Resident Survey: A Summary of Key Findings)
Marketing and Tourism	Utilize new technology including social media to complement and enhance the current marketing activities and drive greater results

Marketing and Tourism, Funding and Regulatory Resources	Continue to improve public outreach and available information to give residents and visitors better knowledge regarding access to recreation facilities including trails, local community resources and offerings
Marketing and Tourism	The Endless Mountains and Tioga County Visitors Bureaus should work together to develop a map for promoting shared bike routes that exist within the region.
Marketing and Tourism	All signage and wayfinding plans should begin at interstate highways or arterials
Marketing and Tourism	Continue to work within the mandated marketing regions (upstate PA & PA Wilds) as well as the Route 66 Corridor to develop a region-wide comprehensive marketing plan.
Marketing and Tourism	Pursue smaller niche magazine to market overnight stays that are more geared toward B&B and long term vacation rental package, to provide lodging options due to high occupancy rates in motels resulting from gas companies.
Marketing and Tourism	For cost-efficiency purposes, participate regionally with Upstate PA, PA Wilds and Route 6 to pursue International Tourist Markets
Marketing and Tourism	Continue to target-market and promote activities aimed at low-impact outdoor recreation activities for engaging older adult and aging populations
Marketing and Tourism, Programming	Begin a Trade Marketing strategy targeted to entities such as group tour companies, as well as attending trade shows and consumer shows such as AAA.
Marketing and Tourism, Programming	Offer a guided tour service as a potential option for income.
Marketing and Tourism, Programming	Continue to promote efforts to increase four-season amenities and activities and continue to implement the marketing plan to attract visitors and to promote activities and events within all of the counties.
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Work with the state to pass a state severance tax that has limited exception and a dedicated portion for local governments
Funding and Regulatory Resources	NTRPDC members and partners should play inactive role in fundraising for regional parks and recreational amenities. Commission members could play a vital role assisting in this effort.
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Consider implementing concessions and user fees for recreation facilities at state recreation sites, where revenue goes back into the facility rather than to the state's general fund. Provide fee and/or concession stations to support fee collection
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Utilize a strong educational campaign to employ township or county bond referendums to secure funds for the development and or rehabilitation of local park and recreational facilities within the Norther Tier
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Explore Gaming Revenue as a optional traditional funding method.
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Explore the possibility of creating a Regional Recreation Authority. Research KOZ properties within the region as a way of acquiring, developing and operating parks and recreation facilities locally. Investigate use of the Circuit Rider Program to hire staff persons to manage the Authority's programs and services.
Funding and Regulatory Resources	Research KOZ properties within the region as a way of acquiring, developing and operating parks and recreation facilities locally rather than depending on the state.
Section/Type	North Branch Susuquehanna River Conservation Plan
Recreation Access	Survey potential camping sites and access points along the river corridor
Recreation Access	Identify those communities lacking municipal parks and ball fields. Work to develop parks in those communities

Recreation Access	Develop former penelec property as a game land/ river access- possibly a state park, Scottsville
Ecological and Environmental Development	Develop a Bald Eagle observation area at Vosberg Neck
Category/Type	Mehoopany Creek and Little Mehoopany Creek Watersheds River Conservation Plan
Land Resources	Update Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan
Land Resources	Update municipal floodplain ordinance s
Land Resources	Acquire farmland conservation easements
Land Resources	Conduct Phase I Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan
Land Resources	Complete Phase II Tunkhannock Creek Detail Stormwater Management Study
Land Resources	Expand the implementation of the Clean up Our American Lands and Streams (COALS) program throughout the Watershed.
Land Resources	Conduct Phase I Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan
Land Resources	Conduct stream and streamside cleanup activities
Land Resources	Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat
Water Resources	Plant riparian buffers along the streams throughout the Watershed
Water Resources	Conduct natural stream design projects
Water Resources	Conduct stream channel relocation work along Windy Valley Road
Water Resources	Continue the implementation of Timber Management Plans
Water Resources	Support the MCWA to continue their existing water quality monitoring activities
Water Resources	Conduct stream and streamside cleanups
Water Resources	Control sewer recycle sites
Water Resources	Reduce salt usage on roads during winter months by PennDOT and local municipalities due to the harmful effects on local wells
Water Resources	Increase the regeneration of ground water by creating small retention ponds on residential properties to allow rain and surface run-off to be slowly released back into the ground rather than released directly into the streams and drainage ways
Recreation Resources	plan and construct boat launch access on the Little Mehoopany Creek and the Susquehanna River. Examine
Recreation Resources	Increase fishing opportunities by raising pH levels in streams, cleaning up streams littered with trash, and planting trees to shade the streams.
Recreation Resources	Develop a snowmobile trail system
Recreation Resources	Plan and develop walking/hiking trails and greenways
Recreation Resources	Continue the development of the regional trail map brochure to promote bicycling and hiking opportunities
Recreation Resources	Distribute and promote the North Branch of the Susquehanna Water Trail Map
Recreation Resources	Install North Branch of the Susquehanna Water Trail signage
Recreation Resources	Implement the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) Keystone Active Zone Passport Program
Recreation Resources	Develop a Countywide Open Space and Recreation Plan
Recreation Resources	Develop opportunities for sportsman to access the interior areas of State Gamelands
Education Resources	Install a Natural Stream Design education/awareness information station at the site of the recently completed stream stabilization project North Branch Mehoopany Creek Areas A&B
Education Resources	Conduct educational workshops for landowners on the use/affects of pesticides on water quality
Education Resources	Work with PennDOT to increase education and awareness of natural stream design usage

Education Resources	Conduct educational workshops regarding the benefits of riparian zone plantings
Location	Natural Area Inventory - Key Areas and Management
Susquehanna River	Excellent recreational and scenic resource; current and historical records for species of special concern.
Bowman Creek Ledges (Eaton Twp.)	Highly diverse northern hardwoods on a steep east-facing slope; scenic setting for park; wooded slopes help protect Bowman Creek.
Sharpe Pond (Windham Twp.)	High diversity of aquatic plants and animals; potential for rare species; needs protection from nutrient enrichment.
Dixon Floodplain Forest (Tunkhannock Twp.)	Example of floodplain forest; habitat for nesting and migratory birds; aggressive weeds need control.
Fox Hollow Swamp (Windham Twp.)	Local example of northern broadleaf-conifer swamp in an area with few large wetlands; potential for rare species.
Jenningsville Ledges (Windham Twp.)	Steep slopes of hemlock and hardwoods with a diverse flora; historical records for, and potential for, rare species.
Beaumont Kame (Monroe Twp., North Moreland Twp.)	Interesting glacial geology with some value as wildlife habitat.
Buttermilk Falls (Falls Twp.)	A series of low waterfalls in a developed area; considered to be an excellent example of the type.
Casterline Hill Swamp (Nicholson Twp.)	Not surveyed; air photos indicate a fairly large broadleaf-conifer swamp; contributes water to Lake Sheridan; needs to be surveyed for rare species and natural community status,

4. Existing Conditions

4. Existing Conditions

Planning and Zoning

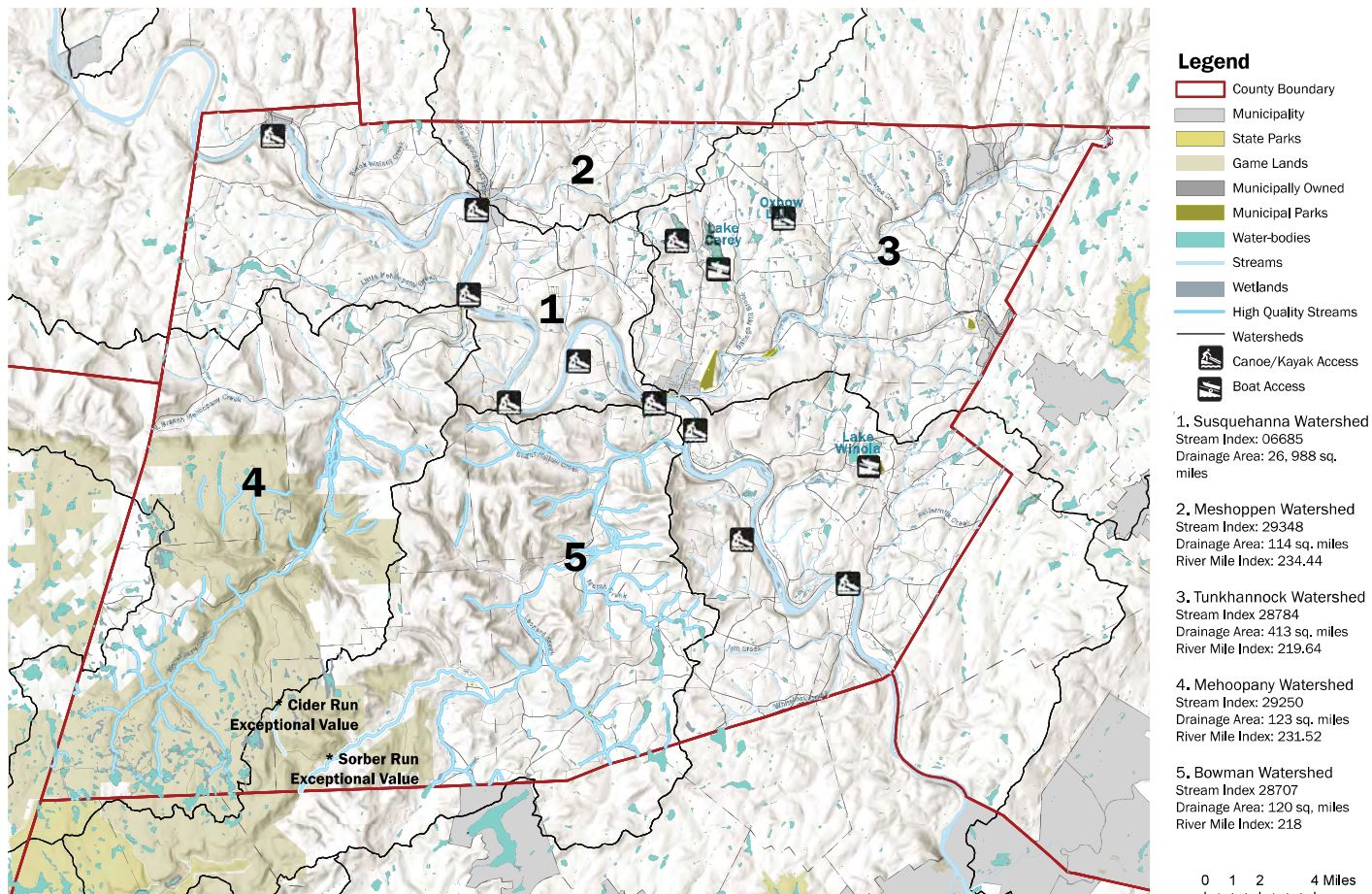
The Wyoming County Planning Commission consists of nine board members who are appointed by the County Commissioners whom meet on a monthly basis. It is the responsibility of the Wyoming County Planning Office to address county issues and coordinate and enact planning initiatives to proactively ensure that development and growth within the count is done for the betterment of the community.

Although the county does not have a county zoning ordinance, Ten Municipalities have adopted their own zoning ordinances. Five municipalities have adopted their own, subdivision and land ordinances (SALDO) . The remaining eight municipalities are under the jurisdiction of the County’s SALDO. Each county has enacted their own floodplain zoning ordinance.

Hydrology

Wyoming county is rich with hydraulic features with numerous wetlands, swamps, and ponds, lakes, and the most notable feature are the Susquehanna River. There are approximately 450 miles of stream within the county. Additionally, there are five sub-watersheds: Susquehanna, Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, and Mehoopany.

Most of the High Quality (HQ) Waters are in the southwest region of Mehoopany and Bowman Watersheds. Cider Run and Sorber Run are the only Exceptional Value Stream (EV) in the county and is within the Bowman Watershed. Class A streams within the county include Sugar hollow, Burgess Brook, Roaring Run, Hettesheimer run, York Run, Stone Run, Windfall Run, Sorber Run, and an unnamed tributary that enters the confluence of Stevens Creek in Beaumont.



Map A: Watersheds, Boating Access Streams

Boat and Fishing Access

The county has nine canoe and kayak launching locations along the Susquehanna River. In addition,

there are motorboat launches at Lake Carey and Lake Winona and additional non-motorized boat launches at Stevens Pond and Oxbow Lake.

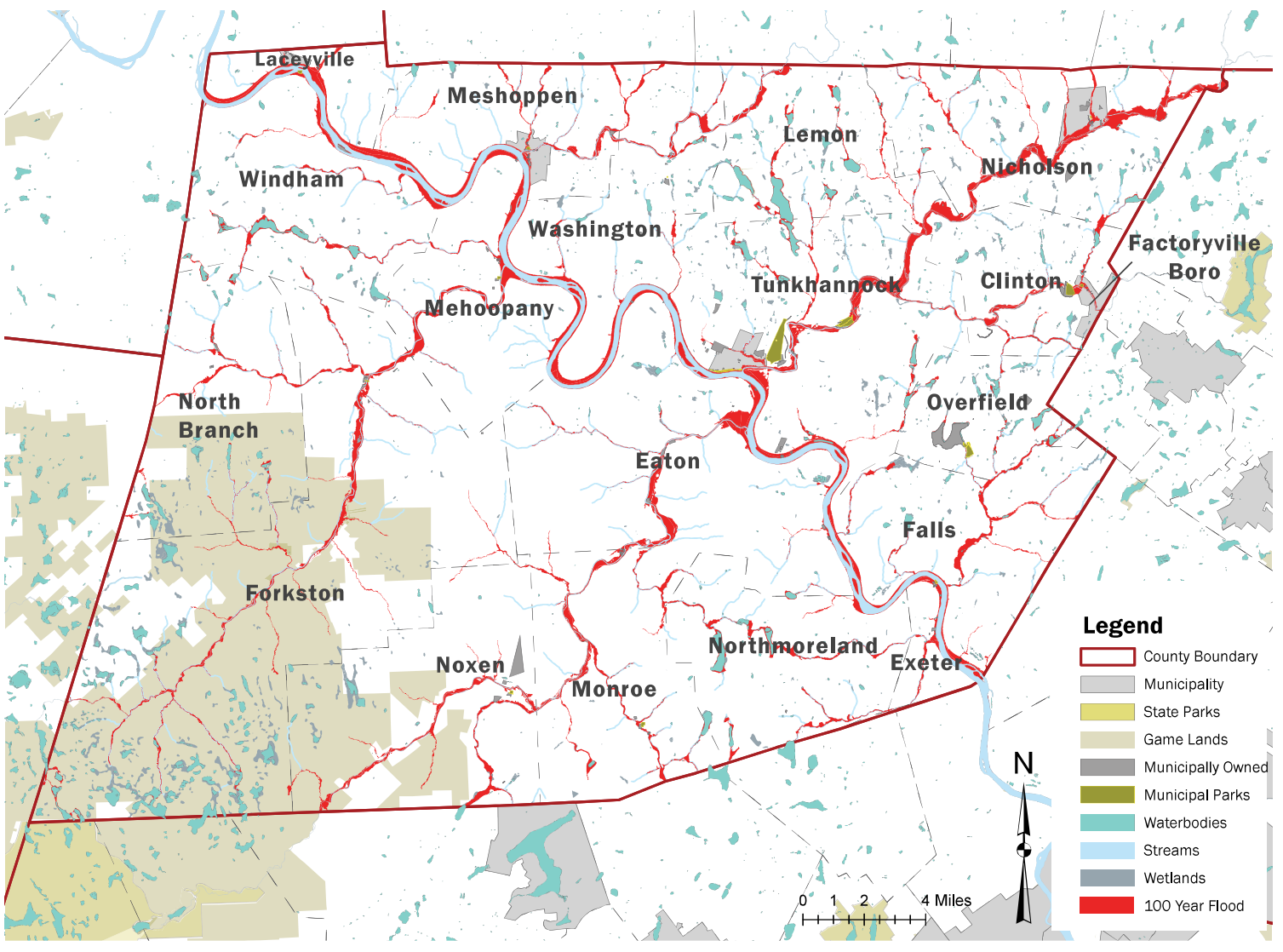
The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission manages seven locations within the county including, a segment of the Meshoppen Creek along Meshoppen Creek Road in Kaiserville just before Ellsworth Hill Road spanning the length of Mattock’s Road. As well as, Bowman Creek at Roadside Rest and along Jenks Road, In Falls along River Road, at Benson Hollow, and Stevens Pond, Oxbow Lake, and Lake Winola.

Flooding

When examining water as a natural resource, it is also essential to observe flooding as a hydrologic function and as a principle to ensuring resiliency within a populated area and near existing infrastructure. For example, in Wyoming county, the Susquehanna acts as a boundary line with different towns on either side of the river. Therefore, numerous communities are impacted during a significant storm. Also, this section of the river has had historically long ice jams that could also give way to flood events under certain conditions.

The Mehoopany Creek is known for its washouts during periods of heavy rain. In addition, Nicholson’s Martins creek and Horton creek enter the confluence of Tunkhannock Creek and have caused severe flooding devastation to the Nicholson community.

Map B: 100 Year Floodplain



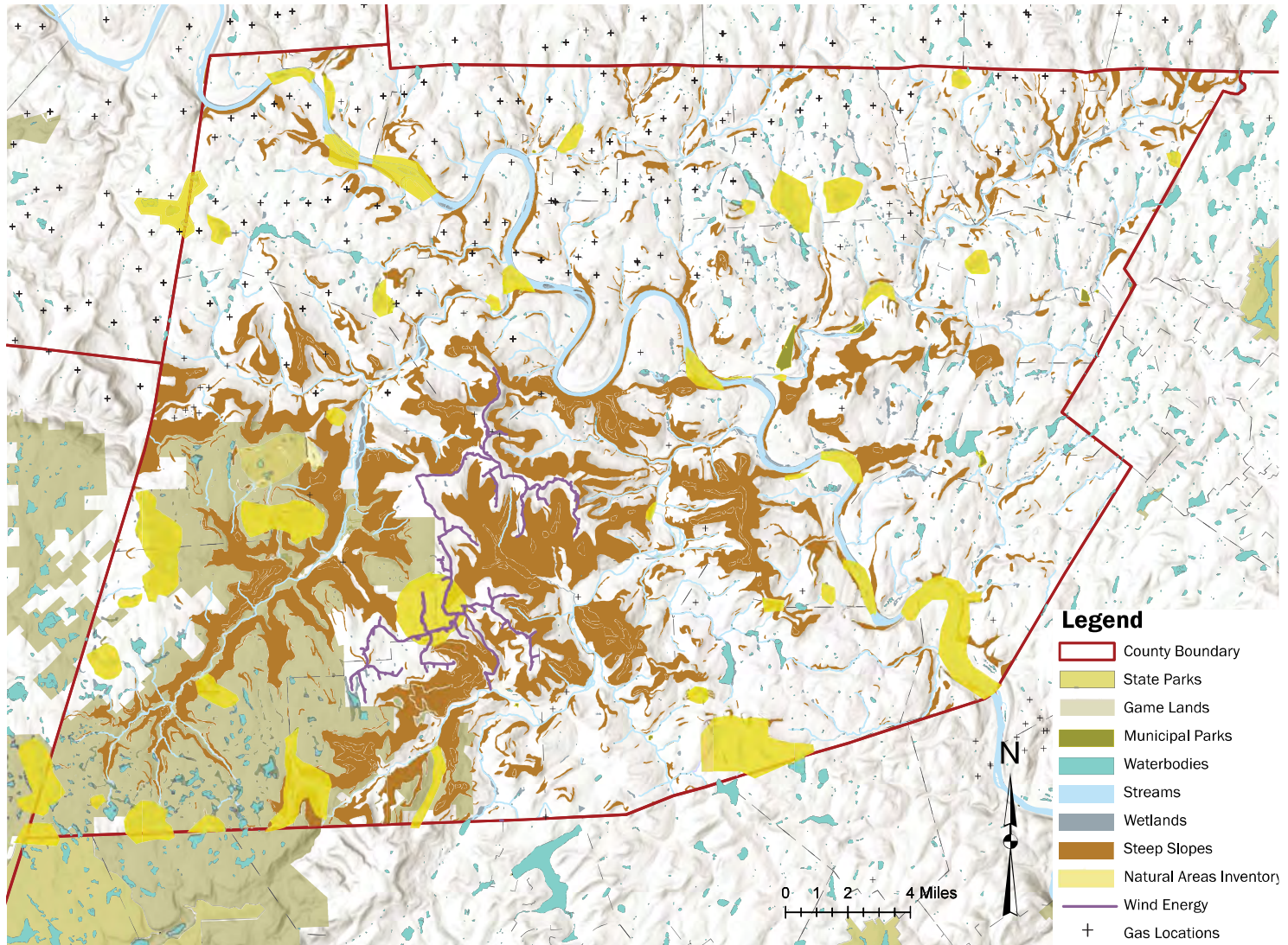
Natural Resources

Wyoming County is abundant with natural resources, and no place is far from a significant geological feature or natural area. While the southern portion of the county has a higher density of steep slopes, the county as its whole is peppered with significant ecological features that have been mapped through the County Natural

Areas Inventory. Some of these areas are endemic to Pennsylvania and exiting ecological communities rarely seen in the state.

Conservation is a central component to greenway and open space planning. Conservation areas are determined by their physical, biological and scenic features and corresponding significance. Through progressive planning efforts and land use decisions Wyoming County has within it’s jurisdiction numerous conservation areas. Through grassroots efforts, private non-profits, municipal zoning, conservation district programs, and the regional heritage authority the county has secured ___Acres of land for conservation. Though countywide mapping, conservation areas are inventoried THROUGH observation of resources, water, ecological, agricultural and scenic resources were examined.

Map C: Natural Resources



Parcel Data

The consultant reviewed parcel data for the county, including municipally-owned lands, municipal parks, game lands, state-owned lands, lands protected by agricultural security areas and easements, private conservation easements, historic places and markers, and cemeteries and points of interest.

Publicly Owned Lands

Municipally owned land, municipal parks, game lands, and state-owned lands within the county are the most convenient locations for expanding recreational opportunities. These parcels are managed through various forms of local and state government.

Agriculture Security Zones and Easements

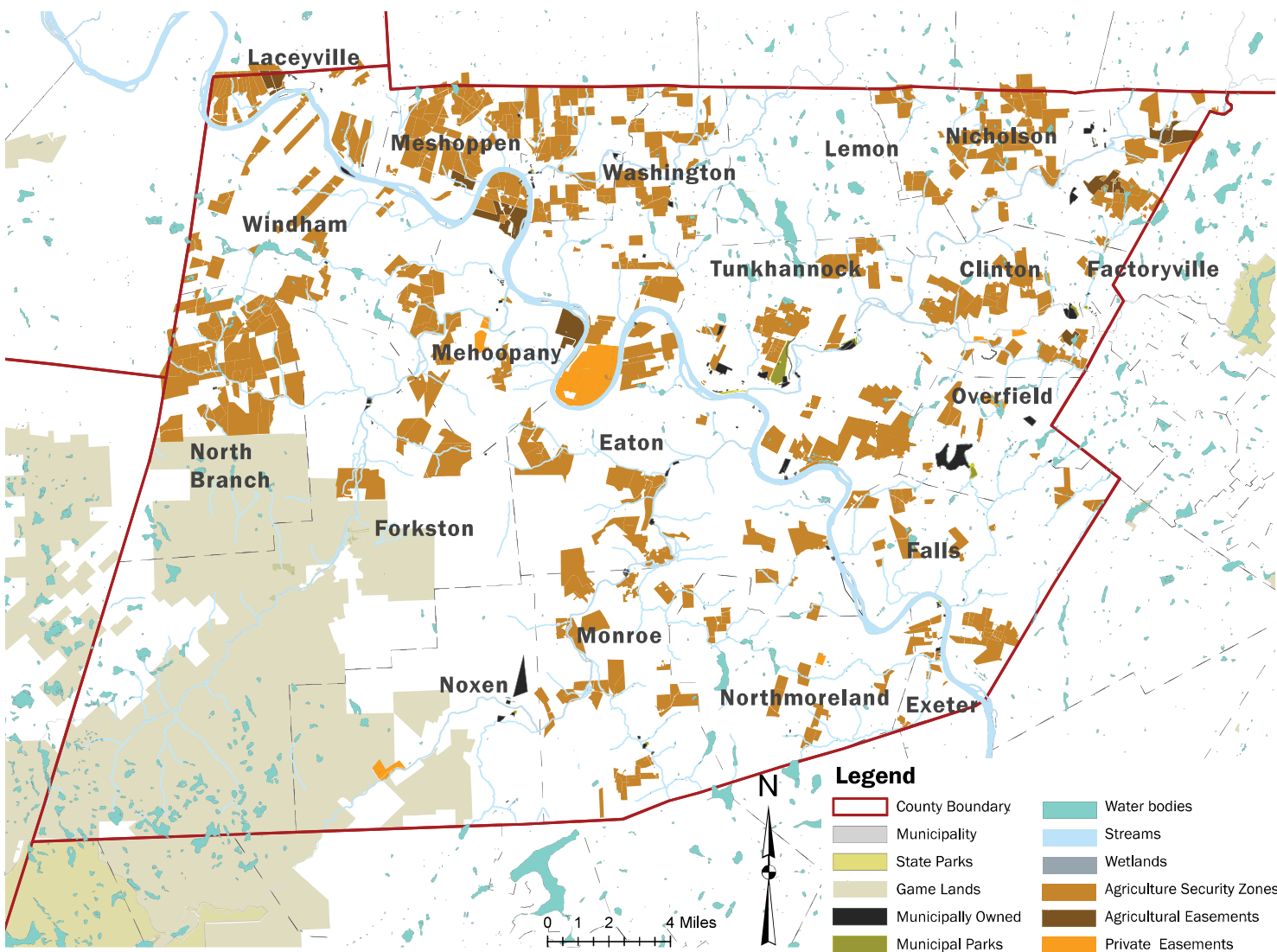
Agricultural Security Areas are a land planning tool that protects farms and farmers from nuisance

complaints and lawsuits against regular farming activity. According to The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the security areas are re-evaluated every seven years. Also, additional Agricultural parcels can join in an already established ASA at any time. A total of 250 combined acres of land are required to establish an ASA.

Several Agricultural Conservation Easements also supplement the richness of Wyoming County's pastoral significance. There are several agricultural conservation easements within Wyoming county. The agency tasked with facilitating Agricultural Conservation easements within Wyoming county is The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Wyoming County Conservation District administers the Farmland Preservation Program, an agriculture conservation easement program. The program provides working farm parcels of over 50 acres the opportunity to protect the land as sanctioned farmland. The Conservation District conducts the transaction of development rights from the property. This protects the farm in perpetuity from development, and ultimately preserving the pastoral landscape of Wyoming County.

The consultant conducted both a formal and informal interview with the SWCD in 2019 and 2021. During that period, the SWCD added one additional easement to the county. The Conservation District has stated that there are 15 other farms waiting for their easements in part because the program has limited funding and the transfer process is laborious.
https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/farmland/asa/Pages/default.aspx

Map D: Parcel Data



Private Conservation Easements

Several other conservation easements within the county are under private ownership. These easements have been vested through two non-profit organizations, the North Branch Land Trust and Countryside Conservancy, and may or may not be publicly accessible.

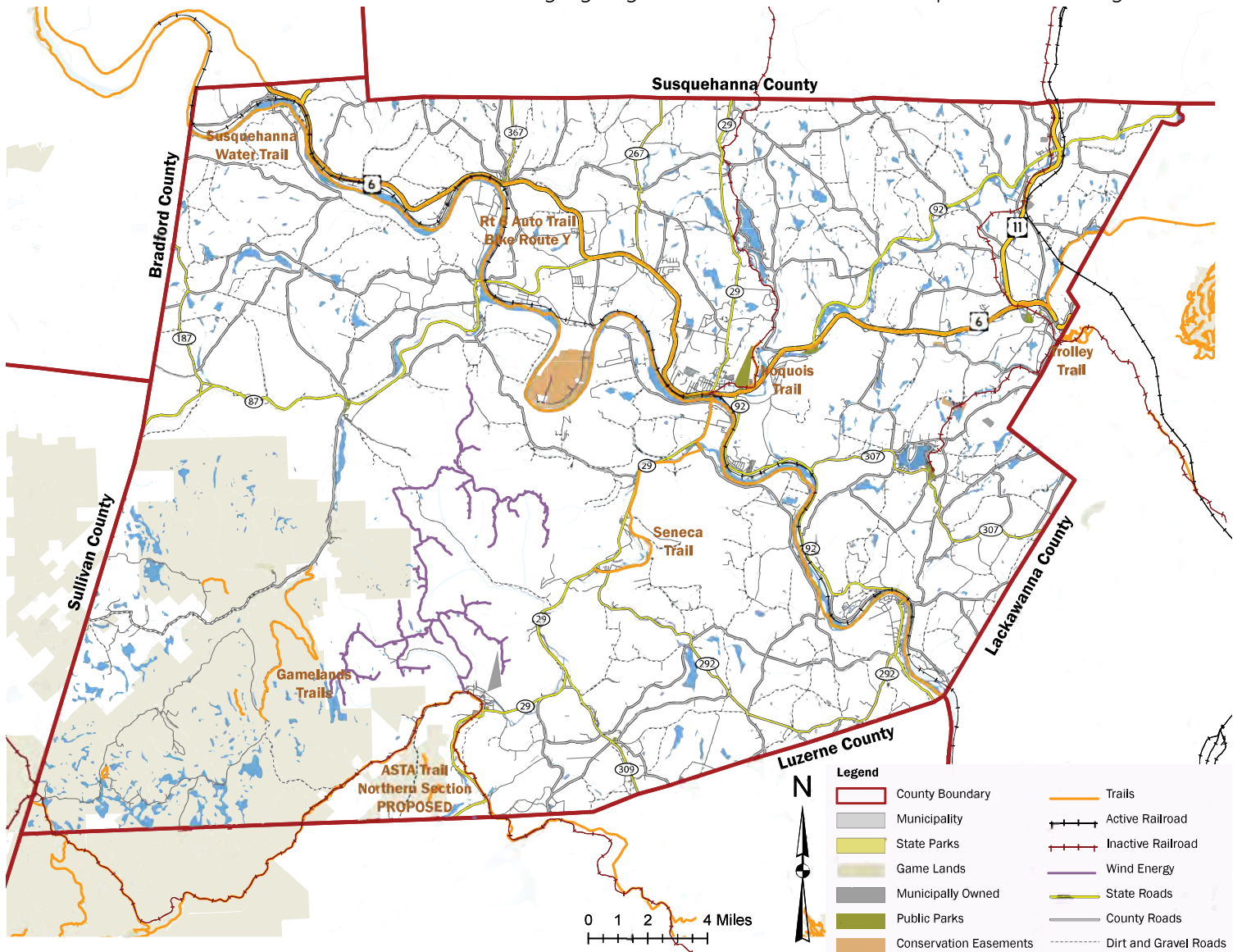
Grey Infrastructure

Major Corridors

US Route 6 traverses the county from East to West from Factoryville to Laceyville on the county’s northern portion. Route 6 is also known as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway. And spans from Bishop, California, to Provincetown, Massachusetts. The total length of Route 6 is 3,198.87 miles and is considered a main route in the US Highway System. Although the rural highway is one of the longest highways in the US Highway System, it is not a central transcontinental corridor. Historian George R. Stewart is quizzically quoted that, “Route 6 runs uncertainly from nowhere to nowhere, scarcely to be followed from one end to the other, except by some devoted eccentric”. Route 6 is not considered a National Scenic Byway; however, it is considered a State Byway.

Additionally, US 11 is aligned North to South from Factoryville to Nicholson, where it enters Susquehanna County. The total length of Route 11 is 1,645 miles from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Rouses Point, New York.

State Route 29 bisects the center of the county north to south from Lemon to Noxen. State Route 92 traverses along the northern portion of the Susquehanna River from Falls to Tunkhannock to Nicholson. 37.3 miles of the route is considered the Viaduct Valley Byway from Tunkhannock to Susquehanna County.



Map E: State, County, Dirt and Gravel Roads

Dirt and Gravel Roads

Dirt and gravel roads are typically lesser traveled roads in rural areas. These roads can support recreation such as hiking connections and Biking (gravel grinding). PA’s Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) is a state program that is administered locally by the Wyoming County Conservation District and provides road and

environmental improvements to the county’s dirt and gravel roads.

Bridge Crossings

Four bridges cross the Susquehanna River in Wyoming County and are located in Falls, Tunkhannock, Mehoopany, and Laceyville. Historically, in Eaton Township, there was a Ferrier location known as White’s Ferry. In addition, there are numerous stream crossings throughout the county, one a converted pedestrian Bridge located along the Seneca Trail in Eaton Township.

Canal remnants can be found in a couple of locations along the Susquehanna River. One most distinguishably along the Vosburg Neck. A unique historical location of canal activity and hydrology has been noted at the confluence of the Susquehanna River and the Mehoopany Creek, where the creek was used as a turnaround point for canal boats and delivery location for one of Mehoopany’s first general stores.

Wind Energy Network

In the Southern portion of the county, there is an expansive wind energy project. This network spans the Ridge tops of Forkston Mountain, Mehoopany Mountain, and Doll Mountain.

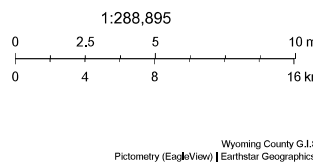
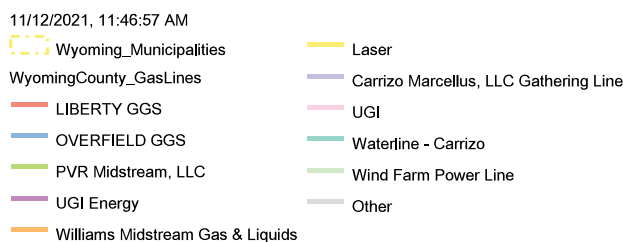
Trails

An in-depth analysis of trails is outlined in Section 5 of this report. Existing trails within the county are the Gamelands Trails, the proposed ASTA Trail Bike route Y and Route 6 Auto-Trail, Susquehanna Water Trail, The Seneca Trail, the Trolley Trail, and The Iroquois Trail.

Railroads

There are two active rail lines within the county: the Delaware Lackawanna Western that parallels Route 11 in Nicholson and the Lehigh Valley line that parallels the Susquehanna River and Route 6. In addition, there are 3 inactive rail lines within Wyoming County. The Northern Line Section of The Lehigh Valley Line traverses from Tunkhannock to Lemon parallel to route 29. And the Southern Line Section that Borders Luzerne County and traverses up from the county line to Noxen and returns south into Luzerne. Additionally, The Northern Electric Trolley Line Crosses into the County in Factoryville and Splits south to Lake Winola and North to Nicholson

and Susquehanna County. It is important to note that the inactive rail lines within the county are utilized as rails to trails, and efforts have been made to extend sections of trail along the rail corridors.



Gas Utility Corridors

Due to the extensive effort of natural gas extraction within the county, countless corridors exist. The actual data set for every corridor was not accessible for this report. However, the American Geo-sciences Institute (AGI) has a National Interactive Map of pipelines that explicitly excludes well-to-well connections. However, the Wyoming County GIS database does have a more detailed set of data for these corridors. It has been mentioned by the County Planner and members of the Steering Committee that these kinds

Map F: Gas Lines

of connections could be utilized for trail development. However, numerous restrictions could limit the opportunity for that kind of development, including private ownership of the lines and property and steep terrain.

National Register of Historic Places in Wyoming County

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the federal government’s official list of places, structures and objects that are deemed worthy of preservation protection for their historical significance.

In Wyoming County, there are currently five nationally registered structures or areas. There is no strict protection that is offered by Federal listings. States and local zoning can choose to not project listed historic places. There can be tax incentives to owners of properties listed in the National Register.

Lenticular Bridge, June 22, 1988

Nicholson Township, Route 65021 over Tunkhannock Creek

Notable for its rivets and beams, the bridge was relocated from its original location to Lazy brook Park where the bridge was restored using traditional craftsmanship to preserve its historic authenticity.

Noxen School, May 24, 2006

Noxen Township, School Street

Old White Mill, September 11, 1975

Meshoppen, off Welles Street

The Old White Mill is distinguished first by its age. Structurally intact, the Mill has a stone floor constructed of Chestnut. The original equipment is still inside the structure.

Tunkhannock Historic District, July 27, 2017

Dedicated as a national historic district the area is contributed by 225 buildings in the business district. Structures dated between 1841- 1954. The streets include Tioga, Pine, and Harrison streets, and Wyoming Avenue

Tunkhannock Viaduct, April 11, 1977

Nicholson, .5 miles east of Nicholson at Tunkhannock Creek

A regional wonder, and engineering feat constructed of concrete the Tunkhannock Viaduct also referred to as the Nicholson Bridge Constructed between 1912-1915 the bridge is dubbed “the largest concrete bridge in America.”

Unrecognized Historically Significant Structures and Places

Wyoming county has rich pastoral and rural history. In bygone-era’s the county was a hub of many mills, manufacturing, and a transportation corridor for The Lehigh Valley Railroad Delaware, The Lackawanna and Western, The Electric Trolley Car, and the North Branch Canal. Remnants of past motility remain in some locations through the county in the forms of old abutments, breaking in forested canopy for rail right-of ways, prism gullies from the canal, and others.

Before the Industrial Era the North Branch Corridor was the passage for the military campaign, Sullivan’s March, and in the pioneer era it was the lands explored by the Susquehanna Company. Originally, Native People’s lands and at the time of colonial settlement under the control of the Iroquois League. The North Branch Corridor was known as the Great Warrior Path a Native American footpath.

The history of place can also be observed in its burial grounds. There are several cemeteries in Wyoming County. Many are the resting grounds of the area’s earliest settlers, some descendants of the first pilgrim settlers, and kin to victims bludgeoned in the Wyoming Massacre (Overfield,2019). Most cemeteries are owned or managed by municipalities. Some cemeteries have associations, such as the Overfield Cemetery Association who volunteer and allocate resources to maintenance and upkeep the burial grounds (Overfeild,2019).

Hiduk, Rick. “Overfield Cemetery Marks Community’s Earliest Settlers” Endless Mountains Lifestyle. September 18, 2019. Web. December 11, 2019. <http://www.endlessmtnlifestyles.com/?p=14625>

Of the many other historic and culturally relevant locations within the county, some are protected by conservation easements or owned by the association that operates or preserves them. Some historic places have no recognized status and are left unprotected. If a structure is unprotected by any measure, then it is subjected to being demolished or developed apart from its historic or cultural significance. An example can be

made from the recent demolition of the Hotel Kennard (Taylor Hospital) in Meshoppen that was demolished in 2019 for commercial development.

The consultant believes it essential to include in this report to promote the advocacy of protecting Wyoming county’s rich historical past, unrecognized notable structures. The consultant is aware there could be many other structures and places within Wyoming County that were not reviewed for this report, and supports community advocacy to promote and protect those places as well. For example, the following structures are unrecognized but historically significant structures within the county.

Nicholson Train Station, Nicholson Historical Society, Nicholson

Electric Trolley Station, Elmer Nordal Park, Nicholson
The only existing Trolley Station intact within Wyoming County

Noxen Train Station, Lehigh Valley Railroad Depot, NBLT

Oldest House, Laceyville

Hexagon House, Laceyville

Kintner’s Mill, Currently Kintner’s Olde Mill. Sterling Street, Meshoppen, PA

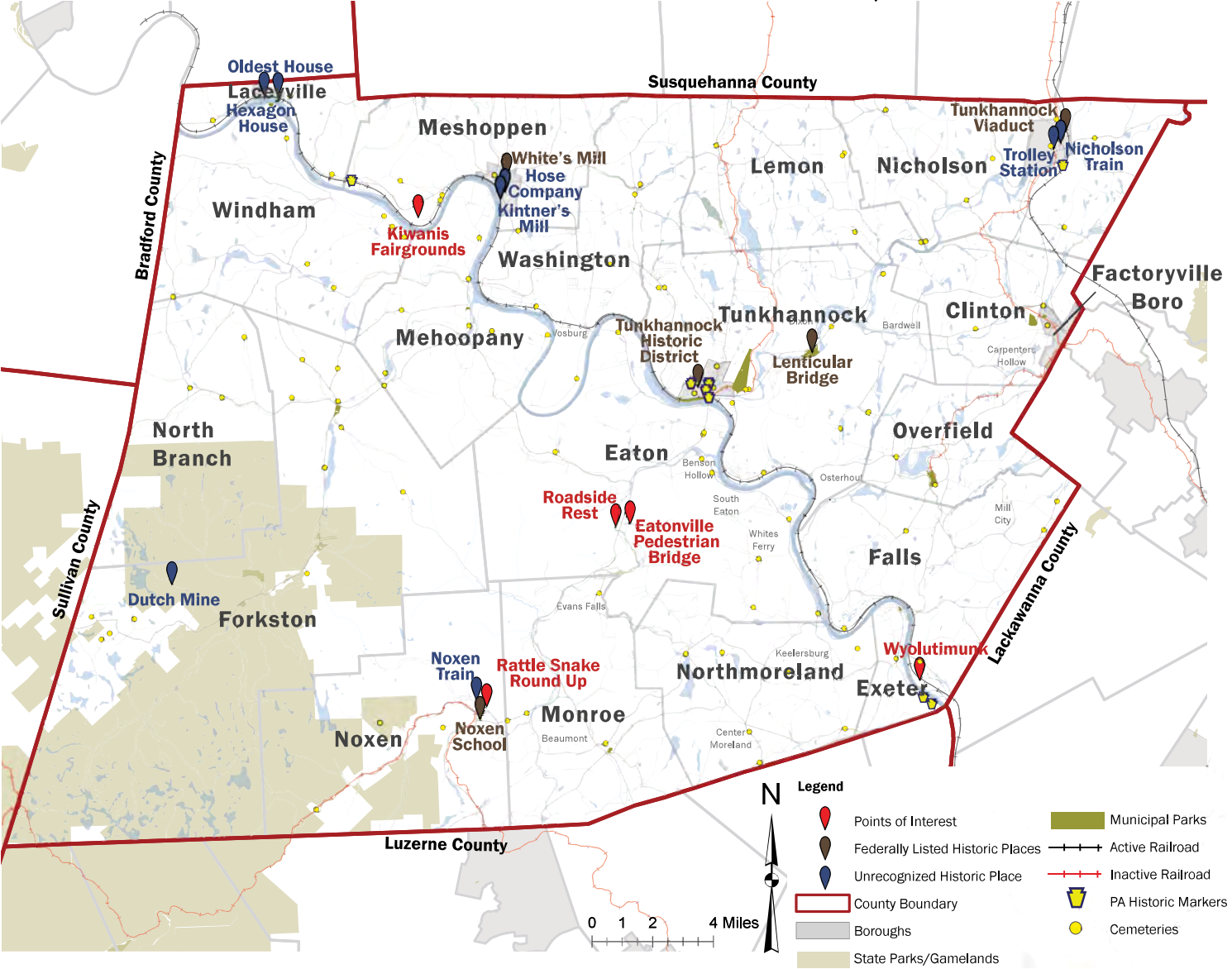
Fire Department, Off of Main between Sterling and Tunkhannock, Meshoppen

The Meshoppen Fire was a disastrous and historical event; highlighting this history could be interesting

Historic Homes in Tunkhannock, Tunkhannock Borough

The Met Caf Manor is one of the most unique and elaborate homes within the county.

Map G: Historic and Cultural Resources



Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) administers the program of historical markers. It is intended that this program captures the likeness of people, places, events, and innovations that contributed to Pennsylvania's History. Currently, PHMC has been working toward re-evaluation of all of its markers, and have instituted a process for prioritizing those that might be considered offensive or insensitive for revision or removal.

THE PHMC is also considering markers that may be inaccurate, but need concrete evidence to make any changes. Markers in the early years of the program may not have been based on such evidence, but today, documentation is required to support proposed locations. All nominations are submitted by the public and each nominator proposes a site for the marker that is associated in some way with the marker subject.

Marked Historic Locations

Christy Mathewson (1880-1925), August 8, 1998,

College Ave, At Edwardsville Ln, In front of Keystone College

Sullivan Expedition Against the Iroquois, 1929, 1947

Six markers along US 6 and PA 92

Tunkhannock, May 1947

Route 6, Bridge street, Tunkhannock

Tunkhannock Viaduct, September 16, 1995

Lackawanna Trail US11 at park Monument

Walter B. Tewksbury (1876-1968), July 21, 2000

Memorial Field Tunkhannock Area HS.

Wyolutimunk, August 16, 1949

Pa 92 2.3 miles south of Falls .2 miles North of Wyoming Luzerne County line

Wyoming County, July 9, 1982

The county courthouse, Warren St

4. Parks, Trails, and Greenway Inventory & Analysis

5. Parks and Recreation Inventory & Analysis/ Greenway Hubs

Introduction

The planning process's Park Inventory and Analysis phase examined the existing site conditions at each of the seventeen known municipally owned parks in Wyoming County. The process included preparing a scaled site plan for each park and conducting a field visit to identify and document relevant natural features and constructed amenities. Observations of a park's proximity and connections to natural resources such as forests, meadows, wetlands, lakes, and watercourses are recorded. The infrastructure of roadways, railroads, trails, structures, and public utilities are also documented.

Public safety and ADA-compliant accessibility were the two paramount considerations while performing the park site inventory and analysis. Though not intended to be comprehensive, safety observations involve a visual examination of a park's general condition, including the perceived level and frequency of maintenance and general condition, upkeep, and any needed repairs. ADA access is evaluated for compliance with the number of ADA parking stalls required/provided and the existence of an accessible route(s) to the various park structures, site improvements, facilities, and amenities.

A general comparative analysis of municipal park facilities will consider trends and commonalities among the 17 parks visited. A Municipal Parks Inventory and Analysis Overview will analyze, compare, and contrast the condition, usage, maintenance, and management of the recreation amenities, activities, and support facilities offered at the municipal level.

Based on the data collected, a Municipal Park Facilities and Activities Matrix was developed to list the facilities and activities available at each park in a tabular form. The matrix further ranks our observations of the present park amenities as G = Good, F = Fair, and P = Poor condition.

Inventory and Analysis Overview

Municipal parks inventory and analysis overviews take a broad "birds-eye" view of the municipal recreational facilities, activities, events, and programming available to residents and visitors in Wyoming County. In addition, a commentary is derived from site visits observing site amenities, addressing accessibility and general safety. Park amenities include playgrounds, swings, benches, and more, and they are unique to each location.

Site Amenities

The analysis looks at what type of features each park offers. It examines the parking level and quantity of spaces, number, and quality of picnic tables, trash cans, recycling, water fountains, lighting, and pet waste stations. No Park offered potable water or water fountains. Some facilities provide recycling; Creekside Park (Clinton TWP) and Washington Township Park host municipal recycling for their municipality.

The inventory recorded any courts, fields, or courses present. At one of the steering committees, one of the members mentioned the lack of basketball courts. However, we found numerous basketball courts though out the parks. Some courts need repair, which may be what the member may have been referring to.

Many parks have water or water features near them and some level of access. Depending on the location and type of water feature, the consultant examined water and boat access. Therefore, any present issues in this section typically reflect the access and safety level for users.

Accessibility

An accessible park design includes designated parking, accessible routes, and amenities or park elements that offer an equitable experience to all users. Nevertheless, it can also take into account another sensory,

cognitive, or motility accommodation.

All parks have some level of parking. Only Creekside Park (Clinton TWP) and Monroe Township Park has been paved and up to current design standards for accessible parking spaces.

It is important to note that most parks had ADA parking; however, not all sites had ADA accessible port-o-potty on site. The only park recorded to have an ADA Port-O-Potty was Riverside (Tunkhannock). Therefore, when attempting to accommodate all users, Thought has to be given to the experience sequence.

The only park to generate an equating experience through play equipment was Hock Park (Falls), a wheelchair-accessible swing. This swing is located on the lower side of the park, closer to River Road, but the ADA sign is in the parking lot upslope on Church Street. In this situation, there is no accessible path to the accessible feature from the accessible parking space. While the park has a port-o-potty, it is not wheelchair accessible. When planning for parks, access is a primary focus. When planning for amenities, it is essential to have a similar principle in providing access. In another situation, Creekside Junction Park had accessible permanent restrooms but no designated parking space in its paved lot. In both cases, there are simple solutions to augment access across the user experience. In Falls, plan to rent an accessible port-o-potty and reserve an on-street ADA stall on River Rd. In North Branch, paint an ADA stall and install a sign.

The inventory assesses the access to playground features; it also notes any truly equitable experience play equipment. It should always be a goal to have pavilions and restrooms accessible. An accessible path to the feature and adequate accommodations should be implemented when designing or updating park facilities. For example, many pavilions have wheelchair-accessible picnic tables beneath them, and all have a concrete pad or flat compacted surface.

All restroom accommodations were tallied and recorded for each park where facilities existed. Most parks had either one or more port-o-potty; Creekside (Factoryville) has gendered restrooms but were locked during the site visit. Creekside Junction Park (North Branch) was the single location recorded with accessible gendered permanent composting toilet restrooms. It was open for use during the site visit. Port-o-potties are convenient and sanitary solutions to traditional plumbing. However, port-o-potties do have continual costs, raised sanitation issues, and toxicity to people and wildlife. Assessing the feasibility of composting toilets could be practical for some locations such as Lazy brook or Riverside Park.

General Safety

A safety surface is important beneath every piece of play equipment. Safety surface needs to be adequate, without signs of wear or weeds. Safety surface should be the appropriate height to play equipment that meets ASTM Playground Safety Standards. The most common safety surface is Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). Municipalities should review US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Handbook; EWF is a wood product that looks similar to landscaping mulch. However, EWF is explicitly designed for use as a playground safety surface. EWF products should meet ASTM F2075: Standard Specification for Engineered Wood Fiber and comply with ASTM F1292. Rubber mulch products must also be tested and comply with ASTM F1292. Municipalities should refer to Section 2.4.2.2 of the Public Playground Safety Handbook for more surfacing requirements.

General Hazards typically reflect the age of equipment, condition, as well as general wear. It is a county trend for municipalities to acquire equipment from other locations, such as the elementary schools that have recently closed. It is a concern when relocating play equipment that pieces can be missing or broken. In general, this practice should be avoided when possible. The play equipment manufacturer typically issues play equipment with the specific location plans it will be installed and takes a careful assessment of site elevations. Each feature includes fall zones distinct for the equipment in the area at the time of installation.

Distance is recorded between parking lots and roadways to playgrounds. The safety concerns to playground locations are addressed where issues could be present. Pedestrian movement is unpredictable when there are no pedestrian designated uses. In some cases, the park's roadway services as a walking path can present unsafe situations.

Inspection of Picnic tables and benches must often happen for any loose or broken parts. In addition,

weed-whacking around and mowing or mulching beneath picnic tables and benches will constantly improve appearances and reduce the hazard of bees or ticks to users.

Maintenance responsibility typically falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality. However, if other groups or organizations assist with the duty, Boroughs and Townships should recognize those efforts in some way at the park.

The Park Profile Page Format

A detailed site inventory and analysis information on the next individual Park Profile Pages are outlined in the following general format and sequence where appropriate.

Location

Each park's location is indicated on the county-wide map (See Figure __ Pg__). In addition, a narrative description includes directions to or from easily identified landmarks, roadways, and roadway intersections. The Latitude and Longitude for each Park are also provided.

Ownership

Of the 17 municipal parks visited, 15 are owned by the municipality. Creekside Park is owned jointly by Clinton Township and Factoryville Borough. Creekside Junction Park is owned collectively by Forkston Township, Windham Township, North Branch Township, Mehoopany Township. (Are we sure of this ownership?)

Size

The approximate land area of each park parcel is measured in acreage.

Parks and Recreation Budget

Where current data on municipal annual and capital budget expenditures on parks and recreation was available, it will be presented on each municipal park profile page.

Features

The site features narrative describes and quantifies many of the observations noted during the respective park inventory field visits. This information is also included in the Municipal Park Facilities and Activities Matrix. In addition, the narrative may consist of background information gathered through conversations with various interested stakeholders, park neighbors, local elected officials, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations. The analysis compares various park features with current accepted "general" park planning standards and recommended design considerations for safety and accessibility in public parks. Essential maintenance and operational observations may also be noted where appropriate.

Accessibility

As mentioned earlier in this report, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is required in all situations. Therefore, this report's scope will only include commentary based upon our cursory "visual" observations for ADA compliance of existing parking stalls, signage, and provision of an accessible route to all significant park elements such as playgrounds, structures, recreation trails, courts, and fields.

No exact field measurements were taken, and no detailed inspection of facilities was performed at any of the park sites visited. Instead, these observations are offered for the sole purpose of communicating acknowledgment that some municipal park facilities may not be compliant with current ADA access requirements and that these facilities may require a closer inspection and future upgrades. Specifically, access observations are outlined in each park profile for parking, playgrounds, and general site features.

Safety

This section of the report's public safety commentary is based solely on "visual" observations made during site inventory visits to each municipal park. Paramount considerations include a clear separation of pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns within the park, pedestrian/vehicular conflicts such as park entrance areas, vehicular intersections, parking lots, and where trails or crosswalks intersect park drives or public roadways. Other observations may include noting the need for maintenance, repairs, or upgrades of deteriorating park amenities such as paved roadways or trail and walkway surfaces; various park structures (pavilions, restrooms, etc.), playground areas and play equipment, soil erosion, and flooding; hazardous trees, etc.

It is not within the scope of this study to conduct playground safety assessments at each municipal park. However, playground safety assessments are recommended to be performed regularly at each park by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector in compliance with ASTM and Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for Public Playgrounds. In addition, this study will note park maintenance practices (or lack thereof), as they may affect safe park usage, and note any recent vandalism, damage by weather,

or other destructive acts of nature or human agencies.

Specifically, safety observations address playground safety, playground safety surfacing, general playground hazards, Barriers between play features and roadways, the public safety of existing site features, and pedestrian and vehicular conflicts.

Quality

Sense of place is an atmospheric quality that is difficult to quantify. However, the park's overall quality offers a narrative of the park's features at the consultants' time of visit.

Programming

Programming reflects the number of parks features paired with any structured or scheduled activities at a park. The frequency of programming can be annual, semi-annual, seasonal, and daily. Programming for each Park was researched and collected through the survey distributed at the Annual Supervisors Meeting at the Triton Firehall, committee members, through the public survey, and public meetings.

Users/Organizations

Users and organizations were identified through observations at each park where organizations are active. Other methods to identify users and organizations include past news articles, social media events and posts, and public input.

Maintenance

Maintenance of a park ensures the safety, access, and continued use of park features and amenities.

Maintenance Responsibility

Maintenance responsibility typically falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality. However, if other groups or organizations assist with the responsibility, Boroughs and townships should recognize those efforts in some way at the park.

Maintenance Quality

Assessments by the consultant regarding the existing quality of maintenance were recorded during the site visit. However, it may not always reflect the rate experienced by users daily or in seasonal conditions.

Maintenance Requirements

Maintenance requirements are assessed by the features that are on-site and any upkeep associated with them.

Website/Online Presence

Some parks have web pages on municipality websites. Some have Facebook pages or pinned locations through other media platforms like Instagram. Parks also can be noted on third-party travel websites. The digital landscape offers opportunities for tourism and outreach. Maximizing virtual presence can be tool municipalities use to promote the park and enhance visibility to tourists and residents.

Park Inventory Chart

Wyoming County Parks Inventory			
Location	Park Name	Physical Address	Size(Acres)
Large Regional Parks			
41.5531479 -75.8994527	Lazy Brook Park (Lazybrook)	152 Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock Township	34
41.5359562 -75.956341	Riverside Park	River Street, Tunkhannock Borough	20
41.5640721 -75.7943202	Factoryville/Clinton Township Joint Municipal Park	166-178 Creek Road, Factoryville	29
41.53426 -76.12511	Creek Junction Park	SR 87 & Windy Valley Road, Forkston	9
Community Parks			
41.5657433- 75.7898789	Cristy Mathewson Park	18-19 Thompson Road, Factoryville	3
41.4622735-75.8570347	George R Hock Memorial Park	Curch St, West Falls	2
41.5062226-75.840112	Lake Winola Community Park	157 Fairview Rd., Lake Winola	5
41.4107166 -75.9953757	Monroe Township Park	1351 Plattsburg Road, Beaumont	4
41.603041 -75.98215	Washington Township Park	184 Keiserville Road, Tunkhannock	5
41.6144714 -76.0488323	Meshoppen Community Park	Canal Street, Meshoppen	4
41.568721 -76.062716	Mehoopany Park & Playground	310 Schoolhouse Hill Road, Mehoopany	2
41.4204029 -76.0568169	Noxen Community Park	3600 SR 29, Noxen	5
Sports Complexes			
41.5386187 -75.9351719	Bob Massker Sports Complex	6 Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock Borough	6
41.6400921 -76.1575672	Donovan Park	111 Ball Park Road, Laceyville	4.5
Pocket Parks			
41.6253977 -75.7843246	Elmer Nordal Memorial Park	16 Oak Street, Nicholson	1
41.565133, -75.783645	Bob Padula Jr. Memorial Park	136 College Ave, Factoryville	0.3
41.540520-75.941870	McCord Park	69 E Harrison St, Tunkhannock	0.3

	PARK NAME & LOCATION	Lazybrook Park Tunkhannock TWP	Riverside Park Tunkhannock BORO	Creekside Park Clinton TWP	Creekside Junction Forkston TWP	Christy Matthewson Factoryville TWP	Hock Memorial Park Falls TWP	Peck Natural Area/Park Clinton TWP	Old Beaumont School Monroe TWP	Community Park Washington TWP	Meshoppen Park Meshoppen TWP	Mehoopany Playground Mehoopany TWP	Noxen Playground Noxen TWP	Bob Massker Complex Tunkhannock BORO	Donovan Park Laceyville TWP	Elmer Nordal Park Nicholson BORO	McCord Park Tunkhannock BORO	Padula Memorial Park Factoryville BORO
	AMMENITIES																	
1	Parking																	
2	Picnic Tables	61***	13 *-***	13 ***	25 ***	10***	11 ***	1***	4 ***	9 ***	8 ***	7 ***	1 ***	1***	N	1 ***	N	N
3	Trash Cans	20***	2 ***	7***	8 ***	6***	7 ***	N	3 ***	N	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	1 ***	1 ***	N	1***
4	Recycling (Y/N)	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
5	Benches	10 ***	16 *-***	3	4 ***	4***	10 ***	N	6 ***	6 ***	N	N	4 **	N	N	2 ***	N	1***
6	Water Fountain (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
7	Lighting (Y/N)	Y *	N	N	N	Y*	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
8	Pet Station(Y/N)	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	SIGNAGE																	
9	Kiosk/Map (Y/N)	Y **	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***
10	Park Sign (Y/N)	Y **	Y ***	Y***	Y ***	Y ***	Y **	N	Y **	N	N	Y **		Y ***	Y ***	Y **	N	Y ***
11	Park Rules (Y/N)	Y ***	Y ***	Y**	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N
	FACILITIES																	
12	Pavilion	4 ***	1 ***	1***	2 ***	1 ***	2 ***	N	1 **	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	N	N	N
13	Restrooms	6 ***	1 ***	2	2 ***	N	1	N	2 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	N	N	N	N
14	Historic Feature (Y/N)	Y	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N	Y*	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N
	PLAYGROUND																	
15	Swings (Y/N)	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y **	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N	N
16	Slides (Y/N)		Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N	N
17	Play Structure (Y/N)	Y ***	Y *	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y **	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N	N
18	Surface Type	Mulch/roc	Mulch	Mulch	Rubber	Mulch	Mulch	N	Mulch	Mulch	Mulch	Grass	Mulch	N	N	Mulch	N	N
19	ADA Equipment (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N	N	Y **	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	ATHLETIC																	
20	Courts	N	B-Ball	N	B-Ball	B-Ball	B-Ball	B-Ball	B-Ball	N	B-Ball	N	N	N	N	B-Ball	N	N
21	Fields	N	N	Soccer	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	N	N
22	Courses	DG	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	WATER FEATURES																	
23	River/Stream (Y/N)	Tunk C	Sus River	Tunk C	Mehoop C	Tunk C	Sus River		Leonard C	N	Meshop C	N	Beaver R	N	Sus River	N	N	N
24	Lake (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	N	L Winola	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
25	Fishing Pier (Y/N)	Y**	N	N	N	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
26	Water Access (Y/N)	Y**	Y ***	Y*	Y **	Y***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y *	N	Y **	N	Y ***	N	N	N
27	Boat Access (Y/N)	Y*	Y ***	N	N		Y ***	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N	N

Key
 * - Poor
 ** - Fair
 *** - Good
 Tunk C- Tunkhannoc Creek
 Sus River- Susquehanna River
 Leonard C- Leonard Creek
 L Winola- Lake Winola
 N Beaver R- Beaver Run
 Mehoop C- Mehoopnay Creek
 Meshop C- Meshoppen Creek

Park Inventory

Overview Map

Wyoming County, PA

Legend



Regional Parks

- 1. Lazy Brook Park (Lazybrook)
- 2. Riverside Park
- 3. Joint Municipal Park
- 4. Creek Junction Park



Community Parks

- 5. Christy Mathewson Park
- 6. George R Hock Memorial Park
- 7. Lake Winola Community Park
- 8. Monroe Township Park
- 9. Washington Township Park
- 10. Meshoppen Community Park
- 11. Mehoopany Park
- 12. Noxen Community Park



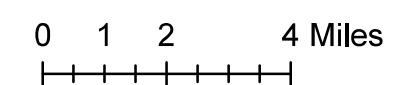
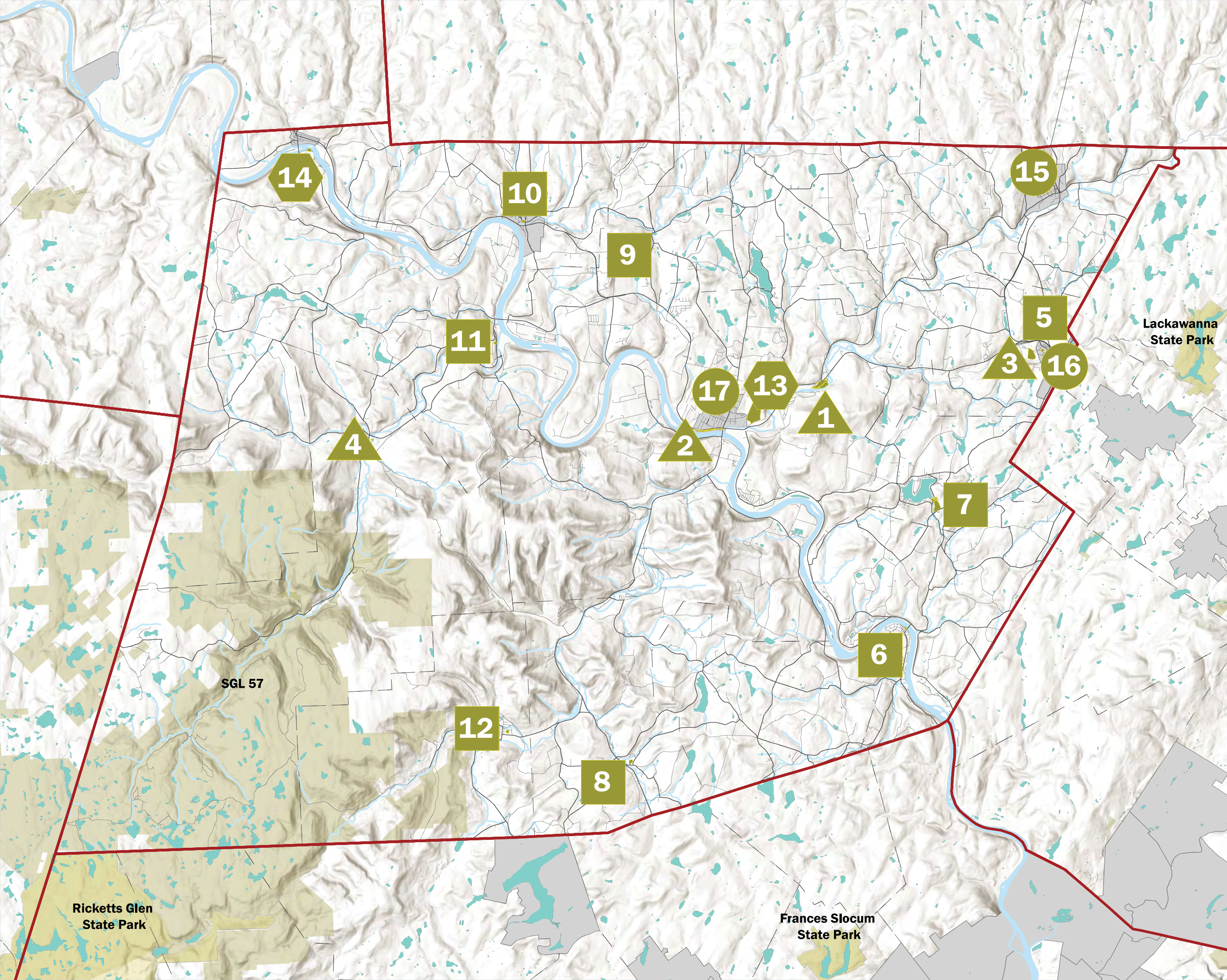
Sports Complexes

- 13. Bob Massker Sports Complex
- 14. Donovan Park



Pocket Parks

- 15. Elmer Nordal Memorial Park
- 16. Bob Padula Jr. Memorial Park
- 17. McCord Park



Large Regional Parks

41.5531479 -75.8994527

Lazybrook Park

152 Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock Township

Size: 34-Acers

Ownership: Tunkhannock Township

Municipal Budget: Yes

Location

Access to the Park is on Route 6, across from Deer Park Lumber. The entrance traverses a shared right of way on Deer Park property before the gateway and park sign. Access is also possible eastbound on Route 6 by turning right on Overlook Drive. Cozy Creek Campground is across the creek from the park.

Features

Active floodplain with over 2,000 ft frontage along Tunkhannock Creek, mixed deciduous and ever-green riparian buffer with fishing access along an earthen walking path, ¾ mile multi-purpose crushed stone loop trail, picnic pavilions, William B Kresge Memorial Disk Golf Course, nationally registered historic Nicholson lenticular bridge, two playgrounds (pre-k and 5-12 age range) with custom wooden structures, Kiwanis Memorial and Commemorative Tree Program, tree ID walk, lending library, pet waste stations, parking, port-o-potties, concrete pad and stairs for kayak and canoe access, multi-purpose fields for soccer and football, wood sculptures, wood arbors, historic mine machinery.



Accessibility

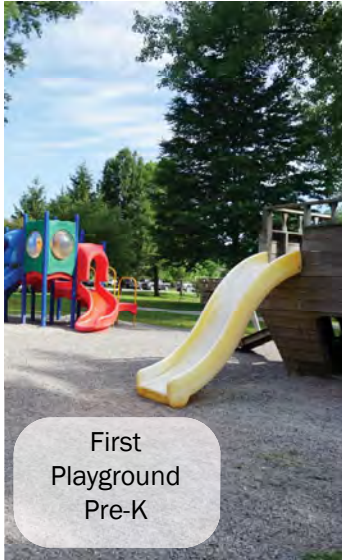
Parking

There are five parking areas. Accessible parking stalls are designated by signage, but all parking stalls are unpaved and unmarked on a gravel surface, making them non-compliant with current ADA requirements.

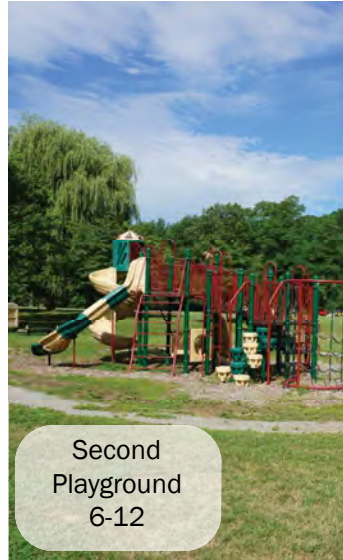
Playground

The first playground by the Deer Park (Pre-K) entrance does not have an accessible path. The second playground has remnants of an accessible way but has eroded over time and is no longer accessible.

The second playground (6-12) no longer meets the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommendations for safety surfaces for playgrounds.



First
Playground
Pre-K



Second
Playground
6-12

Features

No port-o-potty on-site is accessible to accommodate wheelchair users. The area with the concrete pad and stair designated to provide access to the water is not accessible to individuals with mobility limitations. The stone dust/asphalt walking loop is flat and accessible. The earthen path along the riparian buffer is not accessible. The Green Pavilion is accessible. The Tan, Red, and Blue Pavilions and gazebo are not accessible and encompassed by lawn.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface

The Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) surface on the second playground (6-12) needs replenishing. In addition, the stone pebble surface on the first playground (Pre-K) is no longer considered an adequate safety surface. The municipality should review Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Handbook for more details on acceptable safety surfacing.

General Hazards

The metal and plastic play systems in both playgrounds are new and in good condition. However, the custom wooden play structures, the residential portable play features, and larger play systems at both playgrounds need to be inspected and assessed for compliance with ASTM Playground Standards.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

The first playground is separated from the

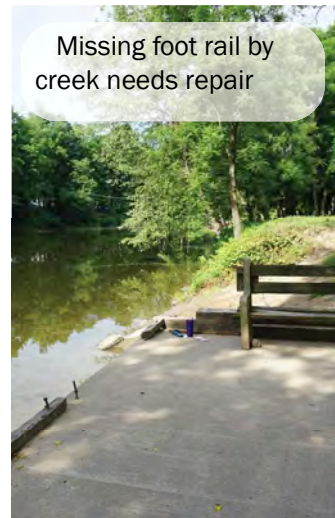
roadway by a wooden split rail fence. The second playground does not have fencing distinguishing a barrier between the playground and the roadway. There is an approximate 60 Foot distance of the lawn from the playground and the road.

Kayak and Canoe Launch and Concrete ADA Fishing Pad

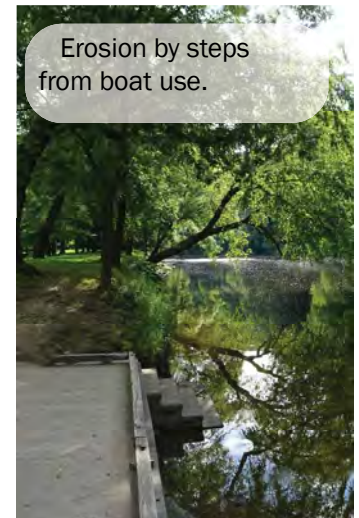
The concrete pad has a wooden foot rail, and a section of the rail is broken, posing a slip/fall risk. In addition, there is some soil erosion along the side of the concrete pad due to frequent putting-in of kayaks & canoes. A properly designed concrete launch ramp may solve this issue.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

A portion of the walking loop trail includes Overlook Drive, shared use between pedestrians,



Missing foot rail by
creek needs repair



Erosion by steps
from boat use.

cyclists, and vehicles. The speed limit through the park is 5 miles per hour. Some crosswalks cross the road, but neither side connects to a designated pedestrian path.

Quality

The park's location along the Tunkhannock Creek is superb for birding, fishing, wading, kayaking, and canoeing. There were several migratory birds spotted during the site visit. All the pavilions have electric hookups and are available for daily rental. The historic lenticular bridge was restored, relocated from Nicholson, and re-purposed on-site as a pedestrian bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1876

and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, it is considered a well-preserved example of a truss with unique pin connections fabricated by the Corrugated Metal Company.² There are also historically significant mechanisms from the Dutch Coal Mine. There are unique wood-carved statues of a bear and cubs, an eagle, a totem pole, and wood benches

Programming

In addition to pavilion rentals, individuals and groups can reserve the park for parties or special events. In a typical summer season, there are many festivals, events, and fundraisers. Some of the events include The Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival, Touch-a-Truck Events, Annual Antique Tractor Shows, NEPA Bluegrass Festival, Cornstock Folk Festival. In 2020, there were fewer events, but the park still hosted a trunk-r-treat, #PlayHardShopSmall fundraising rally, and the inaugural Hindsight Music Festival.

According to Robert Baker from The Wyoming County Examiner, during a meeting on May 4, 2020, the supervisors received a letter including 32 signatures requesting the township consider building a dog park at Lazybrook.

Users/Organizations

Boy Scouts, Tunkhannock Rotary Club

Maintenance

Maintenance Responsibility: Tunkhannock Township

General Appearance: Well maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, composting plant matter on-site, safety surface replenishing and walking path upkeep, trash removal, restroom servicing, utilities

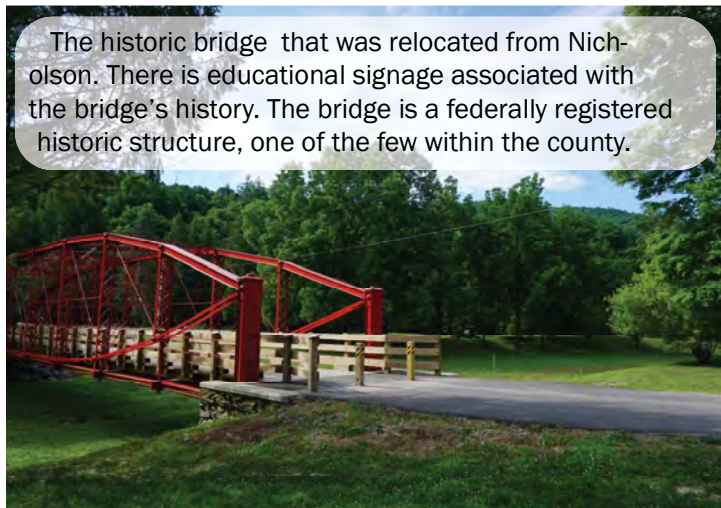
Website/Online Presence

The park is featured on the Discover NEPA website, travel websites, Facebook, and Instagram location. The Park page on the Township website needs updating. The William B Kresge Memorial Disk Golf Course has a presence on several disc golf course sites

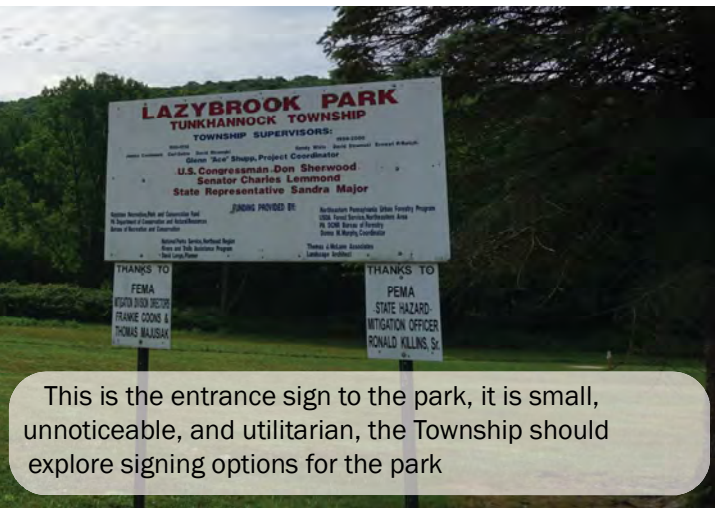
1Baker, R. (2020, May 13). Tunk TWP. Postpones spring cleanup. Retrieved February 10, 2021, from https://www.wcexaminer.com/news/tunk-twp-postpones-spring-cleanup/article_a126d23d-2c37-59e6-981d-47d3e17d630c.html

2Nicholson Township Lenticular Bridge, Spanning Tunkhannock Creek at State Route 1029, Nicholson, Wyoming County, PA. Library of Congress. Retrieved February 18, 2021, from <https://www.loc.gov/item/pa3588/>

The historic bridge that was relocated from Nicholson. There is educational signage associated with the bridge's history. The bridge is a federally registered historic structure, one of the few within the county.



This device has a unique history from the Dutch Mine. Though the explanation on the plaque is informative an interpretive sign illustrating its active function could be easier for visitors to understand.



This is the entrance sign to the park, it is small, unnoticeable, and utilitarian, the Township should explore signing options for the park

Creekside- Joint Municipal Park, Clinton Factoryville Park

166-178 Creek Road, Factoryville Borough/ Clinton Township

Size: 29-Acers

Ownership: Clinton Township/ Factoryville Borough

Annual Budget:

Location

College Avenue runs parallel to Route 11. Heading west on college Ave, Lackawanna Trail Elementary school is on the left. The school is on the corner of College Avenue and Thompson Road. Thompson Road traverses to Creek Road after the bend. The park is located across the road on Creek Road from A municipal maintenance garage and before the water treatment plant.

Features

Over 1,842 Feet of frontage along the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek with an earthen wetland creek trail and stone stairway, rain gardens, municipal recycling, three parking areas, two soccer fields, three multi-purpose fields, two playgrounds (Pre-K and 6-12), permanent restrooms, concession stand, dog park,



grass walking loop, trash, and recycling

Accessibility

Parking

There are five designated ADA parking stalls paved, striped, and current standards with paved walkways connecting to the designated parking areas.

Playground

Both playgrounds are accessible on at least one side by a concrete walkway.



Features

The concrete walkways connect to most of the built features on-site except the dog park, grass walking path, and wetland trail. The pavilion has accessible picnic tables, and the restrooms are accessible.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface

Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surface

General Hazards

The playgrounds did not appear to have any visible safety issues.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There are no vertical barriers between the playground and other site features. The Pre-K playground is close to the roadway. Approximately 16 feet of lawn separates the two uses. There could be an issue with traffic entering the park to the furthest parking lot because the shed on the western side of the playground could limit a driver's visibility. The 5-12 playground is 25 Feet from the parking lot at its closest point.

Wetland Trail

Along the wetland trail, some benches need repair or replacement. Trees near the benches that are hazardous should be removed. The stone stair descending the creek is shifting, covered in leaves, and an earthen path is descending the slope adjacent to the stair. The wetland trail is challenging to find. The existing sign is covered by overgrown vegetation at the trail opening.

Quality

Overall, the park is new and in excellent condition. The park and its features are accommodating with significant attention to detail and user needs. For example, the dog park area does not have a doggie-pot or a waste bag station. Instead, plastic shopping bags are filled with more shopping bags and are tied to the chain-link fence in a couple of locations. This practice ensures bags are available for pet owners to pick up their animal waste. In addition, dedicated waste stations mitigate intense odors generated in the summer months if pet waste is not separated from other park trash.

During the site visit, a cyclist parked his car in a parking lot at the park. Upon speaking with him, he stated that he regularly comes to the park to park and

then ride. The consultant did not see a bike rack on site.

Programming

The concession and pavilion are available to rent for \$100.00 a day with shared use for the rest of the park amenities. In the past, it was the location of the Factoryville Fall Festival.

Users/Organizations

Soccer League, Boy Scouts

Maintenance

Responsibility: Factoryville Borough, Clinton Township

General Appearance: Well maintained



The bio retention area at the park is used as a dog area where dog owners can contain their animals and let them off leash.



Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, safety surface replenishing, recycling, rain garden upkeep, restroom servicing, water, sewer, electric

Website/Online Presence

Factoryville Borough has a page on its site describing the park. Facebook and Instagram identify the park as "Factoryville Clinton Park."

Riverside Park

River Street, Tunkhannock Borough

Size: 20-Acers

Ownership: Tunkhannock Borough

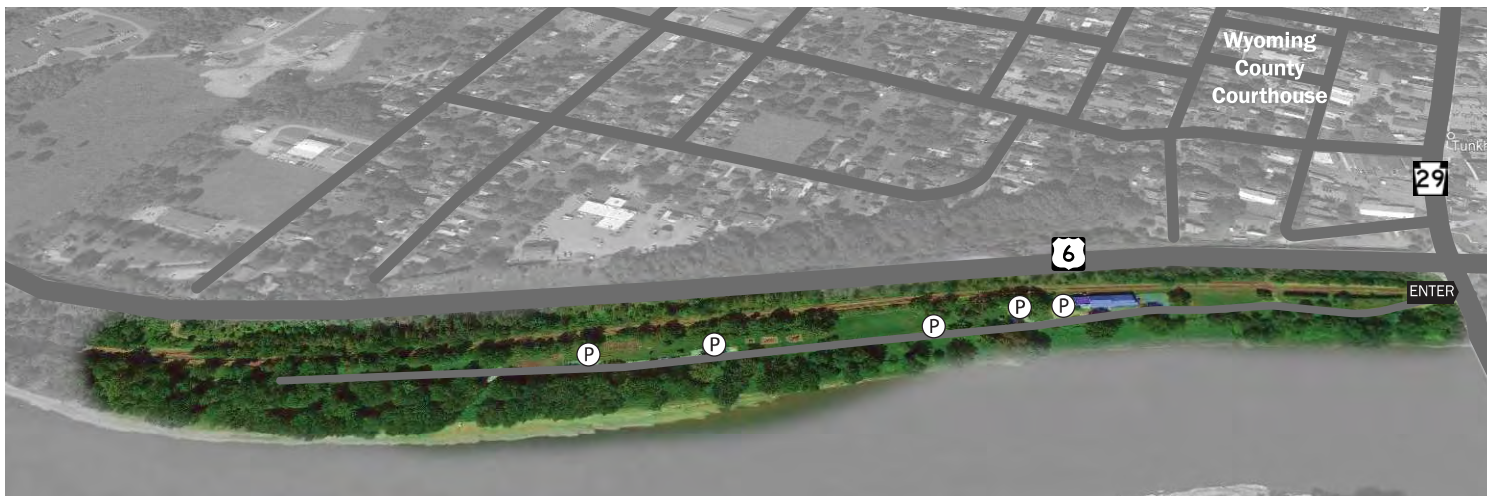
Annual Budget:

Location

At the intersection of Route 6 and Route 29 in Tunkhannock Borough, the park is on the right, heading south towards Eaton township. There is also a pedestrian tunnel under Route 6, with the entrance located on West Street.

Features

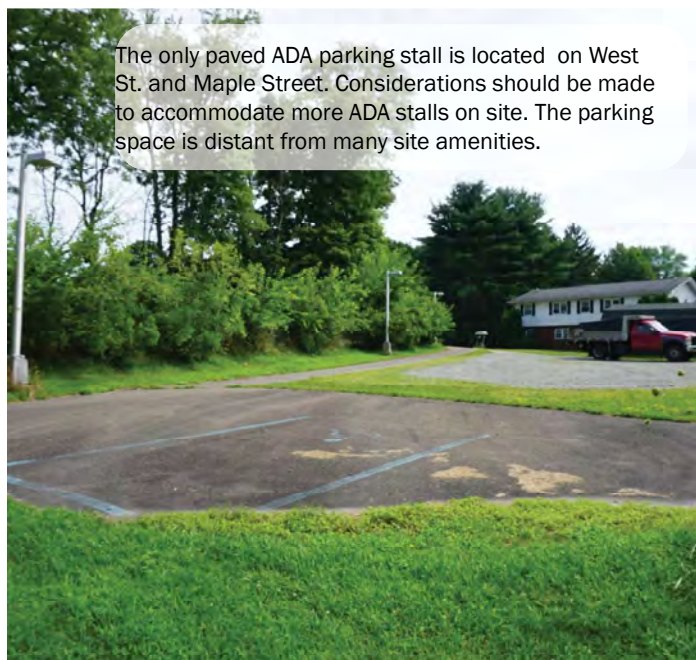
Over 3,000 Feet of frontage on the Susquehanna River, Boat Access, ¼ mile walking path with the pedestrian tunnel under Route 6 connecting to West Street, pavilion, two basketball courts, tumbledown tunnel willow structure, two playgrounds (Pre-K and 5-12), historic train structures, port-o-potties, educational signage, trash. the park is a Land to Water Conservation Site and the Land to Water Conservation Program is funded and managed by the National Park Service.



Accessibility

Parking

There are five parking lots on site. All are dirt and gravel. ADA-accessible parking is designated by signage on fencing, but there are no paved parking stalls. The surface in all of the parking lots is uneven and has potholes. According to current standards, only ADA parking stalls are located on the other side of the park after the underpass tunnel. There is a significant grade change between the railroad track crossing and the end of the tunnel on West Street. The ramp slope is at the upper limit of an acceptable slope allowed for a path without a handrail or beyond the acceptable slope threshold. However, the combination of the walk's tight turn and slope could suggest a handrail would make the access from the West Street parking area to the park more accessible.



Playground

Both playgrounds are encircled by lawn, and neither playground has an accessible path to it.

Features

The path used for walking is also River Street. The road is paved, but a section of the road's surface approaching the train crossing to the pedestrian tunnel is deteriorating significantly and uneven. In addition, Riverside is the only park that has an ADA-accessible portable restroom.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surface

General Hazards

The playgrounds are newer but show signs of wear and age, and it appears that some pieces may be missing or installed incorrectly. The safety surface on both playgrounds needs replenishing to reach the appropriate height for the equipment and weeding. Both playgrounds need to be inspected and assessed for compliance using ASTM Playground Standards.



Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There is a split rail fence between the road and parking lots and the play areas.

Features

All benches on site and picnic tables should undergo a safety inspection. The condition of the benches on-site varies in age and condition. Any benches that are broken should be repaired.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

The walking path is also River Street, which could pose pedestrian, vehicular conflicts.

Quality

The lawn in the park is kept, the trees throughout the park are mature and offer an expanse of shade. The boat launch area is well kept with a paved path to the waterfront. There is an abundance of Japanese Knotweed among the riparian buffer. There lacks cohesion between the educational signage, and some panels are weathered and no longer legible. In contrast, others are new such as the one at the boat ramp. There are two basketball court surfaces. One is no longer playable, and the other one could use repair.



Programming

Tunkhannock Borough's Annual Riverday Celebration, special events hosted by Dietrich Theater

Users/Organizations

Park Commission, Northern Tier Partnership for Arts and Education, Dietrich Theater

Maintenance

Responsibility: Tunkhannock Borough, Park Commission

General Appearance: Maintained. Closer detail to mowing under benches, bench repairs. Some features have significant signs of age and wear.

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, safety surface replenishing, maintaining boat access, tree pruning and removal, restroom servicing

Website/Online Presence

The Borough website lists the members of the parks commission. In addition, there is a Facebook page and an Instagram place for the park called "Riverside Park Tunkhannock PA."

Creek Junction Park

Rt 87 & Windy Valley Rd, Forkston

Size: 9- Acres

Ownership: Forkston Township, Windham Township, North Branch Township, Mehoopany Township

Annual Budget:

Location

The park is located at State Route 87 and Windy Valley Road, near Little Mehoopany Creek's confluence to Mehoopany Creek.

Features

Active floodplain, 600 ft of frontage along Mehoopany Creek, access to Mehoopany Creek, two baseball fields, picnic pavilion, gazebo, permanent composting accessible restrooms, playground, basketball court, BBQ pit.



Accessibility

Parking

There is a paved path from the entrance of the park to the pavilion. However, there is no paved ADA parking stall.

Playground

There has been an accessible path leading to the playground since the site visit, and an accessible swing has been installed.

Features

There is an accessible path from the parking lot to the pavilion and restrooms. However, there is not an accessible path to the ball fields or bleachers, or the

The playground area is accessible



pavilion.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: The safety surface is made of recycled rubber and is well maintained.

General Hazards

The playground equipment is new and in good condition

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There is a split rail fence that separates the parking lot from other uses in the park.

Features

Access to the creek is not direct. Instead, users must traverse the rocky barrier to gain access to the creek.

Quality

The park is a result of a flood event in 2007, all the features in the park are new and in good condition.

Programming

Creek Junction Park hosts an Annual Auction and Chicken BBQ to fundraise for the park. FWM Little League

Users/Organizations

Community Center of Mehoopany, FWM Athletic Association, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association

Maintenance

Responsibility:

General Appearance: Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, Restroom servicing, trash removal, baseball infield upkeep

Website/Online Presence

Facebook page. Instagram location, "Creek Junction Park."



Community Multi-Purpose Parks

41.5657433- 75.7898789

Christy Mathewson Park

18-19 Thompson Rd, Factoryville Borough

Size: 3-Acers

Ownership: Factoryville Borough

Annual Budget: Yes

Location

The Lackawanna Trail Elementary School is at College Ave and Thompson Road; the park is behind the parking lot and over the pedestrian bridge behind the elementary school.

Features

Over 600 Feet of Frontage on The Tunkhannock Creek, ¼ mile walking loop with three nature discovery play features, sponsored gardens, tree ID walk, covered pedestrian bridge over Tunkhannock Creek, Christy



Matthewson Memorial, playground, two baseball fields, basketball court, concession stand, pavilion, grill, lending library, trash

Accessibility

Parking

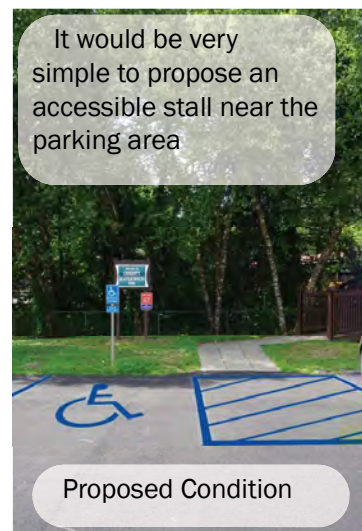
Parking for the Park is across the creek from the park in the Lackawanna Trail Elementary School parking lot. There is no ADA parking stall, and there is a parking space painted in front of the concrete pad leading to the ramp and bridge.

Playground

The centrally located playground area has an accessible path to it. However, the walking path around the park and discovery loop is only partially accessible. The stone dust path ends near the baseball field. In addition, there is a section of path surface that is grass



Existing Condition



It would be very simple to propose an accessible stall near the parking area

Proposed Condition

and wood chip, making that area inaccessible.

Features

The pavilion, baseball field, concession stand, and basketball court all have accessible routes. However, the wood ramp leading to the covered bridge at the parking lot does not have a handrail.



Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: Maintenance of the Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface at all the play features and central play area should be replenished constantly for



the surface to meet an acceptable distance from the play equipment.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways



None to be noted.

Features

It was apparent a skunk had been nesting under one of the maintenance sheds near the playground at the time of visit.

Quality

The overall condition of the park is good. It is a quaint spot that offers privacy to users. Though small, it seems as though the park could host many users without it feeling congested. There is a unique marriage of Christy Matthewson’s narrative, his local ties, his natural environment, and his later life in the



Adirondacks. The desiccated shrub at the base of his memorial should be replaced or removed.

Programming

Annual Christmas Market

Users/Organizations

Factoryville Little League

Maintenance

Responsibility: Factoryville Borough

Quality: Well maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, infield maintenance, trash removal, walking path upkeep, play feature safety surface upkeep.

Website/Online Presence:

Web page on Factoryville Borough website.

George R Hock Memorial Park

Church St, West Falls

Size: 2-Acres

Ownership: Falls Township

Annual Budget: Yes

Location

At the Intersection of Route 92 S and Church Street after the bridge at the corner on the right.

Features

Two playgrounds (Upper- 5-12, Lower- Pre-K), two basketball courts, pavilion, BBQ pit, tree dedication program, lending library, New kayak launch on the Susquehanna River .



Accessibility

Parking

The gravel parking area at the parking lot on Church Street has an ADA parking signpost and no parking striping. The space does not meet current standards for ADA accessibility.

Playground

The accessible parking space is at the parking lot on Church Street. There is no assessable path to the accessible swing at the park's lower playground, which is closer to River Road. There is no on-street ADA space on River Road.



Features

An accessible path connects no feature in the park. There is no accessible restroom on site, but the site accommodates ADA-accessible inclusive play equipment.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface in fair condition, could use replenishing.

General Hazards

Both playgrounds are newer and in good condition. However, the lower playground system is located next to a swale with a pipe. There are broken barricades and caution tape around the swale. Someone should see and assess the pipe's proximity to the playground system for hazards, and better partitions should be created.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

The lower playground is close to River Road. There are 30 feet of lawn and a tree line that separates the playground from the road.



Features

The tree line at the upper portion of the park on Church Street is mature, providing ample shade. The evergreen trees are to maturity, and consideration should be made to the management plan to propagate new trees to replace them if shade at the park portion is desirable.



Quality

The park has many new features. Its unique location in Falls offers opportunities for recreation and access to the river.

Programming

Falls Summer Celebration and BBQ.

Users/Organizations

Falls Summer Celebration Committee

Maintenance

Responsibility: Falls Township

Quality: Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, landscaping, grill cleaning, restroom servicing, play surface maintenance

Website/Online Presence:

None

Lake Winola Community Park

157 Fairview Rd., Lake Winola

Size: 5-Acres (Community Park)

15-Acres (Peck Natural Area, Pine Forest)

Ownership: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Annual Budget: Unknown

Location

The park is located off Route 92, between Lake Road, across the Lake Winola public boat launch, Fairview Road and Spring Road.

Features

Park, Baseball field, concessions stand, basketball court, The Natural Area is a ½ mile walking trail in an old-growth pine forest, cement footing from carousel from the early 1900s.



Accessibility

Parking

There is no parking at the trailhead on Lake Road to Peck Natural Area. Across the road at the boat launch parking area, there are ADA-designated parking spaces by the ramp and floating dock. There is no pedestrian crossing to the trailhead from the parking lot to Peck Natural Area. There are two entrances to the park, one on Fairview Road and one on spring road. Both parking lots are gravel and overgrown.

Features

A paved asphalt path from the concession stands to the bleachers by the baseball field in the

park. There is no signage in the park to direct users to the walking loop in the natural area. The natural area has an earthen path surface, and there is gravel in a portion closer to the park trailhead.

Safety

Features

General maintenance of the lawn and trailhead at the park would keep users from walking through tall grass to get to the trail loop.

Quality

The baseball field at the time of visit did not appear to be in use. The infield is overgrown and has piles of infield mix. The basketball courts could use restriping of the court lines.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

Responsibility: PA Fish and Boat

Maintenance Quality: Poor

Though the grass is maintained between features in the park, the access to the walking loop was overgrown and unrecognizable. The baseball field needs to be raked and weeded to make it playable; several waste piles throughout the park and trail.

Waste piles should be removed from the forest or relocated thoughtfully to encourage positive decomposition and nutrient recycling.

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, sports

facilities maintenance, trail maintenance

Website/Online Presence:

None



It would be very easy to implement simple updates to give the park more identity.

Proposed Condition



Existing Condition

41.4107166 -75.9953757

Monroe Township Park

1351 Plattsburg Road, Beaumont

Size: 4-Acres

Ownership: Monroe Township

Annual Budget:

Location

At the Old Beaumont School, from Route 29 south, before Noxen, Route 29 splits with Route 309, following route 309 and veering right onto Plattsburg Road. The park is after Stevens Creek.

Features

Old Beaumont School community building, 1/3 mile walking path, playground, ½ basketball court, three baseball fields, service memorial, pavilion, port-o-potty, grills, concession stand



Accessibility

Parking

The accessible parking stall is behind the school building. The only path from the parking stall is to the ramp to enter the building. Therefore, a user would need to enter the building, exit the building in the front, proceed down the ramp, and use the paved asphalt parking lot to route the park features.

Playground

The playground has an accessible route from the parking lot.

Features

The walking loop is flat and accessible.



Safety

Restore Safety Surface and inspect equipment



Playground

Playground Surface: Engineered Wood Fiber
Safety Surface needs replenishing and weeding.

General Hazards

The play system is in good condition. The EWF around play features needs to be inspected and replenished to meet the features' appropriate height. Playground needs to be inspected and assessed for compliance using ASTM Playground Standards. Some play equipment is old and worn, and the connecting components should be examined for any loose or missing parts.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

The playground area is close to the road, but a 4-foot chain-link fence surrounds the play area.



Features

A birch tree on the other side of the chain-link fence along Stevens Creek is uprooting and hanging over the walkway.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

Given an accessible route may require an individual to use the parking lot to navigate the park, there could be pedestrian/vehicular conflicts because there is no designated accessible route.

Quality

The overall quality of the park is good. However, the play area could use updating to some of the older equipment.

Programming

Little League

Users/Organizations

The community building is available to rent for events.

Maintenance

Responsibility: Monroe Township

Maintained Quality: Good overall quality

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, Engineered wood fiber safety surface needs replenishing, restroom servicing,

Website/Online Presence:

Featured on Monroe Township website.



Washington Township Park

184 Keelersville Rd, Tunkhannock

Size: .5-Acers

Ownership: Washington Township

Annual Budget:

Location

From Meshoppen traveling east on Route 6, about 5 miles East is Keelersville road on the left, the park on the right about a mile up the road, it is on the same parcel as the Washington Township Municipal Building.

Features

Plauaround. Picnic pavilion. port-a-pottu



Accessibility

Parking

There is a sign designating accessible parking, but the parking stall is not flat does not meet the criteria for an ADA Accessible parking space.

Playground

The playground is surrounded by grass and does not have an accessible path—the earth slopes to the playground area and is challenging to traverse, deeming it inaccessible.

Features

No features on-site have a designated accessible path.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: The Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface needs to be replenished and weeded.

General Hazards

The play systems appear to be in fair condition but show signs of age. The other custom wooden features need to be inspected for safety to determine if they meet current ATSM Standards for play equipment.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There is 60 Feet of grass between the parking lot and the playground area.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

Because there is no designated path from the parking lot, there could be potential safety risks.

Quality

Overall, the park is in fair condition. However, there is no connectivity between features because there is no accessible route or designated path for users to use.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

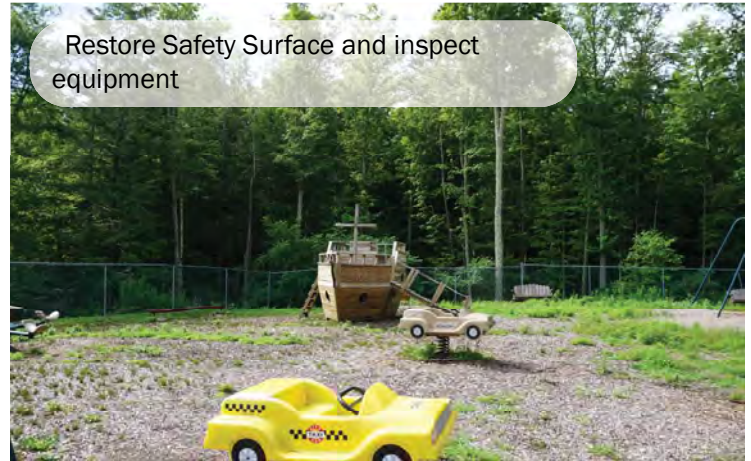
Responsibility: Washington Township

Quality: Good overall condition

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, playground safety mulching, restroom servicing, trash, and recycling.

Website/Online Presence

Unknown



Meshoppen Community Park

Canal St, Meshoppen

Size: 4-Acers

Ownership: Meshoppen Township

Annual Budget:

Location

In Meshoppen, on Route 6 heading west, turn right and pass over the bridge at the historic fire station. After the bridge turn left on canal street, the park is on the left after the second bridge over Little Mehoopany Creek.

Features

Mehoopany Creek, Little Mehoopany Creek, Playground, Baseball Field, Pavilion, BBQ pit, port-o-potty, basketball



court

Accessibility

Parking

The parking lot is paved, but there is no distinguished, accessible stall.

Playground

There is an accessible entrance to the playground from the parking lot by the basketball court.

Features

The pavilion is accessible from the parking lot. There is not an accessible path to the port-o-potty on site from the parking area.

Safety



Playground

Safety Surface: Wood carpet safety surface is in good condition and maintained



General Hazards

The equipment is new and in good condition.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

The playground is connected via an accessible path from the parking lot. There is no barrier between the parking lot and the playground.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

Because there are no distinguished parking stalls and the parking lot provides access to the



playground and the pavilion, there could be issues between pedestrians and vehicles.

Features

There is an opening in the riparian buffer to Mehoopany Creek after the parking area and basketball court. It seems that this area is used to access the river. There is a significant drop of 3-5 Feet from the asphalt and the creek. This drop-off is hazardous, being so close to the other park features, and should be addressed.

Quality



The park is in overall good condition. However, there are issues with erosion at Mehoopany Creek and erosion from the road on canal street and the park's slope meeting the guide rail.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

Responsibility: Meshoppen Township

Quality: Good

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, mulching playground surface, restroom servicing, trash removal

Website/Online Presence

None

Mehoopany Park

310 Schoolhouse Hill Road, Mehoopany

Size: 2-Acers

Ownership: Mehoopany Township

Annual Budget:

Location

The Mehoopany Public Library is on Schoolhouse Hill Road in Mehoopany; the park is just behind the library.

Features

Baseball field, pavilion, grills, historic old school bell, playground area, port-o-potty, Mehoopany Public Library



Accessibility

Parking

There is paved accessible parking for the library. There is another gravel lot below the library by the port-o-potty and pavilion. A sign designates an accessible parking space, but the gravel lot is uneven and overgrown with grass.

Playground

There is no accessible path to the playground.

Features

The port-o-potty is not ADA accessible.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface

The surface of the playground area is grass.



Grass or lawn is not a safe surface for the play equipment.

General Hazards

The more extensive play system shows signs of age but appears to be in good condition. However, other play equipment features on-site should be inspected to

meet ASTM Playground Standards.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There is no barrier distinguishing the play area from other features in the park.

Features

There do not appear to be any safety issues aside from the ones addressing the playground area.

Quality



The park is small but in good overall condition. Much effort has been made since the 2011 flood to create a positive and engaging community space in Mehoopany.

Programming

Fun Day, Little League

Users/Organizations

Mehoopany Ball Association

Maintenance

Responsibility: Mehoopany Township

Quality: Good overall condition

Requirements: Grass Cutting, trash removal, grill cleaning, restroom servicing.

Website/Online Presence

Web page on the township website.



7 likes

airwreckaah12 Had such a fun day today!!! The library by our house got new playground equipmer and we added some toppings to pizzas we got from triton hise company ❤️

Noxen Community Park

3600 SR 29, Noxen TWP

Size: 5-Acres

Ownership: Noxen Township

Annual Budget:

Location

Heading west on Route 29 into Noxen the Park is left behind the convenience store.

Features

Beaver Run, walking path, pavilion, playground



Accessibility

Parking

The parking area does not have an accessible parking sign or an accessible paved stall.

Playground

There is not an accessible path to the playground area.

Features

There is a well-maintained crush stone path to the pavilion from the parking area.

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface: Engineered Wood Fiber, in good

condition.

General Hazards

The pile to replenish the wood carpet safety surface is very close to the playground; the pile is unstable and inviting for children to climb on it.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There are no barriers around the playground, but the parking area is a substantial distance away.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

None

Features

There is a waste pile near the creek with a rebar, which could be dangerous if someone falls or trips near it.



Quality

The park doesn't have many features for the parcel size. All features are close to one another except the parking area and restroom. The features are all new and in good condition. The municipality should note Wolley Adelged infestation on hemlocks shading the creek.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

Responsibility: Noxen Township

Quality: Well Maintained

Requirements: Grass cutting, playground safety surface maintaining, restroom servicing

Website/Online Presence

none



Sports Complexes

41.5386187 -75.9351719

Bob Massker Sports Complex

6 Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock

Size- 6-Acers

Ownership: Tunkhannock Township

Annual Budget:

Location

On Route 6, heading west after the Wyoming County 911 Center turn right on Sunnyside Road. The park is left before Sunnyside Cemetery.

Features

Two baseball fields, trailhead to Iroquois Trail, pavilion, port-o-potty



Accessibility

Parking

There is a small parking lot at the entrance of the park. However, there is no ADA-accessible parking space.

Features

The paved road between the two fields serves as the park's route for pedestrian traffic and is not accessible.

Safety

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

The roadway doubles as the pedestrian route, and there could be conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.

The park is to be used exclusively by the little league. There is signage that discourages other users from the park.

Quality

The playing fields are in fair to good condition and probably did not get serviced due to the pandemic at the site visit. However, all features are well cared for and in good condition.

Maintenance

Responsibility: Unknown

Maintenance Quality: Good overall condition

Requirements: Grass cutting, restroom servicing, infield grooming

Programming

Tunkhannock Little League

Website/Online Presence:

Tunkhannock Little League Baseball Association
Facebook page

Users/Organizations



Donovan Park

111 Ball Park Road, Laceyville

Size: 4.5-Acers

Ownership: Laceyville Borough

Annual Budget:

Location

Heading south on the Church Street Bridge from Laceyville, turning left after Bruges Mountain Road bridge. Ball Park Road is the first road on the right. The park is on the right in the cul-de-sac.

Features



Over 500 Feet of frontage on the Susquehanna River, boat access, baseball field, port-o-potty, trash

Accessibility

Parking

The designated Parking area is indistinguishable. There is an ADA reserved parking sign near the park entrance, but there is no accessible stall, and the parking area is grass.

Features

A gravel/ dirt path leads from the parking area to the baseball field, but it does not meet an accessible path's standards.

Safety

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts

Though there may be little concern for pedestrian and vehicular conflicts within the Park, Ball Park Road's entrance from Bruges Mountain Road coming from the bridge is a tight curve. As a result, visibility to oncoming traffic is impossible.

Quality

The park does not offer extensive amenities, but it is in good condition.

Programming

Little League

Users/Organizations

Little League

Maintenance

Responsibility: Laceyville Borough

Quality: Well Maintained

Requirements: Maintain clear access to the river, grass cutting, restroom servicing, trash removal.

Website/Online Presence

Unknown



Pocket Parks

41.6253977 -75.7843246

Elmer Nordal Memorial Park

16 Oak Street, Nicholson

Size: 1-Acer

Ownership: Nicholson Borough

Annual Budget:

Location

The Park is located between State Street and Oak Street. Parking is available by driving on State Street heading East from Main Street, turning left at first, left to Water Street, and the first left from Water Street to Oak Street. The park is on the left.

Features

Historic Trolley Line Station, playground, basketball court, bike rack, WWII Memorial, Trash



Accessibility

space is too small to be accessible.

Parking

Asphalt markings represent three parking spaces, one of which is supposed to be for an accessible vehicle and has an older style ADA sign. However, the

Playground

An asphalt-accessible path encircles the playground.

Features

There is not an accessible path connecting the Park to Route 92 (State Street).

Safety

Playground

Safety Surface

Engineered Wood Fiber safety surfaces need replenishing

General Hazards

The surface needs to meet adequate vertical distance with play equipment. Any older equipment requires an inspection to meet ASTM Playground Standards.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

There is not a barrier between the parking lot and play equipment.

Quality

Next to the basketball court is the train station building that seems well maintained. However, the asphalt pad at the entrances is older and crumbling. Behind the basketball court is a deteriorating asphalt surface about the same size as the newer basketball court. If the asphalt is repaired, it could be a good location for a community art project. Volunteers could paint painting markings for games and activities, like four-square, tick-tac-toe, or hopscotch. If the borough could allocate funding, a pickle-ball or tennis court might take its place.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

Responsibility: Nicholson Borough, American Legion

Quality Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, upkeep to historic building and utilities, safety surface replenishing, trash removal

Website/Online Presence

None



McCord Park

69 E Harrison St, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Size .3-Acres

Ownership: Tunkhannock Borough

Annual Budget:

Location

From Sunnyside Lane, follow west to the Route 92 and Business 6 juncture and continue on Business 6 turn right on McCord Street at the car dealership. The park is on the corner on the right at East Harrison Street and McCord Street.

Features

Parking Area, Open Field, landscaping, currently being utilized as a temporary maintenance and storage site for municipal debris.



Accessibility

Parking

The Parking Lot is not ADA-accessible.

Quality

Poor Quality. For this park to function, it needs to have more amenities or programming.

Programming

There could be opportunities to develop the park as a trailhead to the Iroquois Trail.

Users/Organizations

None

Maintenance

Responsibility: Tunkhannock Borough

Quality: Poor overall quality

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting

Website/Online Presence

None



Greenways and Trails Inventory and Analysis

Introduction

Greenways are corridors that are designated by conservation and preservation of open space. Greenway corridors provide connectivity and can be linear like streams and rivers or swaths of contiguous undeveloped land such as forests. For greenways, conservation of undeveloped open space is a priority. In addition, greenways facilitate outdoor recreation activities and instigate increases in tourism, economic growth, and overall human health. When planning for greenways accessible to people, planners may look at their jurisdiction and acknowledge utility right-of-ways, like pipelines and active or abandoned railways. In addition, past innovations in engineering and land use can leave a lasting mark on a landscape. Palimpsests, such as canal prisms or former agricultural land undergoing successional transitions, can also be considered during the planning process for adaptive reuse within a greenway.

Greenways can be public or privately owned, and some greenways are formed through partnerships of both. There are many benefits to trails and greenways. They provide opportunities for recreation and transportation, protect the environment, preserve historic and culturally significant areas, and strengthen local economies.

Trails can be a standalone amenity in the landscape or included in a larger recreational area. For example, the Iroquois Trail in Tunkhannock is a standalone feature, the trail ends, and one must walk their way back out after reaching the end. IT is a trail that people can walk, run, or bike along. Howland, in Washington township, is a conservation area with a network of trails. Individuals may walk, run or bike the area, but other on-site amenities host other activities.

This section will identify existing greenways and trails within Wyoming county. Areas that have conservation easements and have trail networks but also host other amenities will be briefed in this section. Still, specific details about those areas are in the Conserved Areas section.

Chart of Trails within Wyoming County				
Trail	Approximate Length (Miles)	County/ Municipalities	Features	Other Initiatives, Programs
Susquehanna Water Trail	30 miles	Wyoming County	Susquehanna River, Tightest Oxbow	EMHR, Susquehanna Partnership, Fish and Boat Commission
Iroquois Trail	1.8 miles (One Way)	Tunkhannock TWP	Lehigh Valley RR Alignment	
Trolley Trail- Keystone to Factoryville Section	1.7 miles	Lackawanna (La Plume) Wyoming (Factoryville)	Northern Electric Railway Alignment	Countryside Conservancy
Seneca Trail		Eaton TWP	Auto/Cyclist Trail	
Viaduct Valley By-way	40 miles	Wyoming (Tunkhannock) To Susquehanna	Auto Trail Viaducts, Scenic Views	PA By-way
Gateway to the endless Mountains Scenic By-way	38 miles	Wyoming County	Auto-Trail, Scenic Views	Route 6 alliance, PA By-Way

Susquehanna Water Trail- North Branch

Length: 38 miles

Surface: Water Trail

Trailhead (Boat Access):

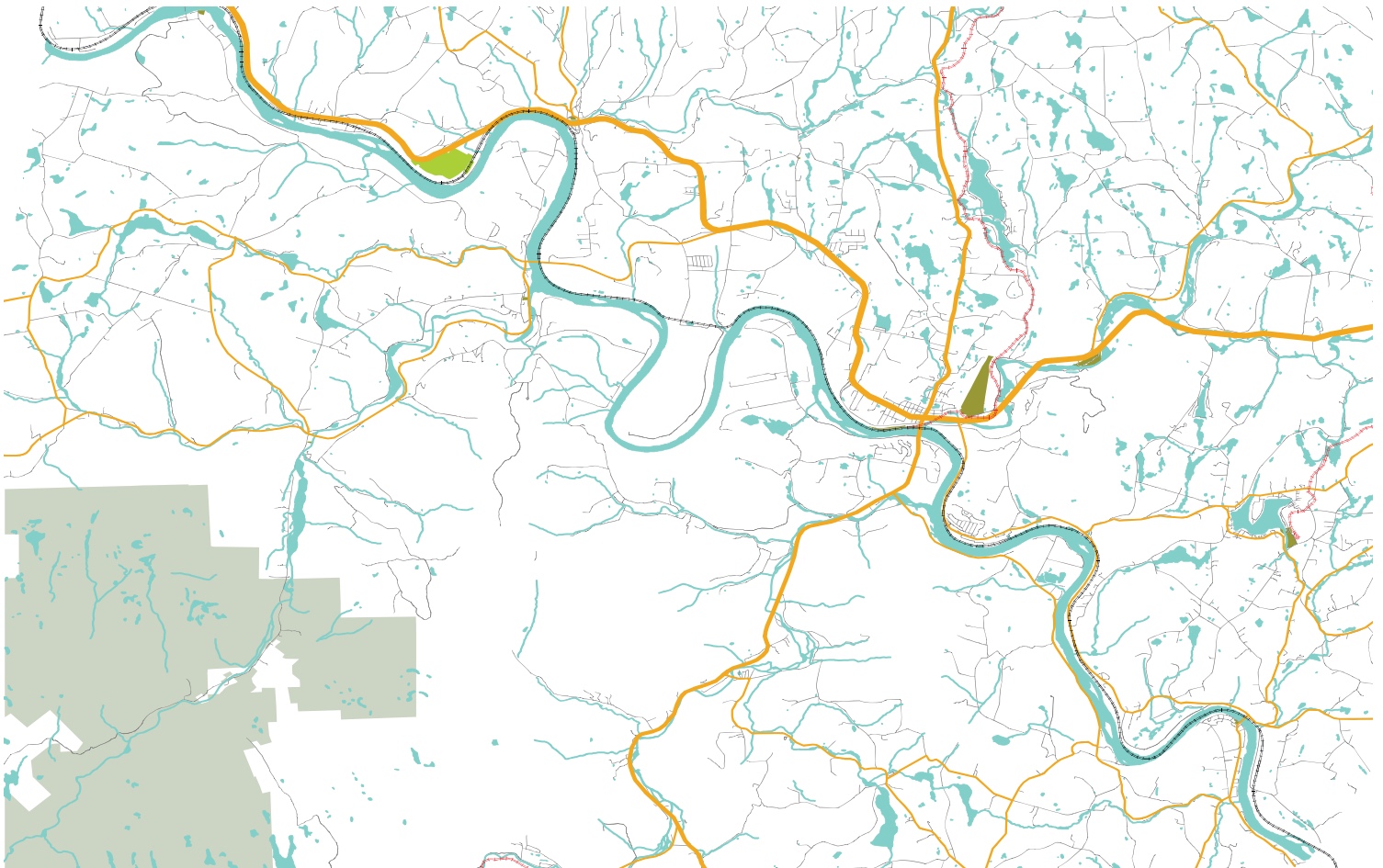
Designation: Pennsylvania Water Trail, National Water Trail

Partnerships: Susquehanna Greenway, Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Background

The Susquehanna Water Trail- North Branch is a segment of trail along the Susquehanna Greenway. The water trail is within the Endless Mountain Heritage Region. The Susquehanna River Water Trail is a Pennsylvania State Water Trail and a National Water Trail.

The trail is managed through a partnership between Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and The Endless Mountain Heritage Region. HR serves as trail manager for the region and appoints watershed stewards to different sections of the trail. The steward's job is to maintain and address any issues along the trail.



Iroquois Trail

Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock

Length: 3.6 Miles (Out and Back)

Organization: Wyoming County Commissioners

Surface: Crushed Stone, Compacted Earth, Grass

Alignment: Lehigh Valley Railroad Tunkhannock to Montrose

Background

A 1.8-mile trail- 3.6 miles round trip, aligned to a former Lehigh Valley Railroad. A good location for birding. The trail is under the control of Wyoming County. In 2004 a master plan for the trail was completed. The plan proposed numerous alternative routes that integrated an abandoned rail line to downtown Tunkhannock and a unity right of way and Swale Brook to the high school.

Site Visit Narrative

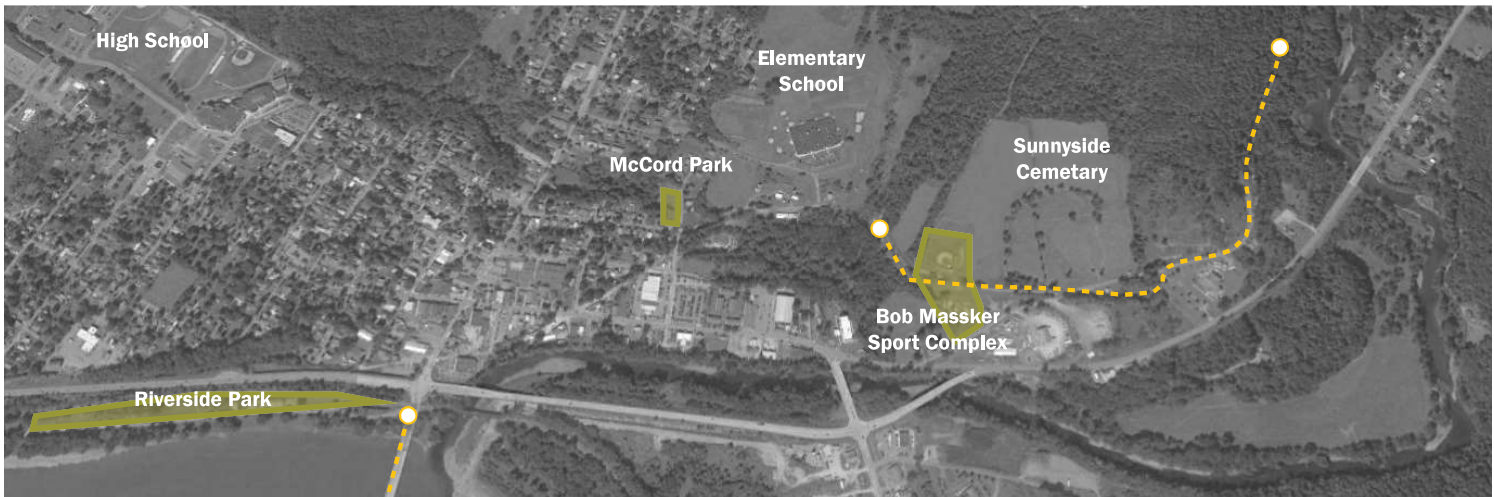
On numerous public input events, community members expressed that the trail is not maintained. For example, high grass around the sports complex and cemetery made users feel unsafe and concerned for excessive trash along the trail. During our site visit, we did not see these maintenance issues. However, it could be the case that maintenance occurred on the trail before the inspection.

Improvements:

Increase the connectivity of trail to other destinations. The image to the left is the end of the trail and where private property begins.

Connectivity improvements can be reached through interpretive and way-finding signage throughout the downtown.

It is a priority to collect the trail to Riverside Park with comparative safety at busy intersections.



A pedestrian bridge from behind the hotel over Swale Brook could create a public-private partnership and strengthen business and county ties.

Trolley Trail

Length: .7 miles (within Wyoming) 1.7 Miles (Keystone to Factoryville)

Organization: Countryside Conservancy

Surface: Crushed Stone

Trail Head: Downtown Factoryville, Keystone Pavilion

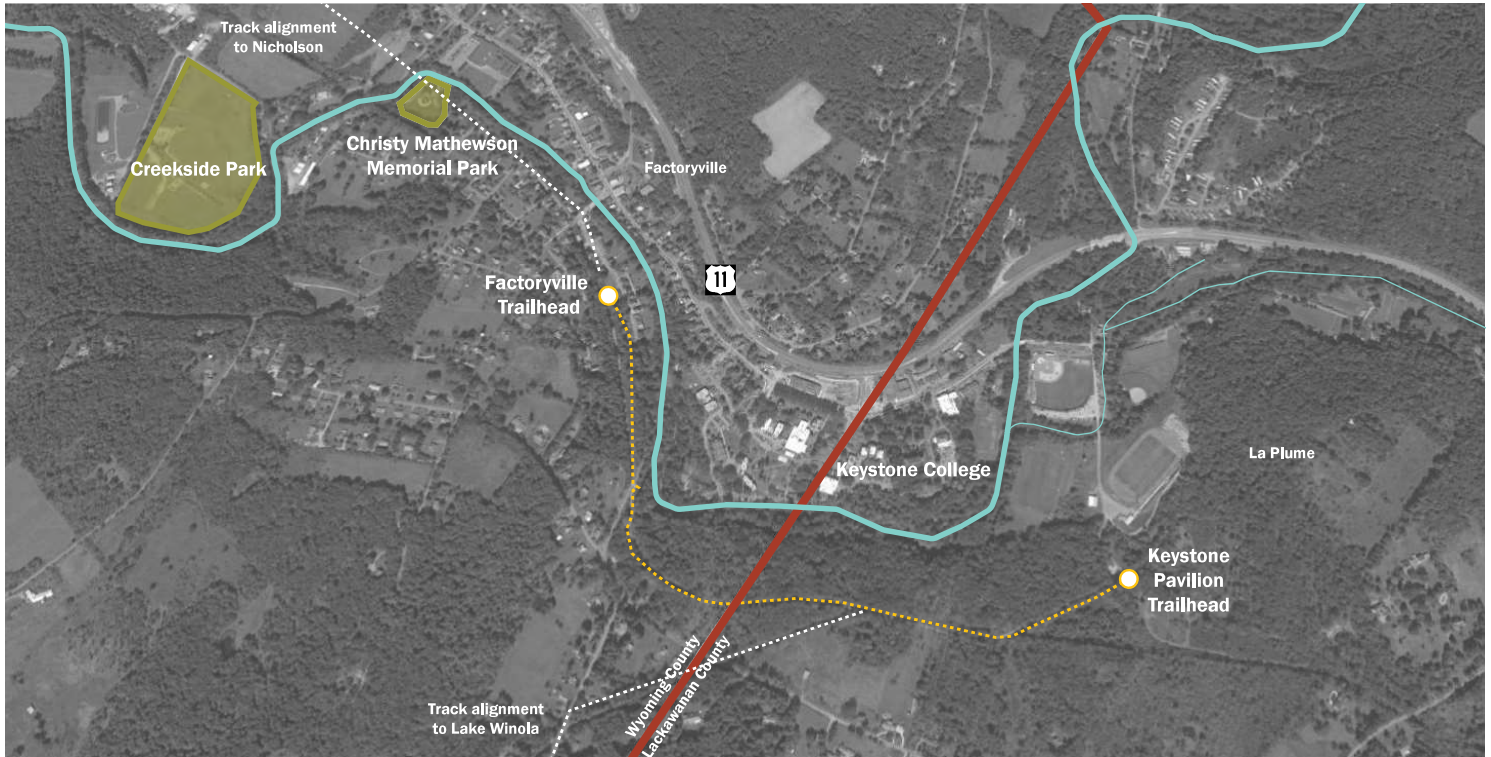
Alignment: Northern Electric Railway



Background

Countryside Conservancy is the owner and operator of the Trolley Trail. The trail follows the alignment of the historic Northern Electric Railroad. In 1911, when the trolley line was being extended from Factoryville, local boy Christy Mathewson was pitching

In October of 2014, the trail opened its first segment. Recently, in November of 2020, Countryside completed another section of the trail. As a result, the trail is broken up into some segmented parts and needs to connect gaps. Still, the Conservancy's goal is to enhance the connectivity of the trail and project to utilize undeveloped sections of the trolley line to



for the NY Giants and helping them claim the first of 3 consecutive national championships. It was an exciting time to be alive in Factoryville. The first extension was to Lake Winola in 1908/ from Factoryville the Trolley's second extension was to Nicholson in 1912. The train operated from 1907-1932.

connect further along the abandoned rail line. During an interview with William Kern, Director of Trails, a possible connection to the project is the section of the Trolley line to Lake Winola, through the Conservancy owned Davis Crossing. Upon speaking with a supervisor in Nicholson, we were informed that the town would be interested and excited by the trail extension along the northern alignment.

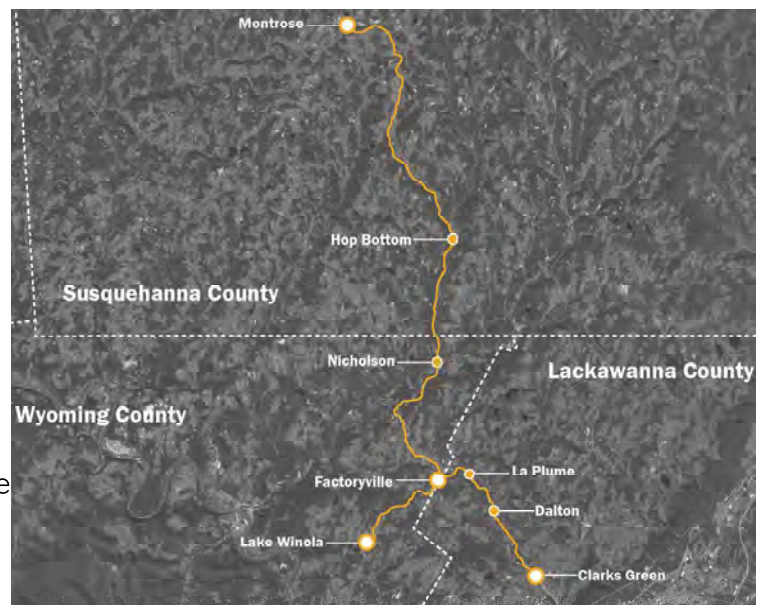
Seneca Trail

Background

The Seneca Trail was completed in 2014.

Site Visit Narrative

The first sign for the trail is visible from Route 29 S. It was a challenge to see the second sign as the speed along 29 after driving around Keelersberg Rd increases. The Northern Tier Regional Plan expressed a need to complete the Keelersberg pedestrian bridge. After its completion, it connects the unique historical road to Creekside Gardens, a genuinely unique juncture for the area.

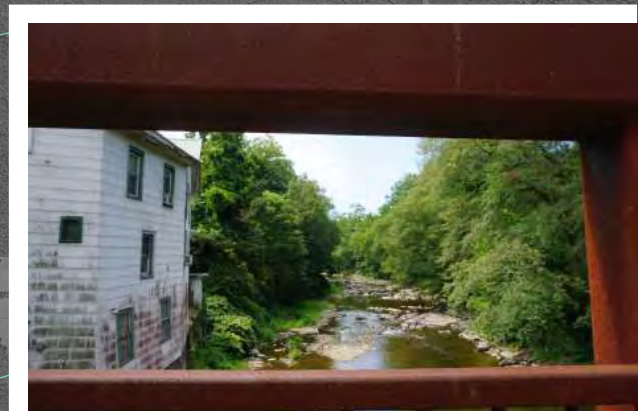
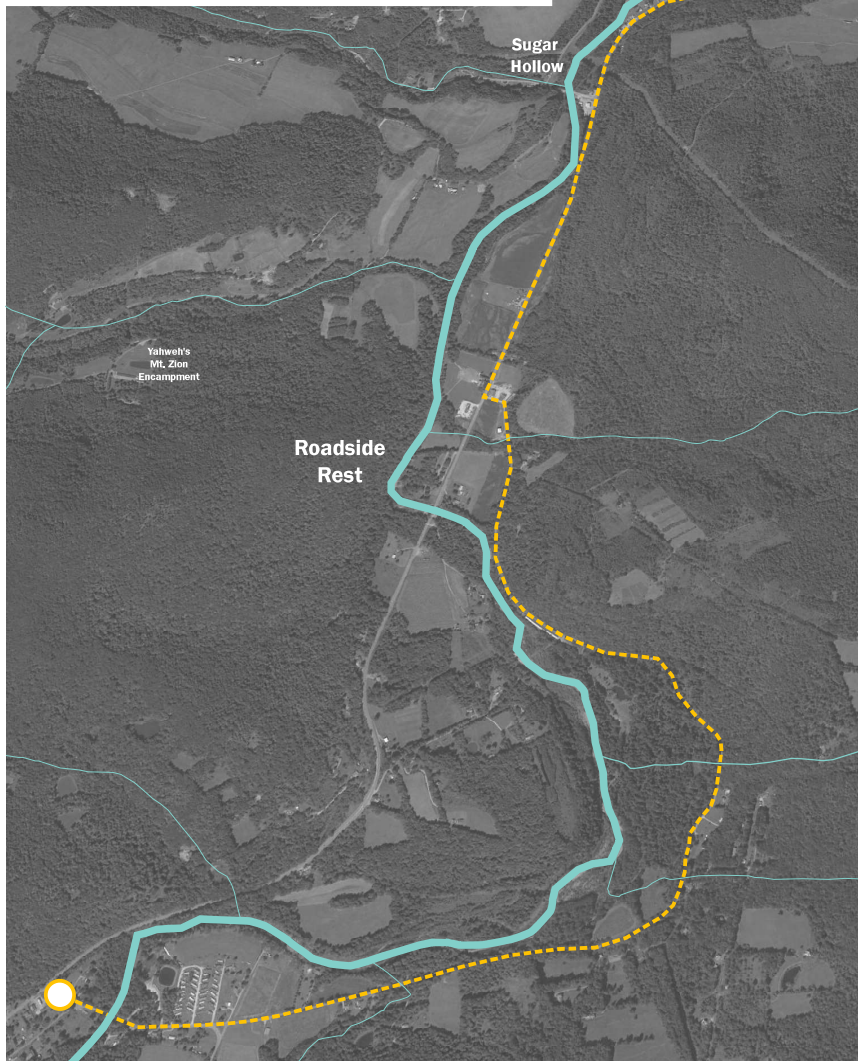
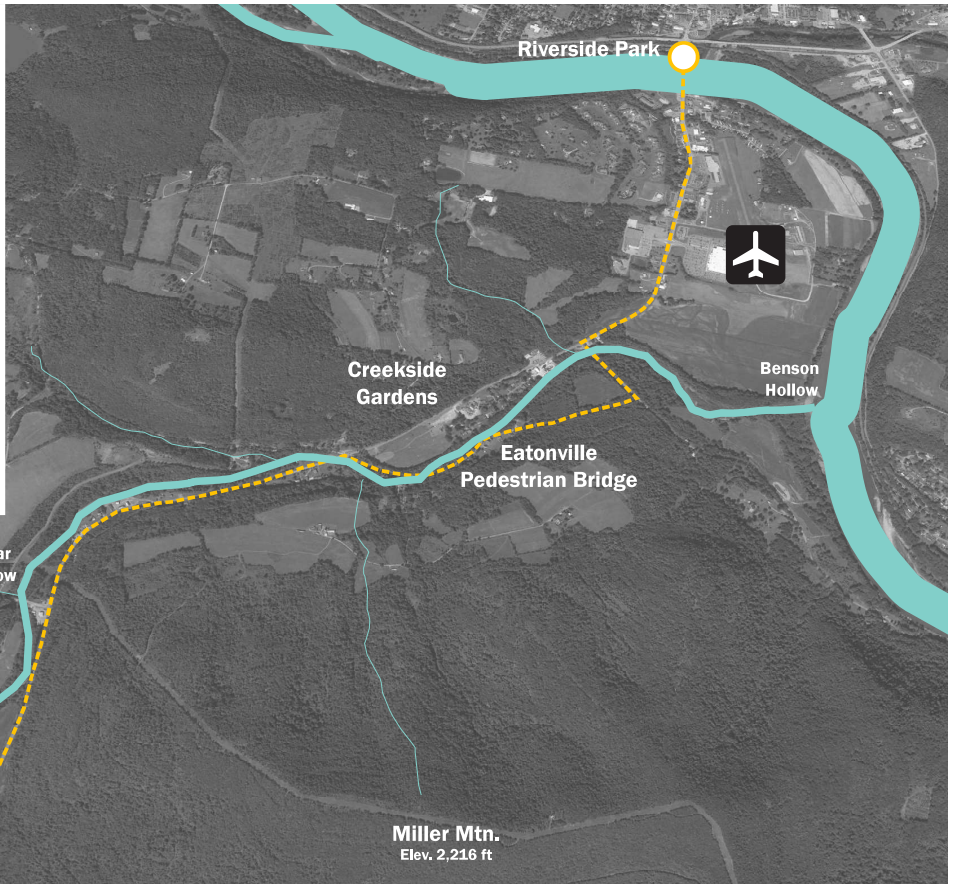


By-ways and Bike Routes

Background

By ways are an alternative route that have qualities that make a trip special. Qualities that distinguish by-ways include: Archaeological, cultural, natural, recreational, historic, or scientific. Wyoming County has two by-ways, the Viaduct Valley By-Way and the Gateway to the Endless Mountains By-way.

By ways received distinction from the state By-ways program, once a route gains the title, the opportunity to apply for federal funding opens. By ways are managed by the department of transportation and receive funding through the federal government



The Viaduct Valley By-way

The Viaduct Valley By-way follows Route 92 and 171, the 37.3-mile passage extends from Susquehanna County in Lanesboro into Wyoming County, passing through Nicholson Borough and Township, Lemon Township, and Tunkhannock Township.

The Gateway to The Endless Mountains Scenic By-way

Route 6 through Downtown Tunkhannock

Bike Route Y/ USBR 36

Pa Bike Route Y was designated in 2008. In 2018, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) designated the route as USBR 36, connecting cyclists from Ohio to Pennsylvania and New York. In 2017 a plan was created for section 1 of the route, The section of route in Wyoming County was not included in the report.

Local Trail Networks

Vosburg Neck

The Vosburg Neck is a unique feature along the Susquehanna River. A peninsular oxbow, Camp Lackawanna, and Howland Nature Preserve are entities with conservations easements through the north branch land trust. Both Locations have extensive trail networks that connect.

Davis Crossing Preserve

A 60 acres preserve located in Overfield township. The wetland and wooded condition make it an excellent location for wildlife viewing. The preserver is under the management of Countryside Conservancy.

Little Rocky Glen

Located on the North Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek, the gorge waterfall preserve has trails that highlight the unique geology of the location. The preserver is under the management of Countryside Conservancy.

State Game Lands 57

The game lands have both designated and undesignated trails at their perimeter and interior. Some designated trails are multi-use and permit ATVs, snowmobiles, horses, etc.

Regional Trails

ASTA Back Mountain Trail (Luzerne County)

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Heritage Trail (Lackawanna County)

Endless Mountains Riding Trail (Susquehanna County),

Warrior Trail (Luzerne County)

Regional Trail Networks

Rickets Glen (Luzerne County)

Lackawanna State Park (Lackawanna County)

Loyalsock State Forest (Sullivan County)

Frances Slocum State Park (Luzerne County)

State Games Lands 66 (Sullivan County)

Connection Barriers

Connections for trails can be limited by existing structures and private ownership of land. If trails are designed in cooperation with the community the organization constructing the trail will work with property owners and easements can be implemented. Trails can also be limited by factors surrounding the connection. For example, a road with a narrow shoulder and higher speed limits could create unsafe pedestrian/cyclist/equestrian conditions that conflict with the flow of traffic.

Conserved Lands

41.549988 -76.009688

Vosburg Neck

546 Vosburg Rd, Washington Twp

Background

The Vosburg Neck is an oxbow loop that wedges around a peninsula of land along the Susquehanna River. The Neck is a unique moment of sinuosity along the river and has been called the tightest oxbow along the Susquehanna River. On either side of the river is an eclipse of mountains cascading over 1,000 above the water's surface. The Neck is situated in Washington Township, a few miles west of Tunkhannock along Route 6.

History

The primarily forested peninsula has a rich history in the juncture between rural and early industrialism. The North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania canal was built between 1828-1836. The canal cut through the southern portion of the landmass. Remnants of the canal prisms can still be seen today.

In 1865, the Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Rail Road Company began construction on the Vosburg Tunnel located at the northern choke of The Neck. The track along the river of the Neck is around 5 miles. The justification for the 1-mile tunnel saved the company from laying four additional miles of track.



Conservation Efforts

Nearly the entirety of the southern portion of The Neck is protected either through ownership or easement. The two largest parcels are both under conservation easements. The eastern parcel, owned by North Branch Land Trust, and the western parcel is owned by Lackawanna Presbytery. The area makes up 1,000 acres of contiguous land.

Howland Preserve

Ernest E. Howland donated his family farm, Riverside Farms—purchased by his parents in 1941, to

North Branch Land Trust in 2006. A condition of the donation is the site is never to be developed. The 669-acre property has a yellow and red house and a barn that predate the 1900's—the North Branch Land Trust partners with Friends of Howland. Friends of Howland is a non-profit that was formed in 2016. The group manages the property while promoting the vision of NBLT.

Friend of Howland founders and current land managers Ali and Doug Wilson discovered the property when it was under the ownership of NBLT as users of the public access point along the riverfront, and ever



since, the group has been active with all aspects of the property. In addition, the Friends of Howland fundraise by renting out the Red Barn for weddings and events.

Keystone Community Resources provide community resources to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the area. In 2019, The group partnered with Friends of Howland and established a wooden enclosure for community gardens on the historic estate through fundraising and grant opportunities. Endless Mountains Running Club hosts a 5-mile trail race that encourages people to use the trails and promotes trails on the property. Keystone Composite Youth Group is a group of mountain bike-oriented young people who utilize and help maintain the trails in the summer months. Art Shows help bring visibility to the site and collaborate with the local school district and Artist in Residents to host art classes. Rock the River events to find funding by incorporating local musicians and people's connection with the water.

In addition to community partnerships, the Friends participate in the Hunter Access Program and Pheasant Forever, which provides increased user-ship and government agency assistance kickbacks like sapling donations and bird boxes.

Needs Assessment

Howland does not have a restroom facility. NBLT rents a port-a-potty for the site. The restrooms do not have ADA access, which conflicts with Howland's partnership with Keystone Community Resources.

The existing partnership could improve by improving facilities for access. The gravel road leading to the boat launch is mostly a gentle slope for most of the road until about 25 feet before the water's edge. The slope is too steep for wheelchair users or individuals using mobility assistance. To further develop the partnership between Keystone Community Resources, Howland would benefit from an accessible boat launch and a developed fishing access point accessible to a wheelchair. The installation of restroom facilities accessible to individuals with mobility accommodations, funds for equipment to maintain trails better, and continued preservation of the barn and two houses.

During an interview with Ali Wilson from Friends of Howland, she expressed that their most significant unmet need is large equipment to maintain the site continually. For example, washouts to the boat launch are frequently remedied through extensive manual labor without powered equipment.

The Friends of Howland were tasked with getting the barn up to code before hosting events in the space. While they accomplished the improvements, the barn still needs some specific improvements that challenge the importance of keeping the historic character of the structure.

Friends of Howland have a lot of support from NBLT and community volunteers, donations, and grant funding. However, the long-term projections for the property still need more envisioning. North Branch Land Trust hopes to sell the property to another like-

A constraint to potential buyers is that the property must remain preserved without development. Which is a challenging sell with the existing gas extraction prospects that many property buyers in Wyoming County are seeking. From interviewing Maureen of North Branch Land Trust, and Ali of Friends of Howland, both groups are interested in the long-term preservation of the property.

Both organizations are interested in improved connectivity to the Neck by the potential of other trail

Camp Lackawanna

Camp Lackawanna established a conservation easement with the assistance of North Branch Land Trust in April 2007. Camp Lackawanna is overseen by a Board of Directors and managed by a live-in manager. The Camp holds its camping program that runs during the summer months. The Camp can be rented by groups or camping for a fee when the Camp is not in session. PSCL- Cycling group hosts a program at the Camp during the summer.

In 2020 the Camp hosted a Woman's Wellness



developments in the county. In addition, friends of Howland would be willing to further a master planning feasibility study to develop the Vosberg Neck's long-term vision.

Suppose the NBLT were to sell the property to a government agency. In that case, it could be beneficial to establish what capacity the Friends of Howland would have in the planning process and structuring of operations given their partnerships and existing programming on the property.

retreat that was sponsored by local businesses. Camp Lackawanna does not participate in the Hunter Access Program like Howland Preserve; however, they do permit hunting during the first two weeks of rifle season by reservation for a donation.

Mykala has been Camp Director at Camp Lackawanna since 2020. The Camp did not hold a session during the summer of 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. During that time, Mikayla and the Volunteers could complete a new low ropes course at the Camp.



Parcel Map

The map on the left shows the parcel boundaries for all the parcels on the Neck.

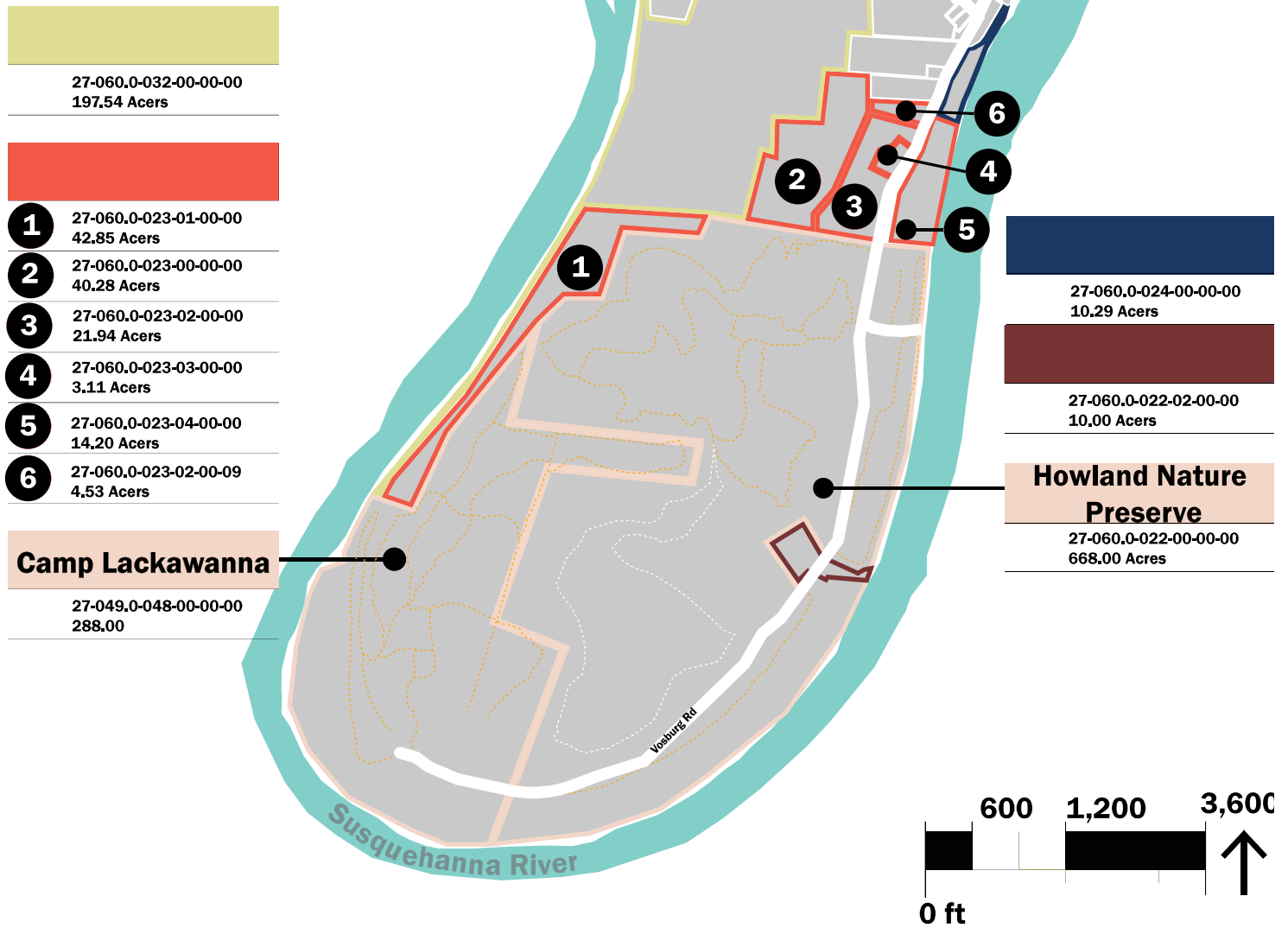
Camp Lackawanna and Howland Nature Preserve

Northern Parcel

The Northern Parcel is just north of Camp Lackawanna. It is the third-largest parcel on the Neck. It is unique because the parcel defines a thin strip of riverfront below the ridge on the western side of The Neck.

Central Band Parcels

Ernest Howland's Father parceled off a northern piece of the estate to his daughter as a wedding present. Today the current owner has possession of most of the



parcels at the central choke—the western parcel, including the western ridge side of the landmass.

Schaffer’s Riverside Campground

Schaffer’s Riverside Campground is a popular camping location. The parcel allows people to Camp along the shore of the Susquehanna River. Schaffer’s Campground is an important location because it offers camping opportunities while Howland Preserve does not.

Lower Private Parcel

The lower Private Parcel is 10-acres and the only private property on the southern portion of the Neck. It is surrounded on three sides by Howland Nature preserve and has river frontage.

Little Rocky Glen

State Rte 2012, Factoryville

Size: 26-acres

Countryside Conservancy Team

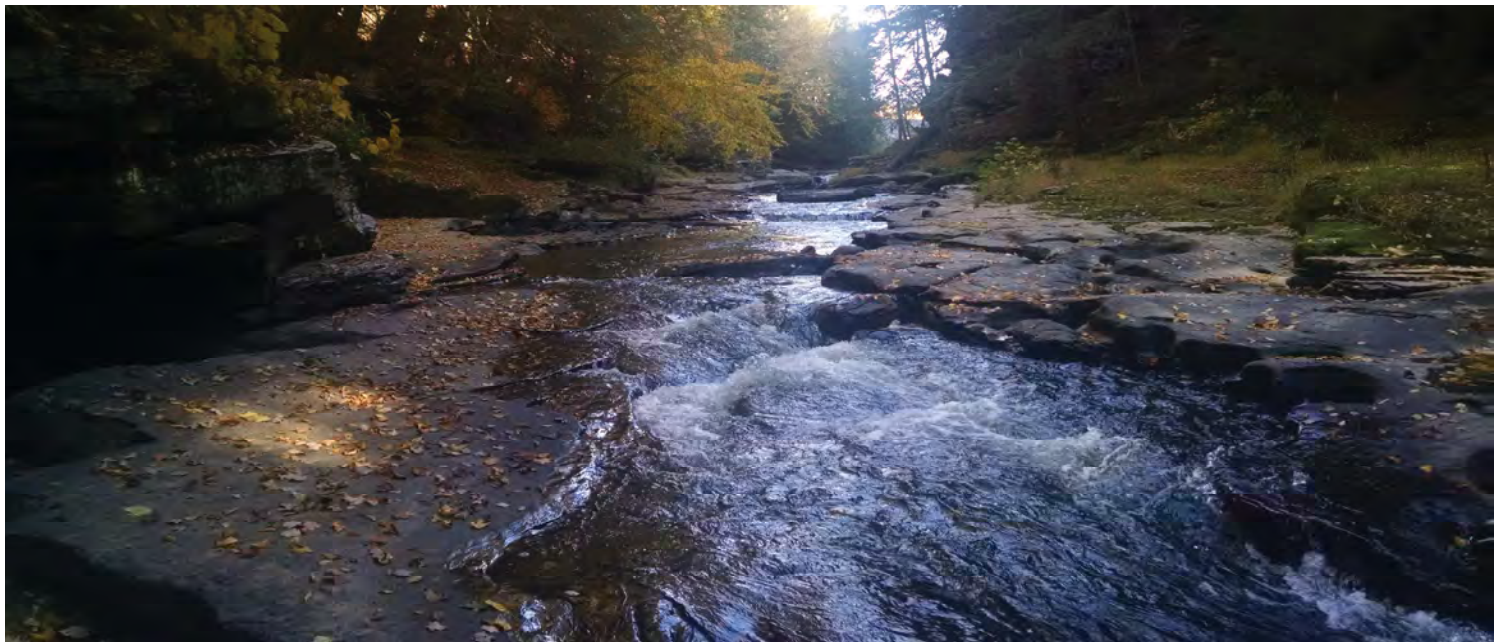
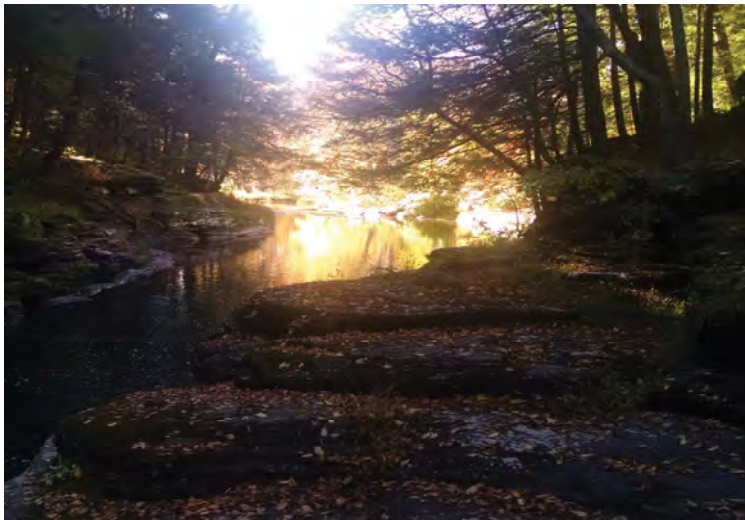
William Kern (Executive Director), Cheryl Ellsworth (Trail Coordinator), Shannon Cantner (Office Manager)

Location

The preserve is located between Factoryville and Tunkhannock. From route 6, along Lithia Valley Road, is a small gravel parking lot before a bridge. Trails are not marked, but they lead down from a field to a lower pool and picnic pavilion.

Features

Features include Forested woodlot, unique shale, and sandstone gorge, a half mile trail. Deep pools, Cascades and rapids, and potholes, pavilion.



41.5319207 -75.8322773

Davis Crossing

Earnhardt Road, Factoryville

Size: 61-acres

Location

The 61-acre property is located in Overfield Township on Erhardt Road.

Features

The preserve was donated to Country Side Conservancy in 2013 by the Lackawanna Audubon Society. Features of the site include the Al Zenke Lookout Tower, forests, wetlands, and beaver activity.

<https://www.discovernepa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/DN-TTD-LAC-DavisCrossingPreserve-03-572x429.jpg>



41.6259802-75.77868447

Nicholson Historical Society: DL & W Train Station

21 Lackawanna Trail, Nicholson

Nicholson Heritage Association

The Nicholson Historical Association is a non-profit and founded in 1989. The historical organization began in anticipation of the 75th anniversary of Tunkhannock Viaduct in 1990.

Train Station

The station closed in 1971 and was sold in 1983. The renovations to the building are nearing completion. The Nicholson Heritage Association was gifted a significant portion of the late Hugh Saxton's collection of Indigenous artifacts found in the untilled fields surrounding Nicholson. The donation by Saxton's son Philip is set to be a permanent exhibit to the train station.



6. Rural Recreation and Tourism

6. Rural Recreation and Tourism

Proactive efforts to promote rural recreation and tourism provide rural communities with opportunities to support health related and economic growth. The Economic Research Service of the USDA conducted the study, Recreation, Tourism and Rural Well-Being, and found that recreational development and tourism can create higher employment growth rates and percentages of working age residents with employment which reduces local poverty rates. Additionally, the growth can increase property values and spark demand for an increase of goods and services.

The sense of place that Wyoming county possesses offers a number of avenues to expand recreation and tourism.

Agrotourism



In rural communities, Agrotourism can be a facilitating factor in promoting a county and highlighting its significance for healthy food production within the state. However, according to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, the number of farm operators reporting income from agritourism in Pennsylvania has decreased slightly since 2012 (Crissy, 2019). It is important to note that this study did not have data for Wyoming County and may not reflect the agrotourism profile of the county. Agrotourism can be a strategy to diversify income, particularly for small and medium-size farms (Crissy, 2019)



As of 2021, the Commonwealth has moved to protect farmers who participate in agrotourism proactively. The Pennsylvania Agritourism Activity Protection Act became effective on August 29, 2021. The act provides limited liability to establishments that operate in the agrotourism sector. Before this act, many operators faced issues with the availability and costs of insurances associated with agrotourism. The act protects businesses and is the first definition of agrotourism accounted for in Pennsylvania (Schmidt, 2021). According to Schmidt, Operators within the county can reach out to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau for guidance resources and the option to purchase signs with the required statute language.



Wyoming County has numerous activities that relate to Agrotourism. The Whistle Pig Corn Maze, Creekside Garden's Pumpkin Walk, Brown Hill Farms Sunflower Field, and Horse Clinics at Quantum Leap Farms are just a few examples of successful agrotourism activities within the county.

Crissy, Harry. Claudia Schmidt. Agritourism in Pennsylvania 2019 Update. PennState Extension 2019. <https://extension.psu.edu/agritourism-in-pennsylvania-2019-update>.

User Groups

People recreate in different ways. How people choose to engage in physical activity depends on their skill, age, ability, and level of interest. These factors direct their chosen activity, but they also create a set of demands they need to recreate in their chosen way. Certain types of recreation require specific facilities, Trail surface type, desired slopes, and length of trail.

To highlight what needs different groups of people have we have separated users into three distinct groups. These groups simplify types of users, types of activities and the corresponding needs for recreation in each group. Any individual could part of any group.

The Able

Users: Small children, people with disabilities, elderly people, people with limited mobility, people with lower energy levels, beginners, families with small children. Passive recreation activities with little to light physical activity.

Types of activities: Gardening, dog walking, bird/wildlife watching, walking short distances, picnicking, golfing,

Trail Use Needs: Mostly paved trails with steady grade changes, benches, waste station,

The Eager

Users: High energy people, middle aged people, teens, active adults, athletes, experts, exercise minded people, families with older children. Active recreation activities with moderate to intensive physical activity.

Types of activities: Biking, running, climbing, kayaking, long trail hiking, swimming, organized sports (baseball, basketball, tennis)

Trail Use Needs: Can use various types of trails, desire longer trails to utilize

The Trailblazer

Users: Recreation driven people, sportsmen, motorsport enthusiasts, extreme sports, hunters, equestrians, anglers. Intensive recreation that may or may not require extensive physical activity.

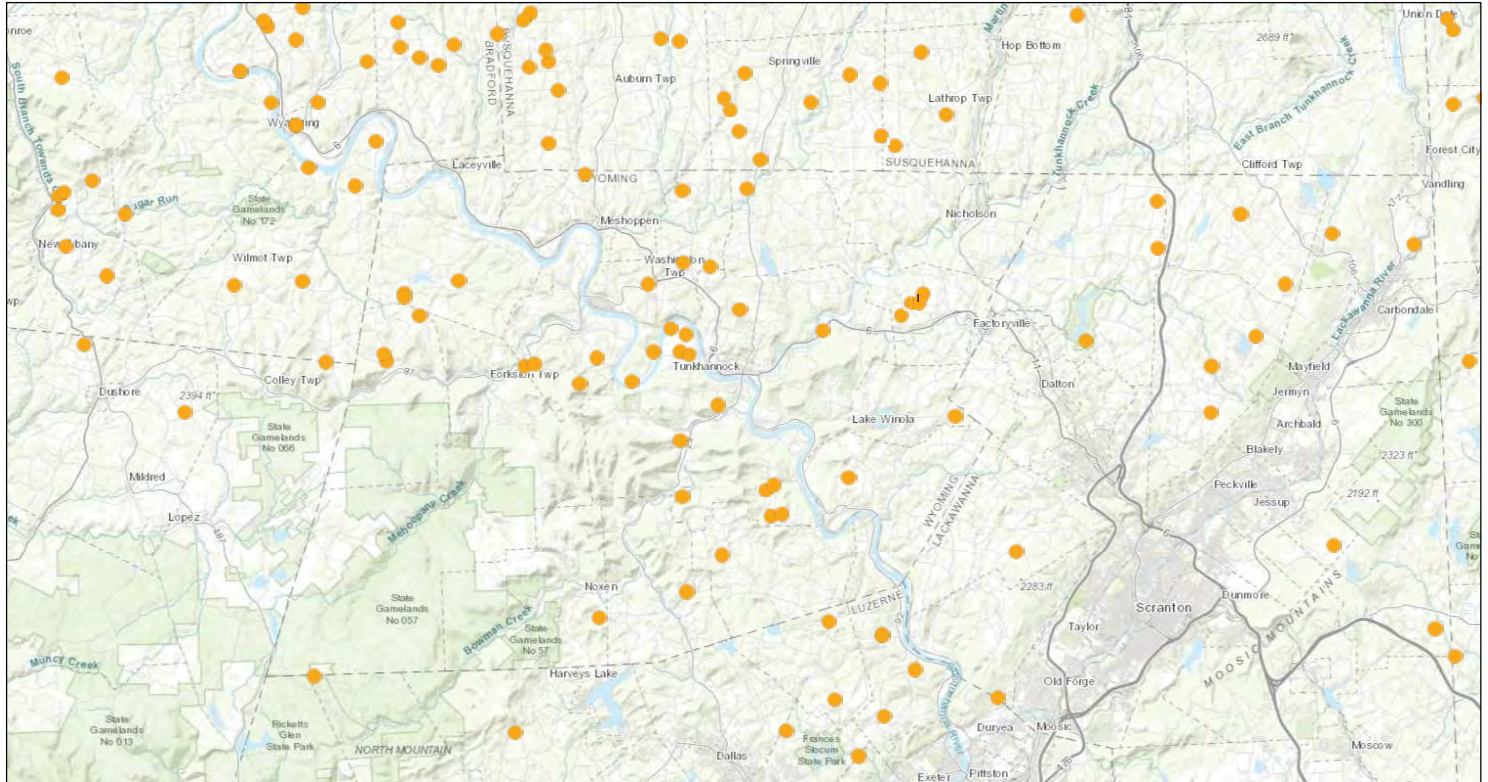
Types of activities: ATV/snowmobiling/motorbiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, skydiving

Trail Use Needs: Require trails for vehicles and recreation type, might not use trails like other users' groups.



Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter Access Program

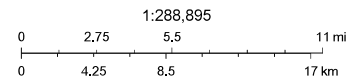
Pennsylvania Game Commission has extensive resources for hunters through their Hunter Access Program. The program connects private property owners with the public in permissible access to private property for hunting. This program offers some complimentary amenities to individuals who participate in the program. Benefits may include discounted landowner hunting licenses, landowner antlerless deer licenses, free tree and shrub seedlings, reduced-cost wood products for signage and nest boxes, technical assistance, and free signage. These benefits are contingent upon how much land the owner enrolls in the program.



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● Hunter Access Program Locations

Ontario Base Map, Province of Ontario, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS | Imakibbin | Pennsylvania Game Commission | PGCC | PA Game Commission | Chris Rosenberry | Pennsylvania Game Commission - J. Dietl |



It is most important to note that this program offers liability protection to landowners through the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act. This act frees landowners from legal obligation to mitigate or warn hazardous conditions on their property. Although liability protection is essential for private property owners interested in participating, it also invites an accessible environment for positive cooperation with landowners and hunters. This program provides information to individuals with other recreational goals as well. Across the state, there are over 13,000 individual landowners who participate in this program and approximately 43 participants with almost 7,000 acres of private land located in Wyoming County.

The consultant team had the opportunity to speak with a landowner during River Day at Riverside Park along the Susquehanna River to discover this program's amenity for Wyoming County recreation. This was the only landowner consultant who spoke with whom participates in the Hunter Access Program. They disclosed that some restrictions for gaming vary from landowner to landowner, and it is always essential to ask permission before walking around someone's property. This program is unique because it offers access to thousands of acres of land to the public with permission.

The consultants tried to obtain this information from the PA Game Commission but were denied access to protect the landowners who participated. However, exciting planning departments, recreational departments, action groups, and municipal officials can access approximate latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates and GPS direction to each property from the Game Commission Mapping Center on their website.

While the parcels are scattered through the county and do not have direct connectivity to one another, these locations could be of interest to municipalities or recreational organizations. Interested groups could attempt to speak with parcel owners about collaboration on projects such as proposed trail alignments, land

preservation/easements, or trusts. If municipalities are seeking to expand or develop recreation committees in their community, landowners participating in the program could be critical stakeholders to ask to participate. It would be valuable to municipalities to know the views of these individuals. It could be mutually beneficial for participating landowners within a community to discuss their involvement and experiences with the program.

Natural History Interpretation

Since the Endless Mountain Nature Center closed in 2019, the community has experienced a void in resources for programmed nature-based education. Nature centers are a powerful force in a community, 'A nature center is more than a place – a physical structure with surrounding land area. It is an event, a possible experience for a member of the community.'(Cherem, 1974) They offer people hands-on experiences that shape their relationship with their surrounding environment. Nature centers have two types of stakeholders: visitors and local community members (Gharis, 2020).

Through partnerships, centers can provide enrichment programming, host events, and even significantly impact natural areas near their location. In turn, natural history interpretation can foster stewardship to encourage participants to protect their natural environments.

Wyoming County could reinvigorate a Nature Center in a few ways. Through sponsorship from government agencies such as PA DCNR or the Game Commission, school districts, and local municipal monies. Groups could create new partnerships with several organizations such as the Endless Mountains Visitor Center, Countryside Conservancy, and Friends of Howland. Finally, if a state park could be established within the county, this could also bolster renewing efforts to establish a nature center.

Laurie Gharis, Rebecca L. Franzen, Kendra Liddicoat, Taylor N. Remington. (2020) How do Wisconsin environmental educators perceive a potential, professional certification for individual environmental educators? *Applied Environmental Education & Communication* 19:1, pages 44-61.

Cherem, G. J. 1974. *The Beginnings of a Nature Center*. Stevens Point: University of Wisconsin.



7. The Plan

7. The Plan

Goals

This plan has been developed through an outline of goals that the consultant coalesced after input from the public, steering committee, inventory and analyses and extensive research. The goals are topical and apply to recommendations as well as best management practices.

Conserve and Protect Existing Natural Areas

Maintain Rural Character

Renew Economic Prosperity Through Tourism and Commerce

Promote Local Recreation & Tourism Through Marketing, and Grassroots Efforts

Popularize Outdoor Recreation for Fitness and Wellness

Maintain and Improve Existing Recreation Spaces

Explore Concepts to Increase Usership

Create Interpretive and Educational Opportunities

Highlight Indigenous and Historic Narratives

Create New Connections



Improvements

It is important to this plan to determine the needs and gaps between existing and future conditions of outdoor spaces and recreational amenities and opportunities.

Conserve & Protect Existing Natural Areas

Interpret current Zoning Restrictions (steep slopes, floodplain, agriculture security zones) to foster the development of trail connections.

Promote and incentivize Farm Land Conservation Easements and Private Conservation Easements locally to engender a positive public perception of open space preservation.

Implement a strategy to target market available private parcels for land acquisitions to develop trails and open space.

Maintain Rural Character and Scenic Beauty

Encourage the importance of buffers to landowners

Promote Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to private landowners

Improve allocation of resources and develop targeted project areas for streambank planting, invasive species removal, agrarian streambank crossings, and green infrastructure in developed areas to mitigate flooding and improve erosion control.

Renew Economic Prosperity Through Tourism and Commerce

Promote any economic development and available incentives for new businesses and entrepreneurs relating to the recreation industry

Collaborate with and provide technical assistance to existing businesses to advocate applying for grants and participate in partnerships that will foster the growth of their businesses

Promote Room Tax grant and develop a strategy to include public input for transparency in the allocation process

Promote Tourism through marketing, grassroots, and advertisement

Utilize social media, online marketing, and generate a comprehensive advertisement to enhance county visibility at the regional, state, and national level.

Popularize Outdoor Recreation for Fitness and Health

Partner with local health organizations to sponsor outdoor recreation. Some potential partnering groups include Wyoming County Special Needs Association, HANDS of Wyoming County, Wyoming County Community Alliance, Wyoming County Heart, and Soul, Healthy Family Partnership

Implement features that are engaging to users of every ability

Maintain and Improve Existing Recreation Spaces

Secure funding for continual maintenance and backlogged capital projects

Address safety and accessibility issues at public parks

Strategize implementation of new features based on existing and projected community wants

Explore Concepts to Increase Usership

Encourage school districts to utilize public open space within the county

Connect Tunkhannock school to trails and parks through a safe trail extension of the Iroquois Trail.

Promote Park usage to organizations that enable elderly and individuals with disabilities to get outside with groups like the Falls Center for Active Adults.

Create Interpretive and Education Opportunities

Create a cohesive signage program countywide to increase wayfinding

Invest in narrative signage and interactive display systems include natural interpretation

Forge partnerships with local educational groups and Institutions such as Keystone College, Bradford Wyoming County Literacy Program, Head start, Local Libraries, and School Districts

Highlight Indigenous and Historical Narratives

Collaborate with indigenous communities that have lived in the Wyoming Valley.

Address issues with misrepresentations and initiate a process to create better historical signage for historically significant Native American histories within the county. Initiate process to install historical signage near the native burial place in Nicholson. Revise historical signage and local narrative of Teedyusung, increase and revise accurate depictions of Iroquois nations and Lenape Delaware's as they relate to the colonial settlement of the Wyoming Valley, the French and Indian Wars, and the American Revolution.

Initiate the State Signage Program for the Nicholson Train Station, the Noxen Train Station, Trolley Station in Nicholson Park, Laceyville Oldest House, Meshoppen Fire station

Acquire federal recognition for locally significant essential features, like the Nicholson Train Station, and Trolley Trail

Collaborate to gain Federal By-way Recognition of Route 6 the Viaduct Valley By-way.

Create New Connections

Develop a master plan and multi-agency collation to support Vosburgh Neck

Develop a master plan for Riverside Park in Tunkhannock

Collaborate between agencies to provide more public camping opportunities

Partner with the Game Commission to increase usership and implement a designated trail network within the game lands connecting to Ricketts Glen and the Back Mountain Trail.

Creation of New Recreation Opportunities

Municipal Parks

At first, the county should acknowledge its lesser serviced parks for potential projects. Instituting new amenities at already municipally-owned parcels is the simplest way to create new recreation opportunities. From the inventory and analysis of parks and recreation spaces, the consultant identified McCord Park, Lake Winola Community Park and Peck Natural Area, Riverside Park, and Donavon Park as service areas that could benefit most from new amenities and improvements.

McCord Park Opportunities

Create a trailhead at the park to connect to the Iroquois trail and consider partnering with the elementary school to see if they could benefit from newly installed amenities

Lake Winola Park Opportunities

Create a dedicated maintenance plan. Asses usage of the basketball court to determine the level of use and if it should be repaired or reconfigured to offer additional court sports.

Riverside Park Opportunities

A dedicated master plan should be created to explore potential opportunities within the park, create a phasing strategy to replace outdated park features, generate a dedicated needs analysis to drive public interest and support, and strategic funding sources and feasibility.

Donavon Park Opportunities

It would be beneficial to increase boat access at the park by Developing better access to the riverfront. Laceyville Borough should assess the current usership of the baseball field with the potential to reuse the practice field for other forms of recreation. Additionally, considerations should be made to improve the park entrance to the park to increase vehicular safety.

Conserved Lands

Howland Preserve

The county should partner with Friends of Howland and North Branch Land Trust to explore a feasibility study to understand the potential of future use and management of Howland to realize Howland as an integral part of the County's Park system. Howland is one of the largest publicly accessible parcels within the county, and its central location along the river is an ideal democratic location for public open space

Land Acquisitions

Upon cursory review of undeveloped parcels currently for sale during the creation of this plan, the consultant suggests that the county explore opportunities for new land acquisitions for public open space. Some of the private parcels currently on the market are virtually or entirely undeveloped. Some hold ecological significance and have been recorded in the County's Natural Areas Inventory, and some hold untold historical significance and cultural significance to the Delaware Nation.

In January 27, 2021, the Executive Order 14008 was enacted, Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Section 204 includes the initiative of federal procurement of lands. Additionally, Section 216 commands government agencies to recommend steps the United States should take to work with State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

The Department of Interior has outlined principles that will guide conservation efforts in achieving the order's goal:

- Pursuing a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation;
- Conserving America's lands and waters for the benefit of all people;
- Supporting locally-led and locally designed conservation efforts;
- Honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations;
- Pursuing conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities;
- Honoring private property rights and supporting the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners;
- Using science as a guide; and building on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches.

It is hard to imagine anything less than the idiom, no time like the present, when considering land acquisition opportunities within Wyoming County. However, with speed like no other- ten years is a brief time. Therefore, the consultant urges the county to act with haste on the opportunity for this legislative action and its prospect of ameliorating public open space within Wyoming County for generations to come.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

<https://www.doi.gov/priorities/america-the-beautiful>

Connections

Improve Connectivity of Iroquois Trail

The county should initiate a strategy for proposed connections to High School and Riverside, Create Pedestrian Bridge over Route 6 Bypass, and explore a rail with trails option to connect to Vosburg Neck.

Improve Connectivity of Seneca Trail

Implement traffic light at Creekside Gardens to institute more excellent connectivity of Seneca Trail to Roadside Rest.

Countryside Conservancy Partnerships

Connecting Lake Winola

Countryside Conservancy should partner with the Lake Winola Trail Group to Coordinate the use of the Peck Natural area in Lake Winola with the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail. Additionally, the groups should consider partnering with PAFB to erect a pavilion at the lake Winola boat launch or Peck Natural Area Trailhead. Create pedestrian crossing access between peck natural area trailhead and lake Winola waterfront.

Connecting Factoryville

Create a connection between Creekside, Christy Matthewson to each other with consideration to proposed alignments of the Trolley Trail.

Connecting Nicholson

Project to Connect the Trolley Trail along its alignment to Nicholson and connecting to Susquehanna County. It could be beneficial to develop a strategy to merge forces between Countryside, Nicholson Borough, The Nicholson Heritage Association, and the Viaduct Valley Byway to begin visioning this goal.

Reinvigorate Efforts to Extend the Back Mountain Trail

Extending the Back Mountain Trail to its proposed alignment through Noxen could renew efforts in protecting the Noxen Train station and create a clear publicly accessible trail connection to Ricketts Glen State Park in Luzerne County.

Roadway Improvements Along State Route Corridors

The county should include requests in plans for PENDOT roadway improvements that ensure wide roadway shoulders to strengthen and improve Bike Route Y and sections of Route 29 that include the Seneca Trail, as well as the Viaduct Valley byway to encourage safe county-wide multimodal transportation

Public Transportation

Partnerships should be forged between the County, Keystone College and neighboring county transportation systems to create a public transportation opportunity within Wyoming County near Keystone College. The outcome of a public transportation route to Wyoming County would not only offer traffic calming near Keystone and a commuter option, but it could also be an environmentally conscious choice to promote usership of the Trolley Trail and be a public gateway for other recreation within the county.

Additional Amenities

The public survey indicates the top four amenities that people find essential to their outdoor recreation are maintained trails (17%), clean restrooms (15%), sufficient lighting and security (12%), and ample parking (11%). The top responses were followed by amenities, including clear signage (9%), Trash receptacles (9%), food and drink (7%), pet areas (7%), and picnic areas (6%). The County should recognize that these are the essential amenities to their visitors. When examining a park, the municipality should ask themselves if they are adequately providing these amenities to their community and what they can do to add additional amenities. For example, the only park that has a designated dog park is Creekside in Factoryville. There is also informal use of the baseball field in Mehoopany as a dog park. Traffic patterns within a park are also crucial for general park use, large events, and safety. Marked stalls and accessible stalls are all some parks need to achieve this. Others

may consider traffic patterns and accessibility to park entrances, especially at Riverside Park in Tunkhannock, Lazy brook Park, and Donavon Park in Laceyville.

Most municipalities do an excellent job at maintaining parks. However, it is a challenge for any municipality or organization to keep up trails. Therefore, it is recommended that municipalities that maintain their trails either within parks or stand-alone trails create a maintenance schedule to understand better what needs for trails exist. Firstly, addressing issues related to health and safety like taking down dead trees that are a hazard for falling, uprooting exposed roots that are a trip hazard along the path, and freeing the trail of debris. Next, it is wise to consider seasonal maintenance. Overtime trail edges can succumb to overgrowth and thus narrowing the path's width. In some cases, like in meadow trails, they can completely disappear and become impassible.

The questionnaire highlights favored facilities by residents. The most favorable facilities are hiking trails (18%) and Parks (16%), followed by public boat access (10%), playgrounds (10%), bike paths (10%), downtown sidewalks (9%), public fishing areas (7%), athletic fields (7%), and designated camping (6%). For most parks, Wyoming County's recreation areas provide nearly all of these facilities in at least one location, except camping and bike paths. Although route 6 is also State Bike Route Y, there should be a heightened awareness of cyclist safety. Additionally, it could be beneficial for Tunkhannock Township and Borough to consider a designated bike path along Business 6 for cyclists locally and use the corridor at a cross-state capacity. For this reason, cyclist connections could strengthen usership between the Iroquois trail and the downtown corridor.

To increase pedestrian connections, any existing business and homeowner should advocate for sidewalk programs within the boroughs. Additionally, municipalities should consider if it would be fitting for new construction to be required to maintain a sidewalk. Although it may seem disconnected from current settings, any municipality projecting growth and development should strive to have their business corridors walkable, and maintained sidewalks are essential for a community to achieve walkability. Sidewalks also are paramount for small towns to have a sense of character, even in rural settings. Knowing what types of activities, the community currently supports or would support an increase gives the consultants a point of navigating between needed improvements and the usership it would sustain. Activities that respondents said they would or do currently support within the county are walking/hiking/jogging (16%), Boating and Kayaking (14%), Fishing and hunting (13%), camping (12%), wildlife watching (11%), organized sports (9%), ATVing (7%), cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (6%) and equestrian sports (6%).

Increased public open space could support walking, hiking, jogging, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ATVing, and equestrian sports. The consultant is aware that there have been discussions of specific parcels being sold to public entities. The municipalities where these transactions occur should partner or reach out to whatever public entity gains ownership to request participation in the planning process to ensure recreational activities' support. Additionally, advocates for camping opportunities should also request that considerations should be made to accommodate camping.

Proposed County-wide Signage Program

The county should unify recreational signage across county parks and places of interest for wayfinding. At first, signage types need to be established. The examples here are from the Lackawanna Heritage Trail. After establishing color schemes, text, and logos, the county should generate a list of features that would require signage. Next, consideration should be made to the most appropriate signage type for locations, wayfinding, and roadway stationing of signs leading to destinations.

Federal Byway Recognition

Currently, the state-wide by-ways program is being restructured. Once the revised program is adopted, partners of the Viaduct Valley Byway and Route 6 should review with PENNDOT the next steps for by-way recognition and develop a strategy to seek federal recognition. While having a by-way within a community is essential to fostering tourism to receive funding, it must be recognized at a federal level. Additionally, communities should carefully examine what limitations exist for by-ways, such as billboard signage limitations, to see if these limitations would benefit or hinder the communities and businesses the by-way passes through. Also, by-ways are defined beyond their corridor-specific distances. Therefore, it could be beneficial to ensure they reach locations that would benefit from including the by-way's berth. One example would be the Nicholson Train Station and its relationship in proximity to the Viaduct Valley Byway.

Historic Revisions

The consultant's perspective is that some existing historical representations within the County do not accurately depict history as it is told today. Therefore, the County should pay attention to the PHMC's initiative to revitalize its historical signage program and partner with local historical societies and interested residents to initiate the installation and replacement of historical signs.

It is recommended that participating groups consider the location of existing and proposed historical signage at a minimum. If a historical sign is placed on a road with narrow shoulders, without pull-offs, or higher speed limits, these signs will likely never be seen or read by the public. Additionally, renewing local historical signage can offer an opportunity for the community to own its history and respect the past with a proactive attitude. For example, six historical signs are recognizing Sullivan's March. While culturally significant to the area, the language explicitly written on the signs does not depict the perils faced by the native peoples who were expelled from their homes. The persisting diaspora of affected native tribes continues to experience.

At the second public meeting, several residents expressed an overwhelming dissatisfaction with existing public narratives of native peoples within the County. Additionally, the consultant discovered that historical events relating to native peoples within the County played a significant role in major treaties between the Pennsylvania government and Native Americans, especially at the Treaty of Easton. Teedeyusung, King of the Delawares and Lenape Leader of displaced Lenape from the Walking Purchase, who presumably lived along the river near Falls, was a larger-than-life figure present at these negotiations.

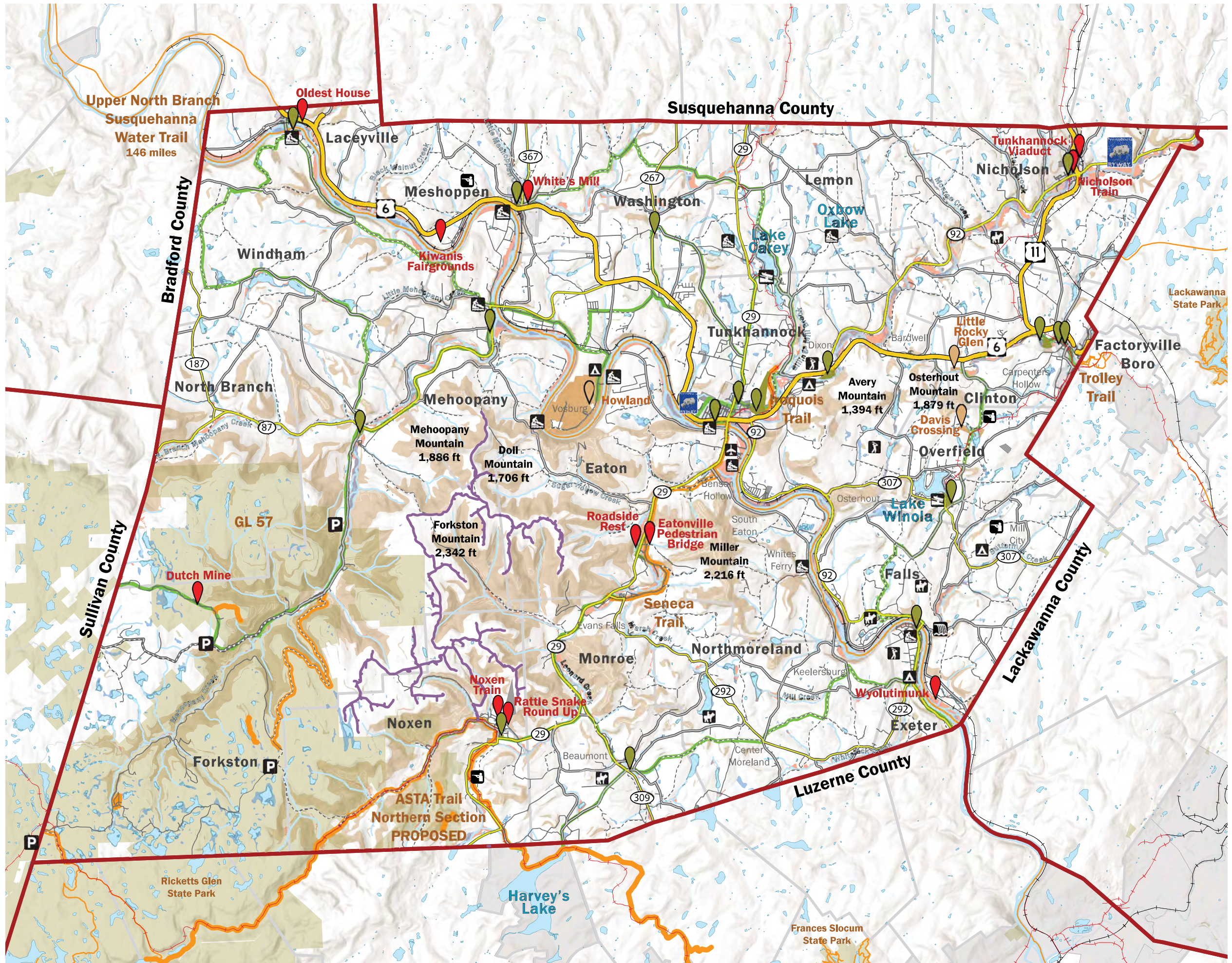
Also, historic evidence depicts an unsavory representation of Conrad Weiser, who intentionally withdrew some of Teedeyusung's oration from the record and altered and misrepresented history in real-time. Our interpretation is that Conrad Weiser was more sympathetic to the Iroquois Nation for his connection to them in his early life. At this time, the Iroquois Indians were not about to let a converted Moravian Indian (Teedeyusung) claim to the land they were fighting to protect. It is beyond sensational that Conrad Weiser, who is widely considered a bipartisan translator between Natives and the Pennsylvania government, and historical Pennsylvanian hero, was so scornful of Teedeyusung.

Additionally, the County should reach out to the Late Huger Saxton's Family. Huger was a contributor to the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Plan and, during his explorations, discovered a Native burial site. The person discovered was determined to be of the Onondaga Nation and was returned to her tribe after being exhumed. The rock site is located in Nicholson. This example is a unique juncture of Nicholson's History and a collaborative partnership towards reparations to natives.

It could be of interest to those reviewing the historical signage throughout the County to examine these events and decide if Wyoming County could be the place where these histories are retold. It is also recommended that any native tribe depicted within the County is contacted to request their contributions and insight to the depictions of their historical narrative.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that other native people lived in the Wyoming Valley, apart from the Iroquois Confederacy and the Leni Lenape (Delaware's). Therefore, the consultant believes it is vitally important to recognize that the Iroquois, Lenape, and others such as the Mahican, Shawnee Susquehannock, Nanticoke, and an unknown number of other tribes were present within the Wyoming Valley.

In a historical context, it is challenging to decipher the exact location and boundaries of these groups and the duration of their residency within the Valley. In large part, this is due to early selective documentation preservation by the Penn Brothers and other Pennsylvanian leaders and the displacement of native peoples by the Walking Purchase and the exclusion of some North Atlantic tribes in the Nonintercourse Act of 1790, as well as the lack of wide-spread publicly accessible mapping from this period of history in Pennsylvania. From the consultant's research and discussions with scholars, it is believed that the interpretations of natives within Pennsylvania have only reached the surface of historical interpretations that divest from colonial depictions alone. Ultimately, it is up to Wyoming County and its residence to solidarity and land acknowledgment of present-day Native Peoples whose ancestors lived there. The retelling of history is subjected to the current views and beliefs of those who orate it. The consultant believes that Wyoming County can partner with Native Tribes that recognize the Wyoming Valley as an essential place to many tribes.



Legend

- Points of Interest
- Municipal Parks
- Public Access Conserveation Area
- County Boundary
- Municipality
- State Parks
- Game Lands
- Municipally Owned
- Waterbodies
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Active Railroad
- Inactive Railroad
- Wind Energy
- State Roads
- County Roads
- Dirt & Gravel Roads
- State Byway
- Bike Route Y
- Viewsheds
- Waterfalls
- Birding Locations
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Boat Launch
- Camping
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Equestrian Centers
- Golfing
- Hunting Sports
- Airport

0 1 2 4 Miles

Collaborative Partnership

Collaborative Partnership is essential for the Greenway, Trails and Open Space Plan to be enacted. The following organizations are comprised of state, regional, and local groups that offer technical, monetary, program and strategic planning support throughout the county.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources PA DCNR

DCNR is an agency in Pennsylvania responsible for maintaining and preserving the state's 121 state parks and 20 state forests; providing information on the state's natural resources; and working with communities to benefit local recreation and natural areas

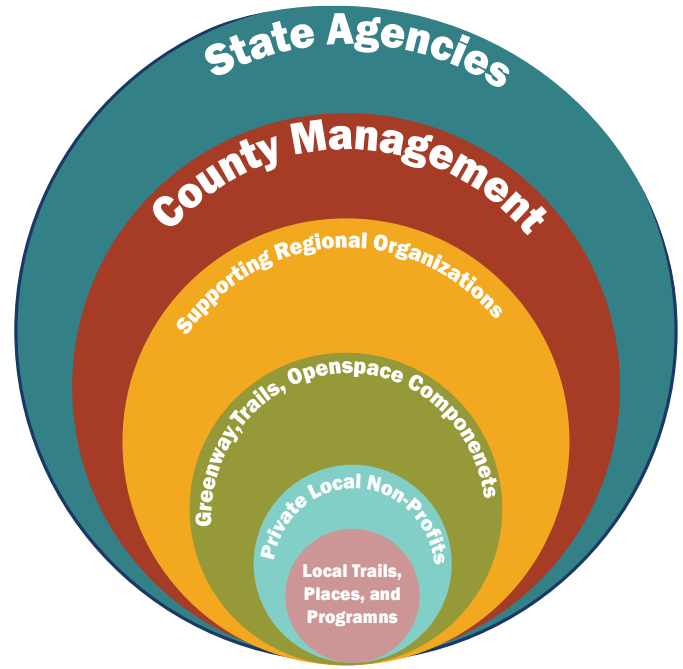
DCNR's mission is to conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment. It is the Goal of DCNR to inspire citizens to value their natural resources, engage in conservation practices and get outside to experience the outdoors.

Bureau of Forestry

The Bureau of Forestry is a bureau within DCNR. The department strives to ensure the health and viability of productive forests within the commonwealth and protect native wild plants. The group manages state forests and protects public and private forestlands, as well as promote forestry by assisting government agencies, communities, landowners, forest businesses and the public on proactive stewardship and use of forest resources. The Bureau also protects water quality through tree planting along waterways, sustainably harvests timber on state land, manages gas activity within the forest system, and maintains trails and infrastructure within the states forests.

Game Commission

The game commission works for wildlife and citizens within Pennsylvania. The Game commission consists of Game wardens, biologists, and habitat specialists working to preserve and maintain game lands within the state. They are the administrator of hunting licenses, hunter-trapper education courses and coordinate the states Hunter access program. The departments within the Commission include, Wildlife Habitat Management, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Protection, Administrative Services, Marketing and Strategic Communications, Information and Education and Automated Technology Services. Additionally, the agency is represented by six regional offices and is funded by hunting and furtaker license sales, State Game Lands timber, mineral, and oil/gas revenue, and



a federal tax on sporting arms and ammunition.

Fish and Boat Commission

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is an agency comprised of 10 Commissioners. The agency is comprised by Field operations, law enforcement and administration that strive to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources as well as providing fishing and boating opportunities to the public.

Endless Mountains Heritage

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) was established in 1998 as a non-profit, membership-based organization within the PA Heritage Areas Program. It is one of 12 current heritage areas across the Commonwealth, which are designated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The EMHR serves Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

The organization also serves as water trail manager for the upper North Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail. EMHR has provides financial support to various partner organizations and dozens of projects. EMHR has helped allocate funding to perform historic and agricultural preservation initiatives, outdoor recreation development and improvement projects to increase the quality of life for residents and encourage tourism across their reach of oversight. EMHR is the regions organizer of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. The organization is involved in various greenway, land conservation, and trail initiatives in the area, and byways and vista enhancements.

Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission

The Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission offers resources to help businesses and entrepreneurs, local governments and non-profits, and job seekers to succeed in Pennsylvania's Northern Tier.

It promotes through marketing businesses, events, and recreational opportunities. It also is the area's administrator of the regions Room Tax Grant.

Wyoming County Conservation District

District's role is to maintain, improve and sustain the natural resources of Wyoming County while promoting conservation. They lead initiatives that contribute to education, planning, cooperation and involvement of citizens to preserve, maintain and enhance natural resources within the county.

Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce is an organization that strives to improve the quality of life for the residents of Wyoming County through aiding the development of existing and visioned business in the community.

Countryside Conservancy

Countryside Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust that protects and connects greenspace in and near the Tunkhannock Creek watershed for the community.

Wyoming County Historical Society

First established in January, 1946, the Wyoming County Historical Society (WCHS) was reorganized in 1977 by a small but determined group of local historians and genealogists. Their purpose is to bring unite people for the interest of local history, The society has collected and preserved documents and museum pieces that relate to the area's local history.

The Conservancy has permanently protected nearly 1,500 acres of lands and waters in the area through private easements and acquisition and ownership; Lands owned by the Conservancy are open for public education and recreation.

Nicholson Heritage Association

Founded in 1989, the Nicholson Heritage Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the historical preservation of Nicholson, Pennsylvania, and the surrounding region.

The Conservancy is also working to turn the right-of-way of the former Northern Electric Trolley in Lackawanna and Wyoming counties into a non-motorized recreational trail and has completed a number of sections to date with projections of closing gaps in the future.

Laceyville Oldest House Association

Laceyville Oldest House Association the Oldest House is so called because it is thought to be one of the oldest frame dwellings still standing in four counties in northeastern PA. it is owned by Oldest House- Laceyville Area Historical Society. It is believed the original home was built in the 1780s for the James Smith family.

North Branch Land Trust

The North Branch Land Trust is a conservation easement group that aims to buy the developing rights to land in the Back Mountain. The North Branch Land Trust was established in 1993 and has since converted 12,000 acres of conserved land.

Patriots Cove

Patriot's cove is a Non-profit organization located in Noxen. Their goal is to help veterans and first responders as well as their caregivers to heal and adapt to life after their service. The 18-acer complex has a trout stream and fruit orchard and the property is wheelchair accessible. The group also participates in environmental services projects that improve the local community.

Friends of Howland

The Friends of Howland Preserve is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the North Branch Land Trust to preserve the natural beauty, historical structures, and conservation value of the Howland Preserve and maintain the property for the benefit of the public.

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association

The Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association was formed in December 1999 and is a volunteer, non-profit that protect the quality and uses of streams within the Mehoopany Creek Watershed.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) works to convene partners and assist communities in projects that connect them to the river and each other.

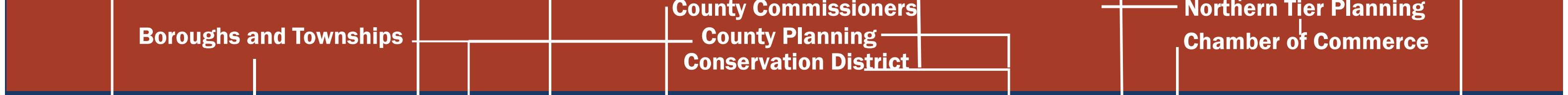
Endless Mountains Visitor Center

The Endless Mountains visitor center is an organization that services the endless mountains region as a resource for tourism within the region.

State Agencies



County Management



Supporting Regional Organizations



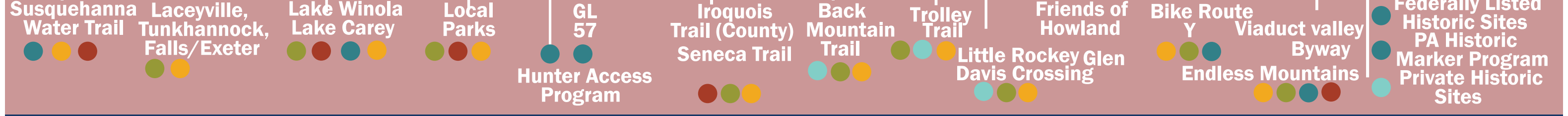
Greenway, Trails and Open Space Components



Private Local Non-Profits



Local Trails, Places, and Programs



8. Implementation of Plan

9. Implementation of Plan

Phasing

Plan phasing is a strategy to implement the plan recommendations, maximize limited financial resources and staff, identify partnership opportunities, and position the County and Municipalities for available implementation funding from public and private sources.

For Further Development Section

Expand collaboration between neighboring communities, strategies representation from each community to form a Wyoming County Recreation Council. The council will play a pivotal role in developing a County Parks and Recreation Department within the County's governance. Creating an environment for collaboration within parks and recreation planning is first driven by leadership. Proactive leadership of recreation facilities can be established through elected officials, agencies, commissioners, or determined and proactive residents. Second, Wyoming County needs to dedicate a vision for implementing the plan goals, coordinating planning cycles between agencies and departments. By instituting a core group of representatives who coordinate projects for the greenway, trails, and open space, or dedicated regularly scheduled forums and think tanks to leverage plan goals and achievable project plans.

Once established, parks and recreation agencies may wish to gain accreditations from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. Recognition could provide the potential for external funding supports and improve the quality of provided services. It also creates a sense of accountability within an agency to ensure they are participating in best practices and forcing written by-laws and policies to follow. (Barth,2020)

David Barth. (2020). Parks and Recreation System Planning: A New Approach for Creating Sustainable, Resilient Communities. Island Press.

Prepare Annual Park Maintenance Budgets

Moving forward, municipalities and the County must keep track of all expenses throughout the year and make timely edits and updates to the current Annual Budget, so the following year's budget will become more comprehensive and accurate. This goal could be accomplished and communicated publicly through prepared charts/graphs that explain how resources are spent, including allocating maintenance dollars within each park. In addition, each year, data is assessed to identify anomalies and reevaluate maintenance and short-term planning recommendations/budgets for each park.

The County and municipalities should keep a spreadsheet documenting total labor (hours) and material costs required for each park. Over time, this valuable data can identify trends and provide a more robust determination about how much money for maintenance and programming each recreation area requires. In addition, a separate spreadsheet can document all improvement costs not related to maintenance. This spreadsheet will help determine whether improvements are being spent equally through the County. It would be beneficial if a developed Parks Commission was developed to assess these figures at a county-wide level.

Park System Oversight

The ideal scenario has a stand-alone Department that oversees the Parks & Recreation System. A Park System-wide Authority would be comprised of representatives from each municipality.

Additional Staffing & Training

Municipalities and The County should consider adding additional staff. In addition, staff training is needed to improve the staff's skill set and promote personal responsibility. For example, DPW should send a few staff for the ISA Arborist Certification, the PSU Extension Tree Trimming webinar/course, a

Stihl safety course, and a Pesticide/Herbicide Certification Playground Safety Training. All parks with playgrounds should have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) inspect the play areas annually. The municipality can have a staff member take the class, get certified, or contract this work.

Contract Out Specialized Work

The County and Municipalities should consider contracting out specialized and time-consuming tasks that a contractor can complete more efficiently than through internal staff. Hired contractors also have Professional Liability insurance to keep the municipality better covered. For example, a CoStars Playground Representative contracted out the supply and installation of playground safety surfacing (Engineered Wood Fiber) across all municipal parks.

Need Better Control Over the Use of Park Land and Athletic Facilities

Consistent and structured oversight is needed for non-standard usage of park facilities. Oversight includes any reservations or rentals of park pavilions, shelters, and buildings. The municipality must clearly state through lease agreements the maintenance expectations from all parties to avoid gray areas.

The County and Municipalities should hold annual meetings with all entities with long-term leases or agreements. These meetings will be a valuable use of time to identify any concerns or issues on either side and address them quickly. But, again, communication is critical for successful partnerships.

If adequately managed, having parks used by private, non-profit, and youth associations are beneficial for several reasons. They provide money to support programming and park improvements and act as a catalyst for increased park use and assistance with park maintenance.

Focus Improvement Efforts on the Most Needed Spaces

Increase Maintenance Efficiency

Clearly define the full responsibilities of maintenance for parks. Park maintenance needs to be better defined with outlined responsibilities and structure.

Increase Accessibility and Inclusivity

The County should focus first on accessibility to existing features throughout parks. Additionally, continue to fix broken infrastructure, improve park circulation patterns and install more wellness loops. These features have multiple values, one of which provides accessible parking and accessible routes to connect park facilities better.

Create Multi-Functional Parks – Green Infrastructure and Environmental Benefits

All parks should be assessed with a holistic approach. Incorporate green infrastructure where possible. Stormwater control is crucial for most Pennsylvania communities, so stormwater is a crucial element to design for and utilize – making stormwater an asset and not always a constraint. Future Park projects should include planning elements that will account for stormwater control on site. Additionally, existing problems should be redesigned to avoid safety hazards caused by stormwater. Finally, innovative stormwater designs and green infrastructure can quickly be built into most project sites. Bioretention swales, expansion of the vegetated riparian buffers, vegetated swales, and rain garden areas are examples of stormwater facilities that can capture and filter stormwater before entry into local streams.

Initiate a composting program, with stockpile areas in or near certain parks, where nearby residents can dump yard waste. Also, the municipalities should reuse any spent safety surfacing from playgrounds in park landscaping or along riparian lands to facilitate several local sapling planting projects.

Phasing and Construction

Because of the complexity and varying needs of each park, in our opinion, the following is a justifiable

approach to project phasing:

Safety & Accessibility First

Complete all short-term improvements related to safety and accessibility and all items classified as High Priority.

Listen to the People

Fix parks that have not seen improvements and that already strong have interest and support from the immediate communities. Choose final location(s) and start final plans/designs and fundraising for a new skate park. Ongoing public interest in Municipal Parks is crucial for the park to reach its full potential and grow into a source of County pride.

Focus on Regional Parks

These facilities are statement facilities, and they are utilized and judged by both residents and tourists. Also, implement unique and exciting improvements that are generated by public comment and input.

9. Management & Monetary Strategy

9. Management and Monetary Strategy

The goal of this plan is to focus the County on current needs and long-term planning goals. In addition, the provided master plans and budgets will facilitate the preparation of grant applications and the attainment of funding.

Funding Opportunities

There are many options to secure funding for parks, wellness, and trails. Funding can include resources from federal, state, and local agencies. There are also private groups and entities available for assistance. Below are several available options for the funding of trail development, implementation, and maintenance.

Through partnerships with local municipalities, specific departments such as public works or parks may be reliable sources for in-kind matching funds. Recreation and trail development revenues have been attained in some communities through property tax, sales tax, or bond measures - these funds are then available via grants. Additionally, trails alongside roadways may be eligible for transportation, complete streets, and other roadway improvement funding sources.

Trails have increasingly become an essential component in many municipal planning decisions. However, multi-use trails are considered low-impact transportation and recreation infrastructure facilities that benefit the host community and extend across several adjacent municipalities. As a result, multi-municipal projects are most likely to receive favorable reviews from many grant fund sources.

Federal Sources of Funding

American Rescue Plan Act provides an opportunity for counties and municipalities to fund conservation, trails, parks, and recreation as part of COVID -19 recovery strategies in Pennsylvania.

Build Back Better Act is a package of social and environmental spending put forth by the Federal Government. This inclusive package will provide funding opportunities for capital improvements and improvements for environmental protection.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation, including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. This funding source is managed by DCNR.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

Americorps has been around for over 50 years and was started by President John F. Kennedy as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Several programs, such as the Vista program, provide a skilled volunteer in a specific area for a set period (usually one year). These are volunteers who, upon completion of the program, receive a stipend. They can aid in many things, from trail maintenance to grant writing.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers funding that provides opportunities for the community to use and enjoy fish and wildlife through non-consumptive activities. In addition, potential assistance is available for expanding public recreational opportunities about wildlife enjoyment, including trails and waterways.

NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund can support green Infrastructure and trail projects, especially those that lessen pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, which can accomplish through mine land reclamation and reduced sediment loading.

State Sources of Funding

Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants (C2P2), Funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC), supports recreation, park, trail, and conservation projects. These include the rehabilitation and development of parks and recreation facilities, land acquisition for park and conservation purposes, technical assistance for feasibility studies, trails studies, and site development planning. Within C2P2 are the DCNR PA Recreational Trails Program and the DCNR Rails-to-Trails Program.

<https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/GrantPrograms.aspx>

Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund was established in 1999 through a commitment of \$650,000,000 to fund conservation and environmental protection projects, including trails. Growing Greener II included \$625 million in 2005; however, much of that funding has been depleted. This program struggles for adequate funding but could be a source in the future, primarily if it is geared toward green infrastructure. This funding source is managed by DCNR.

<http://www.growinggreener.info>

CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program funds up to \$250,000 of any project and requires a 15% local cash match of total project costs. Projects that benefit from this funding include public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation areas.

<http://www.newpa.com/GTRP>

CFA Multimodal Transportation Funds can be used to develop, rehabilitate, and enhance transportation assets to existing streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancements, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets, and transit-oriented development. This funding can be used to fund safe street crossings and work along the streets leading to parks. Grants are available for projects over \$100,000 and a maximum amount of \$3,000,000. Funds must be matched by local funding not less than 30%, and funds from a county or municipality must be cash.

<http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-andprogramfinder/multimodal-transportation-fund>

Marcellus Legacy Fund (Act 13) distributes unconventional gas well impact fees to counties, municipalities, and Commonwealth agencies. Awarded funds can be used for recreational trails. It has dispersed more than \$475,000,000 for recreation, environmental, and conservation projects since 2013. It is currently one of the more stable state funds.

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program supports and strengthens environmental education in PA. These EE Grants are funded by a 1993 mandate that 5% of some pollution fines and penalties the DEP collects annually are set aside for environmental education.

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/environmentaleducation>

Adopt-a-Stream Program is provided by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and involves group-sponsored cleanups and fish habitat improvement projects. The commission provides funding, assistance, and materials. There is a similar program called Adopt-an-Access from the PA Fish and Boat Commission as that can be used along Streams throughout the County.

PA Fish and Boat Grant Opportunities are managed by The Pa Fish and Boat Commission. There are numerous grants that provide funding in support of fishing boating and aquatic resource conservation. The R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) Education Grant Program, Coldwater Heritage Partnership, Boating Facility Grant Program, and State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program are some of the grant programs offered by PA Fish and Boat.

The Keystone Fund is a grant program managed by PA DCNR and is funding source for recreation and conservation projects, libraries, and historical preservation initiatives. The fund requires that 15% of the state's realty transfer tax receipts be put into the keystone fund for distribution by state agencies.

PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund establishes dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and allows for funding priority investments to any mode of transportation.

PennDOT Transportation Alternative Set Aside provides funds to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve transportation structures that are important, provide environmental mitigations, and create trail projects.

Local Sources of Funding

Endless Mountains Room Tax Grant Funding is allocated annually. Each year 30% of the Wyoming County Room Tax is set aside for grants allocated to Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. Its purpose is tourism development. Grant categories include Special Events, Marketing, Promotional Projects, Historic Preservation projects, and Wayfinding Aids.

EMHR's Partnership Mini-Grants is organized for spring submissions for projects relating to historic preservation, outdoor recreation development, special purpose studies, interpretive and wayfinding signage, public engagement and educational programming, building renovation projects, environmental conservation, and more. The grants must be awarded by EMHR to 501(c) 3 non-profit organizations, a municipality or municipal agency, or a public education institution within Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming. This funding source is managed by DCNR.

Private and Non-Profits

American Water Environmental Grant Program awards grants of up to \$10,000 to support diverse environmental sustainability activities such as watershed cleanups, reforestation efforts, biodiversity projects, streamside buffer restoration projects, and hazardous waste collection efforts. <https://www.amwater.com/paaw/about-us/environmental-stewardship>

National Trails Fund Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 for non-profit organizations committed to protecting nature and helping Americans enjoy the outdoors. The purpose of this grant is to support organizations that establish, protect and maintain foot/hiking trails across America.

PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program provides funding for essential projects that build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. <https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/community-grants/>

Internal Funding Strategies Section

The County or a municipality may decide to support increased and improved recreational assets through their funding strategies. The two ways that local governments can develop internal funding sources are by Pay As you go funding and borrowing. Pay as you go refers to allocating dollars from property taxes, sales taxes, assessments, grants, user fees. Borrowing is accomplished by leveraging funds through bonds with longer-term payment strategies.

10. Appendix

Wyoming County Open Space Plan Committee Meeting 1
Wyoming County Planning Office - 6:00 PM – July 31, 2019

Meeting Agenda

General Discussions:

1. Introduction
 - a. McLane Associates & LaBella Associates
 - b. Committee Members
2. The Process: Scope of Work
 - a. Work Schedule
 - b. Public Participation
 - i. River Day
 - ii. Other Upcoming Events/Meetings
 - iii. Survey: Review and Comments, Discuss Distribution, Beginning and End Dates
 - c. Compilation & Review of Background Data
 - i. Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan
 1. Review & Understanding
 2. Status of Open Space Plan as an Addendum: Importance of a Greenway Trail Network
 3. Listed Major Goals & Where We Fit In
 - ii. Northern Tier Open Space, Greenway and Outdoor Recreation Plan & Susquehanna Greenway Partnership: Strategic Action Plan
 1. Inclusion into the Open Space Plan
 - d. Site Inventory & Analysis
 - i. Field Work
 - ii. Agricultural Security Zones: USDA NRCS?
 - e. Development of Open Space Plan
 - f. Narrative Plan Report
 - g. Mapping Preparation
3. Open Discussion
4. Determine Next Committee Meeting date
5. Adjourn

Wyoming County Open Spaces Study Steering Committee 1 Minutes

July 31, 2019— Tunkhannock 911 Center, 3880 US-6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 6:00 PM

Meeting Attendees:

Committee: Jeff Mitchell, Doug Dewtsch, Liz Rachford, Judy Mead, Jean Ruhf, Erica Rogler, Rebecca Lesko, Barbara Hughes, Cain Chamberlin, Keith Brown, Rick Hiduk, Victor Rosa, Gina Suydam, Bill Kern, Lynnelle Farber
Consultants: Tom McLane, David Osborne, Bill Pilkonis, Patty McNeil

Topics:

Riverday- Review of Riverday public engagement. The event was an opportunity for the consultant team to introduce the feasibility study to the county, maps were provided for visual aids with interactive pushpins for people to mark where they live and where special places are.

Survey Discussion- Consultants distributed the survey for public participation to the steering committee for review and comments. It was decided that the survey needs concision and less questions. Committee members were encouraged to read/take the survey and write their comments. Revisions will be made and distributed at the next meeting.

Survey Distribution- Some members voiced that they are capable and willing to distribute the survey. Once the survey is complete and approved, each committee member will have the ability to distribute the survey to members of the community they can reach out to. The survey will be ready for approval by the end of August following approval of the committee. The survey will be “live” in paper form and digitally to the public for two months. Background data will be compiled and quantified, and the Comprehensive Plan will follow.

Comprehensive Plan- The consultants found from the Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan that there are

unmet needs in the county, mainly developing strategies for greenways and trails. After reviewing the comprehensive plan, the consultants found an extensive amount of mapping has already been completed. It would be redundant to repeat the process of obtaining data for mapping production. Instead, it is the scope of the consultants to synthesize these existing maps while referencing the Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan for this Greenway Feasibility Study

to make way for new discoveries and opportunities for open space and trails in Wyoming County. It is critical to address the recreation goals of the county and address the need that people have a desire to get outside in a comfortable way with mobility and connectivity in mind.

Overall Wyoming county doesn't have a county park and it could be beneficial to help municipalities and schools to develop their own facilities and programs for county wide access. A shortcoming is that many schools in the county are closing and consolidating, many of the mapped clusters of existing amenities could no longer be an option as a strategy for improvements

Consultants scope for public participation:

3 public meetings- still need scheduling

3 remaining committee meetings- to maximize the time of committee members the consultant team will have goals for every next meeting, the committee will have the opportunity to contribute anything to reach each goal.

2 special events- still need scheduling (events discussed include: Wyoming county Fair, Fall Fest, Chamber of Commerce Fall Mixer)

Open Space Plan- Background data will be the driving factor to exploring priority areas, but the consultants still need more input to being field visits.

Places discussed by committee members:

The Neck, Washington Township is in danger of transition. Endless Mountain Nature Center is ending, Camp Lackawanna is without leadership, North Branch Land Trust is not prepared to acquire the land. Reaching out to individuals from Howland Preserve could be beneficial for key person interviews. Noxen has a group that has been fundraising for a park for the last couple of years.

Additional comments:

- Wyoming county does not have park like amenities, no basketball or tennis courts.
- Signage is lacking. Its nearly nonexistent and it is impossible for people to know where they are going, promoting signage in the open space plan could help the county could find grants to address signage deficiency.
- Some committee members voiced interest in coming on field visits, consultants will notify the committee prior to field visits and encourages input from the committee for field visit locations. The consultants will accommodate as much as possible to committee members scheduling needs.

Next Meeting:

September. 5:30-6 is a great time of day for most committee members. Wednesdays are better and Thursdays or third Tuesdays. Lynnelle has conflicts on the third Wednesday is Lynnelle's planning meeting. The consultants will be in contact with the committee to best accommodate all members.

The above accounting of the July 31, 2019 meeting is the recollection of Patty McNeil (Thomas McLane Associates) as record of her meeting notes. Please correct or clarify any misstatements, representation or omission to these minutes prior to committee acceptance.

Wyoming County Open Space Plan Committee Meeting 2
Wyoming County Planning Office - 6:00 PM - September 25, 2019

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 31, 2019
3. Survey
 - a. Approve/ edit survey for public distribution
 - b. Strategy for distribution
 - i. Digital & Analog

Committee strategies to distribute survey

Important events to members, locations, etc.
4. Review Schedule
5. Key Person Interviews
 - a. 8 Key People List
6. Public Participation
 - i. 107th Association of Townships Convention
 - i. Findings, chart
 - i. Schedule 1st Public Meeting, date Location
 - i. Options and Opinions

Next Steps:

7. Site Inventory and Analysis
 - a. Mapping
 - b. Inventory
 - c. Interest and availability of committee members for site visits
8. Development of Open Space plan
9. Narrative Plan Report
10. Mapping Preparation
11. Open Discussion
12. Determine next Committee Meeting Date
13. Adjourn

Wyoming County Open Space Plan Steering Committee 2 Minutes

September 25, 2019— Tunkhannock 911 Center, 3880 US-6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 6:00 PM

Meeting Attendees:

Committee: Jean Ruhf, Liz Rachford, Bill Kelley, Erica Rogler, Maureen Whipple, Bill Pratt, Debbie Dowling, Bill Kern, Cain Chamberlin, Oz Patton, Rick Hiduk, Lynnelle Farber

Consultants: Tom McLane, Tony Bernardi, Patty McNeil

Topics:

Meeting Minutes- The Committee members in attendance approved the meeting minutes from the July 31, 2019 committee meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting will be included in the appendix of the report.

Survey Discussion- The survey was reviewed entirely by the committee members in attendance. The review assisted the consultants to revise language in the survey and omit certain irrelevant questions. The survey will be distributed in this final form to the committee and the county planner. The consultants will provide a digital way for the committee members and the county to distribute the survey. The consultants will create a "Student Edition" for the county to distribute throughout the schools and colleges. The committee thought this would be a good way of involving the future of Wyoming County.

Review Schedule- The consultants made some compressions to the schedule to keep the plan and report on schedule. The committee recognized the gaps from the timeline. A modified schedule will be available at the next committee meeting.

Key Person Interviews- The consultants need 8 key person interviews for the report.

The interviews can happen in tandem with visits to sites throughout the county or at township park inventory reviews. There were 3 board members from Howland Preserve present at the committee meeting. Howland is a location that was addressed by committee members at the last meeting as a location that the consultants should make recommendations for, a wooded preserve of nearly 700 acres located in the center of Wyoming County. Contact information was exchanged between the board members and the consultants.

The committee was invited to offer suggestions for key person interviews and the Endless Mountain Preserve was another organization suggested to the consultants as a group of individuals to contact for key person interviews. The consultants will contact both Endless Mountain Preserve and Howland Preserve to organize Interviews and will notify the committee about any updates at the next committee meeting. The Consultants will also create a list of potential key persons to interviews and circulate via e-mail to the committee members.

Public Participation- The Consultants attended the 107th Association of Townships Convention. The consultants provided maps and a questionnaire to municipal officials to promote discussion and input from the position of those in power to make effective recreation-based decisions in the county. The response was positive, and the consultants were able to contact about half of the municipalities. The questionnaire, or response chart and responses were given to the County Planner to contact the rest of the officials not in attendance, or those that did not provide a completed questionnaire. A digital copy of the questionnaire will be made available to the county planner for distribution. At this point, the consultants do not have enough public input for a public meeting. Once the survey is distributed the consultants will have a larger body of information to report to the public.

Next Meeting:

After the consultants launch the survey and begin to get responses, they will reach out to the committee to schedule the next meeting. It was established that the same time of day and place would be fitting for most committee members.

The above accounting of the September 25, 2019 meeting is the recollection of Patty McNeil (Thomas McLane Associates) as record of her meeting notes. Please correct or clarify any misstatements, representations or omission to these minutes prior to committee acceptance.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patty McNeil

Wyoming County Greenway, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting #3
ZOOM Virtual Meeting- 6:30 PM – March 11, 2021

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Review Project Tasks Completed at Last Committee Meeting (9-25-2019)

-Collected Survey and Tabulated Results

-County Wide Mapping- Conservation and Natural Areas, and Community Amenities and Destination Maps

- Conducted First Public Meeting (1of 3)

3. Tasks Completed Since 9-25-2019

-Key Person Interviews with individuals and organizations

Inventory of 16 County Parks

-Discussion

Inventory of Conservation Areas

-Discussion

-Other Important Parcels for Consideration

-Discussion

4. Status of Draft Report

Report Task Outline with percent completion

5. Next Steps

Next Public Meeting (virtual)

Development of Draft Report

Wyoming County Greenway, Trails and Open Space

Committee Meeting #3

ZOOM Virtual Meeting- 6:30 PM – March 11, 2021

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Review Project Tasks Completed at Last Committee Meeting (9-25-2019)

- Collected Survey and Tabulated Results
- County Wide Mapping- Conservation and Natural Areas, and Community Amenities and Destination Maps

- Conducted First Public Meeting (1of 3)

3. Tasks Completed Since 9-25-2019

- Key Person Interviews with individuals and organizations
- Inventory of 16 County Parks
 - Discussion
- Inventory of Conservation Areas

- Discussion

- Other Important Parcels for Consideration

- Discussion

4. Status of Draft Report

- Report Task Outline with percent completion

5. Next Steps

- Next Public Meeting (virtual)
- Development of Draft Report
- Presentation of Draft Connectivity Alternatives Plans

Since our last committee meeting

Collected and Tabulated Survey Results

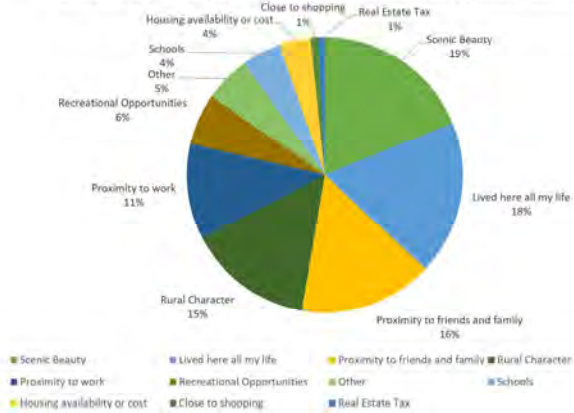
County Wide Mapping- Conservation and Natural Areas, and Community Amenities and Destination Maps

Conducted first public meeting

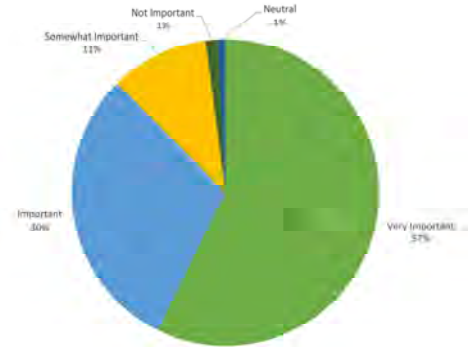
Collected and Tabulated Survey Results

- Over 300 responses
- Tabulated results for 18 questions
- Review, analyze and interpret responses during development of plan draft to ensure public interests are addressed.

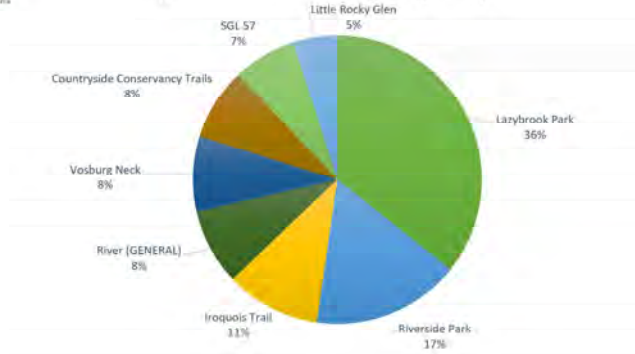
What is the most important reason you live in or visit Wyoming County?



How important to you is open space preservation in Wyoming County?

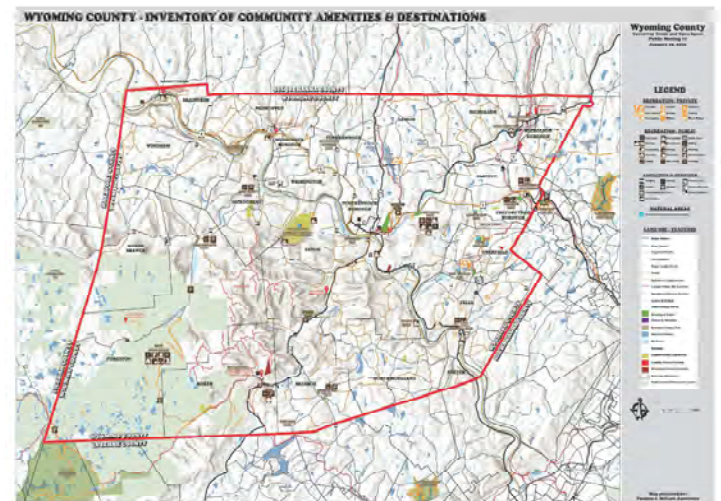
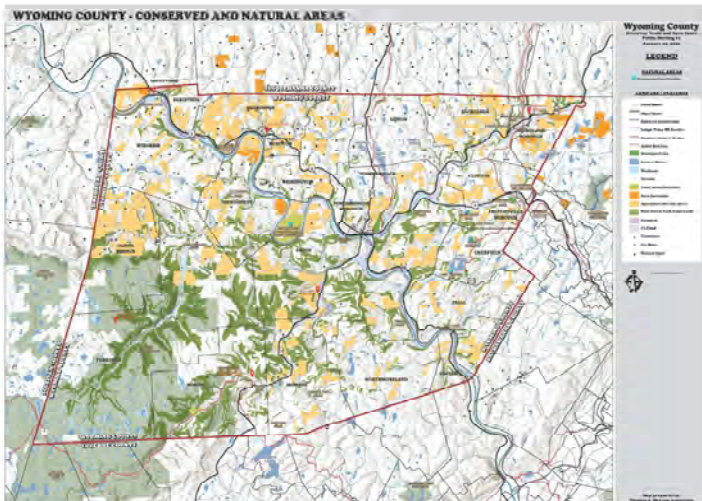


Top 8 favorite locations in Wyoming County



-Pie charts represent a sample of results from the survey.

County-wide Mapping- Conservation and Natural Areas and Community Amenities and Destination Maps



First Public Meeting Meetings Minutes



Photography: Brooke Williams

Overall positive exchange of ideas from public through mapping exercise. The workshop was very successful and offered a wide variety of information from the public. From safety issues regarding running and specific intersections, to locations for birding, vistas, and waterfalls. We learned of locations that are slotted for conservation in the future as well as some locations that we missed.

Key Person Interview Updates

Previous Contacts:

- Endless Mountains Nature Center
- North Branch Land Trust
- Friends Of Howland
- Countryside Conservancy
- Endless Mountains Heritage Region
- Local Game Lands Trail Expert
- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
- Wyoming County Conservation District

Recent Contacts:

- Camp Lackawanna
- Nicholson Heritage Society
- Laceyville Oldest House Society
- Saxton Family from Nicholson- Tunkhannock Creek watershed Conservation Plan, Historic Artifacts

Seeking Contacts:

- Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association
- PennDOT-Alternative Transportation, By-ways program

Goals:

Reacquaint consultants with key persons for updates since 2019

Committee: If you're group/ organization is on this list and we have not made contact please give us your 2020-2021 updates and goals.

If your group or organization is not on this list and believe you have valuable information for us we still want your input and how it could help us develop the plan. Please contact:

Pmcneil@mclaneassociates.com or (607) 316- 9393 call or text

Municipal Park Inventory

Sent 3-4-2021

We want to hear your input on specific parks at this time if you have any comments. We will briefly review the section.

To keep the conversation productive and timely we will refrain from verbally presenting the information you have already reviewed.

Instead, we will offer an opportunity for discussion as each park is presented limiting the time to up to **5 minutes** of discussion per park **as needed**, with addition time at the end of the inventory.

Any comments/concerns/corrections you have that are not mentioned during this discussion please e-mail pmcneil@mclaneassocaites.com

Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
Park Inventory



Introduction

The Park Inventory and Analysis phase of the planning process examined the existing site conditions at each of the seventeen known municipally owned parks in Wyoming County. The process included first preparing a scaled site plan for each park, then conducting a field visit to identify and document relevant natural features and constructed amenities. Observations of a park's proximity and connections to natural resources such as forests, meadows, wetlands, lakes, and watercourses are recorded. The infrastructure of roadways, railroads, trails, structures, and public utilities are also documented.

Public safety and ADA compliant accessibility were the two paramount considerations while performing the park site inventory and analysis. Though not intended to be comprehensive, safety observations involving a visual examination of a park's general condition, including the perceived level and frequency of maintenance and general condition, upkeep, and any needed repairs. ADA access is evaluated for compliance with the number of ADA parking stalls required/provided and the existence of an accessible route(s) to the various park structures, site improvements, facilities, and amenities.

A general comparative analysis of municipal park facilities will consider trends and commonalities among the 17 parks visited. A Municipal Parks Inventory and Analysis Overview will analyze, compare, and contrast the condition, usage, maintenance, and management of the recreation amenities, activities, and support facilities offered at the municipal level.

Based on the data collected, a Municipal Park Facilities and Activities Matrix was developed to list the facilities and activities available at each park in a tabular form. The matrix further ranks our observations of park amenities' present condition as: G = Good, F = Fair and P = Poor condition. (See Table " - - pg.)

Inventory and Analysis Overview

Municipal parks inventory and analysis overviews take a broad "birdseye" view of the municipal recreational facilities, activities, events, and programming available to residents and visitors in Wyoming County. A commentary is derived from site visits observe site amenities, addresses accessibility and general safety. Park amenities include playgrounds, swings, benches, and more and are unique to each location.

Site Amenities

The analysis looks at what type of features each park offers. It examines the level of parking and quantity of spaces, number, and quality of picnic tables, trash cans, recycling, water fountains, lighting, and pet waste stations. No park offered potable water or water fountains. Some facilities offer to recycle, Creekside Park (Clinton TWP) and Washington Township Park host municipal recycling for their municipality.

The inventory recorded any courts, fields, or courses present. At one of the steering committees, one of the members mentioned the lack of basketball courts. However, we found numerous basketball courts though out the parks. Some courts need repair, which may be what the member may have been referring to.

Many parks have water or water features near them and some level of access. Depending on the location and type of water feature, water and boat accessed were assessed at each park. Any present

meet ASTM F2075: Standard Specification for Engineered Wood Fiber and comply with ASTM F1292. Rubber mulch products must also be tested and comply with ASTM F1292. Municipalities should refer to Section 2.4.2.2 of the Public Playground Safety Handbook for more surfacing requirements.

General Hazards typically reflect the age of equipment, condition, as well as general wear. It is a county trend for municipalities to acquire equipment from other locations, such as the elementary schools that have recently closed. It is a concern when relocating play equipment that pieces can be missing or broken. In general, this practice should be avoided when possible. The play equipment manufacturer typically issues play equipment with the specific location plans it will be installed and takes a careful assessment of site elevations. Each feature includes fall zones specific for the feature in the location at the time of installation.

Distance is recorded between parking lots and roadways to playgrounds. The safety concerns to playground locations are addressed where issues could be present. Pedestrian movement is unpredictable when there are not pedestrian designated uses. In some cases, the park's roadway services as a walking path can present unsafe situations.

Picnic tables and benches should be frequently checked for any loose or broken parts. Weed-whacking around and mowing or mulching beneath picnic tables and benches will always improve appearances and reduce the hazard of bees or ticks to users.

Maintenance responsibility typically falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality. If other groups or organizations assist with the responsibility, municipalities should recognize those efforts in some way at the park.

The Park Profile Page Format

Detailed site inventory and analysis information presented on the succeeding individual Park Profile Pages will be presented in the below outlined general format and sequence where appropriate.

Location:

Each park's location is indicated on the county-wide map (See Figure Pg.). A narrative description includes directions to or from easily identified landmarks, roadways, and roadway intersections. The Latitude and Longitude for each park are also provided.

Ownership:

Of the 17 municipal parks visited, 15 are owned by the municipality, Creekside Park is owned jointly by Clinton Township and Factoryville Borough, Creekside Junction Park is owned collectively by Forkston Township, Windham Township, North Branch Township, Mehoopany Township. (Are we sure of this ownership?)

Size:

The approximate land area of each park parcel in acreage.

Parks and Recreation Budget:

Where current data on municipal annual and/or capital budget expenditures on parks and recreation was available, it will be presented on each municipal park profile page.

issues in this section typically reflect the level of access and safety level for users.

Accessibility

An accessible park design includes designated parking, accessible routes, and amenities or park elements that offer an equitable experience to all users. Nevertheless, it can also take into account another sensory, cognitive, or motility accommodation.

All parks have some level of parking. Only Creekside Park (Clinton TWP) and Monroe. Township park have paved and up to current design standards for accessible parking spaces. It is important to note that most parks had some level of ADA parking; however, not all sites had ADA accessible port-o-potty on site. The only park recorded to have an ADA Port-O-Potty was Riverside (Tunkhannock). When attempting to accommodate all users, Thought has to be given to the sequence of experience.

The only park to truly generate an equating experience through play equipment was Hock Park (Falls), equipped with a wheelchair-accessible swing. This swing is located on the lower side of the park, closer to River Road, but the ADA sign is in the parking lot upslope on Church Street. In this situation, there is no accessible path to the accessible feature from the accessible parking space. While the park has a port-o-potty, it is not wheelchair accessible. When planning for parks, access is a primary focus. When planning for amenities, it is essential to have a similar focus in providing access. In another situation, Creekside Junction Park had accessible permanent restrooms but no designated parking space in its paved lot. In both cases, there are simple solutions to augment access across the user experience. In Falls, plan to rent an accessible port-o-potty and reserved an on-street ADA stall on River Rd. In North Branch, paint an ADA stall and install a sign.

The inventory assesses the access to playground features; it also notes any truly equitable experience play equipment. It should always be a goal to have pavilions and restrooms accessible. An accessible path to the feature and adequate accommodations should be implemented when designing or updating park facilities. Many pavilions have wheelchair-accessible picnic tables beneath them, and all have a concrete pad or flat compacted surface.

All restroom accommodations were tallied and record for each park where facilities existed. Most parks had either one or more port-o-potty; Creekside (Factoryville) has generated restrooms but were locked during the site visit. Creekside Junction Park (North Branch) was the only location recorded with accessible generated permanent composting toilet restrooms. It was open for use during the site visit. Port-o-potties are convenient and sanitary solutions to traditional plumbing. Port-o-potties do have continual costs, raise issues of sanitation, and toxicity to people and wildlife. Assessing the feasibility of composting toilets could be practical for some locations such as Lazy brook or Riverside Park.

General Safety

A safety surface is important beneath every piece of play equipment. Safety surface needs to be adequate, without signs of wear or weeds. Safety surface should be the appropriate height to play equipment that meets ASTM Playground Safety Standards. The most common safety surfaces are Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). Municipalities should review U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Handbook; EWF is a wood product that looks similar to landscaping mulch. However, EWF is explicitly designed for use as a playground safety surface. EWF products should

Features:

The site features narrative describes and quantifies many of the observations noted during the respective park inventory field visits. This information is also included in the Municipal Park Facilities and Activities Matrix. (See Figure Pg.). The narrative may include background information gathered through conversations with various interested stakeholders, park neighbors, local elected officials, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations. The analysis compares various park features with current accepted "general" park planning standards and recommended design considerations for safety and accessibility in public parks. Basic maintenance and operational observations may also be noted where appropriate.

Accessibility:

As mentioned earlier in this report, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA) is required in all situations. This report's scope will only include commentary based upon our cursory "visual" observations for ADA compliance of existing parking stalls, signage, and provision of an accessible route to all significant park elements such as playgrounds, structures, recreation trails, courts, and fields.

No exact field measurements were taken, and no detailed inspection of facilities was performed at any of the park sites visited. These observations are offered for the sole purpose of communicating acknowledgment that some municipal park facilities may not be compliant with current ADA access requirements and that these facilities may require a closer inspection and future upgrades. Specifically, access observations are outlined in each park profile for parking, playgrounds and general site features.

Safety:

This section of the report's public safety commentary is based solely upon "visual" observations made during site inventory visits to each of the municipal parks. Paramount considerations include a clear separation of pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns within the park, pedestrian/vehicular conflicts such as park entrance areas, vehicular intersections, parking lots, and where trails or crosswalks intersect park drives or public roadways. Other observations may include noting the need for maintenance, repairs, or upgrades of deteriorating park amenities such as paved roadways or trail and walkway surfaces; various park structures (pavilions, restrooms, etc.), playground areas and play equipment, soil erosion, and flooding; hazardous trees, etc.

It is not within the scope of this study to conduct playground safety assessments at each municipal park. Playground safety assessments are recommended to be conducted regularly at each park by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector in compliance with ASTM and Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for Public Playgrounds. This study will note park maintenance practices (or lack thereof), as they may affect safe park usage, and take note of any recent vandalism, damage by weather or other destructive acts of nature or human agencies.

Specifically, safety observations address playground safety, playground safety surfacing, general playground hazards, Barriers between play features and roadways, and general safety of existing site features and pedestrian and vehicular conflicts.

Quality:

Sense of place is an atmospheric quality that is difficult to quantify. The park's overall quality offers

a narrative of the park's features at the consultants' time of visit.

Programming:

Programming reflects the number of park features paired with any structured or scheduled activities at a park. The frequency of programming can be annual, semi-annual, seasonal, and daily. Programming for each park was researched and collected through the survey distributed at the Annual Supervisors Meeting at the Triton Firehall, committee members, through the public survey, and public meetings.

Users/Organizations

Users and organizations were identified through observations at each park where organizations were recognized. Other methods to identify users and organization includes research of past news articles, social media events and posts, and public input.

Maintenance:

Maintenance of a park ensures the safety, access, and continued use of park features and amenities.

Maintenance Responsibility:

Maintenance responsibility typically falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality. If other groups or organizations assist with the responsibility, municipalities should recognize those efforts in some way at the park.

Maintenance Quality:

The quality of maintenance was assessed at the time of the site visit. It may not always reflect the quality experienced by users daily or in seasonal conditions.

Maintenance Requirements:

Maintenance requirements are assessed by the features that are on-site and any upkeep associated with them.

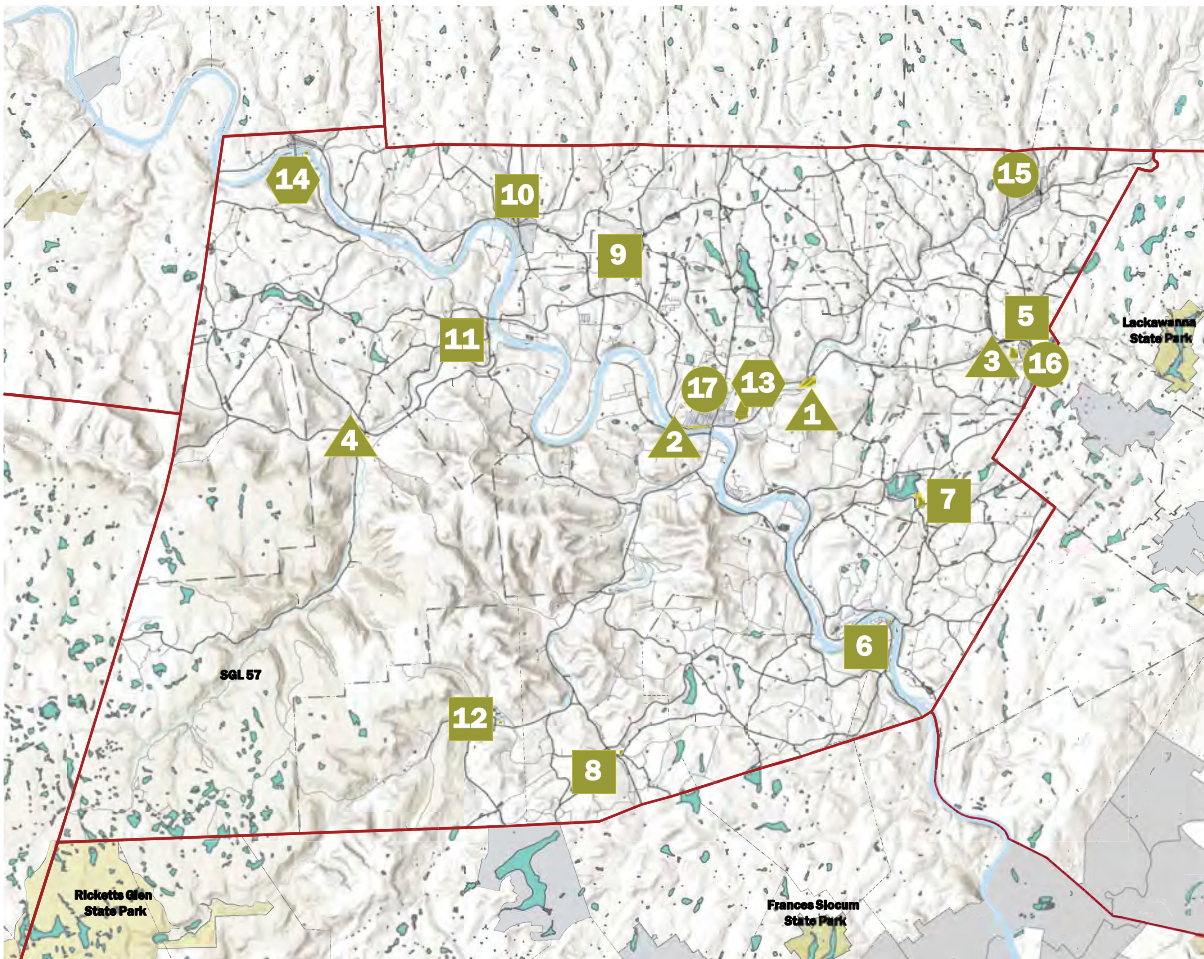
Websites/Online Presence:

Some parks have web pages on municipality websites. Some have Facebook pages or pinned locations through other media platforms like Instagram. Parks also can be noted on third-party travel websites. The digital landscape offers opportunities for tourism and outreach. Maximizing virtual presence can be tool municipalities use to promote the park and enhance visibility to tourists and residents.

Park Inventory Chart:

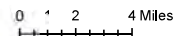
The chart on the following page references each municipal park included in this section. The chart on the following page quantifies park features quality. Subsequent pages in this section illustrate each park's individual assessment. The Park Inventory Matrix can be found at the end of this section.

Wyoming County Parks Inventory			
Location	Park Name	Physical Address	Size(Acres)
Large Regional Parks			
41.5031478-75.8994527	Lazy Brook Park (Lazybrook)	152 Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock Township	34
41.5399562-75.956341	Riverside Park	River Street, Tunkhannock Borough	20
41.5640721-75.7943202	Factoryville/Clinton Township Joint Municipal Park	100-175 Creek Road, Factoryville	29
41.53426-76.12511	Creek Junction Park	BR 87 & Windy Valley Road, Forkston	9
Community Parks			
41.5657433-75.7896789	Christy Mathewson Park	18-19 Thompson Road, Factoryville	3
41.4622735-75.8570347	George R Hock Memorial Park	Curch St, West Falls	2
41.5062226-75.840112	Lake Winola Community Park	157 Fairview Rd., Lake Winola	5
41.4107160-75.9953797	Monroe Township Park	1351 Flatburg Road, Bearmont	4
41.603041-75.98215	Washington Township Park	184 Kelseville Road, Tunkhannock	5
41.6144714-76.0488223	Meshoppen Community Park	Danal Street, Meshoppen	4
41.500721-76.052716	Mehoopany Park & Playground	310 Schoolhouse Hill Road, Mehoopany	2
41.4204029-76.0568169	Noxen Community Park	3600 SR 29, Noxen	5
Sports Complexes			
41.5386187-75.9351719	Bob Massler Sports Complex	8 Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock Borough	6
41.0400921-76.1275672	Donovan Park	111 Dell Park Road, Laceyville	4.5
Pocket Parks			
41.6253977-75.7843245	Elmer Nordal Memorial Park	10 Oak Street, Nicholson	1
41.669133-76.782645	Bob Padula Jr. Memorial Park	136 College Ave, Factoryville	0.3
41.340520-75.941810	McCord Park	69 E. Harrison St., Tunkhannock	0.3



Park Inventory Overview Map
Wyoming County, PA
Legend

- Regional Parks**
 - 1. Lazy Brook Park (Lazybrook)
 - 2. Riverside Park
 - 3. Joint Municipal Park
 - 4. Creek Junction Park
- Community Parks**
 - 5. Christy Mathewson Park
 - 6. George R Hock Memorial Park
 - 7. Lake Winola Community Park
 - 8. Monroe Township Park
 - 9. Washington Township Park
 - 10. Meshoppen Community Park
 - 11. Mehoopany Park
 - 12. Noxen Community Park
- Sports Complexes**
 - 13. Bob Massler Sports Complex
 - 14. Donovan Park
- Pocket Parks**
 - 15. Elmer Nordal Memorial Park
 - 16. Bob Padula Jr. Memorial Park
 - 17. McCord Park



	PARK NAME & LOCATION																
	Lazybrook Park Tunkhannock TWP	Riverside Park Tunkhannock BORO	Creekside Park Clinton TWP	Creekside Junction Forkston TWP	Christy Mathewson Factoryville TWP	Hook Memorial Park Falls TWP	Pack Natural Area / Park Clinton TWP	Old Beaumont School Monroe TWP	Community Park Washington TWP	Meshoppen Park Meshoppen TWP	Mehoopany Playground Mehoopany TWP	Noxen Community Park Noxen TWP	Bob Maskek Complex Tunkhannock BORO	Donovan Park Laceyville TWP	Elmer Norbair Park Nicholson BORO	McCord Park Tunkhannock BORO	Padda Memorial Park Factoryville BORO
AMMENITIES																	
1	Parking																
2	Picnic Tables	61***	13 *-***	13 ***	25 ***	10***	11 ***	1***	4 ***	9 ***	8 ***	7 ***	1 ***	1***	N	1 ***	N
3	Trash Cans	20***	2 ***	7***	8 ***	6***	7 ***	N	3 ***	N	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***
4	Recycling (Y/N)	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
5	Benches	10 ***	16 *-***	3	4 ***	4***	10 ***	N	6 ***	6 ***	N	N	4 **	N	N	2 ***	1 ***
6	Water Fountain (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
7	Lighting (Y/N)	Y *	N	N	N	Y*	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
8	Pet Station(Y/N)	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
SIGNAGE																	
9	Kiosk/Map (Y/N)	Y **	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
10	Park Sign (Y/N)	Y **	Y ***	Y***	Y ***	Y ***	Y **	N	Y **	N	N	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y **	N	Y ***
11	Park Rules (Y/N)	Y ***	Y ***	Y**	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N
FACILITIES																	
12	Pavilion	4 ***	1 ***	1***	2 ***	1 ***	2 ***	N	1 **	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	N	N
13	Restrooms	6 ***	1 ***	2	2 ***	N	1	N	2***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	1 ***	N	N	N	N
14	Historic Feature (Y/N)	Y	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N	Y*	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N
PLAYGROUND																	
15	Swings (Y/N)	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y **	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***
16	Slides (Y/N)	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N
17	Play Structure (Y/N)	Y ***	Y*	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	Y **	Y ***	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y ***	N
18	Surface Type	Mulch/roc	Mulch	Mulch	Rubber	Mulch	Mulch	N	Mulch	Mulch	Mulch	Grass	Mulch	N	N	Mulch	N
19	ADA Equipment (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y **	N	N	N	N	N	N
ATHLETIC																	
20	Courts	N	B-Ball	N	B-Ball	B-Ball	B-Ball	B-Ball	N	B-Ball	N	N	N	N	N	B-Ball	N
21	Fields	N	N	Soccer	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	Baseball	Baseball	N	N
22	Courses	DG	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
WATER FEATURES																	
23	River/Stream (Y/N)	Tunk C	Sus River	Tunk C	Mehoop C	Tunk C	Sus River		Leonard C	N	Meshop C	N	Beaver R	N	Sus River	N	N
24	Lake (Y/N)	N	N	N	N	N	N	L Winola	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
25	Fishing Pier (Y/N)	Y**	N	N	N	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
26	Water Access (Y/N)	Y**	Y ***	Y*	Y **	Y ***	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	Y *	N	Y **	N	Y ***	N	N
27	Boat Access (Y/N)	Y*	Y ***	N	N	N	Y ***	Y ***	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ***	N	N

Key
 Tunk C- Tunkhannoc Creek
 *- Poor
 ** - Fair
 *** - Good
 Sus River- Susquehanna River
 Leonard C- Leonard Creek
 L Winola- Lake Winola
 N Beaver R- Beaver Run
 Mehoop C- Mehoopay Creek
 Meshop C- Meshoppen Creek

Worning County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory

Large Regional Parks

41.5531479 -75.8994527 **Size:** 34-Acres
Lazybrook Park **Ownership:** Tunkhannock Township
 152 Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock Township **Municipal Budget:**

Location:
 Access to the park is on Route 6, across from Deer Park Lumber. The entrance traverses a shared right of way on Deer Park property before the gateway and park sign. Access is also possible eastbound on Route 6 by turning right on Overlook Drive. Cozy Creek Campground is across the creek from the park.



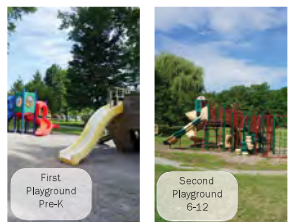
Features:
 Active floodplain with over 2,000 ft frontage along Tunkhannock Creek, mixed deciduous and evergreen riparian buffer with fishing access along an earthen walking path, ¾ mile multi-purpose crushed stone loop trail, picnic pavilions, William B Kresge Memorial Disk Golf Course, nationally registered historic Nicholson Lenticular bridge, two playgrounds (pre-k and 5-12 age range) with custom wooden structures, Kiwanis Memorial and Commemorative Tree Program, tree I.D. walk, lending library, pet waste stations, parking, port-o-potties, concrete pad and stairs for kayak and canoe access, multi-purpose fields for soccer and football, wood sculptures, wood arbors, historic mine machinery

Accessibility:
Parking:
 There are five parking areas. Accessible parking stalls are designated by signage, but all parking stalls are unopened and unmarked on a gravel surface, making them non-compliant with current ADA requirements.
Playground:
 The first playground by the Deer Park (Pre-K) entrance does not have an accessible path. The second playground has remnants of an accessible path but has eroded over time and no longer accessible. The second playground (6-12) no longer meets the Consumer Product Safety Commission

Worning County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory

recommendations for safety surfaces for playgrounds.
Features:
 No port-o-potty on-site is accessible to accommodate wheelchair users. The area with the concrete pad and stair designated to provide access to the water is not accessible to individuals with mobility limitations. The stone dust/asphalt walking loop is flat and accessible. The earthen path along the riparian buffer is not accessible. The Green Pavilion is accessible. The Tan, Red, and Blue Pavilions and gazebo are not accessible and encompassed by lawn.

Safety:
Playground:
Safety Surface:
 The Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) surface on the second playground (6-12) needs replenishing. The stone pebble surface on the first playground (Pre-K) is no longer considered an adequate safety surface. Municipality should review Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Handbook, for more details on acceptable safety surfacing.
General Hazards:
 The metal and plastic play systems in both playgrounds are new and in good condition. The custom wooden play structures, the residential portable play features, and larger play systems at both playgrounds need to be inspected and assessed for compliance with ASTM Playground Standards.



Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:
 The first playground is separated from the roadway by a wooden split rail fence. The second playground does not have fencing distinguishing a barrier between the playground and the roadway, there is an approximate 60 Foot distance of the lawn from the playground and the road.
Kayak and Canoe Launch and Concrete ADA Fishing Pad:
 The concrete pad has a wooden foot rail, and a section of the rail is broken posing a slip/fall risk. There is some soil erosion along the side of the concrete pad due to frequent putting-in of kayaks & canoes. A properly designed concrete launch ramp may solve this issue.
Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:
 A portion of the walking loop trail includes Overlook Drive has shared use between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. The speed limit through the park is 5 miles per hour. There are cross walks that cross the road, but neither side connects to a designated pedestrian path.

Quality:
 The park's location along the Tunkhannock Creek is a superb location for birding, fishing, wading, kayaking and canoeing. There were several migratory birds spotted during the site visit. All the pavilions all have electric hookups and are available for daily rental. The historic lenticular bridge was restored, relocated from Nicholson, and re-purposed on-site as a pedestrian bridge. The Bridge was built in 1876



and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, it is considered a well-preserved example of a truss with unique pin connections fabricated by the Corrugated Metal Company. There are also historically significant mechanisms from the Dutch Coal Mine. Throughout the park, there are unique wood-carved statues of a bear and cubs, an eagle, totem pole and wood bench.

Programming:

In addition to pavilion rentals, individuals and groups can reserve the park for parties or special events. In a typical summer season, there are many festivals, events, and fundraisers. Some of the events include The Rotary Harvest & Wine Festival, Touch-a-Truck Events, Annual Antique Tractor Shows, NEPA Bluegrass Festival, Cornstock Folk Festival. In 2020, there were fewer events, but the park still hosted a trunk-treat, #PlayHardShopSmall fundraising rally, and the inaugural Hindsight Music Festival.

According to Robert Baker from The Wyoming County Examiner, during a meeting on May 4, 2020, the supervisors received a letter including 32 signatures requesting the township to consider building a dog park at Lazybrook.

Users/Organizations:

Boy Scouts, Tunkhannock Rotary Club

Maintenance:

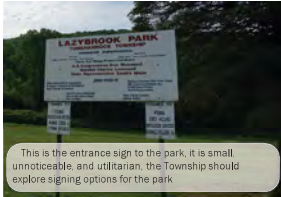
Maintenance Responsibility: Tunkhannock Township
General Appearance: Well maintained
Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, composting plant matter on-site, safety surface replenishing and walking path upkeep, trash removal, restroom servicing, utilities

Website/Online Presence:

The park is featured on the Discover NEPA website, travel websites, Facebook, and an Instagram place location. The park page on the Township website needs updating. The William B Kresge Memorial Disk Golf Course has a presence on several disc golf course sites.

¹Baker, R. (2020, May 13). Tunk TWP. Postpones spring cleanup. Retrieved February 10, 2021, from https://www.wcoexaminer.com/news/tunk-twp-postpones-spring-cleanup/article_a126d23d-2c37-59e6-981d-47d3e1d630c.html

²Nicholson Township Lenticular Bridge. Spanning Tunkhannock Creek at State Route 1029 Nicholson, Wyoming County, PA. Library of Congress. Retrieved February 18, 2021, from <https://www.loc.gov/item/pp3588/>



41.5640721-75.7943202
Creekside Joint Municipal Park, Clinton Factoryville Park

Size: 29-Acres
Ownership: Clinton Township/
Factoryville Borough
Annual Budget:

Location:

College Avenue runs parallel to Route 11. Heading west on college Ave, Lackawanna Trail Elementary school is on the left. The school is on the corner of College Avenue and Thompson Road. Thompson Road traverses to Creek road after the bend. The Park is located across the road on Creek Road from A municipal maintenance garage and just before the water treatment plant.



Features:

Over 1,842 Feet of frontage along the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek with an earthen wetland creek trail and stone stairway, rain gardens, municipal recycling, three parking areas, two soccer fields, 3 multi-purpose fields, two playgrounds (Pre-K and 6-12), permanent restrooms, concession stand, dog park, grass walking loop, trash, and recycling

Accessibility:

Parking:

There are five designated ADA parking stalls paved, striped, and current standards with paved walkways connecting to the designated parking areas.

Playground:

Both playgrounds are accessible on at least one side by a concrete walkway.

Features:

The concrete walkways connect to most of the built features on-site except the dog park, grass walking path, and wetland trail. The pavilion has accessible picnic tables, and the restrooms are accessible.



Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:
Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surface

General Hazards:
The playgrounds did not appear to have any visible safety issues.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

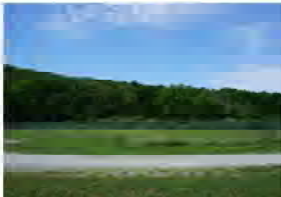
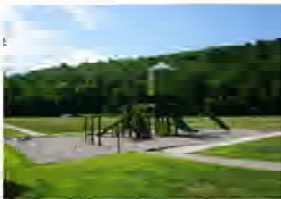
There are no vertical barriers between the play ground and other site features. The Pre-K playground is close to the road way, approximately 18 feet of lawn separates the two uses. There could be an issue with traffic entering the park to the furthest parking lot because the shed on the western side of the playground could limit a driver's visibility. The 5-12 playground is 25 Feet from the parking lot at its closest point.

Wetland Trail:
Along the wetland trail, some benches need repair or replacement. Trees near the benches that are hazardous should be removed. The stone stair descending the creek is shifting, covered in leaves, and there is an earthen path descending the slope adjacent to the stair. The wetland trail is challenging to find. The existing sign is covered by overgrown vegetation at the trail opening.

Quality:

Overall, the park is new and in excellent condition. The park and its features are accommodating with significant attention to detail and user needs. It was noted that the dog park area does not have a doggie-pot or a waste bag station. Instead, plastic shopping bags filled with more shopping bags were tied to the chain-link fence in a couple of locations. This practice ensures bags are available for pet owners to pick up their animal's waste. Dedicated waste stations mitigate intense odors generated in the summer months if pet waste is not separated from other park trash.

During the site visit, a cyclist parked his car in a parking lot at the park. Upon speaking with him, he stated that he regularly comes to the park to park and then ride. The consultant did not see a bike rack on site.



Programming:

The concession and pavilion are able to be reserved for \$100.00 a day with shared use for the rest of the park amenities. In the past, it was the location of the Factoryville Fall Festival.

Users/Organizations:

Soccer League, Boy Scouts

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Factoryville Borough, Clinton Township

General Appearance: Well maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, safety surface replenishing, recycling, rain garden upkeep, restroom servicing, water, sewer, electric

Website/Online Presence:

Factoryville Borough has a page on its site describing the park. Facebook and Instagram identify the park as "Factoryville Clinton Park."

Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory
 41.5359562-75.956341
Riverside Park
 River Street, Tunkhannock Borough

Size: 20-Acres
Ownership: Tunkhannock Borough
Annual Budget:

Location:

At the intersection of Route 6 and Route 29 in Tunkhannock Borough, the park is located on the right, heading south towards Eaton township. There is also a pedestrian tunnel under Route 6 with the entrance located on West Street.



Features:

Over 3,000 Feet of frontage on the Susquehanna River, Boat Access, ¾ Mile walking path with the pedestrian tunnel under Route 6 connecting to West Street, pavilion, two basketball courts, tumbledown tunnel willow structure, two playgrounds (Pre-K and 5-12), historic train structures, port-o-potties, educational signage, trash,

Accessibility:

Parking:

There are five parking lots on site. All are dirt and gravel. ADA-accessible parking is designated by signage on fencing, but there are no paved parking stalls. The surface in all of the parking lots is uneven and has potholes. The only ADA parking stalls that are up to current standards are located on the other side of the park after the underpass tunnel. There is a significant grade change between the railroad track crossing and the end of the tunnel on West Street. The ramp slope is at the upper limit of an acceptable slope allowed for a path without a handrail or it is beyond the acceptable slope threshold. However, the combination of the walk's tight turn and slope could

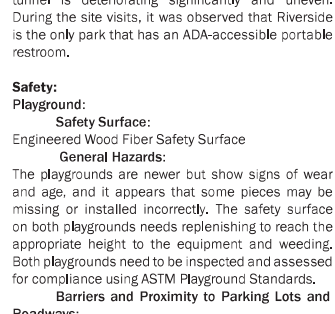


Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory
 41.53426-76.12511
Creek Junction Park
 Rt 87 & Windy Valley Rd, Forkston

Size: 9-Acres
Ownership: Forkston Township, Windham Township, North Branch Township, Mehoopany Township
Annual Budget:

Location:

The park is located at the intersection of State Route 87 and Windy Valley Road, near Little Mehoopany Creek's confluence to Mehoopany Creek.



Features:

Active floodplain, 600 ft of frontage along Mehoopany Creek, access to Mehoopany Creek, two baseball fields, picnic pavilion, gazebo, permanent composting accessible restrooms, playground, basketball court, BBQ pit.

Accessibility:

Parking:

There is a paved path from the entrance of the park to the pavilion. There is no paved ADA parking stall. **Playground:** There is an accessible path leading to the playground



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory
 41.53426-76.12511
Creek Junction Park
 Rt 87 & Windy Valley Rd, Forkston

Size: 9-Acres
Ownership: Forkston Township, Windham Township, North Branch Township, Mehoopany Township
Annual Budget:

Programming:

Tunkhannock Borough's Annual Riverday Celebration, special events hosted by Dietrich Theater

Users/Organizations:

Park Commission, Northern Tier Partnership for Arts and Education, Dietrich Theater,

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Tunkhannock Borough, Park Commission

General Appearance: Maintained, closer detail to mowing under benches, bench repairs. Some features have significant signs of age and wear.

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, safety surface replenishing, maintaining boat access, tree pruning and removal, restroom servicing

Website/Online Presence:

The Borough website lists the members of the parks commission, there is a Facebook page and an Instagram place for the park called "Riverside Park Tunkhannock Pa"



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
 Park Inventory
 41.53426-76.12511
Creek Junction Park
 Rt 87 & Windy Valley Rd, Forkston

Location:

The park is located at the intersection of State Route 87 and Windy Valley Road, near Little Mehoopany Creek's confluence to Mehoopany Creek.



Features: Active floodplain, 600 ft of frontage along Mehoopany Creek, access to Mehoopany Creek, two baseball fields, picnic pavilion, gazebo, permanent composting accessible restrooms, playground, basketball court, BBQ pit.

Accessibility:

Parking:

There is a paved path from the entrance of the park to the pavilion. There is no paved ADA parking stall. **Playground:** There is an accessible path leading to the playground



since the site visit, and an accessible swing has been installed.

Features :

There is an accessible path from the parking lot to the pavilion and restrooms. There is not an accessible path to the ball fields or bleachers or the gazebo.

Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:

The safety surface is made of recycled rubber and well maintained.

General Hazards:

The playground equipment is new and in good condition.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

There is a split rail fence that separates the parking lot from other uses in the park.

Features:

Access to the creek is not direct. Users must traverse the rocky embankment to gain access to the creek.

Quality:

The park is a result of a flood event in 2007, all the features in the park are new and in good condition.

Programming:

Creek Junction Park hosts an Annual Auction and Chicken BBQ to fundraise for the park, FWM Little League

Users/Organizations:

Community Center of Mehoopany, FWM Athletic Association, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association

Maintenance:

Responsibility:

General Appearance: Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, Restroom servicing, trash removal, baseball infield upkeep

Website/Online Presence: Facebook page. Instagram location, "Creek Junction Park"



The pavilion, baseball field, concession stand, and basketball court all have accessible routes. The wood ramp leading to the covered bridge at the parking lot does not have a handrail.

Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:

The Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface at all the play features and central play area should be replenished for the surface to meet an acceptable distance from the play equipment.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways

None to be noted.

Features:

It was apparent a skunk has been nesting under one of the maintenance sheds near the playground at the time of visit.

Quality:

The overall condition of the park is good. It is a quaint spot that offers privacy to users, though small, it seems as though the park could host many users without it feeling congested. There is a unique marriage of Christy Matthewson's narrative, his local ties, and his ties to the natural environment and his later life in the Adirondacks. The desiccated shrub at the base of his memorial that should be replaced or removed.

Programming: Annual Christmas Market

Users/Organizations: Factoryville Little League

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Factoryville Borough

Quality: Well maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, infield maintenance, trash removal, walking path upkeep, play feature safety surface upkeep.

Website/Online Presence:

Web page on Factoryville Borough website.



Community Multi-Purpose Parks

41.5657433- 75.7898789

Christy Mathewson Park

18-19 Thompson Rd, Factoryville Borough

Size: 3-Acres

Ownership: Factoryville Borough

Annual Budget:

Location:

The Lackawanna Trail Elementary School is at the intersection of College Ave and Thompson Road; the park is located behind the parking lot and over the pedestrian bridge behind the elementary school.



Features:

Over 600 Feet of Frontage on The Tunkhannock Creek, ¼ mile walking loop with three nature discovery play features, sponsored gardens, tree I.D. walk, covered pedestrian bridge over Tunkhannock Creek, Christy Mathewson Memorial, playground, two baseball fields, basketball court, concession stand, pavilion, grill, lending library, trash

Accessibility:

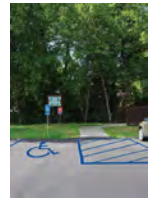
Parking:

Parking for the park is across the creek from the park in the Lackawanna Trail Elementary School parking lot. There is no ADA parking stall, and there is a parking space painted in front of the concrete pad leading to the ramp and bridge.

Playground:

The centrally located playground area has an accessible path to it. The walking path around the park and discovery loop is only partially accessible. The stone dust path ends near the baseball field. There is a section of path surface that is grass and wood chip making that area inaccessible.

Features:



41.4622735-75.8570347

George R Hock Memorial Park

Church St, West Falls

Size: 2-Acres

Ownership: Falls Township

Annual Budget:

Location:

At the Intersection of Route 92 S and Church Street after the bridge at the corner on the right.



Features:

Two playgrounds (Upper- 5-12, Lower- Pre-K), two basketball courts, pavilion, BBQ pit, tree dedication program, lending library, Susquehanna river access across the street on River Road.

Accessibility:

Parking:

The gravel parking area at the parking lot on Church Street has an ADA parking signpost and no parking striping. The space does not meet current standards for ADA-accessibility.

Playground:

The accessible parking space is at the parking lot on Church Street. There is no assessable path to the accessible swing at the park's lower playground which closer to River Road. There is no on-street ADA space on River Road.

Features:

No feature in the park is connected by an accessible path. There is no accessible restroom on site, but the site accommodates ADA-accessible inclusive play equipment.



Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:

Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface in fair condition, could use replenishing.

General Hazards:

Both playgrounds are newer and in good condition. The lower playground system is located next to a swale with a pipe. There are broken barricades and caution tape around the swale. The pipes proximity to the playground system should be assessed, and better partitions should be created.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

The lower playground is close to River Road. There are 30 feet of lawn and a tree line that separates the playground from the road.

Features:

The tree line at the upper portion of the park on Church Street is mature, providing ample shade. The evergreen trees are to maturity, and consideration should be made to the management plan to propagate new trees to replace them if shade at the park portion is a desirable quality.

Quality:

The park has many new features. Its unique location in Falls offers opportunities for recreation and access to the River.

Programming: Falls Summer Celebration and BBQ.

Users/Organizations: Falls Summer Celebration Committee

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Falls Township

Quality: Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, landscaping, grill cleaning, restroom servicing, play surface maintenance

Website/Online Presence:

None



41.5062226-75.840112

Lake Winola Community Park
157 Fairview Rd., Lake Winola

Size: 5-Acres (Community Park)
15-Acres (Peck Natural Area, Pine Forest)

Ownership: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Annual Budget:

Location:

Off of Route 92, between Lake Road across the road from the Lake Winola public boat launch, at the corner of Fairview Road and Spring Road.



Features:

Park:

Baseball field, concessions stand, basketball court

Natural Area:

½ mile walking trail in an old-growth pine forest, cement footing from carousel from the early 1900's.

Accessibility:

Parking:

There is no parking at the trailhead on Lake Road to Peck Natural Area. Across the road at the boat launch parking area, there are ADA-designated parking spaces by the ramp and floating dock. There is no pedestrian crossing to the trailhead from the parking lot to Peck Natural Area. There are two entrances to the park, one on Fairview road and one on spring road. Both parking lots are gravel and overgrown.

Features:

A paved asphalt path from the concession stands to the bleachers by the baseball field in the park. There is no signage in the park to direct users to the walking loop in the natural area. The natural area has an earthen path surface, and there is gravel in a



Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

The playground is connected via an accessible path from the parking lot. There is no barrier between the parking lot and the playground.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

Because there are not distinguished parking stalls and the parking lot provides access to the playground and the pavilion, there could be issues between pedestrians and vehicles.

Features:

There is an opening in the riparian buffer to Mehoopany Creek after the parking area and basketball court. It seems that this area is used to access to the River. There is a significant drop of 3-5 Feet from the asphalt and the creek. This drop-off is hazardous being so close to the other park features and should be addressed.

Quality:

The park is in overall good condition. There are issues with erosion at Mehoopany Creek, and erosion from the road on canal street and the park's slope meeting the guide rail.

Programming:

Unknown

Users/Organizations:

Unknown

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Meshoppen Township

Quality: Good

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, mulching playground surface, restroom servicing, trash removal

Website/Online Presence: None



41.568721-76.062716

Mehoopany Park
310 Schoolhouse Hill Road, Mehoopany

Size: 2-Acres
Ownership: Mehoopany Township
Annual Budget:

Location: The Mehoopany Public Library is on Schoolhouse Hill Road in Mehoopy, the park is located just behind the library.



Features: Baseball field, pavilion, grills, historic old school bell, playground area, port-o-potty, Mehoopany Public Library

Accessibility:

Parking:

There is paved accessible parking for the library. There is another gravel lot below the library by the port-o-potty and pavilion. A sign designates an accessible parking space, but the gravel lot is uneven and overgrown with grass.

Playground:

There is no accessible path to the playground.

Features:

The port-o-potty is not ADA accessible.

Safety

Playground:

Safety Surface:

The surface of the playground area is grass. Grass or lawn is not a safe surface for the play equipment.

General Hazards:

The more extensive play system shows signs of age but appears to be in good condition. The other play equipment features should be inspected to meet ASTM Playground Standards.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan

Park Inventory

Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surface, needs replenishing and weeding.

General Hazards:

The play system is in good condition. The EWF around play features needs to be inspected and replenished to meet the features' appropriate height. Playground needs to be inspected and assessed for compliance using ASTM Playground Standards. Some play equipment is old and wore, components should be inspected for any loose or missing parts.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

The playground area is close to the road, but a 4-foot chain-link fence surrounds the play area.

Features:

There is a birch tree on the other side of the chain-link fence along Stevens Creek that is uprooting and hanging over the walkway.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

Given an accessible route may require an individual to use the parking lot to navigate the park, there could be pedestrian/vehicular conflicts because there is no designated accessible route.

Quality:

The overall quality of the park is good. The play area could use updating to some of the older equipment.

Programming: Little League

Users/Organizations:

The community building can be rented for events.

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Monroe Township

Maintained Quality: Good overall quality

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, trash removal, Engineered wood fiber safety surface replenishing, restroom servicing,

Web/Online Presence:

Featured on Monroe Township website.



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan

Park Inventory

41.603041-75.98215

Washington Township Park

184 Keeserville Rd, Tunkhannock

Size: .5-Acres

Ownership: Washington Township

Annual Budget:

Location:

From Meshoppen traveling east on Route 6, about 5 miles East is Keeserville road on the left, the park on the right about a mile up the road, it is on the same parcel as the Washington Township Municipal Building.

Features:

Playground, Picnic pavilion, port-a-potty

Accessibility:

Parking: There is a sign designating accessible parking, but the parking stall is not flat does not meet criteria for an ADA Accessible parking space.

Playground:

The playground is surrounded by grass and does not have an accessible path—the earth slopes to the playground area and challenging to traverse, deeming it inaccessible.

Features:

No features on-site have a designated accessible path.

Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:

The Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface needs to be replenished and weeded.

General Hazards:

The play systems appear to be in fair condition but show signs of age. The other custom wooden features need to be inspected for safety to determine if they meet current ATSM Standards for play equipment.

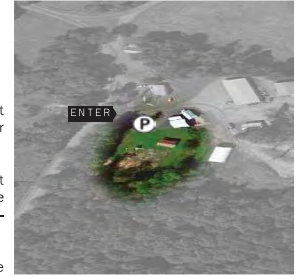
Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways: There are 60 Feet of grass between the parking lot and the playground area.

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

Because there is no designated path from the parking lot, there could be potential safety risks.

Quality:

Overall, the park is in fair condition. There is no connectivity between features because there is no accessible route or designated path for users to use.



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan

Park Inventory

Programming: Unknown

Users/Organizations: Unknown

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Washington Township

Quality: Good overall condition

Maintenance Requirements: Grass Cutting, playground safety mulching, restroom servicing, trash, and recycling.

Web/Online Presence:

Unknown



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan

Park Inventory

41.6144714-76.0488323

Meshoppen Community Park

Canal St, Meshoppen

Size: 4-Acres

Ownership: Meshoppen Township

Annual Budget:

Location:

In Meshoppen, on Route 6 heading west, at the historic fire station, turn right and pass over the bridge. After the bridge turn left on canal street, after the second bridge over Little Mehoopany Creek, the park is on the left.



Features:

Mehoopany Creek, Little Mehoopany Creek, Playground, Baseball Field, Pavilion, BBQ pit, port-o-potty, basketball court

Accessibility:

Parking: The parking lot is paved, but there is no distinguished, accessible stall.

Playground:

There is an accessible entrance to the playground from the parking lot by the basketball court.

Features:

The pavilion is accessible from the parking lot. There is not an accessible path to the port-o-potty on site from the parking area.

Safety

Playground:

Safety Surface:

Wood carpet safety surface is in good condition and maintained

General Hazards:

The equipment is new and in good condition.



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
Park Inventory

Safety:

General maintenance of the lawn and trailhead at the park would keep users from walking through tall grass to get to the trail loop.

Quality:

The baseball field at the time of visit did not appear to be in use. The infield is overgrown and has piles of infield mix. The basketball courts could use restriping of the court lines.

Programming:

Unknown

Users/Organizations:

Unknown

Maintenance:

Responsibility: RA, Fish and Boat?

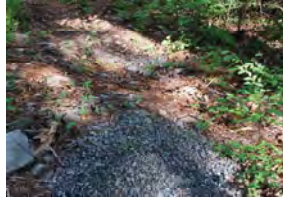
Maintenance Quality: Poor

Though the grass was maintained between features in the park, the access to the walking loop was overgrown and unrecognizable. The baseball field needs to be raked and weeded to make it playable; there were several waste piles throughout the park and trail. Waste piles should be removed from the forest or relocated thoughtfully to encourage positive decomposition and nutrient recycling.

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, sports facilities maintenance, trail maintenance

Website/Online Presence:

None



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
Park Inventory

41.4107166-75.9953757

Monroe Township Park

1351 Plattsburg Road, Beaufort

Size: 4-Acres
Ownership: Monroe Township
Annual Budget:

Location:

At the Old Beaufort School, from Route 29 south, before Noxen, Route 29 splits with Route 309, following route 309 and veering right onto Plattsburg Road, the park is after Stevens Creek.



Features:

Old Beaufort School community building, 1/3 mile walking path, playground, 1/2 basketball court, three baseball fields, service memorial, pavilion, port-potty, grills, concession stand

Accessibility:

Parking: The accessible parking stall is behind the school building. The only path from the parking stall is to the ramp to enter the building. A user would need to enter the building, exit the building in the front, proceed down the ramp, and use the paved asphalt parking lot to route the park features.

Playground:

The playground has an accessible route from the parking lot.

Features:

The walking loop is flat and accessible.

Safety:

Playground:

Playground Surface:



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
Park Inventory

Roadways:

There is no barrier distinguishing the play area from other features in the park.

Features:

There do not appear to be any safety issues aside from the ones addressing the playground area.

Quality:

The park is small but in good overall condition. Much effort has been made since the 2011 flood to create a positive and engaging community space in Mehoopany.

Programming:

Fun Day, Little League

Users/Organizations: Mehoopany Ball Association

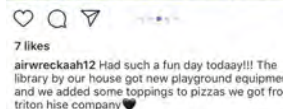
Maintenance:

Responsibility: Mehoopany Township

Quality: Good overall condition

Requirements: Grass Cutting, trash removal, grill cleaning, restroom servicing.

Website/Online Presence: Web page on the township website.



Wyoming County Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan
Park Inventory

41.4204029-76.0568169

Noxen Community Park

3600 SR 29, Noxen TWP

Size: 5-Acres
Ownership: Noxen Township
Annual Budget:

Location: Heading west on Route 29 into Noxen the park is on the left behind the convent store.



Features: Beaver Run, walking path, pavilion, playground,

Accessibility:

Parking: The parking area does not have an accessible parking sign or an accessible paved stall.

Playground:

There is not an accessible path to the playground area.

Features:

There is a well-maintained crush stone path to the pavilion from the parking area

Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface:

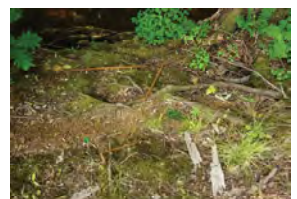
Engineered Wood Fiber, in good condition.

General Hazards:

The pile to replenish the wood carpet safety surface is very close to the playground; the pile is unstable and inviting for children to climb on it.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

There are no barriers around the playground, but the parking area is a substantial distance away.



Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

None

Features:

There is a waste pile near the creek that has debris in it, which could be dangerous if someone falls or trips near it.

Quality:

The park doesn't have many features for the parcel size. All features are close to one another except the parking area and restroom. The features are all new and in good condition. Municipality should note Wolley Adelged infestation on hemlocks shading the creek.

Programming

Unknown

Users/Organizations

Unknown

Maintenance

Responsibility: Nowen Township

Quality: Well Maintained

Requirements: Grass cutting, playground safety, surface maintaining, restroom servicing

Website/Online Presence: none



Sports Complexes

Size: 6 Acres

41.5386187 -75.9351719

Ownership: Tunikhanock Township

Bob Massker Sports Complex

Annual Budget:

6 Sunnyside Road, Tunikhanock

Location:

On Rour 6, heading west after the Wyoming County 911 Center turn right on Sunnyside Road. The park is left before Sunnyside Cemetery.



Features:

Two baseball fields, trailhead to Iroquois Trail, pavilion, port-o-potty

Accessibility:

Parking

There is a small parking lot at the entrance of the park. There is no ADA-accessible parking space.

Features

The paved road between the two fields serves as the park's route for pedestrian traffic and is not accessible.

Safety:

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

The roadway doubles as the pedestrian route and there could be conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.

Quality:

The playing fields are in fair to good condition and probably did not get serviced due to the pandemic at the site visit. All features are well cared for.



Programming:

Tunkhnnaock Little League

Users/Organizations:

The park is to be used exclusively by the little league. There is signage that discourages other users from the park.

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Unknown

Maintenance Quality: Good overall condition

Requirements: Grass cutting, restroom servicing, infield grooming

Website/Online Presence:

Tunkhanock Little League Baseball Association Facebook page

41.6400921-76.1575672

Donovan Park
111 Ball Park Road, Laceyville

Size: 4.5-Acers

Ownership: Laceyville Borough

Annual Budget:

Location: Heading south on the Church Street Bridge from Laceyville, turn left after the bridge on Brunges Mountain Road. Ball Park Road is the first road on the right. The park is on the right in the cul-de-sac.



Features:

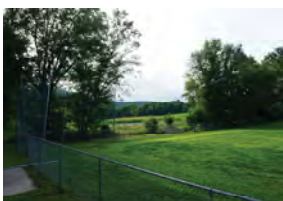
Over 500 Feet of frontage on the Susquehanna River, boat access, baseball field, port-o-potty, trash

Accessibility:

Parking:

The designated Parking area is indistinguishable. There is an ADA reserved parking sign near the park entrance, but there is no accessible stall, and the parking area is grass.

Features:



A gravel/ dirt path leads from the parking area to the baseball field, but it does not meet an accessible path's standards.

Safety:

Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts:

Though there may be little concern for pedestrian and vehicular conflicts within the park, Ball Park Road's entrance from Brunges Mountain road coming from the bridge is a tight curve. Visibility to oncoming traffic is impossible.

Quality:

The park does not offer extensive amenities, but it is in good condition.

Programming:

Little League

Users/Organizations:

Little League

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Laceyville Borough

Quality: Well Maintained

Requirements: Maintain clear access to River, grass cutting, restroom servicing, trash removal.

Website/Online Presence:

Unknown

Pocket Parks

41.6253977 -75.7843246

Elmer Nordal Memorial Park

16 Oak Street, Nicholson

Size: 1-Acer

Ownership: Nicholson Borough

Annual Budget:

Location: The park is located between State Street and Oak Street. Parking for the park can be found by driving on State Street heading East from Main Street, turn left at first left on to Water Street, and the first left from Water Street to Oak Street. The park is on the left.



Features:

Historic Trolley Line Station, playground, basketball court, bike rack, WWII Memorial, Trash

Accessibility:

Parking:

Asphalt markings represent three parking spaces, one of which is supposed to be for an accessible vehicle and has an older style ADA sign. The space is too small to be accessible.

Playground:

An asphalt accessible path encircles the playground.

Features:

There is not an accessible path connecting the park to Route 92 (State Street).

Safety:

Playground:

Safety Surface

Engineered Wood Fiber safety surface, need replenishing

General Hazards:

The surface needs to meet adequate vertical distance with play equipment. Any older equipment should be inspected to meet ASTM Playground Standards.

Barriers and Proximity to Parking Lots and Roadways:

There is not a barrier between the parking lot and play equipment.

Quality

Next to the basketball court is the train station building that seems well maintained. The asphalt pad at the entrances is older and crumbling. Behind the basketball court is a deteriorating asphalt surface about the same size as the newer basketball court. If the asphalt was repaired, it could be a good location for a community art project. Volunteers could paint markings for games and activities, like four-square, tick-tac-toe, or hopscotch. If the borough could allocate funding, a pickle-ball or tennis court could be installed in its place.

Programming:

Unknown

Users/Organizations:

Unknown



Maintenance:

Responsibility: Nicholson Borough, American Legion?

Quality: Well Maintained

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting, upkeep to historic building and utilities, safety surface replenishing, trash removal

Website/Online Presence:

None



41.540520-75.941870

McCord Park

69 E Harrison St, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

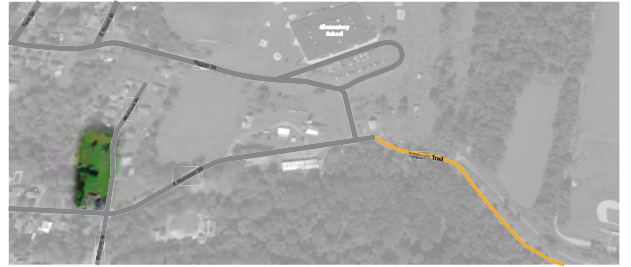
Size: .3-Acres

Ownership: Tunkhannock Borough

Annual Budget:

Location:

From Sunnyside Lane, follow west to the Route 92 and Business 6 juncture and continue on Business 6 turn right on McCord street at the car dealership. The Park is on the corner on the right at East Harrison Street and McCord Street.



Features:

Parking Area, Open Field, landscaping, currently being utilized as a temporary maintenance and storage site for municipal debris.

Accessibility:

Parking

The Parking Lot is not ADA-accessible.

Quality:

Poor Quality. For this park to function, it needs to



have more amenities or programming.

Programming:

There could be opportunities to develop the park as a trail-head to the Iroquois Trail.

Users/Organizations:

None

Maintenance:

Responsibility: Tunkhannock Borough

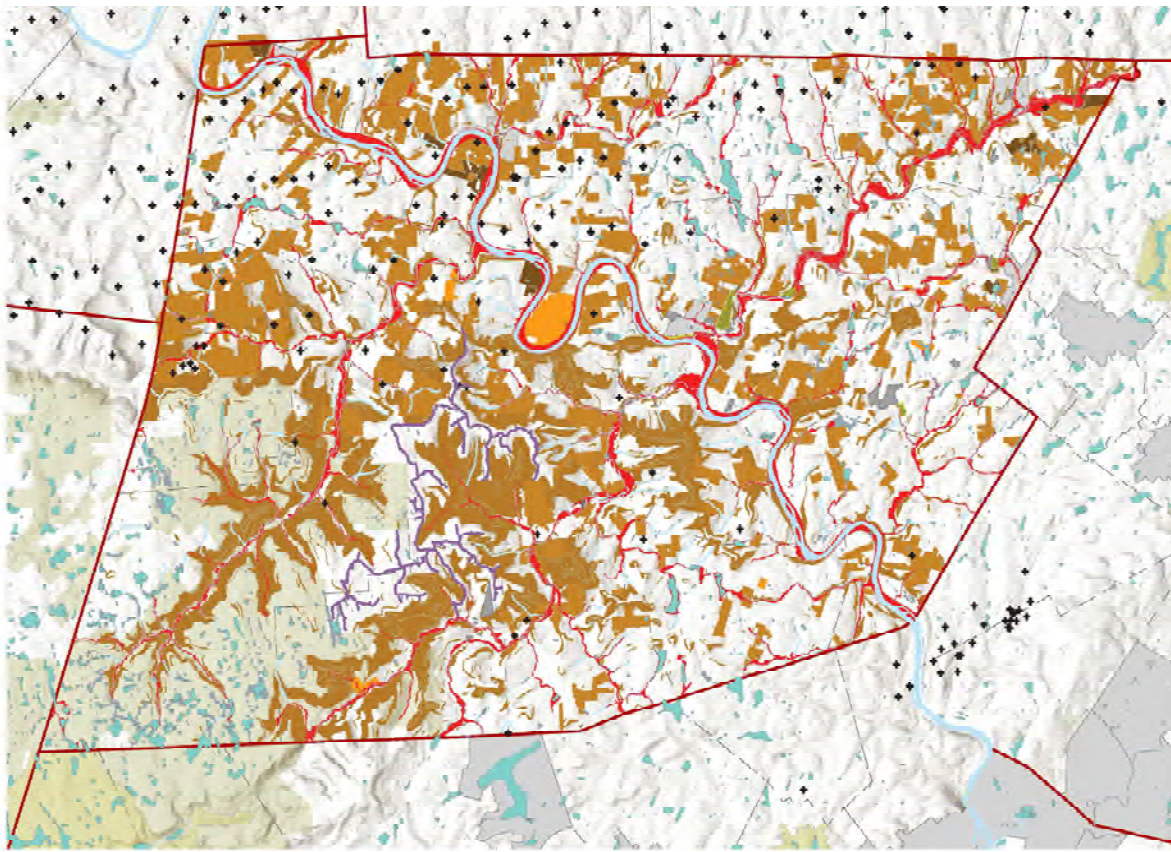
Quality: Poor overall quality

Maintenance Requirements: Grass cutting

Website/Online Presence: None



Conservation Areas Mapping



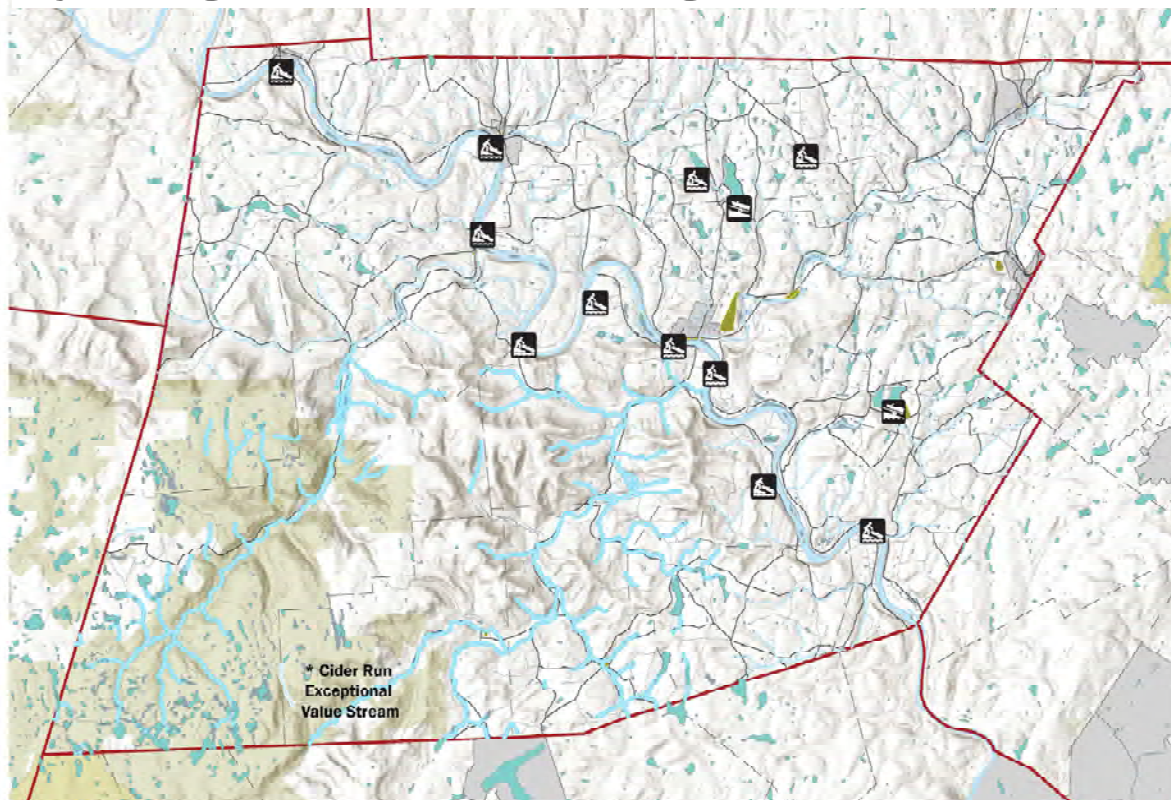
Legend

- County Boundary
- Municipality
- State Parks
- Game Lands
- Municipally Owned
- Municipal Parks
- Waterbodies
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Steep Slopes
- Private Conservation Easements
- Agricultural Security Zones
- Agricultural Easements
- 100-Year Storm Floodplain
- Wind Energy
- + Gas Locations

0 1 2 4 Miles



Hydrologic Features Mapping



Legend

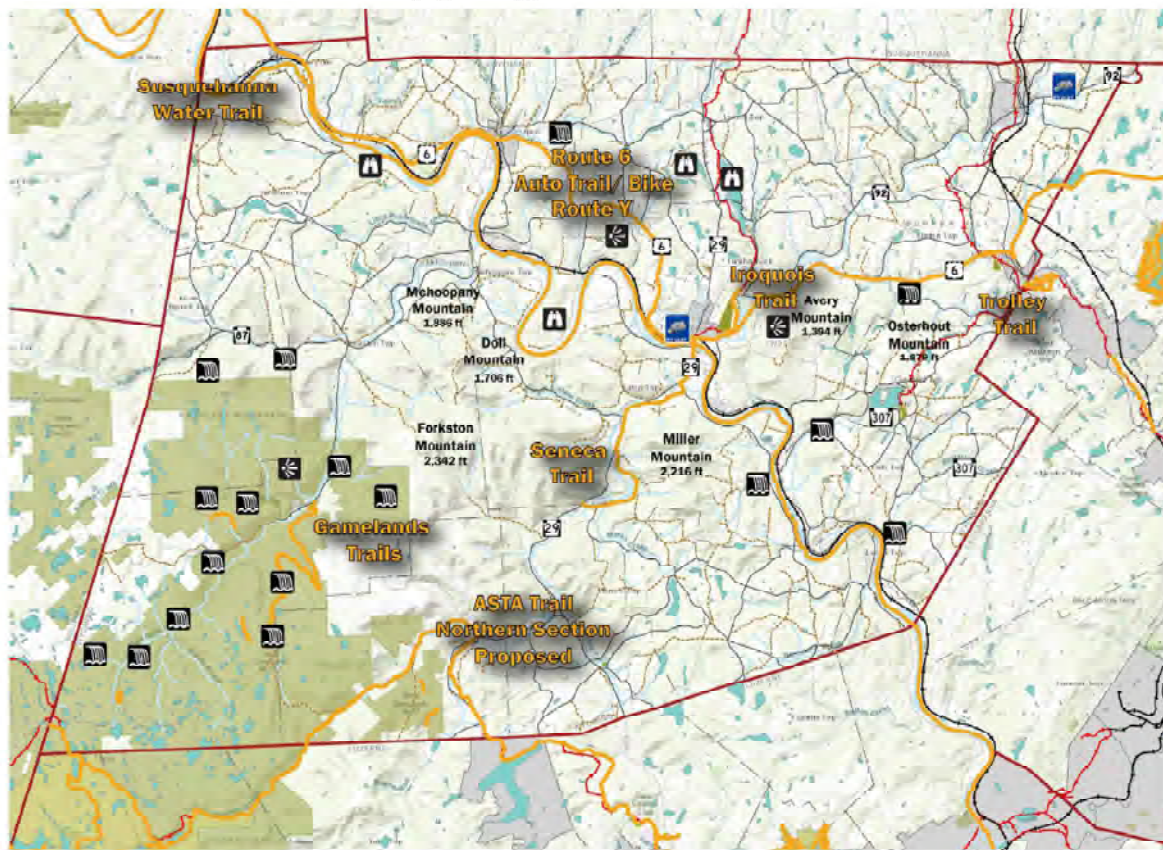
- County Boundary
- Municipality
- State Parks
- Game Lands
- Municipally Owned
- Municipal Parks
- Waterbodies
- Streams
- Wetlands
- High Quality Streams
- / Canoe/Kayak Access
- B Boat Access

+ Cider Run
Exceptional
Value Stream

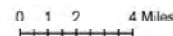
0 1 2 4 Miles



Scenic Areas Mapping



- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - Municipality
 - State Parks
 - Game Lands
 - Municipally Owned
 - Municipal Parks
 - Waterbodies
 - Streams
 - Wetlands
 - Trails
 - Active Railroad
 - Inactive Railroad
 - State Roads
 - County Route
 - Dirt & Gravel Roads
 - Viewsheds
 - Waterfalls
 - Birding Locations
 - State Byway



413 PARCELS TO CONSERVE

Vosburg Neck

546 Vosburg Rd. Washington TWP



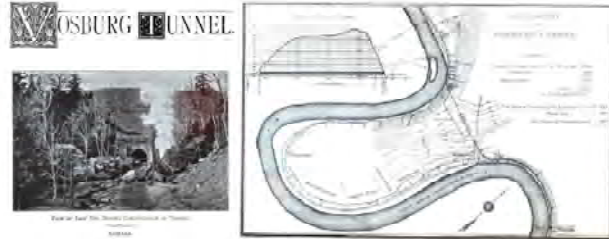
Background

The Vosburg Neck is an oxbow loop that wedges around a peninsula of land along Susquehanna River. The Neck is a unique moment of sinuosity along the river and has been called the tightest oxbow along the Susquehanna River. On either side of the river is an eclipse of mountains cascading over 1,000 above the water's surface. The neck is situated in Washington Township, a few miles west of Tunkhannock along Route 6.

History

The mostly forested peninsula has a rich history in the juncture between the bicentric and early industrialism. The North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania canal was built between 1828-1836. The canal cut through the southern portion of the land mass. Remnants of the canal prism can still be seen today.

In 1865, the Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Rail Road Company began construction on the Vosburg Tunnel located at the northern choke of The Neck. The tract along the river of the Neck is around 5 miles, the justification for the 1-mile tunnel saved the company from laying 4 additional miles of track.



Needs Assessment

Howland does not have a restroom facility. NBLT rents a porta-potty for the site. The restrooms do not have ADA access, which conflicts with the Howland's partnership with Keystone Community Resources. The partnership could be strengthened by improving facilities for access. The gravel road leading to the boat launch is mostly a gentle slope for most of the road until about 25 feet before the water's edge where the slope is too steep for wheelchair users or individuals using mobility assistance. To further develop the partnership between Keystone Community Resources Howland would benefit from an accessible boat launch, a developed fishing access point that is accessible to a wheelchair, the installation of restroom facilities that are accessible to individuals with mobility accommodations, funds for equipment to better maintain trails, and continued preservation of the barn and two houses.



During an interview with Ali Wilson from Friends of Howland, she expressed that their largest unmet need is large equipment to continually maintain the site. Often times washouts to the boat launch are remedied through extensive manual labor without powered equipment.

The Friends of Howland were tasked with getting the barn up to code prior to hosting events in the space. While they accomplished the improvements, the barn still needs some specific improvements that are a challenge to the importance of keeping the historic character of the structure. Friends of Howland have a lot of support from NBLT as well as community volunteers, donations and grant funding. The long-term projections for the property still need more envisioning. North Branch Land Trust hopes to sell the property to another like-minded group or entity in the future.

A constraint to potential buyers is that the property must remain preserved without development. Which is a challenging sell with the existing gas extraction prospects that many property buyers in Wyoming County are seeking. From interviewing Maureen of North Branch Land Trust, and Ali of Friends of Howland, both groups are interested in the long-term preservation of the property. Both organizations are interested in improved connectivity to the neck by the potential of other trail developments in the county. Friends of Howland would be willing to a master planning feasibility study to further develop the long-term vision of the Vosburg Neck.

If the NBLT were to sell the property to a government agency it could be beneficial to establish what capacity the Friends of Howland would have in the planning process and structuring of operations given their partnerships and existing programming on the property.

Camp Lackawanna

Camp Lackawanna established a conservation easement with the assistance of North Branch Land Trust in April 2007. Camp Lackawanna is overseen by a Board of Directors and managed by a live-in manager. The Camp holds its own camping program that runs during the summer months. The camp can be rented by groups or for camping for a fee when the camp is not in session. PSCL-Cycling group hosts a program at the camp during the summer.

In 2020 the camp hosted a Woman's Wellness retreat that was sponsored by local businesses. Camp Lackawanna does not participate in the Hunter Access Program like Howland Preserve however they do permit hunting during the first two weeks of rifle season by reservation for a donation.

Mikajla has been Camp Director at Camp Lackawanna since 2020. The camp did not hold a session during the summer of 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. During that time, Mikajla and Volunteers were able to complete a new low ropes course at the camp.

Conservation Efforts

Nearly the entirety of the southern portion of The Neck has been conserved. The two largest parcels are both under conservation easements. The eastern parcel, owned by North Branch Land Trust and the western parcel owned by Lackawanna Presbytery. Both Conservation easements protect nearly 1,000 acres of contiguous land.

Howland Preserve

Ernest E. Howland donated his family farm, Riverside Farms—purchased by his parents in 1941, to North Branch Land Trust in 2006. A condition of the donation is the site is to never be developed. The 603-acre property has a yellow and red house and a barn that predate the 1900's. The North Branch Land Trust partners with Friends of Howland. Friends of Howland is a non-profit that formed in 2016, the group manages the property while promoting the vision of NBLT.

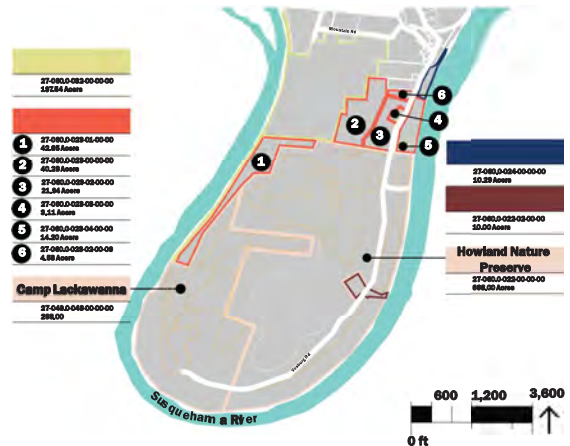
Friend of Howland founders and current land managers Ali and Doug Wilson discovered the property when it was under the ownership of NBLT as users of the public access point along the riverfront. Ever since the group has been active with all aspects of the property. The Friends of Howland maintain by mowing out the Red Barn for weddings and events.

Keystone Community Resources provide community resources to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the area. In 2019, The group partnered with Friends of Howland and through fundraising and grant opportunities established a wooden enclosure for community gardens on the historic estate. Friends of Howland Running Club hosts a 5-mile trail race that encourages people to use the trails and promotes trails on the property. Keystone Composite Youth Group is a group of mountain bike oriented young people who utilize and help maintain the trails in the summer months. Art Shows help bring visibility to the site, collaboration with Local school district and Artist in Residents to host art classes at the property. Host the river events, to fund funding by incorporating local musicians and people's connection with the water.

In addition to community partnerships, the Friends participate in the Hunter Access Program and Pheasant Forever which in return provide increase user ship and government agency assistance kickbacks like sapling donations and bird boxes.



Vosburg Neck Key Parcels



Parcel Map

The map above shows the parcel boundaries for all the parcels on the Neck.

Camp Lackawanna and Howland Nature Preserve

Northern Parcel

The Northern Parcel is just north of Camp Lackawanna, it is the third largest parcel on the neck. It is unique because the parcel defines a thin strip of riverfront below the ridge on the western side of The Neck.

Central Band Parcels

Ernest Howland's Father parceled off a northern piece of the estate to his daughter as a wedding present. Today the current owner has possession of most of the parcels at central choke. The western parcel including the western ridge side of the land mass.

Schaffer's Riverside Campground

Schaffer's Riverside Campground is a popular camping location. The parcel allows people to camp along the shore of the Susquehanna River. Schaffer's Campground is an important location to the neck because it offers camping opportunities while Howland Preserve does not.

Lower Private Parcel

The Lower Private Parcel is 10-acres and the only private property on the southern portion of the Neck, it is surrounded on three sides by Howland Nature preserve and has river frontage.

41,5542818-75,8378549

Little Rocky Glen
State Rte 2012, Factoryville



Countryside Conservancy

Team: William Kern (Executive Director), Cheryl Ellsworth (Trail Coordinator), Shannon Cantner (Office Manager)
Countryside Conservancy has been a non-profit in the region since 1994. It was established by citizens looking to protect natural features in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The non-profit works in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Since the organization's inception their focus has been primarily conservation easements and land acquisitions. The Conservancy owns and manages 67 acres between two parcels within Wyoming County, Little Rocky Glen, and Davis Crossing.

Little Rocky Glen

Size: 26-acres

Features: Forested woodlot, unique shale and sandstone gorge, .5 mile trail, Deep pools, Cascades and rapids and potholes, pavilion.

The preserve is located between Factoryville and Tunkhannock, From route 6, along Lithia Valley Road is a small gravel parking lot before a bridge. Trails are not marked but they lead down from a field to a lower pool and picnic pavilion.

41,6259802-75,77868447

Nicholson Historic Society: DL & W Train Station
21 Lackawanna Trail, Nicholson



Nicholson Heritage Association

The Nicholson Historic Association is a non-profit and founded in 1989. The organization formed in anticipation of the 75th anniversary of Tunkhannock Viaduct, in 1990.

Train Station

The station closed in 1971 and sold in 1983. The renovations to the building are nearing completion. The Heritage Association was donated a significant portion of the late Hugh Saxton's collection of Indigenous artifacts that were found in the untilled fields surrounding Nicholson. The donation by Saxton's son Phillip is set to be a permanent exhibit to the train station.

41,5319207-75,8322773

Davis Crossing
Erhardt Road, Factoryville

Davis Crossing

Size: 61-acre

Features: AlZenke Lookout Tower, forested, wetlands, beaver activity

The preserve was donated to Country Side Conservancy in 2013 from the Lackawanna Audubon Society. The 61-acre property is located in Overfield Township on Erhardt Road.

41,4239836-76,0767428

Noxen Train Station: Lehigh Valley Railroad Depot
Stull Road, Noxen



North Branch Land Trust

North Branch Land Trust is a non-profit founded in 1999. The organization typically does not own property but gained ownership of the train station in 2000.

Train Station

The Noxen Train station was abandoned in 1963. In 1999, North Branch Land Trust approached the owner about the station's condition and the potential for preservation. In 2000, NBLT was given the train station in good faith they would attempt to save the structure. Since the early 2000's, NBLT has applied for several grants to save the structure. The structure was built in 1893 by the Lehigh Valley Railroad, the line serviced from Wilkes-Barre to Towanda. Noxen's historical significance as a tannery and Lumber town is virtually invisible with the last standing structure, the train station is the sole vestige of Noxen's roots. In 2012, NBLT was denied a \$200,000 grant from the state because of lack of funding. It is the intention the station will serve as an artifact museum and stop-by attraction as people enter the Game Lands. The structure is mostly intact, though significant renovations are required to bring the structure to code and operational. It is difficult to accommodate a landmark that is so remote, with little availability for funding it is even more challenging to see this as a location with staff. Partnership between the Game Commission or Forestry could increase the likely hood of operational funds in the future.



Overview

Introduction

Greenways are corridors that are designated by conservation and preservation of open space. Greenway corridors provide connectivity and can be linear like streams and rivers, or swaths of contiguous undeveloped land such as forests. For greenways conservation of undeveloped open space is a priority. Greenways facilitate outdoor recreation activities and in turn instigate increases in tourism, economic growth and overall human health. When planning for greenways that are accessible to people planners may look at their jurisdiction and acknowledge utility right of ways, like pipe lines, and active or abandoned railways. Past innovations in engineering and land use can leave a lasting mark on a landscape, palimpsests, such as canal prisms, or former agricultural land undergoing successional transitions can also be considered during the planning process for adaptive reuse within a greenway.

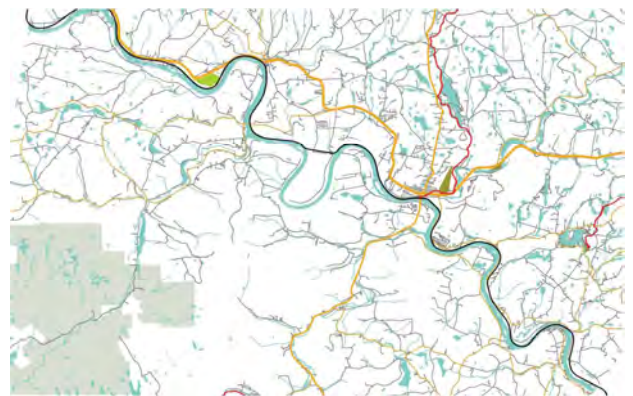
Greenways can be public or privately owned and some greenways are formed through partnerships of both. There are many benefits to trails and greenways. They provide opportunities for recreation and transportation, protect the environment, preserve historic and culturally significant areas, and strengthen local economies.

Trails can be stand alone amenity in the landscape or be a amenity included in a larger recreational area. For example, the Iriquois Trail in Tunkhannock, is a stand alone feature, the trail ends and one must walk their way back out after reaching the end. IT is a trail that people can walk, run, or bike along. Howland, in Washington township is a conservation area with a network of trails, individuals may walk, run or bike the area but there are other amenities on site to host other activities.

This section will identify existing greenways and trails within Wyoming county. Areas that have conservation easements and have trail networks but also host other amenities will be briefed in this section but specific details about these areas will be included in the Conserved Areas section.

Trail	Approximate Length (Miles)	County/ Municipality	Features	Other Initiative, Programs
Susquehanna Water Trail	30 miles	Wyoming County	Susquehanna River, Tightest Oxbow	EMHR, Susquehanna Partnership, Fish on Boat Commission
Iroquois Trail	1.8 miles (One Way)	Tunkhannock TWP	Lehigh Valley RR Alignment	
Trolley Trail-Keystones to Factoryville Section	1.7 miles	Lackawanna (La Plume) Wyoming (Factoryville)	Northern Electric Railway Alignment	Countryside Conservancy
Seneca Trail		Eaton TWP	Auto/Cyclist Trail	
Viaduct Valley By-way	40 miles	Wyoming (Tunkhannock) To Susquehanna	Auto Trail Viaducts, Scenic Views	PA By-way
Gateway to the Endless Mountains Scenic By-way	38 miles	Wyoming County	Auto-Trail, Scenic Views	Route 6 alliance, PA By-Way

Susquehanna Water Trail- North Branch



Susquehanna River Trail- North Branch

Length: 38 miles

Surface Type: Water Trail

Trail head (Boat Access):

Designation: Pennsylvania Water Trail, National Water Trail

Partnerships: Susquehanna Greenway, Endless Mountains Heritage Region

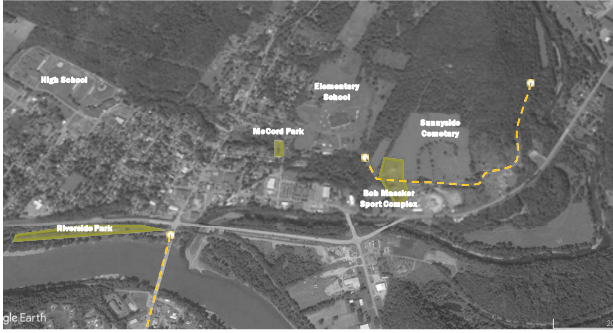
Background

The Susquehanna Water Trail- North Branch is a segment of trail along the Susquehanna Greenway. The water trail is within the Endless Mountain Heritage Region. The Susquehanna River Water Trail is a Pennsylvania State Water Trail and a National Water Trail.

The trail is managed through a partnership between Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and The Endless Mountain Heritage Region. EMHR serves as trail manager for the region, and appoints watershed stewards to different sections of trail. The steward's job is to maintain and address any issues along the trail.

Iroquois Trail

Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock



Background

A 1.5-mile trail- 3.6 miles round trip, aligned to a former Lehigh Valley Railroad. A good location for birding. The Trail is under the control of Wyoming County. In 2004 a master plan for the trail was created. The plan proposed numerous alternative routes which integrated the Alignment of an abandoned rail line to downtown Tunkhannock and along a unity right of way and Swale Brook to the high school.

Length: 3.6 Miles (Out and Back)
Organization: Wyoming County Commissioners
Surface: Crushed Stone, Compacted Earth, Grass
Trail-heads: Bob Massker Sports Complex, Behind Wyoming 91.1 Center
Alignment: Lehigh Valley Railroad Tunkhannock to Montrose

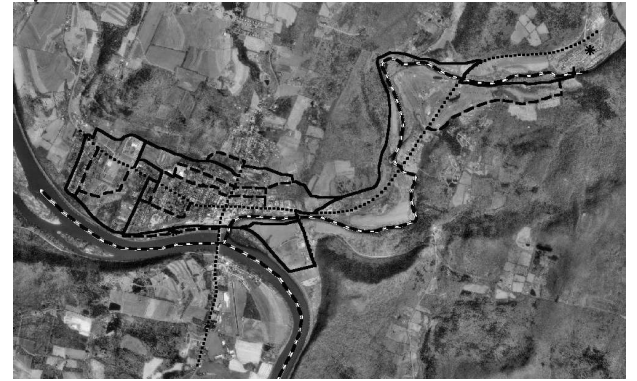
Site Visit Narrative

On numerous public input events members of the community expressed that the trail was not maintained, high grass around the sports complex and cemetery made users feel unsafe, along with concern for excessive trash along the trail. During our site visit we did not see these maintenance issues, however, it could be the case that the trail was visited shortly after maintenance was performed on the trail.

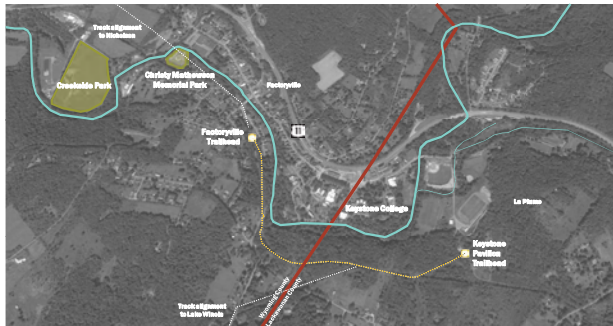
Improvements:

Increasing connectivity of trail to another destination. The image to the left is the end of the trail and where private property begins. Connectivity could be achieved through interpretive and way-finding signage throughout the downtown. It is a priority to collect the trail to Riverside park with close attention to safety at busy intersections. A pedestrian bridge from behind the hotel over Swale Brook could create a public private partnership and strengthen ties between business and the county

Proposed Routes From 2004 Master Plan



Trolley Trail



Trail Map (Above)



Background

Countryside Conservancy is the owner and operator of the Trolley Trail. The trail follows the alignment of the historic Northern Electric Railroad. In 1911, around the same time the trolley line was being extended from Factoryville, local boy Christy Mathewson was pitching for the NY Giants and help them claim the first of 3 consecutive national championships. This was an exiting time to be alive in Factoryville. The first extension was to Lake Winola in 1908/ from Factoryville the Trolley's second extension was to Nicholson in 1912. The train operated from 1907-1932.

In October of 2014, the trail opened its first segment, in November of 2020 another section was just completed. The trail is broken up into some sections but it is a goal of the conservancy to enhance connectivity of the trail, and project to utilize undeveloped sections of the trolley line to connect further along the abandoned rail line. During an interview with William Kern, Director of Trails, the most feasible connection to project is the section of Trolley line to Lake Winola, through the Conservancy owned Davis Crossing. Upon speaking with a supervisor in Nicholson we were informed that the town would be interested and excited by the trail extension along the northern alignment.

Length: 7 miles (within Wyoming) 1.7 Miles (Keystone to Factoryville)

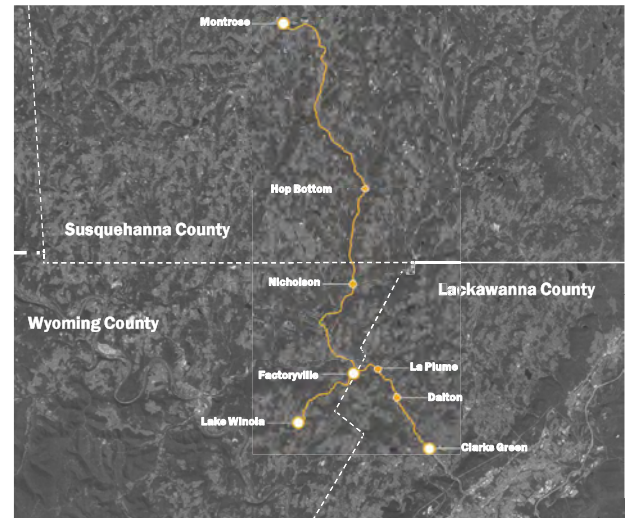
Organization: Countryside Conservancy

Surface: Crushed Stone

Trail Head: Downtown Factoryville, Keystone Pavilion

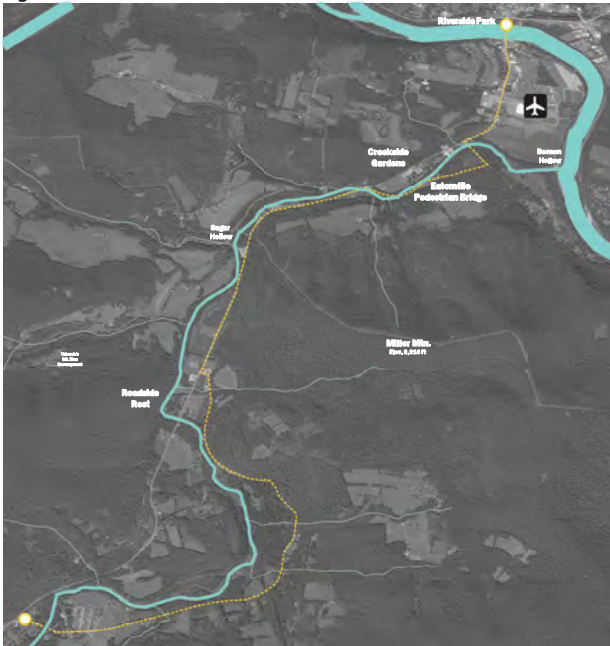
Alignment: Northern Electric Railway (49 miles total length of railway alignment)

Overview Tri-county Northern Electric Railway Alignment

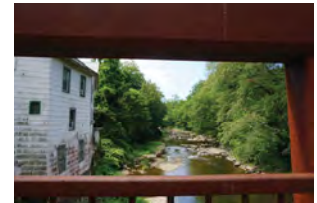


Seneca Trail

Alignment of Trail



Length: 7 miles
Organization: Eaton Township
Surface: Roadway
Trail Head: Riverside Park, Route 29
Alignment: Route 29, Keelersville Road, Jonka Road



Background

The Seneca Trail was completed in 2014.

Site Visit Narrative

The first sign for the trail is visible from Route 29 S. It was a challenge to see the second sign as the speed along 29 after driving around Keelersberg Rd increases. The Northern Tier Regional Plan expressed a need to complete the Keelersberg pedestrian bridge. After its completion it connects the unique historical road to Creekside Gardens, a truly unique juncture for the area.

By-ways and Bike Routes

Background

By-ways are an alternative route that have qualities that make a trip special. Qualities that distinguish by-ways include: Archaeological, cultural, natural, recreational, historic, or scientific. Wyoming County has four by-ways: The Vindict Valley By-Way and the Gateway to the Endless Mountains By-Way.

By-ways received distinction from the state By-ways program. Once a route gains the title, the opportunity to apply for federal funding opens. By-ways are managed by the department of transportation and receive funding through the federal government.

The Vindict Valley By-way: Follows Route 92 and 171, the 37.3 mile passage extends from Susquehanna County to Lanesboro (the 3rd Wyoming County), passing through Nicholson Borough and Township, Lemon Township, and Tunkhannock Township.

The Gateway to The Endless Mountains Scenic By-way: Route 6 through Downtown Tunkhannock.

Bike Route Y/ USBR 36: Pa Bike Route Y was designated in 2006. In 2018, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) designated the route as USBR 36, connecting cyclists from Ohio to Pennsylvania and New York. In 2017 a plan was created for section 1 of the route. The section of route in Wyoming County was not included in the report.

Local Trail Networks

Yosburg Neck: The Yosburg Neck is a unique feature along the Susquehanna river; a peninsular oxbow. Camp Lackawanna and Howland Nature preserve are entities with conservations easements through the north branch land trust. Both Locations have extensive trail networks that connect to each other.

Davis Crossing Preserve: 60 acres preserve located in Overfield township. The wetland and wooded condition make it an excellent location for wildlife viewing. The preserve is under the management of Countryside Conservancy.

Little Rocky Glen: Located on the North Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek the gorge waterfall preserve has trails that highlight the unique geology of the location. The preserve is under the management of Countryside Conservancy.

State Game lands 57: The game lands have both designated and undesignated trails at its perimeter and interior. Some designated trails are multi use and permit ATVs, snowmobiles, horses, etc.

Regional Connections

Regional Trails:

- ASTA Back Mountain Trail (Luzerne County)
- Lackawanna Heritage Valley Heritage Trail (Lackawanna County)
- Endless Mountains Riding Trail (Susquehanna County),
- Warrior Trail (Luzerne County)

Regional Trail Networks:

- Ricketts Glen (Luzerne County)
- Lackawanna State Park (Lackawanna County)
- Loyalsock State Forest (Sullivan County)
- Frances Slocum State Park (Luzerne County)
- State Game Lands 86 (Sullivan county)

Phase Percent Completion

A. Public Participation 70% Complete

Committee Meetings (3 of 5) 60%

Public Meetings (1 of 3) 33%

Special Events (2 of 2) 100%

Key Person Interviews (8+/8) 100%

Survey- Complete 100%

Municipal Meetings (0 of 5) 0%

Written Summary of Public Participation Process 75%

B. Review of Existing Background Data 100% Complete

Review of Background Data and Publications 100%

Natural Resources Mapping 100%

Man Made Resources Mapping 100%

C. Site Inventory & Needs Assessment 75% Complete

Field Study 100%

Needs Assessment 50%

D. Development of Network Plan 30% Complete

Network Strategy and Plan Formulation 30%

E. Narrative Plan Report 20% Complete

Develop a Prepared and Bound Report 20%

F. Mapping Greenway/ Open Space Network 25% Complete

Prepare Rendered Maps to Depict Network 25%

40% Completion Overall

Next Steps:

-Next Public Meeting (virtual)

-Presentation of Draft Connectivity Alternatives Plans

-Development of Draft Report

Email: pmcneil@mclaneassociates.com

Phone: (607) 316-9393

Wyoming County Greenway, Trails & Open Space Plan

Public Meeting #1

January 29, 2020, 911 Center

Presented By

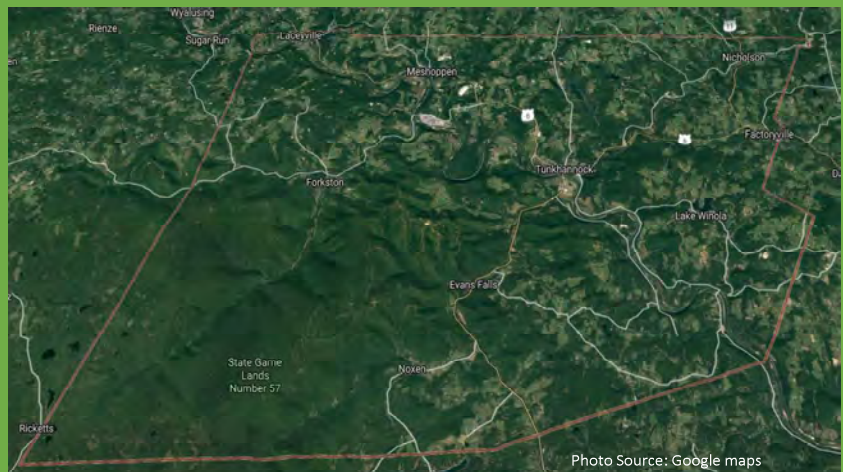
Patty McNeil of McLane Associates,
& Tony Bernardi of LaBella Associates

Definitions

Greenways

Trails

Open Space



Greenways

- “Greenways are corridors of open space that can connect people, parks, historic sites, and natural areas. They vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green to wide corridors encompassing unique landscapes.”

From PA DCNR (<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/GreenwaysPlanning/Pages/default.aspx>):

- **Connectors:** Trails, Scenic Roads, Streams, Rivers
- **Hubs:** SGL 57, Vosburg Neck, Lazybrook, Riverside Park, Main Streets
- **Nodes:** Libraries, High School, Churches, Historic Society
 - Node are places of interest that support or provide programming for greenways.



Photo Source: Wikipedia user Bjoertvedt, 2012

Trails

Greenway Connectors

- Linear corridors that host a range of activity, from hiking to biking, ATVing to horseback riding, and even driving (Scenic Route 6).



Photo Source: www.needpix.com

Water Trails

- Marked navigable waterways such as rivers, streams and canals.
- Water trails provide access points for non-motorized and in some cases motorized boats.
- Water trails also provide stopping points for trail users to rest or recreate.



River access at the Vosburg Neck in Washington Township

Open Space

Greenway Hubs

From EPA (<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/openspace.html>):

- “Any open piece of land that is undeveloped and accessible to the public. Open space can include green spaces such as parks, community gardens and cemeteries, schoolyards, playgrounds, public seating areas, plazas, and vacant lots.”
- Open space in Wyoming County can also be defined as preserving rural character including farmlands, woodlands, meadows.



Photo Source: Wikipedia user Jakec, 2016

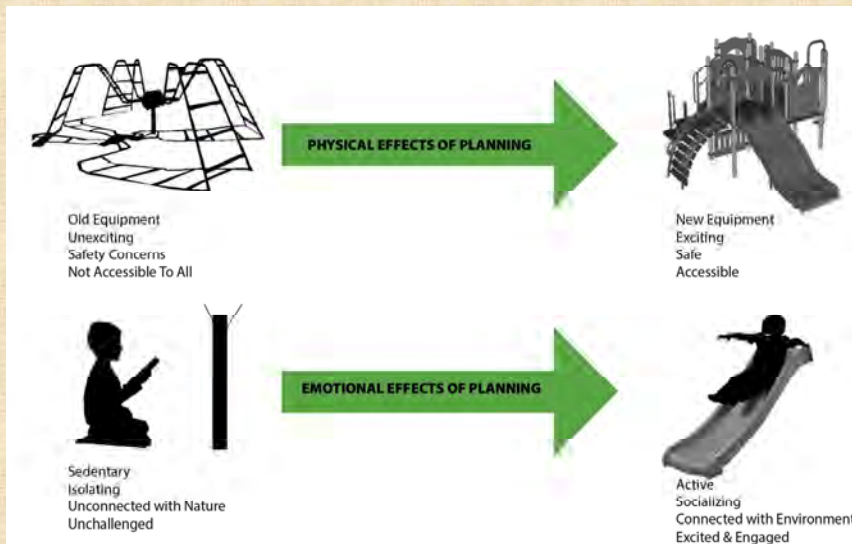
NICHOLSON BRIDGE, NICHOLSON, PA.

Purpose of Plan

- Meet current and future recreational needs of Wyoming County
- Improve and expand existing recreation opportunities and facilities
- Promote tourism and recreation based economic development
- To promote healthy lifestyles
- Utilize existing county assets to expand public access to resources for recreation
- Natural resources are the most valuable asset to the county, capitalizing on assets to benefit people and promote conservation.

ALONG LACKAWANNA TRAIL

Effects of Good Planning



How a Community Transforms:

- Park infrastructure improvements
- Trail Amenities
- Connected Places
- New business from increased tourism

How Residents Transform:

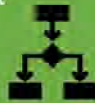
- Healthy/Happy Lifestyles
- Engaged Citizenry
- Children experience more positive relationship to community
- Preserving public opinion of rural and scenic character

The Process

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Site Inventory & Needs Assessment



Public Participation



Wyoming County Greenways, Trails and Open Space Plan



Development of Greenway/
Open Space Network

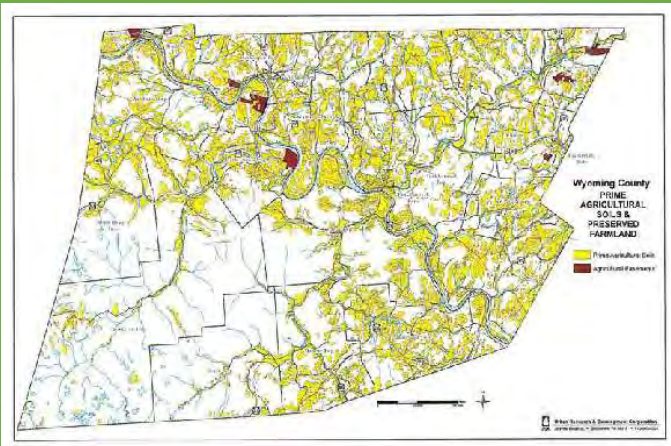


Narrative Plan Report



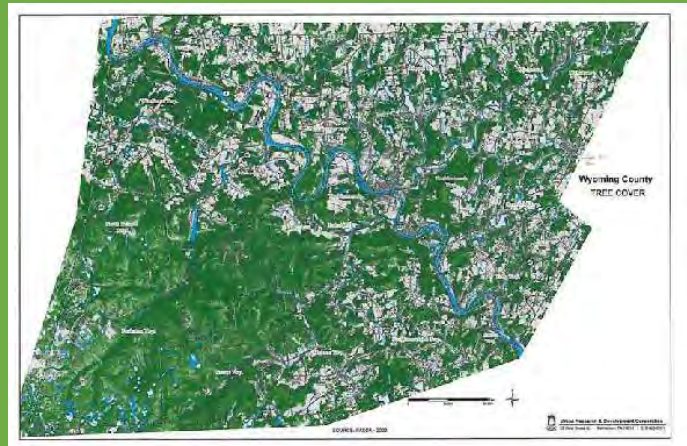
Mapping

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Prime Farmland

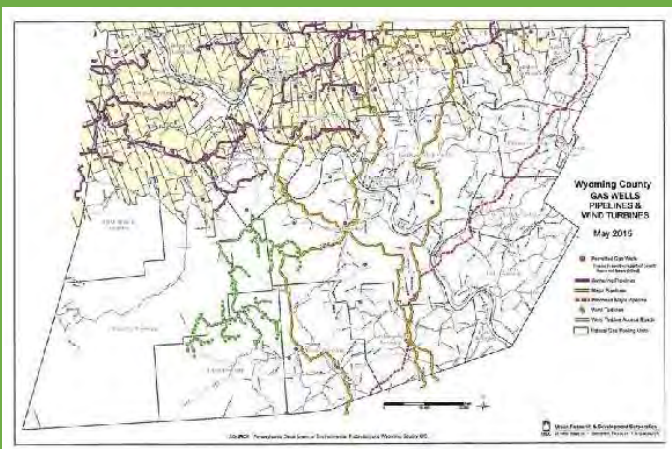
- High-quality agricultural soils
- Existing agricultural lands
- Conservation easements for agriculture



Tree Cover

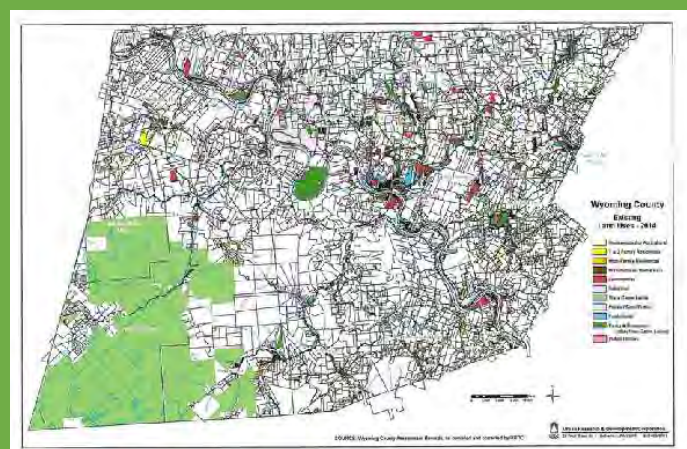
- Primarily in the State Game Lands
- Vast majority of county land cover
- Most of unsuitable development areas covered

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Energy Industry

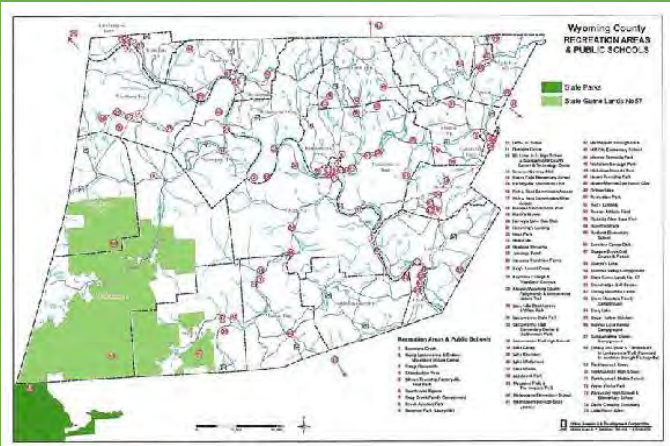
- Rapidly growing gas industry
- Major impacts on existing land
- Large economic drivers for Wyoming County



Existing Land Use

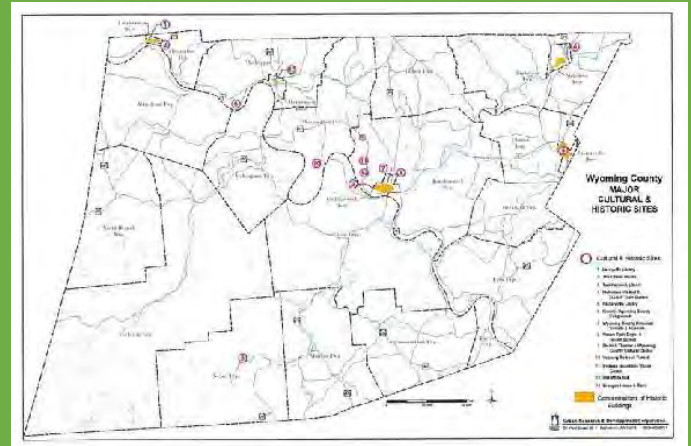
- Residential development growth
- SGL is the largest public outdoor space
- Primarily along Susquehanna River and Route 6

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Recreation Areas & Public Schools

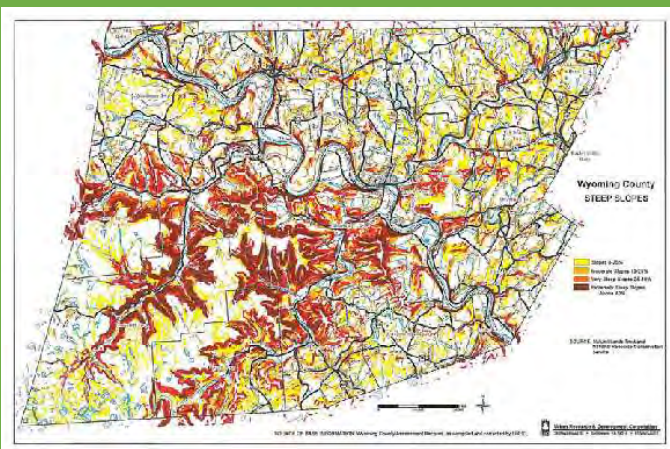
- Schools are consolidating
- Few major recreation areas, many smaller local spots
- Water is a primary recreation feature



Cultural & Historic Sites

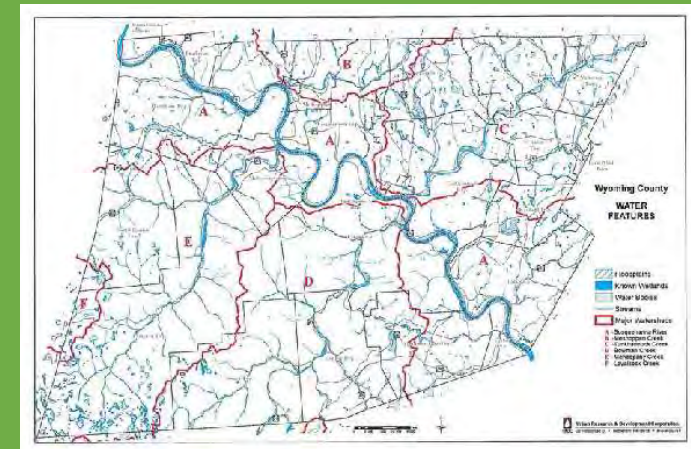
- Historic areas along the Susquehanna River
- Concentrated in population centers
- “True character” of Wyoming County

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Steep Slopes

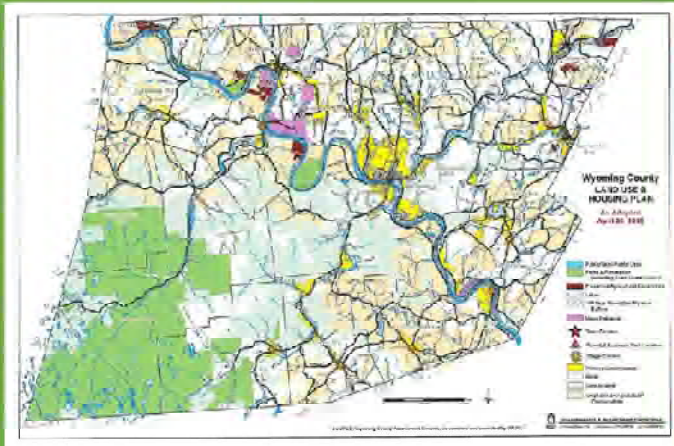
- Limit development and usage
- Preserve unique landscape features
- Can be a barrier or a corridor



Water Features

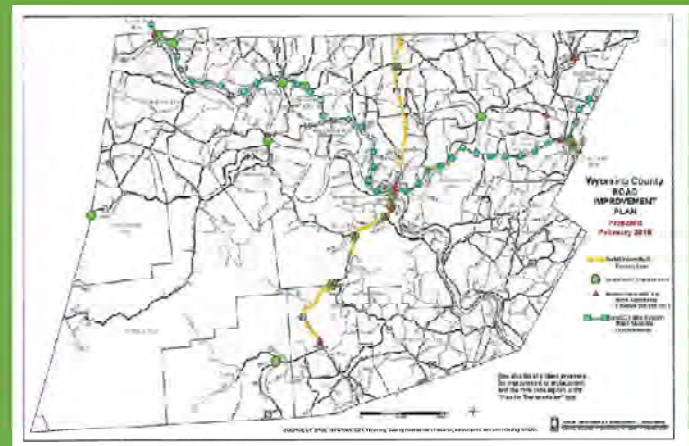
- Floodplains and wetlands
- Susquehanna River Trail
- High-Quality and Exceptional Value Streams

Compilation and Review of Existing Background Data



Land Use & Housing Plan

- Focus and direct growth
- Preserve unique elements in Wyoming County
- Expand conservation of agricultural lands



Road Improvement Plan

- Plan for expanded usage
- Increase connections along Routes 6 & 92
- Focus on safety improvements

Public Participation



• Special Events

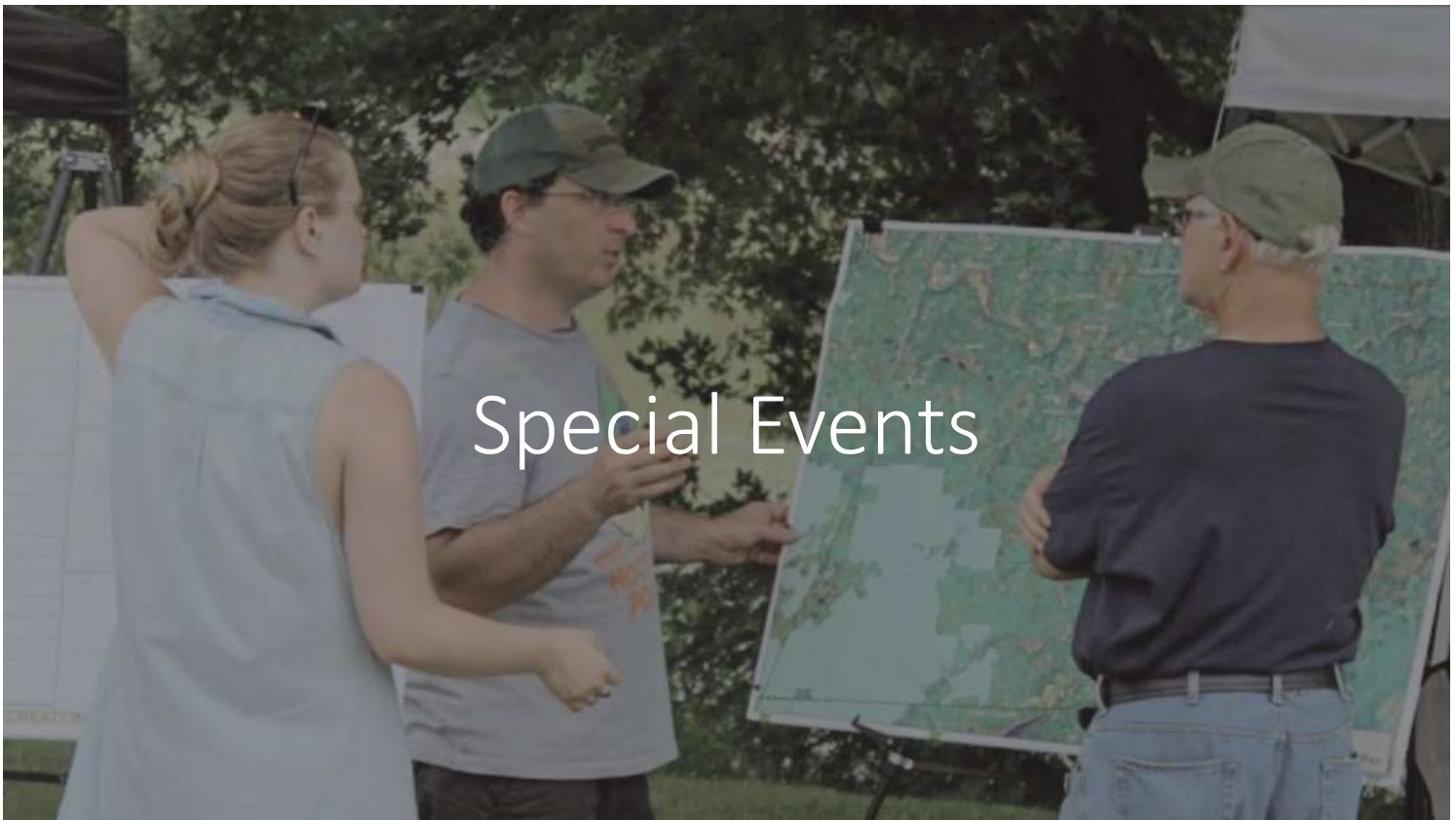
- 1. River Day, Riverside Park, Tunkhannock
- 2. 107th Convention of Supervisors Association Annual Event

• Steering Committee

- Advisory role, suggestions, key recreation and conservation minded organization/ businesses individuals

• Key Person Interviews

- **Open Space:** Vosburg Neck(North Branch Land Trust, Friends of Howland, Endless Mountains Nature Center)
- **Trails:** Trolley Trail, Iroquois Trail (Countryside Conservancy, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Endless Mountains, Avid Hiker)
- **Greenways:** Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



Special Events

Special Events



107th Convention of Supervisors:

Triton Firehall, Tunkhannock

Specialized questionnaire for municipal officials.

River Day:

Tunkhannock, Riverside Park, Susquehanna River

Interactive mapping:

Where are you from?

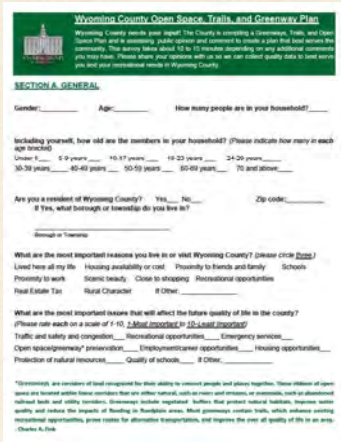
What are your special places?

Good feedback, some residence helped us locate some unique key parcels and locations

The people we spoke to cared about recreation, have concerns about maintenance and the level of community involvement required to enact a plan.

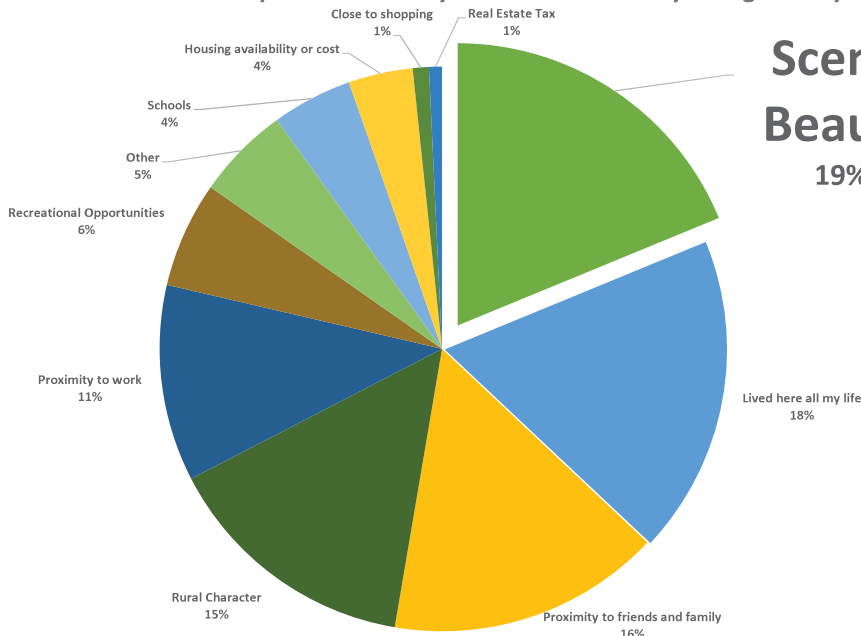
Positive interactions, some representatives without certain amenities such as trails are interested in the possibility of connecting their communities to existing trails.

Surveys



- The Public Survey- available digitally and paper copies.
- Opened to public beginning of October 2019
- **243** responses as of 12/16/2019, will remain open 1 more week after this public meeting
- Wide range of information received
- Distributed QR code for easy public involvement
- Informs our Needs Assessment
- **Survey will close on February 7, 2020 to complete Needs Analysis.**

What is the most important reason you live in or visit Wyoming County?



Scenic Beauty
19%

QR CODE:



Please leave your e-mail with us for the link to the survey if you have yet to complete it.

- Scenic Beauty
- Lived here all my life
- Proximity to friends and family
- Rural Character
- Proximity to work
- Recreational Opportunities
- Other
- Schools
- Housing availability or cost
- Close to shopping
- Real Estate Tax

Key Person Interviews

- Vosberg Neck
 - Endless Mountains Nature Center
 - North Branch Land Trust
 - Friends Of Howland
- Trails Experts
 - Countryside Conservancy
 - Endless Mountains Heritage Region
 - Local Game Lands Trail Expert
- Greenway Advocate
 - Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
- Wyoming County Conservation District
 - Agricultural Conservation Easements
 - Agricultural Security Zones
 - Dirt and Gravel Roads



Howland Nature Preserve

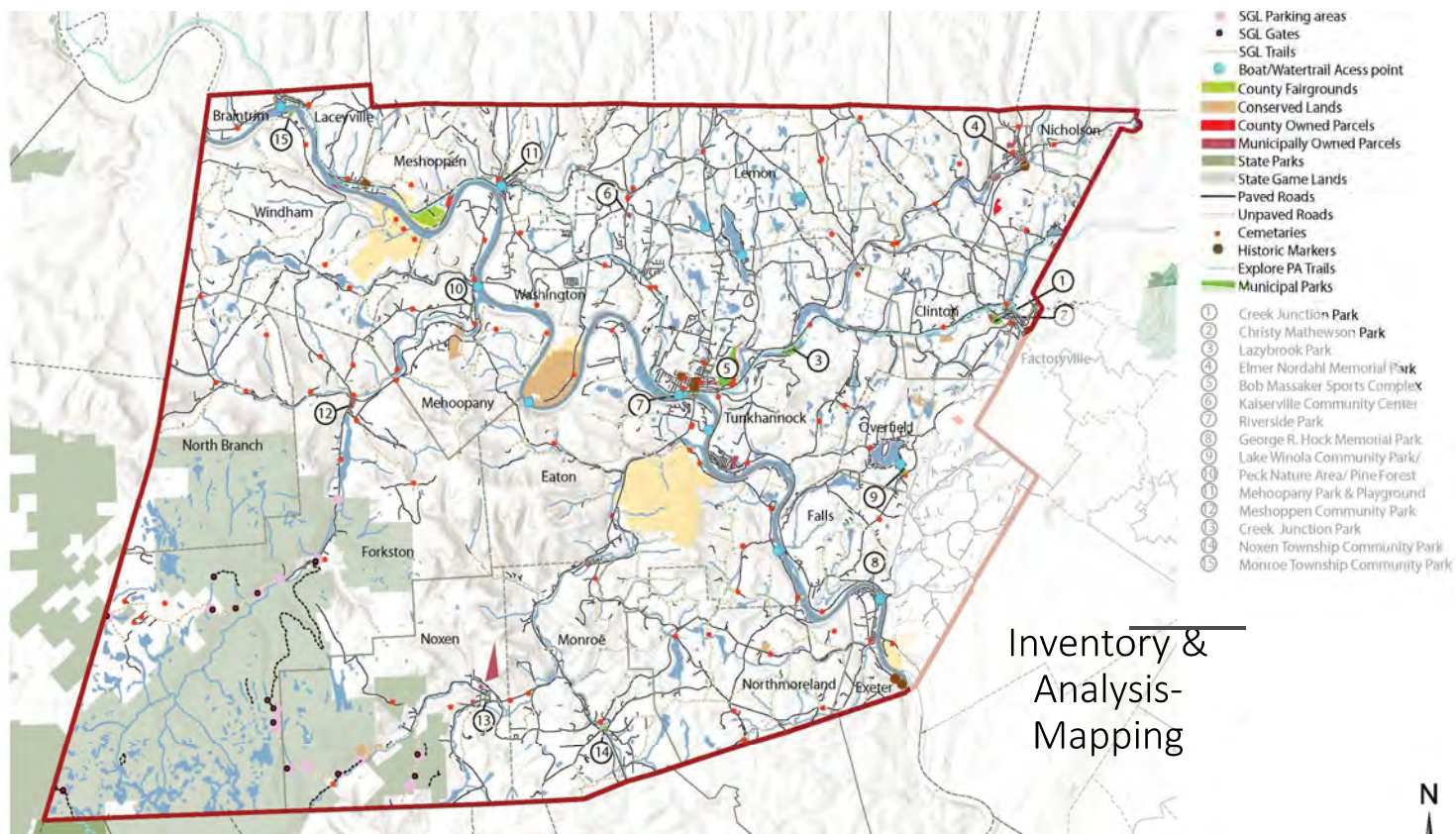
Trails



Iroquois Trail



Trolley Trail





Workshop Topics

Conservation:

What Natural, Cultural, Historic Resources are most important to you?

Examples: significant woodlands, meadows, water bodies, unique structures, historic places.

Where are your favorite places, What is special about them?

What areas worthy of conservation are at risk?

Connections:

What places do you routinely visit? for outdoor activities? Entertainment?

Examples: physical activities, entertainment, rest & relaxation, hobbies, pastimes, places of worship, socializing

Wyoming County Public Meeting 1- Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2020, 7 pm, Wyoming County 911 Center

Tunkhannock, PA

Attendance: Ed Coleman, Stacy Huber, Roger Hadsall, Erica Rogler, Christine Dettore, Cain Chamberlin, Gina Suydam, Rebecca Lesko, Jeff Mitchell, Hoyt Keiser, Gary VanVranken, Brook Williams, Ben Freda, Randy White, Bridget, White, Tom Henry, Mathew Austin, Rick Hiduk, Phil Urine, Ryan Bogedin. Consultant team: Thomas McLane Associates: Tom McLane, Patty McNeil, Bill Pilkonis

Topics:

Introduction- Introduction to Agenda by Tom McLane

Presentation- Introduction to presentation by Patty McNeil. The presentation began with definitions and goals of the plan, followed by what can be expected of good planning and an overview of the planning process.

Bill Pilkonis introduced the scope of past planning documents and gave an overview of the mapping included in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, followed by a mapping analysis that relates to the current Greenway Trails and Open Space Plan. The maps overviewed major routes, trails, water resources, and key scenic features.

Following the overview of the county, Patty introduced the strategies used to gain public input. Through public events, key person interviews, a steering committee, a public survey, and public meetings the consultant team hopes to gain meaningful and knowledgeable input from residents of the county. It was announced that the public survey will be closed by February 7, 2020. Paper copies and a QR code to the digital survey were also made available at the meeting for individuals to complete and return.

Workshop and Public Input- The meeting was called to gain input from the public. The steering committee was also invited to engage with the public in the interactive process. At the end of the presentation two maps were displayed. One highlighting conserved and protected lands and the second an inventory of amenities and key features in the county. The presenters generated some questions for the public to consider to ultimately find out from the public what is important to them. The room was divided into two groups and one of each map was provided for each group.

Workshop Results- The workshop was very successful and offered a wide variety of information from the public. From safety issues regarding running and specific intersections, to locations for birding, vistas, and waterfalls. We learned of locations that are slotted for conservation in the future as well as some locations that we missed.

Next Steps- The consultants have taken the information and including it in their public participation report as well as directing the information towards developing a cohesive plan. The next public meeting will happen at the end of spring and will include a draft of the plan.

The notes taken above are the recollection of the note taker, should these minutes contain any omissions or air please contact the note taker to revise these accounts.

Wyoming County Greenway Plan

What is a Greenway?

“Greenways are corridors of open space that can connect people, parks, historic sites, and natural areas. They vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green to wide corridors encompassing unique landscapes.”
-PA DCNR



Open Space

“Any open piece of land that is undeveloped and accessible to the public. Open space can include green spaces such as parks, community gardens and cemeteries, schoolyards, playgrounds, public seating areas, plazas, and vacant lots.”
-EPA

Parks

Regional Parks

Larger parks with extensive amenities and programming. Service Wyoming County and beyond

Community Parks

Parks that serve the township or municipality that they are located

Sports Complexes

Locations that have sports fields and courts and corresponding programming

Pocket Parks

Small Parks that service communities, simple amenities

Trails

Linear corridors that host a range of activity, from hiking to biking, ATVing to horseback riding, and even driving (Scenic Route 6).

Water Trails

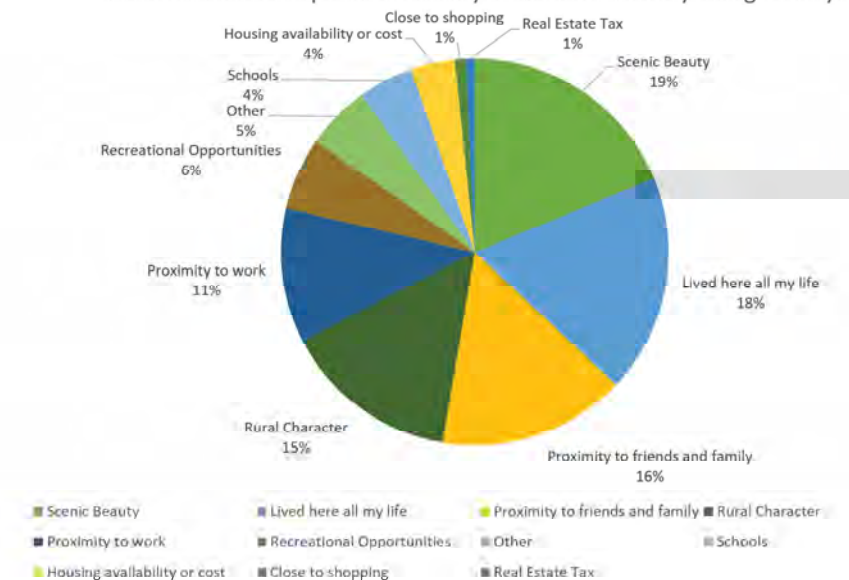
Provide access points for non-motorized and in some cases motorized boats, and are marked navigable waterways such as rivers, streams and canals. Water trails also provide stopping points for trail users to rest or recreate.

Inventory of Plan Components



Public Survey

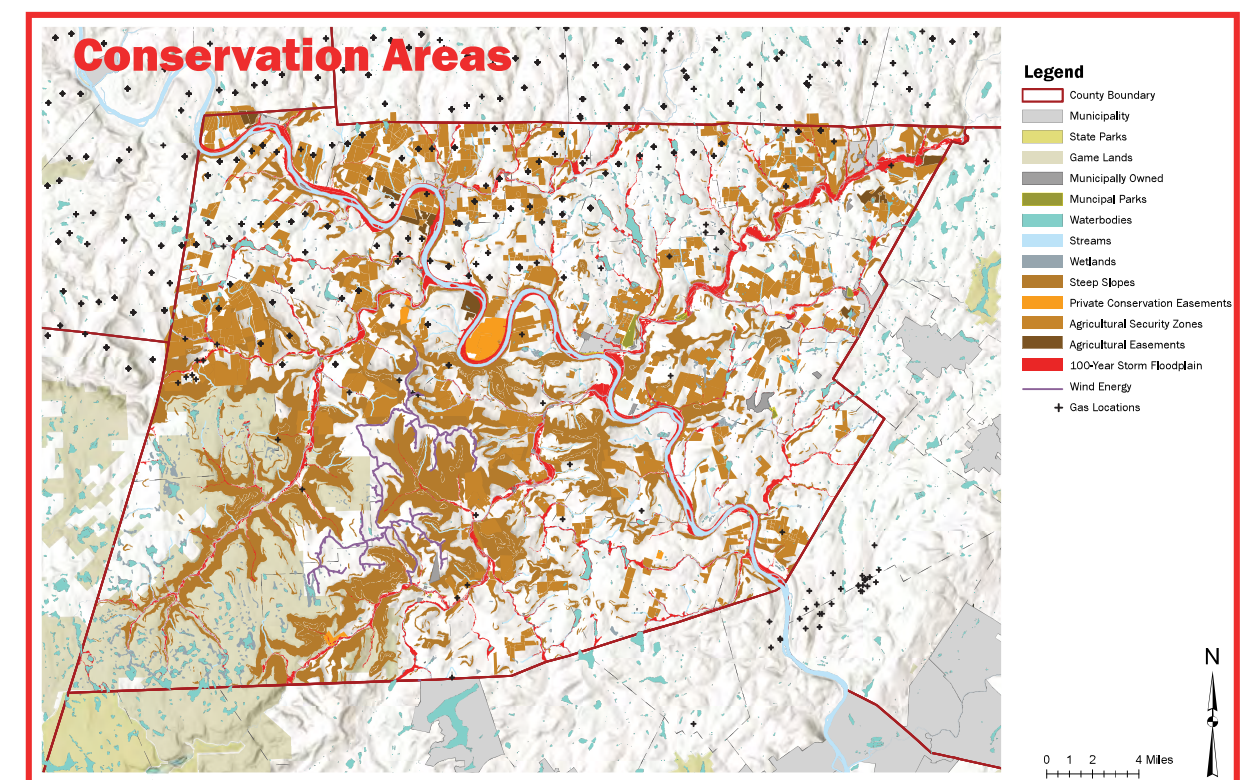
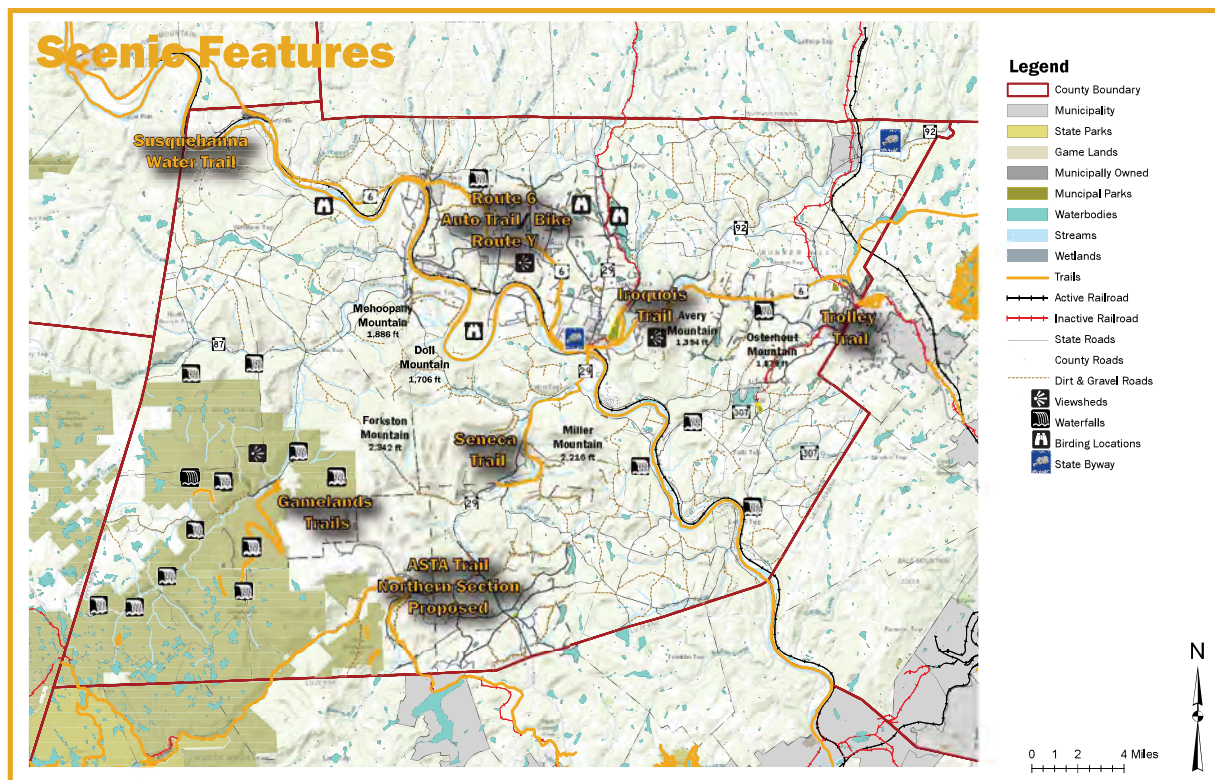
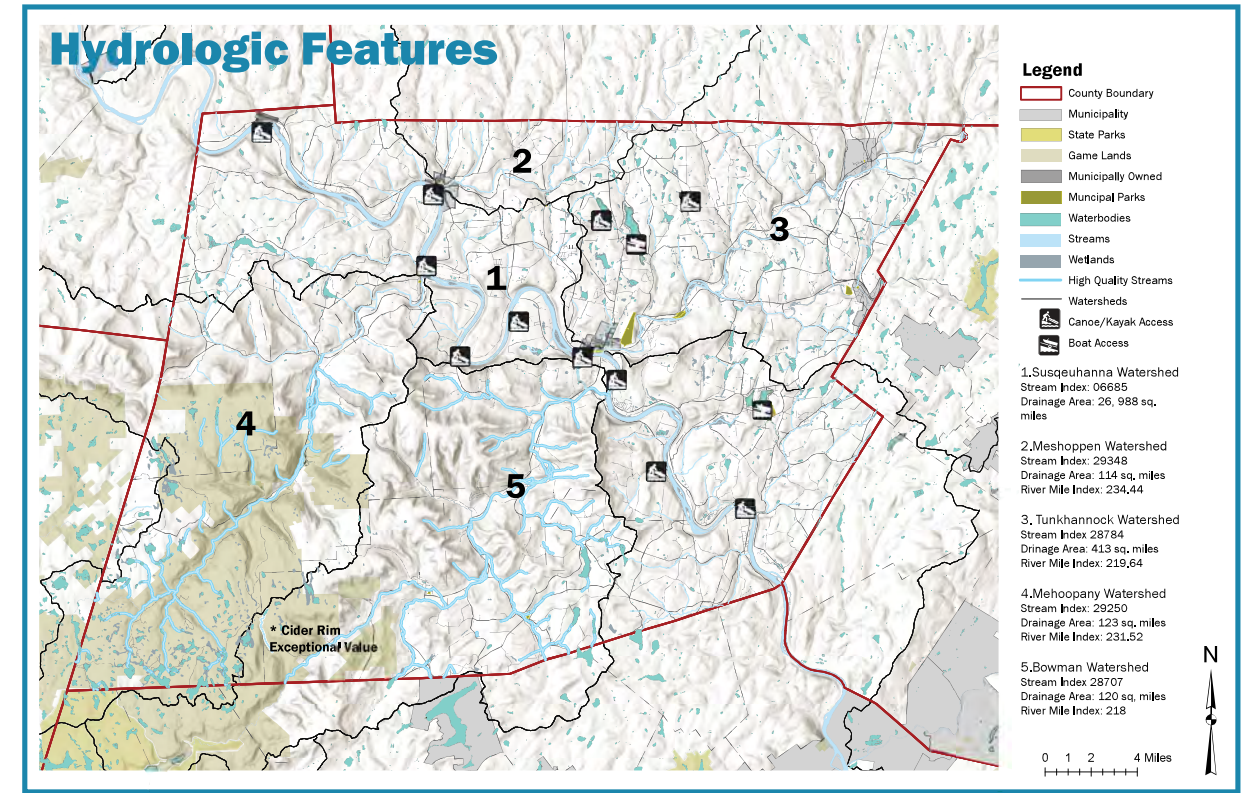
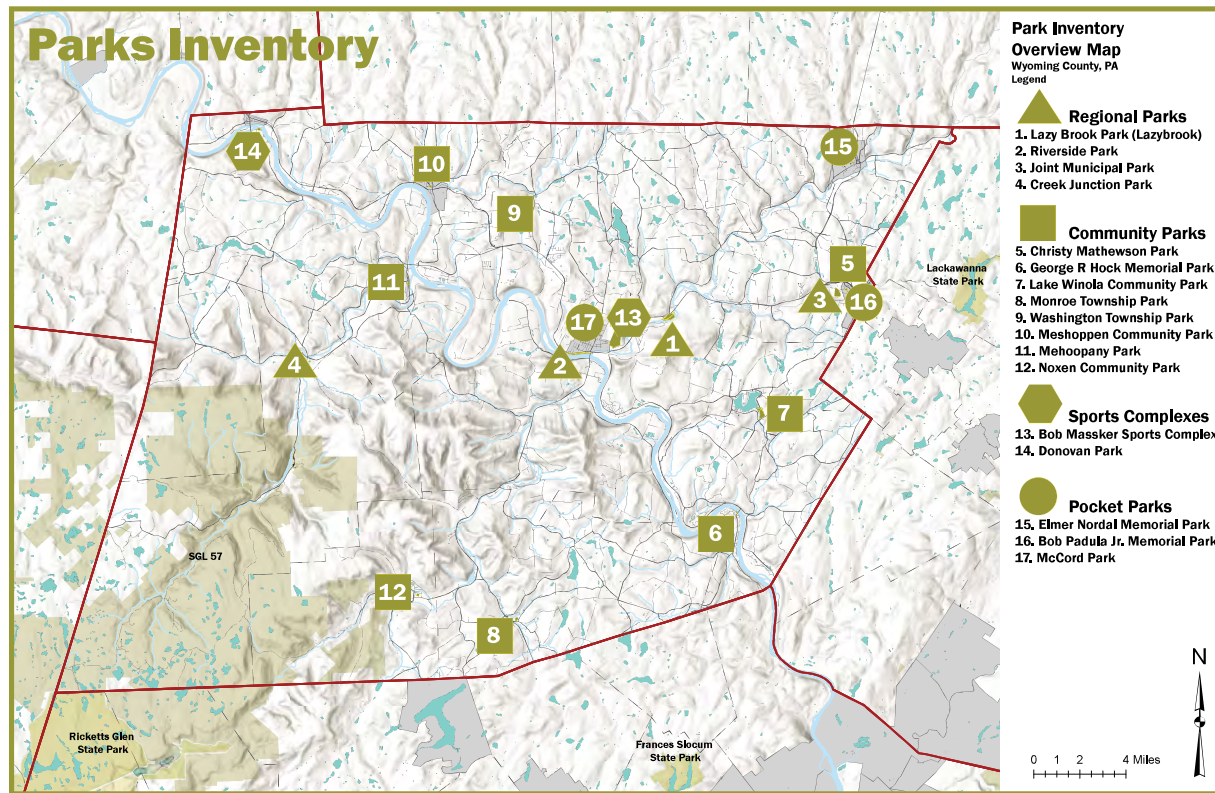
What is the most important reason you live in or visit Wyoming County?



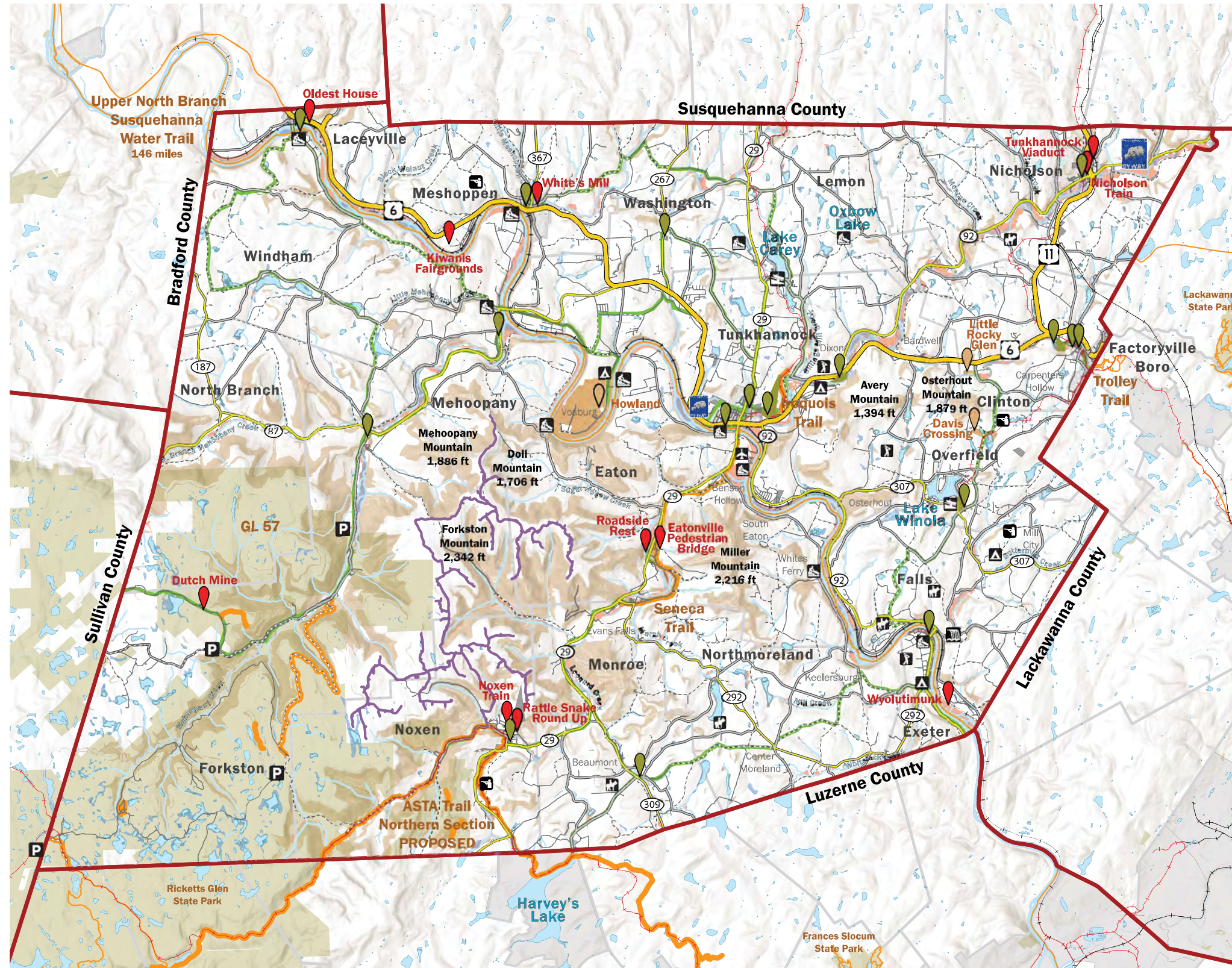
Process, Goals, Collaboration



Mapping Overview



Composite Greenway Trails, and Open Space Plan Map



Legend

- Points of Interest
- Municipal Parks
- Public Access Conservation Area
- County Boundary
- Municipality
- State Parks
- Game Lands
- Municipally Owned
- Waterbodies
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Active Railroad
- Inactive Railroad
- Wind Energy
- State Roads
- County Roads
- Dirt & Gravel Roads
- State Byway
- Bike Route Y
- Viewsheds
- Waterfalls
- Birding Locations
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Boat Launch
- Camping
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Equestrian Centers
- Golfing
- Hunting Sports
- Airport

0 1 2 4 Miles

N

Wyoming County Public Meeting 2- Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Place, Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock, PA 1:00 April 24, 2021

Topics:

The consultant presented a body of work that the consultant team has prepared since the last public meeting. Items included project scope and process, mapping of existing and proposed features and well as goals for the plan.

After the presentation portion was an open discussion. The public is still excited about the potential of the plan generating new residence and tourism, a growth that has already been observed due to the pandemic. One attendant stressed the importance of inclusion and acceptance for new residence in the county, and it was discussed that increasing outdoor opportunities could be one way to achieve that.

Another person in attendance brought up the possibility of new features in parks like Riverside. Riverside specifically was discussed in depth during the meeting. People felt that the park has a lot of potential but needs attention. Specific topics included, repairing old interpretive signage, greater connectivity to the borough, more activities besides walking and waterfront activities. It was discussed that some signage is already being inventoried and repaired. One conclusion was that the park could use a master plan, instead of generating new features in parts, to create a cohesive space for the borough.

Another topic discussed in depth was the inclusion of Native and historical narratives within the county, and how to best portray the County's rich and significant historical past. Topics included wayfinding and signage, existing signage that may need updating to reflect current perspectives on events such as Sullivan's March.



Wyoming County Open Space, Trails, and Greenway Plan

Wyoming County needs your input! The County is compiling a Greenways, Trails, and Open Space Plan and is assessing public opinion and comment to create a plan that best serves the community. This survey takes about 10 to 15 minutes depending on any additional comments you may have. Please share your opinions with us so we can collect quality data to best serve you and your recreational needs in Wyoming County.

SECTION A. GENERAL

Gender: _____ **Age:** _____ **How many people are in your household?** _____

Including yourself, how old are the members in your household? *(Please indicate how many in each age bracket)*

Under 5 ___ 5-9 years ___ 10-17 years ___ 18-23 years ___ 24-29 years ___
30-39 years ___ 40-49 years ___ 50-59 years ___ 60-69 years ___ 70 and above ___

Are you a resident of Wyoming County? Yes ___ No ___ **Zip code:** _____
If Yes, what borough or township do you live in?

Borough or Township

What are the most important reasons you live in or visit Wyoming County? *(please circle three.)*

Lived here all my life Housing availability or cost Proximity to friends and family Schools
Proximity to work Scenic beauty Close to shopping Recreational opportunities
Real Estate Tax Rural Character If Other, _____

What are the most important issues that will affect the future quality of life in the county?

(Please rate each on a scale of 1-10, 1-Most Important to 10-Least Important)

Traffic and safety and congestion ___ Recreational opportunities ___ Emergency services ___
Open space/greenway* preservation ___ Employment/career opportunities ___ Housing opportunities ___
Protection of natural resources ___ Quality of schools ___ If Other, _____

***Greenways are corridors of land recognized for their ability to connect people and places together. These ribbons of open space are located within linear corridors that are either natural, such as rivers and streams, or manmade, such as abandoned railroad beds and utility corridors. Greenways include vegetated buffers that protect natural habitats, improve water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding in floodplain areas. Most greenways contain trails, which enhance existing recreational opportunities, prove routes for alternative transportation, and improve the over all quality of life in an area.**

- Charles A. Fink

SECTION B. RECREATION

What activities do you or would you support in Wyoming County? *(please circle all that apply.)*

Pet walking	X/C skiing/snowshoeing	Jogging	Walking/hiking
Cycling	Wildlife Watching	Fishing	Camping
Shopping	Boating/Kayaking	Equestrian	Organized Sports
Snowmobiling	ATVing	Downhill Skiing	Other _____

How frequently do you participate in outdoor recreational activities in Wyoming County?

(please circle one.)

Daily	1-2 times a week	3-5 times a week	Once a month
A couple times a month	A few times a year	Never	

When engaging in a given activity, how much time do you spend outside? *(please circle one.)*

Less than 30 minutes	30 minutes to 1 hour	1 to 2 hours	More than 2 hours	None
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What amenities are important to you while participating in outdoor activities?

*(Please rate **each** on a scale of 1-10, 1-Most Important to 10-Least Important)*

Food/Drink _____	Clean Restrooms _____	Lodging _____	Shops _____
Ample Parking _____	Maintained Trails _____	Clear signage _____	Pet Area _____
Sufficient Lighting/Security _____	Breweries/Wineries _____	Trash Receptacles _____	Picnic Area _____
If Other, _____			

How strongly do you favor the following public and private facilities?

*(Please rate **each** on a scale of 1-10, 1-Most Important to 10-Least Important)*

Bike paths _____	Public Fishing Areas _____	ATV Trails _____	Hiking Trails _____	Designated Camping _____
Snowmobiling Trail _____	Public Boating/Canoe/Kayaking Access _____	Downtown Sidewalks _____		
Parks _____	Equestrian Trails _____	Athletic Fields/Complexes _____	Playgrounds _____	
If Other, _____				

Please list the top three outdoor locations within Wyoming county that you visit (designated or un-designated). If possible, please be specific. *(EX. State Game Land 057 via Windy Valley Rd access point)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SECTION C. RURAL, OPEN SPACE/ DEVELOPMENT

How important to you is open space preservation in Wyoming County? *(please circle one.)*

Very important Important Somewhat important Neutral Not important

What kind of local economic growth would you like to see in Wyoming County?

(Please rate each on a scale of 1-10, 1-Most Important to 10-Least Important)

Tourism____ Recreation Businesses _____Private/resort ____ Light Commercial ____
Institutional____ Cottage Food Industries____ Resource Development____ If Other, _____

Greenways can connect people to their surroundings. How important do you consider the following potential Wyoming County Greenway destinations?

(Please rate each on a scale of 1-10, 1-Most Important to 10-Least Important)

Community Library____ Schools____ Village Centers & Commercial _____
Tourist Destinations & Services____ Local and Neighborhood Parks ____
Entertainment____ Campgrounds____ Conservation/ Preservation____ Gamelands__
If Other, _____

Are there any other comments you have? *(Please write on back of page if needed.)*

Interested in volunteering?

Please leave your e-mail or reply to the email listed below.

Please mail or fax to:

WYOMING COUNTY GREENWAY PLAN SURVEY
601 Stafford Ave, Scranton, PA 18505
FAX 570-341-5413

Or email to:

pmcneil@mclaneassociates.com

Or scan the QR code:



Thank you for your participation!

Q 1

Gender Answer	Total
Male	66
Female	175
Other	2

Q2

Age Range	Total
18-30	25
31-40	74
41-50	61
51-60	40
60+	39

Q3

How many people are in your household Number	Total
1	25
2	73
3	48
4	52
5	20
6	16
7	3
8	1

Q4

Including yourself, how old are the members in your household? (Please indicate how many in each age bracket) Range	Total
under 5	50
5-9	29
10-17	40
18-23	18
24-29	4
30-39	14
40-49	18
50-59	14
60-69	72
70+	11

Q5

Are you a resident of Wyoming County? Answer	Total
Yes	199
No	43

Q 7

What is the most important reason you live in or visit Wyoming County? Answer	Total
Lived here all my life	99
Housing availability or cost	20
Proximity to friends and family	85
Schools	25
Proximity to work	61
Scenic Beauty	102
Close to shopping	5
Recreational Opportunities	33
Real Estate Tax	4
Rural Character	80
Other	29

Q 8

What are the most important issues that will effect the future quality of life in the county Answer	Total
Other	23
Emergency Services	44
Housing opportunities	50
Quality of schools	103
Traffic and safety and congestion	118
Open space/greenway preservation	131
Recreational opportunities	140
Protection of natural resources	155
Employment/ career opportunities	162

Q 9

What Activities do you or would you support in Wyoming County? Answer	Total
Other	27
Downhill Skiing	54
Equestrian	69
X/C skiing/ snowshoeing	76
ATVing	84
Organized sports	108
Wildlife watching	136
Camping	154
Fishing/ Hunting	156
Boating/ Kayaking	172
Walking/ hiking/ Jogging	198
Pet Walking	135
Cycling	126
Shopping	143
Snowmobiling	56

Q 10

How frequently do you participate in outdoor recreational activities? Answer	Total
never	2
a few times a year	9
once a month	14
daily	32
a couple times a month	33
3-5 times a week	74
1-2 times a week	77

Q 11

When engaging in a given activity, how much time to you spend outside?

Answer	Total
none	0
Less than 30 minutes	1
more than 2 hours	74
30 minutes to 1 hour	75
1-2 hours	90

Q 15

How Important to you is open space preservation in Wyoming County?

Answer	Total
Neutral	2
Not Important	3
Somewhat Important	25
Important	73
Very Important	138

Q 12

What Amenities are important to you while participating in outdoor activities? (Please choose up to 5)

Answer	Total
Other	7
Lodging	11
Shops	21
Breweries/ Wineries	30
Picnic Areas	58
Food / Drink	71
Pet Areas	71
Trahs Receptacles	86
Clear Signage	88
Ample Parking	116
Sufficient Lighting/ Security	125
Clean Restrooms	149
Maintained Trails	167

Q 16

What kind of Local Economic Growth would you like to see in Wyoming County

Answer	Total
Institutional	13
Other	24
Private/resort	46
Resource Development	57
Cottage Food Industries	61
Light commercial	64
Tourism	129
Recreation Buisnesses	155

Q 13

What of the following public and private facilities do you favor the most (Please choose 5)

Answer	Total
Equestrian Trails	10
Snowmobiling Trails	11
Other	12
ATV Trails	41
Designated Camping	60
Athletic Fields/ Complexes	73
Public Fishing Areas	76
Downtown Sidewalks	93
Bike Paths	97
Playground	101
Public Boating/ Canoe/ Kayaking Access	103
Parks	158
Hiking Trails	178

Q17

Greenways can connect people to their surroundings. From the list below what do you consider the most important potential Wyoming County Greenway destinations? (Please select up to 3)

Answer	Total
Community Library	32
Tourist Destinations & Services	58
Entertainment	54
Schools	55
Local and Neighborhood Parks	170
Campgrounds	42
Conservation/ Preservation Areas	125
Gamelands	60
Village Centers & Commercial	47
Other	6

Q 14

List favorite places (Top 8)

Answer	Total
Little Rockey Glenn	14
SGL 57	20
Countryside Conservancy Trails	23
Vosburg Neck	24
River (GENERAL)	24
Iroquois Trail	30
Riverside Park	47
Lazybrook Park	101

Key Person Interviews Notes

Greenway Interviews

October 3, 2019

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Corey Ellison, Executive Director

The goal of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is to connect communities to the river and in turn connect communities to one another. They assist in coordinating this effort through designating towns located along the Susquehanna Greenway as Rivertown's. To become a River Town a municipality must first create an action team and then pass a municipal resolution. The community must continue their involvement with river related outreach through two public annual events to remain a designated River Town. River towns in Wyoming County include Tunkhannock, Falls, and Exeter. Ellison Explained that currently the Rivertown Program is being reimagined to expand the growth of the greenway and its future.

January 29, 2020

Wyoming County Conservation District

Doug Deutsch, Rachael Marques, Bernie Scalzo

The Conservation District is the local contact for meeting the public needs in issues related to conservation of soil, water and resources related to it. As a regulatory permitting agency, they authorize permits for various development projects. They also administer a variety of programs that relate to maintaining Wyoming County's rural character.

The Farmland Preservation Program is an agriculture conservation Easements program and provides working farmland owners of over 50 acres an opportunity to protect their land. The conservation district has fund that for a one-time purchase buy the rights to develop from the property owner. This means that the land is protected from any future development for eternity. There are 8 farms in Wyoming county that have agriculture easements.

The process is extensive to make this transfer and takes a lot of time. The Conservation District currently has one farm undergoing the process. It is also expensive. Though the property owner is given a one time buy out, the conservation district needs to pay for the development rights by the acre. The team from the Conservation District also said that there are 15 farms currently waiting for their opportunity to sell off their development rights through the Farmland Preservation Program. The statewide program was enacted in 1988 though Act 149. In 1993 two percent of cigarette tax was set aside as funding for easement purchases. The program has used 1.7 million dollars to purchase easements though the course of program.

Wyoming County has an extensive network of dirt and gravel roads. Through the State Conservation Commission and collaboration with local municipalities the District encourages municipalities to implement environmentally sound maintenance strategies on dirt and gravel roads.

Open Space Interviews

November 7, 2019

The Vosberg Neck is a significant geologic wonder along the North Branch Susquehanna River. The 669 acres of land known as the Howland Property hosts non-profit Howland Preserve, a parcel gifted to the North Branch Land Trust and maintained by Friends of Howland. Later the Lackawanna Presbyterians collaborated with North Branch Land Trust, creating a separate conservation easement for the 288-acre Camp Lackawanna, totaling in 1000 acres of trails and open space located in the center of Wyoming County. The Endless Mountain Nature Center was also Located at the Vosberg Neck on Camp Lackawanna's Campus until the Fall of 2019.

On November 7, 2019 the consultant interviewed key individuals from Howland Nature Preserve, The Endless Mountain Nature Center, and North Branch Land Trust, in individual hour-long interviews. We asked

questions to each entity individual to examine the strengths each group offers, in order to devise a strategy to make recommendations for The Neck in its entirety.

The question below are a guide which helped facilitate informative conversation between the consultant and the Key Interviewee. Specific questions may have been asked to certain individuals and not others because of relevancy to the individual/organization, and the direction of the conversation. Most importantly, the consultant sought to understand what was most important to each organization.

The organizational structure at the Neck is layered. NBLT owns Howland Nature Preserve, the Friends of Howland manages and organizes fundraising events and programming to generate revenue for the property. The Friends primary revenue source is from rental fees of the historic barn. There are Two homes on the property. The primary residence, The Yellow House, is managed by The Friends group and hosts the property managers in exchange for their work on the estate. The Red House has been a rental property in the past. This house is managed and maintained by NBLT.

It is important to note that when Ernest Howland donated the property to the NBLT, Howland expressed explicitly that the property remain undeveloped. If the NBLT were to sell the property. The perspective property owner or organization must be a like minded group to the NBLT, and the restrictions of development transfer with the property. The ownership of Howland is somewhat restricting for the NBLT. Typically, the land trust does not own property and is more geared to conservation. There is a potential that the NBLT would be interested in selling the property, but the restrictions that exist to the parcel dramatically reduce the market on the property, limiting it to likeminded non-profits, or a buy-out for municipal ownership.

The largest amenity the Howland Preserve offers aside from its expanse of open space and trails is the public non-motorized boat launch. The launch has no frills. There is a mixed gravel/lawn road that passes through a grove of evergreens and slopes down an open lawn space to the earthen launch. The launch is approximately 15 miles, on either side, away from any other public access point along the river. The Friends of Howland have partnered with Keystone Community Resources, a group which services individuals with disabilities. From speaking with Ali Wilson, Friend's of Howland Founder and one of the property managers at Howland, she said the group has been a great addition to their programming. The program relationship has brought awareness to a lack of accommodating facilities such as accessible restrooms and waterfront access.

Questions Specific for Individuals involved with Organizations on the Neck

- 1.What opportunities does your facility provide to Wyoming County?
- 2.What recreational facilities, if any, do you offer?
- 3.What facilities do you believe would improve and expand usership?
- 4.Do you notice a difference in your facility since its partnership with the North Branch Land Trust?
- 5.What unmet needs persist at your facility?
- 6.What do you think needs to happen for these needs to be met? What does that look like to you?
- 7.What other issues do you think we should be made aware of upon making recommendations for the Neck and its inclusion in our report?
- 8.How should The Neck be handled by Wyoming County?
- 9.What does your partnerships with other groups on The Neck offer the parcel you maintain?
10. Do you foresee the Vosberg Neck as becoming a publicly maintained entity?
11. What benefits do you foresee from partnering with the State of Pennsylvania and/or Wyoming County?
12. What challenges does that present for your organization? What challenges do you think would arise from that transfer?
13. Is your organization willing to work with and collaborate with consultants for a feasibility study to make the Vosberg Neck the first county park in Wyoming County?

November 7, 2019

Meeting with Endless Mountain Nature Center, Rebecca Lesko

Endless Mountain Nature Center was a nature center located at the tip of the Vosberg Neck and was a 13-year tenant of Camp Lackawanna. The organization's mission was: "The Endless Mountains Nature Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging the preservation of the natural environment by providing educational opportunities and recreation activities." Part of their lease agreement with Camp Lackawanna was to maintain the Camp's 11 miles of trails. In their lease agreement, EMNC was also required to offer programming services to camp Lackawanna. Additionally, the Nature Center offered public programs to the community seasonally with various topics, host school programs, and their nature day camp. The Nature Center relied on the support of program fees, grants, and volunteer donations.

Despite their 13 years at Camp Lackawanna the Nature Center closed its doors at the end of the 2019 season. Upon speaking with Rebecca Lesko, the consultants were made aware of the challenges she faced as the only employee of the Center. The facility faced a common challenge with a lack of consistency with volunteerism, and not having enough large equipment such as a skid steer to perform routine maintenance on the trails.

Though the Endless Mountain Nature Center was an active community member at the Vosberg Neck and a valuable resource to guide and educate tourists, behind the role of environmental educator she was faced with all administrative obligations. Rebecca also saw a challenge with the limitations in programming due to liability limitations, for example, the attendants were not allowed to swim in the river due to insurance policies.

In terms of the future of the Neck, Rebecca noted that there are lots of different cooperation's that exist throughout the country that are successful. Partnerships with friends' groups with governments providing support for maintenance and liability, distributing financial accountability of salaries between different entities based on the services the position provides, including schools into partnerships to assist with programming costs, and so on. There are also opportunities for others to pick up where Rebecca left off with the endless mountain nature center. Through its years of service to the community the organization acquired parcel by donation just north of the Vosberg Neck.

Meeting with North Branch Land Trust, Maureen Whipple (Office Administrator)

North Branch Land Trust is a conservation easement group that works to conserve properties through easements. The North Branch was willed Howland and does not typically own property. From my discussion with Maureen the group will occasionally try and buy properties but typically invests their resources in conserving properties.

At the Vosberg Neck, the Land Trust owns Howland Nature Preserve and holds a conservation easement. The Land Trust also holds a conservation easement for Camp Lackawanna. For Howland, North Branch Land Trust possesses the liability insurance for the property.

Despite a cold rain, Maureen led a short walk to Howland's Public Access Nonmotorized Boat Launch. A clay earthen continuous slope to the Susquehanna River. Before we met the river, Maureen Pointed out the remnant canal prism, that during the period of logging along the river was used to transport logs.

Meeting with Friends Of Howland, Ali Wilson (Founder, Property Manager)

Friend of Howland founders and current land managers Ali and Doug Wilson discovered the property when it was under the owner ship of NBLT as users of the public access point along the riverfront. Ever since the group has been active with all aspects of the property.

Keystone Community Resources provide community resources to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the area. In 2019, The group partnered with Friends of Howland and through fundraising and grant opportunities established a wooden enclosure for community gardens on the historic estate. Endless Mountains Running Club- hosts a 5-mile trail race that encourages people to use the trails and promotes trails on the property. Keystone Composite Youth Group is a group of mountain bike oriented young people who utilize and help maintain the trails in the summer months. Art Shows help bring visibility to the site, collaboration with Local school district and Artist in Residents to host art classes at the property. Rock the river events, to find funding by incorporating local musicians and people's connection with the water.

Publicly accessible hand boat launch, open seasonally from dawn to dusk and a huge amenity to the neck and for county wide access to the river. The Friends of Howland fundraises by renting out the Red Barn for weddings and events.

From discussions with Ali Wilson and With Rebecca Lesko both expressed that they do not have enough equipment to manage the property.

If Friends of Howland have large washouts at their boat launch, and they need to move large piles of silt, they often shovel by hand if they cannot find a volunteer with a truck plow or equipment. The Friend's does not own large equipment that would better serve the management of the enormous property.

Ali also expressed that they are continually trying to upkeep the historic property while maintaining the historic nature of its features, which is a challenging task when seeking upgrades for a barn over 100 years old.

The Property participates in the Hunter Access Program, which helps the organization receive saplings. North Branch Land Trust Partners with Pheasants Forever and stock the property

Howland Nature Preserve is the remaining estate of Ernest. E. Howland. In June of 2006, North Branch Land Trust acquired the 669- acre property. The property host amenities such as a river side parking area, a non-motorized boat launch, picnicking areas, and hiking trails. The volunteer group, The Friends of Howland Preserve, was founded in 2013 and became a non-profit three years later. The organization also participates in the Hunter Access Program. The PA Game Commission stocks the property with Pheasants.

North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) started in 1993 and is a conservation easement group. In 2008, the land trust was accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The group also is involved with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and Land Trust Alliance. The group has helped in preserving over 20,000 acres of land in Northeast Pennsylvania. Their mission is to help landowners to conserve their properties and help communities establish smart growth strategies for the benefit of their citizens.

Camp Lackawanna was founded in 1962. It is owned and operated by the Presbytery of Lackawanna. The camp's website states that it offers its campers friendship, encouragement and adventurous memories that last a lifetime. In the offseason the camp offers its facilities for a rental rate.

Partnerships:

Keystone Community Resources provide community resources to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the area. In 2019, The group partnered with Friends of Howland and through fundraising and grant opportunities established a wooden enclosure for community gardens on the historic estate.

Endless Mountains Running Club- Howland hosts a 5-mile trail race that encourages people to use the trails and promotes trails on the property.

Keystone Composite Youth Group

Art Shows, Collaboration with Local school district and Artist in Residents to host art classes at the property.

Rock the river events

Publicly accessible hand boat launch, open seasonally from dawn to dusk

The Friends of Howland fundraises by renting out the Red Barn for weddings and events.

From discussions with Ali Wilson and With Rebecca Lesko both expressed that they do not have enough equipment to manage the property.

If Friends of Howland have large washouts at their boat launch, and they need to move large piles of silt, they often shovel by hand if they cannot find a volunteer with a truck plow or equipment. The Friend's does not own large equipment that would better serve the management of the enormous property.

Improvement for facilities:

Howland nature preserve does not have a restroom facility. NBLT rents a port-a-potty for the site. The restrooms do not have ADA access, which conflicts with the Howland's partnership with Keystone Community Resources. The partnership could be strengthened by improving facilities for access. The gravel road leading to the boat launch is mostly a gentle slope for most of the road until about 25 feet before the water's edge where the slope is too steep for wheelchair users or individuals using mobility assistance. To further develop the partnership between Keystone Community Resources Howland would benefit from an accessible boat launch,

a developed fishing access point that is accessible to a wheelchair, the installation of restroom facilities that are accessible to individuals with mobility accommodations, funds for equipment to better maintain trails, and continued preservation of the barn and two houses.

The Friends of Howland were tasked with getting the barn up to code prior to hosting events in the space. While they accomplished the improvements, the barn still needs some specific improvements that are a challenge to the importance of keeping the historic character of the structure.

Friends of Howland have a lot of support from NBLT as well as community volunteers, donations and grant funding. The long-term projections for the property still need more envisioning. North Branch Land Trust hopes to sell the property to another likeminded group or entity in the future.

A constraint to potential buyers is that the property must remain preserved without development. Which is a challenging sell with the existing gas extraction prospects that many property buyers in Wyoming County are seeking. From interviewing Maureen of North Branch Land Trust, and Ali of Friends of Howland, both groups are interested in the long-term preservation of the property.

Both organizations are interested in improved connectivity to the neck by the potential of other trail developments in the county. Friends of Howland would be willing to a master planning feasibility study to further develop the long-term vision of the Vosberg Neck.

If the NBLT were to sell the property to a government agency it could be beneficial to establish what capacity the Friends of Howland would have in the planning process and structuring of operations given their partnerships and existing programming on the property.

Trails Interviews

November 20, 2019

Cain Chamberlin, Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Jeff Mitchell, Attorney and avid hiker

Bill Kern, Countryside Conservancy

On November 20, 2019 the consultant team interviewed three trail experts in Wyoming County. The goal was to facilitate discussion between these individuals with experienced knowledge about building, using, and maintaining trails for the region. We explored trail typologies through discussion such as, single track mountain biking trails, unofficial trails in State Game Lands 57, and the Susquehanna water trail, and from physical observations examined at the Trolley Trail and Iroquois Trail.

Countryside Conservancy has been a non-profit in the region since 1994. It was established by citizens looking to protect natural features in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The non-profit works in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Since the organization's inception their focus has been primarily conservation easements and land acquisitions. In 2014, Phase 1 of the present-day Trolley Trail was initiated and completed. The group works with private and public resources to make the funding for the trail and their organization possible. The section of trail we observed is situated on Keystone College Campus and extends into Factoryville Borough center. The trailhead at the Keystone Pavilion Trailhead was equipped with parking and accessible parking, and a kiosk with maps and historic information about the trail.

The Trolley Trail is a remnant linear path of the Northern Electric Trolley's passage through Factoryville, Circa 1908. Following its success to Factoryville the line charted north to Nicholson. This trolley line made commuting between Factoryville and Scranton possible, an incredible feat of the times.

The trail section at Keystone was impeccable, which Bill noted that Keystone Colleges organizes a summer internship for trail maintenance to help maintain the trail. Countryside Conservancy also allocates funds to hire a seasonal part-time employee to maintain their other sections of trail. It should be mentioned that the trails are closing gaps in its expanse. For some portions of the trail that the Conservancy maintains they have begun to subcontract some trail maintenance to a private company on an as needed basis.

The Conservancy is also gearing up to extend the trail to Lake Winola, which has been a recommendation

of past recreation planning documents for the area. Although actual planning has yet to be facilitated for the trail's extension to Nicholson, it is in the minds eye of the organization for future development.

After an overview from Bill and a brief walk of the site we set off to the Tunkhannock 911 Center to collectively examine the County Owned and managed Iroquois Trail. The trails need for assessment was brought by the steering committee and by local citizens at public engagement events attended by the consultants in representation of this Open space, Greenways and trails plan. From the groups examination some noted that there was a lack of clear signage at the trail head, a Kiosk did exist but at the field open air western direction of the trail lacked continuity and though mostly following a grassy edge condition, it was unclear what may have been the trail or access routes to utility corridors . It is also believed that this is the location of trail which people most complain about being undermaintained because of un-mowed grass.

At we passed back behind the 911 Center to the woodland condition the trail condition dramatically changed from a field condition to a wooded forest condition, with steep upslopes and dramatic downslopes of the trail. It is important to note that despite the extremely steep downslope condition that a railing was not present. Though the grade change varied along the course of the trail at steep downslope moments there was but a 1-2-foot shoulder off the trail before the 1:1-1:2 slope began. Once we reached the end of the trail, we noticed it dead ended though the old rail line right of way appeared to continue a great deal further. Some noted from the group that potentially opening up the canopy at the end of the trail would give the trail a vista amenity, though you can see some visibility of the view between the trunks of trees, the opportunities in elevation and adjacent mountainous topography could be a rewarding ending point.

While walking the trail we spoke with trail enthusiast Jeff Mitchell, aside from being the counties District Attorney, Jeff has hiked all over the region, published books on hiking, and has had an active blog which shares his hiking experiences in unique locations all over the county and region. His website hosts tremendous visibility for the trails he visits, he said that this year alone the site has had over 100,000 views. His hike focused social media account also boasts a substantial following. For the better part of a decade the extensive digital record of his trail adventures has been an insider resource for like minded nature enthusiasts.

A unique perspective Jeff shared was the need for trails to hold a type of significant which offers a special experience, either connecting two features, have views, or destinations. When discussing some of the unmet needs at the Iroquois trail he said it is important to begin thinking of what trails should be rather than what they can be, and examine why some trails are more successful than others. It is also important to note that the region has extensive trails however there is sometimes limited information on access and parking points or trail alignments on unmarked trails. Jeff's work and the work of others in this digital age provide a previously non-existing resource to the hiking community. Not only does visibility of these trails have the potential to increase tourism, there are also opportunities for individuals who live in these communities to utilize these trail networks where previously they may not have known of these connections.

Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Cain Chamberlin also joined the consultants trail excursion. Though we did not have the chance to tour the North Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail we did get the chance to discuss some of its qualities with Cain. The portion of the Susquehanna River that passes through the Endless Mountains Region is under the management of the Endless Mountain Heritage Region by assigned Water Trail Managers. From Laceyville to Appletree, which includes the entirety of Wyoming County, EMHR manages the water trail through local management. The trail manager presently for the Wyoming Section is Art Coolbaugh of Susquehanna Canoe and Kayak in Falls, PA. The Endless Mountain Heritage Region also organizes sojourns. These are multiday excursions that provide increased visibility to the public through social media promotion, volunteer efforts along the route picking up litter and anthropogenic detritus to keep the river clean, and promotion of the organizations 444 Club. The 444 Club is a trails initiative to recognize individuals who complete the entirety of the Susquehanna River.

Persistent issues of Iroquois trail:

- Maintenance

- Safety issues

- Acquisition of land, parcel owner's resistance to extending the trail

- constituency to represent, and advocate for the trail's expansion and promotion

- Lack of signage or features at the trail head in field by 911 center
- No directional signage to trailhead parking by wooded portion of the trail
- Lack of a destination

From the discussion some important talking points were:

Wyoming county to facilitate the creation of a Parks and Recreation Department could help these smaller organizations with contractual maintenance, the resource of collectively available equipment could also stretch grant funding by purchasing of equipment either collectively between organization or through municipal ownership such as a parks and recreations department. Some type of cooperation between the county and organizations would be beneficial.

1. Does your municipality currently have any of the following recreation-based facilities?

Snowmobile trails	Park/open space	ATV/snowmobile trails	Public boat/canoe/ kayak facility
Equestrian trails	Playground	Bike path	Public fishing areas
Hiking trails	Athletic field/court/complex	Downtown sidewalks	Designated camping locations
Other: _____			

2. What secondary amenities does your municipality currently have that accompany the above facilities?

Park/open space	Snowmobile trails	ATV/snowmobile trails	Public boat/canoe/ kayak facility
Playground	Equestrian trails	Bike path	Public fishing areas
Athletic field/court/complex	Hiking trails	Downtown sidewalks	Designated camping locations
Other: _____			

3. From questions 1 & 2, what facilities or amenities does your municipality see the benefit or need for?

4. Does your municipality currently have any private recreational facilities, such as:

Bowling alleys	Sports clubs/associations	Equestrian facilities	Gun/archery ranges
Other: _____			

5. Are there any existing opportunities for potential linkages across your municipality, such as:

Logging roads	Gravel/dirt roads	Abandoned Rail lines	Scenic drives
Other: _____			

6. Are there any cultural, historical, or natural sites within your municipality?
(old church or school, industrial/commercial structures, etc.)

Yes No

If so, please list with location:

7. Would your municipality consider partnering with Wyoming County to seeking funding opportunities for outdoor recreation facilities?

Yes No

If so, please list specific projects or improvements:

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Braintrim Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Residents Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Clinton Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Residents Wants	Scenic Roads
Creekside Park (Clinton/Factoryville Borough)	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	-Trails	Creek Rd, Lithia Valley Rd, Route 6
Factoryville Little League Park	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y	-A connection between Creekside Park and Christy Mathewson Park	
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Factoryville Men's/Women's Civic Groups, Trail Youth Soccer, Christy Mathewson Baseball League, Boys and Girl Scouts, Trail Rotary				
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Secretary/ Treasurer, Asst. Secretary				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Northmoreland Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	N		
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	N		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	N		
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Supervisor				

Noxen Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Nicholson Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

North Branch Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Creek Junction Park	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y		
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Mehoopany Community Center				
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places: Game Lands 57				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Secretary/Treasurer				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Tunkhannock Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Lazy Brook Park , Iroquois trail	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	Frisbee Golf, Pickle Ball	Route 6 West, Route 92, Route 6
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	N		
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Washington Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	N		
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	N		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	N		
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Supervisor				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Monroe Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Committee Park & Ball Fields	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	N		
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Monore Township Community Association				
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places: Bowman Creek, Lenard Creek				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Supervisor				

Nicholson Borough				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Nordahl Park	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?		Rail to Trail (Trolley line)	Route 92, Route 11
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places: Nicholson Viaduct, Route 11 Train Station				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Councilman				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Meshoppen Borough				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Meshoppen Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Lemon Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Stoney Mountain Campsite (Private) Camp Kelly (Old Camp St. Andrew) (Private) Lake Carey (Private)	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	N	Bike Trails	
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	N		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	N		
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Secretary				

Mehoopany Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Overfield Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Tunkhannock Borough				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Eaton Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Residents Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Exeter Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Residents Wants	Scenic Roads
George R. Hoer Park	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	Power to Lights & Pavilion	
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y	Walkways	
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Falls Summer Committee Falls Lion Club				
Unpaved Roads: River Rd				
Historic or Important Places: Sullivan's Trail, River, Buttermilk Falls				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Supervisor				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Factoryville Borough				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Christy Matthewson Park, Creekside Park, Northern Electric Trolley Trail	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	Connection to Christy Matthewson Park To Creekside	College Avenue through Keystone College Campus,
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y	Waterpark	
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Factoryville Men's and Women's Civic Club, Countryside Conservancy, Scouts				
Unpaved Roads: Upper Church Street				
Historic or Important Places: Birthplace of Christy Matthewson, South Branch of Tunkhannock Creek, Little Rocky Glenn, Trolley Trail				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Councilman, Councilman President, Borough Manager				

Falls Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Residents Wants	Scenic Roads
	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?			
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?			
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?			
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places:				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by:				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Forkston Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Creek Junction Park Trails- State Game Lands	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	N/A	Windy Valley Rd
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	Y		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	Y		
Groups: Mehoopany Center of Mehoopany				
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places: Game Lands 57				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Secretary/ Treasurer				

Laceyville Borough				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Donavon Park, Located in Windham TWP	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	Y	basketball court	second street
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	y		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	n		
Unpaved Roads:				
Historic or Important Places: river, oldest house				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: treasurer				

Questionnaire Results for Municipal Officials from the 107th Association of Townships Convention, September 19,2019

Windham Township				
Existing Trails/ Parks	Questions	Y/N	Resident Wants	Scenic Roads
Donovan Park, Located in Township, Owned by Lacey	Do you have a Parks and Recreation Department, Commission Or Committee?	n	Money	sr 4002 and 3001
	Do you annually budget for recreation facilities (maintenance/improvements)?	n		
	Do you partner with any non-profit or groups?	n		
Unpaved Roads:cemetery road				
Historic or Important Places: various dams				
Additional Comments:				
Completed by: Supervisor/ secretary				