Appendix E3

TAC Cultural Resource Issues/Opportunities

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Revised 2/9/2009 based on correspondence with EPD beginning 9/2008

Revised 2/17/2009; 3/1/2009;3/17/2009

Please do not distribute, copy, or post.

Notes:

1. This document is **not** a substitute for a full *Cultural Resource Assessment*. Before any physical site planning is engaged we recommend full assessment of the resources.

2. This document should only be used as a guide to provide procedural guidance for any planned activities in the Spring Creek Canyon Lands and not relied upon for physical planning decisions.

3. Due to the high probability of prehistoric and historic resources within the site boundaries any disturbance activities, beyond the existing land use should fall under Cultural Resource Compliance as guided by the PHMC.

Attachments:

- Letter from Centre County Historical Society
- Letter from Bald Eagle Archaeological Society
- Sections from the Spring Creek Corridor Study

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[1] Significant research for the historic resources discussed here was completed and provided by Robert Hazelton and Helen Alters. A number of other individuals have also provided support and information throughout this process.

Summary of Spring Creek Canyon, Conservation Values and Cultural Resources

The Spring Creek Canyon lands are the most significant and well-preserved deposit of cultural resources in the central region of Centre County. Because of the historic ownership of the property, most of the 1800 acres have been unstudied and remain relatively undisturbed. It is possibly the richest preserved cultural resource record in the state of Pennsylvania. There is evidence of occupation for at least 7,000 years, spatially and stratigraphically distributed. While it is always significant to find resources with this continuity of human use in any area of the State, *it is even more significant that the resources remain largely undisturbed.*

For the above reasons and supported by the narrative that follows, we advise that any future use of the Canyon Lands procedurally fall under review of the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission guidelines for permit review. Moreover, we advise that no significant alteration of land use and landform be planned without completing at least *Phase I* historic and archaeological survey.

Additionally, the Canyon Lands represent a critical and unique opportunity to study and engage our community. Any management or land use plan must include educational opportunities that utilize these resources for education and outreach.

While much of the Canyon property is undisturbed, it is also unstudied. The information provided here therefore, is a summary of known and documented resources, with an interpretation of regional history to better contextualize the cultural significance of the Canyon property.

In 2001, Mark Battaglia, Neil Korostoff and Tom Yahner[2] completed an inventory and preliminary assessment of the Spring Creek Corridor, including the Canyon Property. Among their conclusions and recommendations is a clear statement about the dual human – natural significance of the Spring Creek Canyon. Battaglia, Korostoff, and Yahner (2001) not only recommend the establishment of a *Spring Creek Nature Reserve,* but also identify the significance of recognizing the critical cultural resources

[2] This report and study is a critical document to review for planning an management considerations of the Canyon Property. It is available publically at www.clearwaterconservancy.org.

within the Canyon property and beyond in order to design and plan a holistic and inclusive management strategy for the future. Their work, part of the modern history of the Canyon, is the most recent layer of human action and history that has shaped what we know of the Canyon property today.

Significant Features of the Spring Creek Canyon Lands[3]:

Known and documented historic and prehistoric sites within property boundaries:

- (3) Three prehistoric sites have been documented in the accessible portion of the property. (2) Two are *rock shelters* that may have significance for the earliest periods of prehistoric occupation regionally (see regional prehistory below).
- (9) Nine historic properties have been registered within the property boundaries. These properties largely date to the 18th and 19th century and are evenly distributed throughout the property.
- (2) Two historic bridges are located in the Canyon Property.

Benner Township Features:

- (205) Two hundred-five historic properties are registered in Benner Township.
- (40) Forty prehistoric archaeological sites are registered in Benner Township.
- (3) Three Historic Bridges in Benner Township (2 on property).

Within 1 mile of the property boundaries:

- (~30) Thirty additional documented prehistoric archaeological sites are registered with the PHMC.
- (50+) More than fifty historic properties are registered with the PHMC.
- A significant number of *eligible, listed, or undetermined eligibility* of the above sites and properties are potentially eligible for national registry status.

Landscape Narrative with Implications for Cultural Resource Preservation:

The significant adjacent historic and prehistoric resources suggest that the Spring Creek Canyon is the best-preserved deposit of cultural resources in Centre County and the

[3] The features discussed here are summarized from listed, documented, and identified resources compiled by the PHMC and PennDOT. While the locations of specific sites or features are alluded to here, they are not specified in order to protect, preserve, and conserve their integrity.

Central Region of Pennsylvania. There is evidence for cultural deposits likely stretching back thousands of years into the Archaic Period and continuing to the middle 20th century when Rockview assumes management of the property. What follows is a brief prehistoric and historic narrative to spatially and temporally contextualize the cultural resource deposits in the Canyon Property. Implications for each period on the Canyon property are also introduced.

Summary of Regional Prehistory:

The prehistory of eastern North America and specifically, eastern PA is commonly divided into three major chronological periods: the *Paleo-Indian*, *Archaic* and *Woodland* Periods (Custer 1996). These periods are further subdivided into several sub-periods, classified as *Early*, *Middle* and *Late*. And while these periods characterize broad geographic regions and broad stretches of time, there are specific cultural and environmental patterns associated with them. Table 1 details each period and their corresponding absolute dates. Both the calendar date is supplied as is the '**Date BP**', or date **Before Present** (present in this case referring to 1950). Following the table is a brief description of the cultural, environmental and artifactual patterns commonly identified for each period[4].

Period	Absolute Date	Date BP
Paleo-Indian	13,000 - 8,000 BC	15,000 - 10,000 BP
Early Archaic	8000 - 6000 BC	10,000 - 8,000 BP
Middle Archaic	6000 - 3000 BC	8,000 - 5,000 BP
Late Archaic	3000 - 1000 BC	5,000 - 3,000 BP
Early Woodland	1000 BC - AD 0	3,000 - 2,000 BP
Middle Woodland	AD 0 - 1000	2,000 - 1,000 BP
Late Woodland	AD 1000 - 1550	1,000 - 450 BP
Contact	AD 1550 - 1750	450 - 250 BP

Table 1. Major sub periods used for the prehistory of eastern North America.

[4] For a more complete description see Custer 1996, from which most of these summaries were derived.

Paleo-Indian Period

13,000 – 8,000 BC

The prehistoric record in eastern North America and Pennsylvania begins with the *Paleo-Indian* period; the earliest documented significant human occupation in North America. Climatologically, this period coincides with the Late Pleistocene (Custer 1996). The environment then, is marked by, "…cold and wet climates, mosaic environments with grasslands, deciduous forests and boreal forests" (Custer 1996: 38). While this static description fits the environment and climate of the period as a whole, significant environmental changes are documented for this period, centrally associated with retreating glaciers. This resulted in a reduction in the number of grassland and forest edge habitats and the emergence of Early Holocene environments (Custer 1990:100). For Central Pennsylvania, the environment was probably much like that of the modern Eastern Sub-Arctic, with boreal forests of fir, spruce and sporadic stands of pine birch and maple (Snow and White 1999; Webb 1987: 183). Environmental conditions as such provided niches of subsistence opportunities for early settlers to the region.

Culturally, the Paleo-Indian period is characterized by small and highly mobile bands of hunter-gatherers, exploiting the variety of resource niches on a flexible seasonal round and across broad regions. Such a flexible subsistence system requires relatively low population densities. The population density of the Paleo-Indian period in the eastern US is extremely low, keeping niches of resources in abundance. Therefore, small groups of settlers likely traversed much of the eastern portion of the state over the course of one year (Custer 1996; Snow and White 1999). Key Paleo-Indian artifact types are fluted and unfluted lanceolate points, especially Clovis, Cumberland and Plano points (Snow and White 1999). Very few archaeological sites have been documented for the Paleo-Indian period in PA, in part due to the low population density, but also due to the temporary nature of Paleo-Indian sites. Paleo-Indian sites are commonly disturbed by modern and historic occupation. *The undisturbed nature of the Canyon lands offers unique potential for identifying and better understanding Paleo-Indian settlement history, if it can be identified locally.*

Archaic Period

8,000 – 1,000 BC

The Archaic Period, which is sub-divided into Early, Late and Middle, in Pennsylvania is represented by a complete shift to a Holocene environment. Forest habitats continued expansion and, climatologically Pennsylvania acquires modern environmental characteristics. The human occupation of the Archaic Period, while better documented than for the Paleo-Indian period, is one of the least documented in Pennsylvania Prehistory. During the Archaic, small hunting and gathering bands, similar to those of the Paleo-Indian period, populated much of Pennsylvania. There is, however an increasing trend towards semi-sendentism as population density increases and niches of resources expand. *There is significant evidence of Archaic Period occupation throughout the region and adjacent to the Canyon property, including (20+) more than twenty documented sites and districts.*

Small populations of hunting and gathering populations likely moved into the region during the archaic period. Significant evidence for early resource use and occupation of the region has been documented for the Hatch Quarry (Tudek Site) and the nearby Houserville Archaeological District. Recently, Archaic Period radiocarbon dates were identified at the Hatch Quarry (Andrews and Murtha 2004) associated with hearth and heat treatment facilities for lithic (stone tool) production. Chemically characterized (specifically tied to the Hatch Quarry) artifacts from this period and later periods have been found as distant as Virginia and New Hampshire. Settlement and resource use during this period would have been spatially and seasonally dispersed. Creeks and Streams would have been focal points, however, upland regions were used intensively during winter months. Evidence for this use is commonly found in rock shelters, but not exclusively.

Early Archaic

(8000 – 6000 BC)

The occupation of Pennsylvania during the Early Archaic is characterized by highly mobile and small groups of hunters and gatherers, similar to the Paleo-Indian period. Technologically, there is a shift from fluted points toward side and corner notched points, such as Palmer, Kirk and Kanawha (Snow and White 1999). Environmentally, the Early Archaic is characterized by the shift to an Early Holocene environment, "…cold and dry

climates, boreal forests dominated by spruce and pine with some deciduous species" (Custer 1996: 34). Culturally, while similar to the Paleo-Indian period, the Early archaic exhibits an increased regionalism of point production and tool manufacturing techniques (Snow and White 1999). Population densities are on the rise.

Middle Archaic Period

(6000 – 3000 BC)

The Middle Archaic Period is similar in many respects to the Early Archaic, such as the expanding forest habitats and warmer climate. Environmentally, the Middle Archaic is characterized by a Middle Holocene I environment, marked by "…warm and wet climates, mixed forests of hemlock and oak," (Custer 1996:34). In eastern PA, the region more closely resembles modern day environmental conditions. While small and mobile groups of hunter – gatherers characterize the cultural patterns for this period; there is a greater trend towards semi-sedentism (seasonal) and high population growth. The diversity of tools produced at Middle Archaic sites is far greater than that observed for earlier sites, suggesting a longer term investment by groups into a wider variety of collected resources. Archaeological remains exhibit the best evidence for intensive hunting and gathering, suggesting annual movements in a more regular and seasonal cycle. Riverine and wetland settings dominate the archaeological record; however, floodplain sites are commonly settled. Common projectile points of the Middle Archaic are Stanly, Neville and Morrow (Custer 1996). Sites with a variety of functions have been identified for this period, including, rock shelters, lithic quarries, seasonal habitation sites, and hunting grounds.

Late Archaic

(3,000 – 1,000 BC)

The drastic environmental transformations of previous periods can be contrasted with the establishment of more stable environments during the Late Archaic. Environmentally, the Late Archaic is characterized by a Middle Holocene II environment, marked by, "…warmer and dry climates, mixed forests of hemlock and oak," (Custer 1996:34). The population density of Pennsylvania increases greatly during the Late Archaic, as groups increasingly rely on expanded seasonal resources. Certainly during this time period, more complex social groupings are present on the landscape. Artifactually, Late Archaic sites exhibit a great diversity of artifacts and tools. Regional

exchange networks appear on the landscape, primarily for raw material or finished products of stone tools. While the preservation of Late Archaic sites is much better than for previous periods, a greater diversity of flora and faunal remains have been recovered from Late Archaic Sites, suggesting an even greater diversity of diet. Base camps are larger and more heavily utilized (Custer 1996). Specialized tools for plant and fish processing are abundant during this period and some steatite bowls appear in eastern Pennsylvania sites. Significant evidence of regional occupation during the Late Archaic can be found from the recent excavations of the Hatch Quarry (Andrews, Murtha, and Scheetz 2004). The archaeological sites documented on the property show evidence of occupation at least as early as the Late Archaic period.

Often attached to the end of the Archaic is an additional period termed the *Transitional* or *Terminal* Archaic, roughly corresponding to 1700 – 700 BC (Snow and White 1999). Broad spears are common for this time period; especially those manufactured from rhyolite and include the Susquehanna, Perkiomen and Lehigh type varieties. *Regionally and within 1-2 miles of the Canyon Lands there is significant evidence of transitional period occupation including a site listed on the National Registry (Andrews, Murtha and Scheetz 2004).*

Early Woodland
(1000 BC – AD 0)

Environmentally, the Early Woodland marks a shift from the Middle Holocene II environments to Late Holocene environments, most similar to modern conditions. According to Custer (1996:34), the Late Holocene is characterized by, "…cool and wet climates, mixed oak-chestnut forests, but many other deciduous species are present." The Early Woodland is culturally characterized by the appearance of pottery. Initially, the use of ceramics does not greatly alter the life ways of the inhabitants of the region, but simply provides a necessary tool for the more intensive exploitation of the environment. The early ceramics identified are likely used for food preparation and storage. Projectile point styles change from the broad-spear form introduced in the later part of the Archaic, to side notched points, such as the Meadowood and Adena types. From a settlement pattern perspective, greater emphasis is placed on plant resources during this period, suggesting not only less mobility or more long-term base camps, but a reduction in faunal resources associated with the over-exploitation of the Late – Terminal

Archaic (Custer 1996; Snow and White 1999). Population densities continue to rise during the Early Woodland period. Regionally this is an important and well-documented time period (Hay and Stevenson 1983; Andrews, Murtha, and Scheetz 2004).

Middle Woodland
(AD 0 – 1000)

The significant environmental changes of the previous periods are replaced by great stability in the Middle Woodland. Environmentally, this period is nearly identical to the Early Woodland. Culturally, the Middle Woodland period is characterized by decorated ceramics. Middle Woodland sites generally contain a greater diversity and quantity of plant resources, are larger and tool assemblages are more complex. Sites themselves are more complex as nearly fixed seasonal movement replaces the more flexible subsistence cycle of the Archaic. Regional trade networks are expanded and mortuary ceremonialism is intensified during this period. Incipient agriculture marks the significant subsistence transformations of the Middle Archaic. Jacks Reef and Levana type varieties dominate the projectile point assemblages of the Middle Woodland.

Late Woodland
(AD 1000 – 1550)

The Late Woodland, while associated with first European contact in other parts of the New World, is commonly treated as the final prehistoric occupation in eastern North America. The period is marked by three major cultural patters: *1) settled village life, 2) use of agriculture and horticulture, and 3) ceramics with complex designs*. Population, steadily on the rise, beginning in the Paleo-Indian period begins to decline toward the end of the period. The introduction of European Culture after 1550 significantly alters the population density, social, economic, political and settlement patterns of Late Woodland inhabitants. Floodplain exploitation is often characteristic of the Late Woodland settlement pattern. The most significant technological change was the introduction of maize agriculture. Societies and villages become more complex, as they invested more of their own labor into food production. Triangular Levana and Madison points dominate the assemblages of this period (Snow and White 1999).

The Woodland Period is perhaps the most well-represented prehistoric period in the Centre County Cultural Region adjacent to the Canyon property. Modest local population

growth, associated with more intensive use of local resources, is evident throughout the region including the *Houserville Archaeological District* and the *Hatch Quarry*. Increasingly sedentary, the Woodland Period is marked by permanent settlement along creek and stream floodplains. *Although no thorough subsurface survey of the canyon lands has been completed, informal observations of surface deposits and the accessible areas of the canyon floodplain show clear evidence for significant archaeological deposits, especially during the Late Woodland period.* Upland areas, such as the Hatch Quarry would have been utilized more intensively and in a more specialized nature during this time period. Numerous radiocarbon dates and artifact analysis demonstrate widespread use and occupation of the Centre County Cultural Region during the Late Woodland Period.

Contact Period
(1550 – 1750)

While the contact period is commonly considered an historical period, much of the data for Native American occupation on the landscape is derived from archaeological resources. Warfare, and greater village nucleation intensifies during this time period, as groups increasingly rely on maize production for food. Permanent villages with palisades and other types of fortifications appear during this period. Towards the middle and the end of the Contact period, significant European influence can be found throughout the eastern US, especially along the major rivers in Pennsylvania. European exploration and trading activities provided new economic opportunities for Native Americans, which led to the intensification of warfare among tribal groupings. Regionally, contact occurred much later, with the first settler identified in 1769. Little is known about the 'contact period' in the area directly surrounding the project area, but there is significant evidence of occupation and use of the Canyon property throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th century (see historic summary that follows).

Summary

Combining the recent archaeological research and the history of the region, it is clear the Canyon Lands have been at the center of much of Centre County's prehistory. Environmentally, the region is ideally suited for Archaic through Woodland occupation and recent research supports this perspective (Andrews, Murtha and Scheetz 2004). Perhaps the most significant information about the site and the immediate region

concerns the cultural resource potential for undocumented and unidentified sites and landscapes. While several phases of occupation and use are recorded for the project area, *there is no question that greater than 95 % of the archaeological resources have **not** been identified for the 1800+ acres of the Canyon Lands*.

Guided by this summary and preliminary analysis of the canyon lands, we offer the potential archaeological zones of the Spring Creek Canyon (Figure 1). These zones do not imply a probability of sites to be found, but are identified to establish procedural guidelines for any future use of the canyon. Presently land use suggests many undisturbed sites remain in the canyon. Any change to the existing land use, including minor changes (e.g., path construction and access changes) should fall under cultural resource review guided by the PHMC guidelines. Additionally, suggest the following review guidelines for each zone.

Zone I – Within 1,000 feet of the creek, floodplain zones, and within 1,000 feet of feeder streams. Aside from the hatcheries this is the most significant piece of undisturbed high activity area for Archaic through Woodland Period occupation. Any physical or policy changes in this zone should require minimally Phase 1 (Chapter 2 PHMC Guidelines) Assessment with subsurface surveys. This zone will almost assuredly require follow up Phase 2 (Chapter 3, PHMC Guidelines) and perhaps Phase 3 (Chapter 4, PHMC Guidelines) mitigation.

Zone II – Adjacent to zone I, these areas are likely high activity areas already disturbed by modern and historic agricultural. These areas are likely to show significant occupation, especially focused on the Woodland Period. Any physical or policy changes in this zone should require minimally Phase 1 Assessment with surface surveys. Sections of zone II will likely require at least Phase 2 assessment and follow up Phase 3 mitigation.

Zones III and IV – Located in highly disturbed areas, it is unlikely that archaeological resources remain intact in these areas of the site. Phase 1 is recommended to assess the potential for undisturbed resources before any physical or policy changes are implemented.

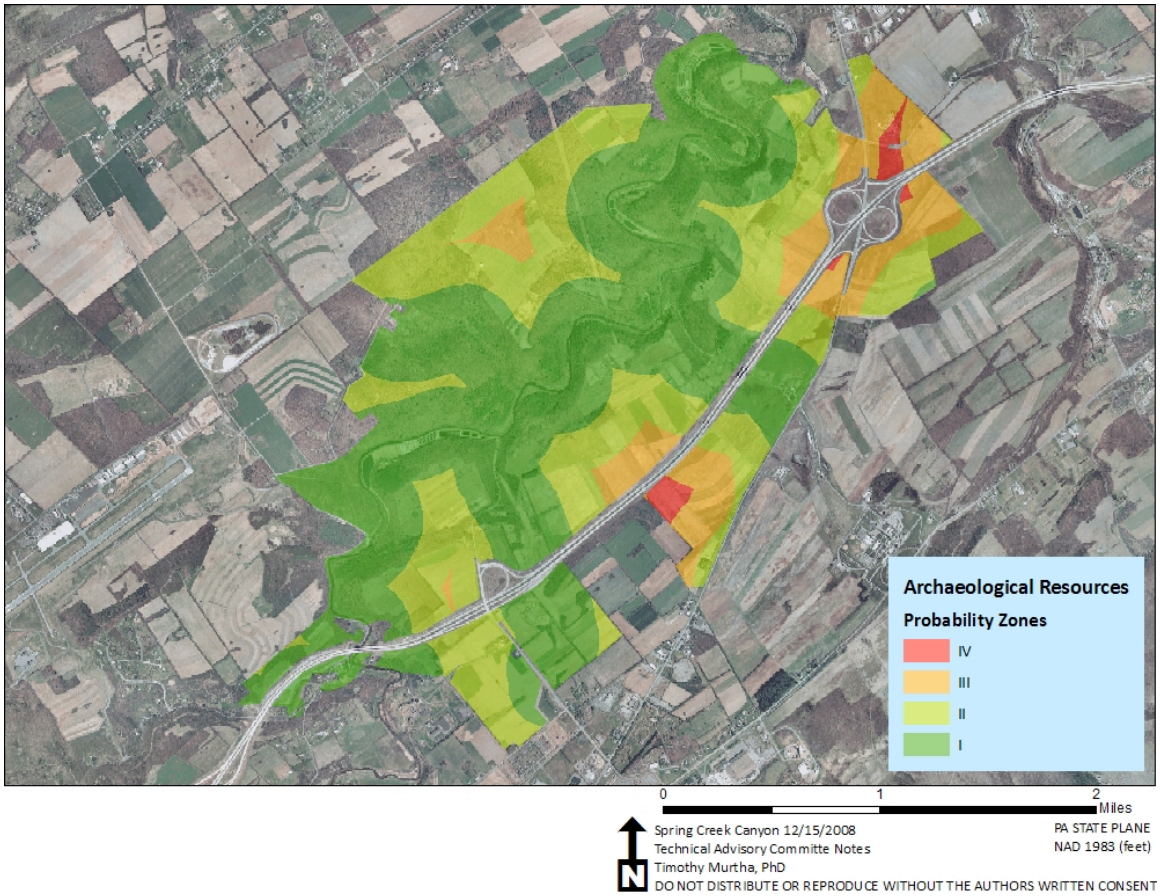

Figure 1. Archaeological Zones illustrated for policy/procedures associated with any future development of the Canyon property.

Historic Summary:

The rich history of our region is marked by significant changes to land use, settlement patterns, and resource exploitation. The Spring Creek Canyon Property is at the center of all of these important historic patterns. Whether it is iron ore, charcoal, trout, or agricultural products, the Canyon Property has been shaped by human use, occupation, and exploitation of the natural resources of Spring Creek.

Historical Background – Rockview Lands[5]

This information is based on early maps, photographs, written records, and some onsite observations. (Hazelton, Walton, Donaldson, Alters)

[5] This information was first provided in 12/2008 and 1/2009 and has not been altered significantly.

The exact locations and archaeological remains of the industrial sites have not been surveyed and their general locations should be identified prior to a final use plan being developed.

Rock Iron Works:

The fast-moving, power-producing waters of Spring Creek, and the nearby natural resources of iron ore, limestone, and hardwoods for making charcoal, set the stage for the industrial history of the Rockview lands. Despite the barriers of the wilderness and mountains of central Pennsylvania to early westward settlement, General Philip Benner came in 1793 from Chester County with 100 workers associated with ironmaking to launch one of the area's most significant charcoal iron making operations. The Rock, the rocky precipice on the south shore of Spring Creek provided the name and the location for the Rock Iron Works. General Benner, in turn, gave his name to the abundant spring located there, as well as to the township in which it is located.

Benner began building forges, furnaces, a rolling and slitting mill, nail factory, and grist and sawmills along Spring Creek. He also built housing for his workers, a school, church, store and post office, and established a community called Rock.

Benner, who was known as one of the richest and most influential of Pennsylvania's early ironmasters, shipped his high quality iron made at Rock to Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and New Orleans; in 1815 inventor Eli Whitney described it as "some of the best in the world."

Specific Historic Resources

Spring Creek and Benner Spring

These natural resources were essential to the establishment and operation of the Rock Iron Works – a significant link between natural and historic/cultural resources.

Benner Mansion

Location: Top of ridge between blue bridge and Rock Road

Figure 2. Benner Mansion [right] – one of two residences reflected in painting; barn behind mansion

Benner's large limestone mansion stood on a knoll on the north side of the creek facing the Rock. Measured drawings were made as part of the Historic American Building Survey in 1935; the mansion was razed in the 1940s.

Identified archaeological remains: front steps and basement depression; probable location of well behind mansion.

Smaller residence in front of mansion; bank barn to left and behind mansion
Status unknown -- No archaeological investigations have been undertaken

Rock School(s)
Portion of a foundation located

Spring Iron Furnace and associated buildings
Archaeological evidence of furnace located; status of associated buildings/sites related to furnace operation unknown

Rock Forge(s)
Archaeological status unknown

Grist mill
Archaeological status unknown

Slipping mill, rolling mill, nail mill
Archaeological status unknown

Upper and Lower Dams
Archaeological status unknown

Workers houses/boarding house
Archaeological status unknown

Rock Church
Archaeological status unknown

Other miscellaneous building foundations
Some remains of foundations have been located but are unidentified

Bridge abutment
Status: Located

Benner Cemetery
Location: in field above Blue Bridge
Significance: traditional early graveyard that has been well maintained; serves as a reminder of an important late 18th/early 19th century settlement and related events; period gravestones with specific people identified, including General Benner; stone wall represents boundary enclosure

Recommendations:

A preliminary National Register archaeological district nomination should be considered for the Rock Iron Works, along with a separate nomination for the Benner Cemetery. The Rock Iron Works district and the cemetery site are both in keeping with resources outlined in two National Register Bulletins: (1) Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Historical Archaeological Sites and Districts (the Rock Iron Works offers a contiguous grouping of sites, buildings, and structures that are linked historically by function, theme, and physical development); and (2) Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places. The Rock Iron Works Archaeological District, and the Benner Cemetery, all limited in public access for such an extended period of time, are eligible in the requirements outlined for National Register Criterion A: they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Centre County's industrial and settlement history.

Threats:

Archaeological sites are vulnerable to looting or vandalism and could be damaged or destroyed. The Benner Cemetery, given its isolated location, also could fall victim to vandalism once the Rockview lands become open to public access.

Legislation/Exclusions:

The National Park Service's National Register Bulletin #29 offers guidelines for restricting information and availability related to historic and prehistoric resources. A plan should be developed and ready for implementation before the transfer of Rockview lands and their being made available for public use. Working with consultants from the PA Historical and Museum Commission's Bureau of Historic Preservation, the plan should include ways in which to protect these vulnerable resources, and to offer opportunities for educational interpretation, perhaps at two off-site public locations – the Centre Furnace Manson and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Harvey Mann Axe Polishing Factory

As Benner's operation slowed down, ending shortly after his death in 1832, a second industry was underway. Harvey Mann opened an axe polishing factory, an extension of his sizeable operation at nearby Boiling Springs (now Axemann) on the Logan Branch of

Spring Creek. The Mann axe factory in the area of the Canyon was in operation until 1875.

Specific Historic Resources:

Miscellaneous foundations related to Axe Factory

Status: This area has not been investigated. There may be enough archaeological remains to warrant consideration for an additional National Register site.

Mann Cemetery

Status: not investigated

William F. Reynolds and Fred W. Reynolds Ownership

Bellefonte banker William F. Reynolds began acquiring Benner/Mann lands for agricultural use in the 1870s, and by the 1880s he was the sole owner. After William's death, his nephew and heir, Fred W. Reynolds continued operating Rock Farms, made up of eighteen tenant farms. Approximately 16,000 apple and pear trees were planted during that period.

Historic Resource:

Orchard

Status: Unknown at this time if any of these apple trees date from the Reynolds period or earlier, or if they were all planted by Rockview. The trees have fruit.

Land Sale to the Western Pennsylvania Correctional Institution

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Fred W. Reynolds sold the property to the Western Pennsylvania Correctional Institution in 1912 to serve as its agricultural branch, in an effort to offer *useful employment for inmates.* The prison lands were closed to the public in the 1930s.

Trout and Trout Fishing on Spring Creek *(*within and adjacent to Rockview lands)

Trout and trout fishing on Spring Creek has an equally long history. In July, 1793, Gen. Benner wrote: *Here I can get any day I choose . . . four or five dozen trout. John*

Hastings and I caught 12 dozen in about two hours. Some 140 years later, state-owned trout culture stations were being developed in Pennsylvania, the largest of these on Spring Creek. And in 1934, the state's most outstanding example of trout fisheries opened at Fisherman's Paradise. It was designed as a demonstration project at the urging of PA Governor Gifford Pinchot, and with the help of his friend, Edward Hewitt, a pioneer in stream reconstruction and habitat improvement. Fisherman's Paradise has served as an example of Pinchot's advocacy for what he called the "conservation ethic" – the planned use and renewal of the country's natural resources.

Summary of the Importance of Rockview Lands

Excellent quality iron ore — central Pennsylvania's "gold" — was the enticement to General Philip Benner and to other ironmasters and entrepreneurs who, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries settled the area and established nearly twenty iron furnace operations in what would become Centre County's foremost industry. Huge landholdings provided the natural resources to operate the furnace: high quality iron ore, limestone for flux (to collect impurities), and hardwood (approximately an acre a day) for charcoal. These were combined with an abundant supply of waterpower provided by Spring Creek and its tributaries in order to operate bellows and forges. Put into blast in the spring, iron furnaces and forges remained in continuous operation until cold weather froze or slowed their waterpower sources. These early self-sufficient iron plantations brought settlement, wealth, and political clout, initiated exploration, and set the pattern for the industrial and commercial development of the area, They significantly influenced the location of Penn State and its resulting impact on Centre County.

It is rare for a historic and cultural property as potentially rich as the Rockview lands to have been publicly "off limits" for so many years. This transfer of land offers a unique opportunity to provide new information about this area's early history through evaluation and subsequent preservation and interpretation, in order to more closely link its historic and natural resources to the community's history.

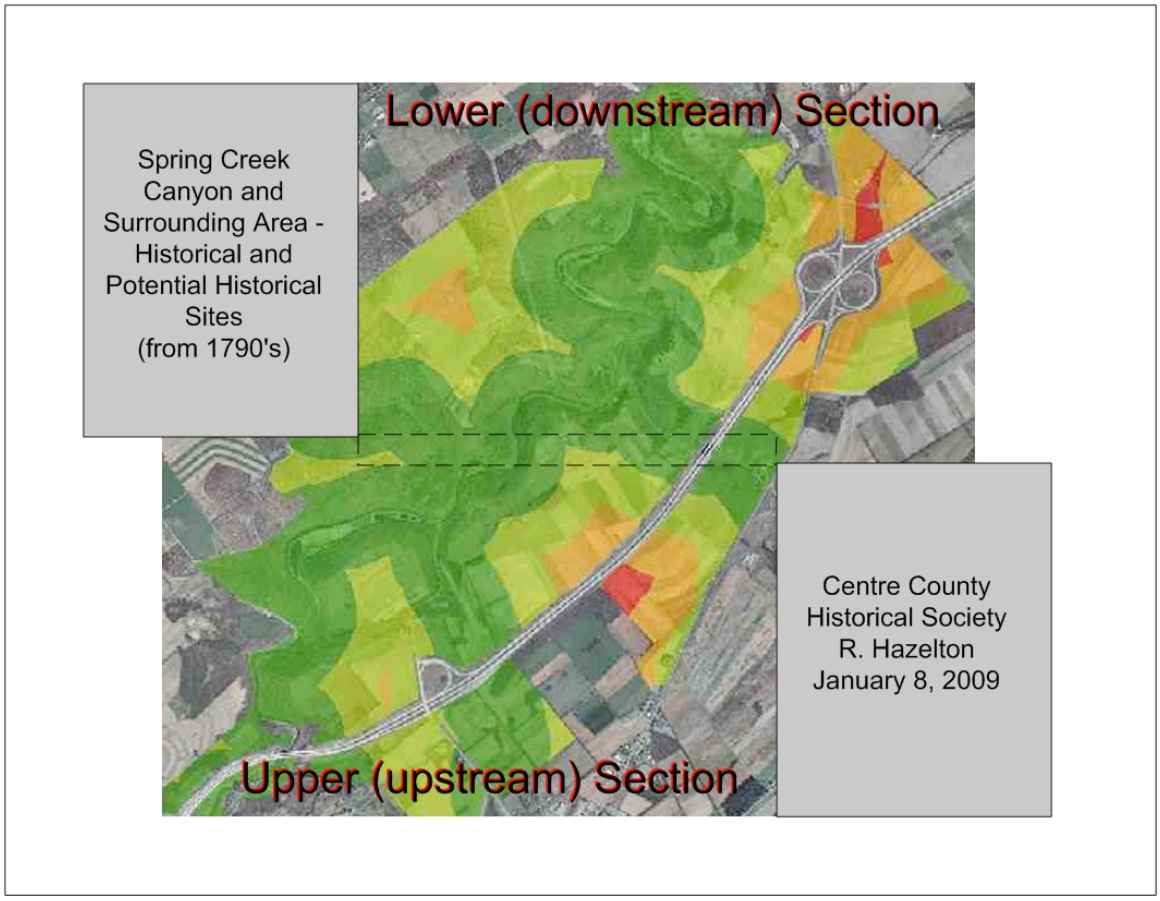

Figure 3. Stream sections with prehistoric archaeological zones superimposed.

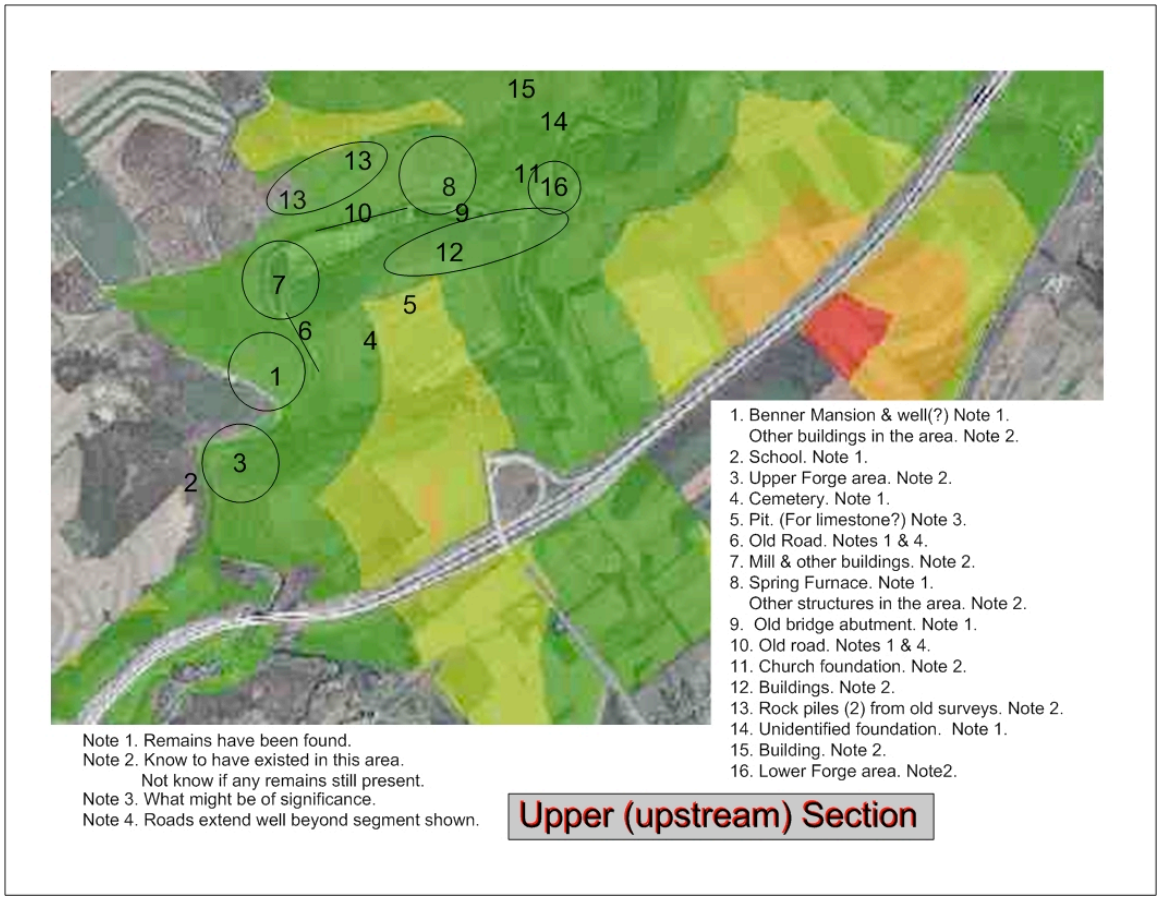

Figure 4. Upper stream section with approximate location of historic properties and archaeological zones superimposed.

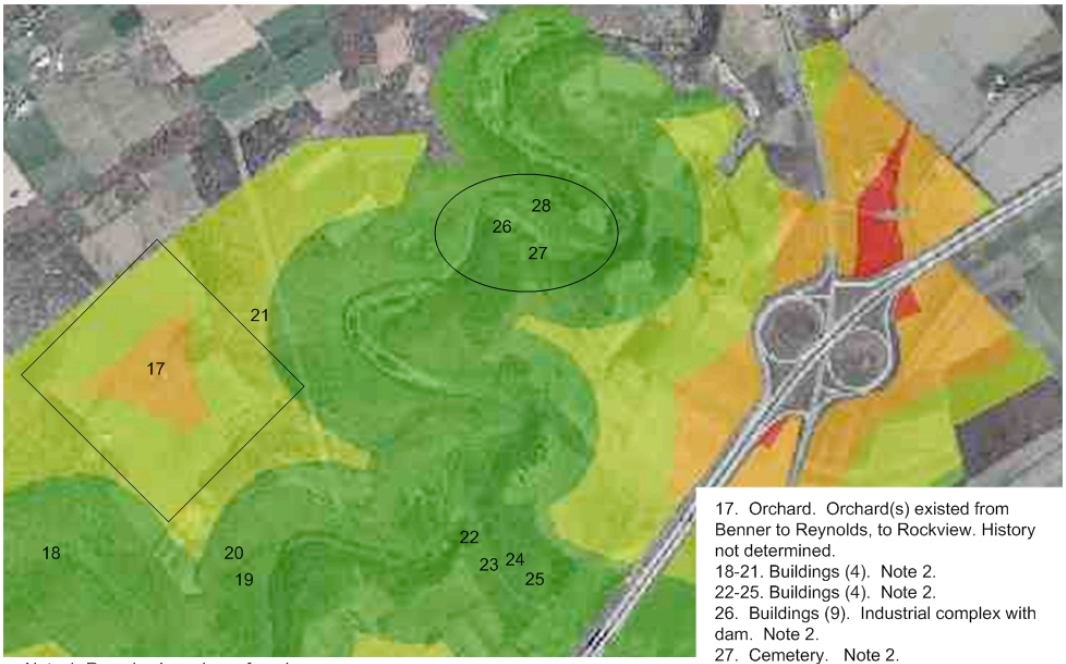

Figure 5. Lower stream section with approximate location of historic properties and archaeological zones superimposed.

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CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue ❦ State College, Pennsylvania 16801 ❦ 814.234.4779

March 7, 2007

David C. Breon, Chairman
Benner Township Board of Supervisors
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Dear Mr. Breon,

We are pleased to learn that a master plan and management plan are going to be developed for Rockview lands before they are transferred from state ownership to public use. As these planning studies get underway, we urge that historical archaeological sites related to the Philip Benner ironmaking operation and village at The Rock be part of the evaluation and subsequent preservation and interpretation.

Master Plan

The Master Plan should include an archaeological investigation of the area that was known as The Rock to identify and provide context for remaining structures and remnants, objects, and landscape features, in order to develop an archaeological district reflecting the importance of this ironmaking site for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Under the direction of archaeologists who specialize in industrial sites, the investigation should include:

- archival research
- preliminary field study
- recording of information
- and, based on the analysis of those findings, an extensive survey in order to evaluate, describe and provide documentation of their significance for a National Register submittal.

Management Plan

The Management Plan should include information about the archaeological district – what was found, how the archaeological resources related to each other and to the ironmaking village, and the role this early charcoal ironmaking operation played in Centre County's role in the Juniata Iron Region.

- Signage should be developed that will tell the story of Philip Benner and his early industrial enterprise at Rock.
- The boundaries of the village and its ironmaking components should be identified.
- Individual archaeological remains should be identified – foundations, landscape features, etc., if they lend themselves to specific interpretation.
- Examples of smaller artifacts could be displayed in a secure case.
- A description of the process of identifying and developing a contextual story in the creation of a National Register archaeological district should be provided.
- Maintenance of the archaeological district should be included in the management plan so that it does not become overgrown or vandalized.

As we indicated in our November 3, 2006 letter to Benner Township, it is rare for a historic and cultural property as rich as this one to have been publicly "off limits" for so many years. This transfer of Rockview land to the public offers a unique opportunity for Benner Township, Centre County, and the Commonwealth to provide new information about this area's early history in order to share it with present and future residents and visitors.

The Centre County Historical Society would be happy to assist in providing background and archival information, and in developing interpretive materials, if needed. And, as we also indicated in our earlier letter, the opening of this beautiful portion of Spring Creek as a new public resource is a wonderful gift to current and future residents, and we endorse it wholeheartedly. In order to make it as historically rich as possible, we urge that these recommendations be included in the master plan and the management plan.

Please contact me if you have questions, either by e-mail at melander@uplink.net, or by calling 234-4779 (Centre Furnace Mansion) or 238-8247 (home).

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Melander
President

Bald Eagle Archaeological Society

Chapter 24 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

March 14, 2007

David Breon, Chairman
Benner Township Board of Supervisors
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Dear Mr. Breon,

I am writing regarding the portion of the Rockview property that is to be transferred from prison ownership to Benner Township. As you know, there are several known archaeological sites on this property that are listed in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS), the state files kept by the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the State Museum in Harrisburg. In addition, this property may contain additional prehistoric and historic sites that have not been recorded in the PASS files.

We would strongly suggest that the presence of archaeological sites be considered in future planning for this property. In case a survey that would identify and evaluate all sites is not possible, the potential for prehistoric sites should be addressed in a management plan so that sensitive areas could be protected from either intentional or unintended damage once the area becomes public. Sensitive areas would be those with a high probability of containing material relating to prehistoric people who used the area. Prehistoric material could be located either in small rockshelters or in open air camp or habitation sites.

We hope that cultural resources will be part of future planning for the Rockview property. If you have questions you may contact me at 814-238-5239.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Graetzer
President

Conclusions

The Nittany Valley, bounded by Tussey, Nittany, and Bald Eagle Ridges, has been shaped over millennia by climate, time, and water. The embracing forested ridges and valley floor from Pine Grove Mills, Boalsburg, Lemont, State College, Pleasant Gap and Stormstown to Bellefonte and Milesburg are woven together by the silver ribbons of Spring Creek and its tributaries. Its subterranean cavern water ways, its bountiful springs, its valley farms, its sylvan hills, its canyon wilds, its abundant wild trout, its historic settlements and landscapes, its modern university, and its contemporary urban developments, are the foundation of our region. Spring Creek has so many values for our community - scenic, historic, recreational, and ecological values have been the focus of this study. This vital living environmental system that Spring Creek weaves through our lives deserves our respect and understanding.

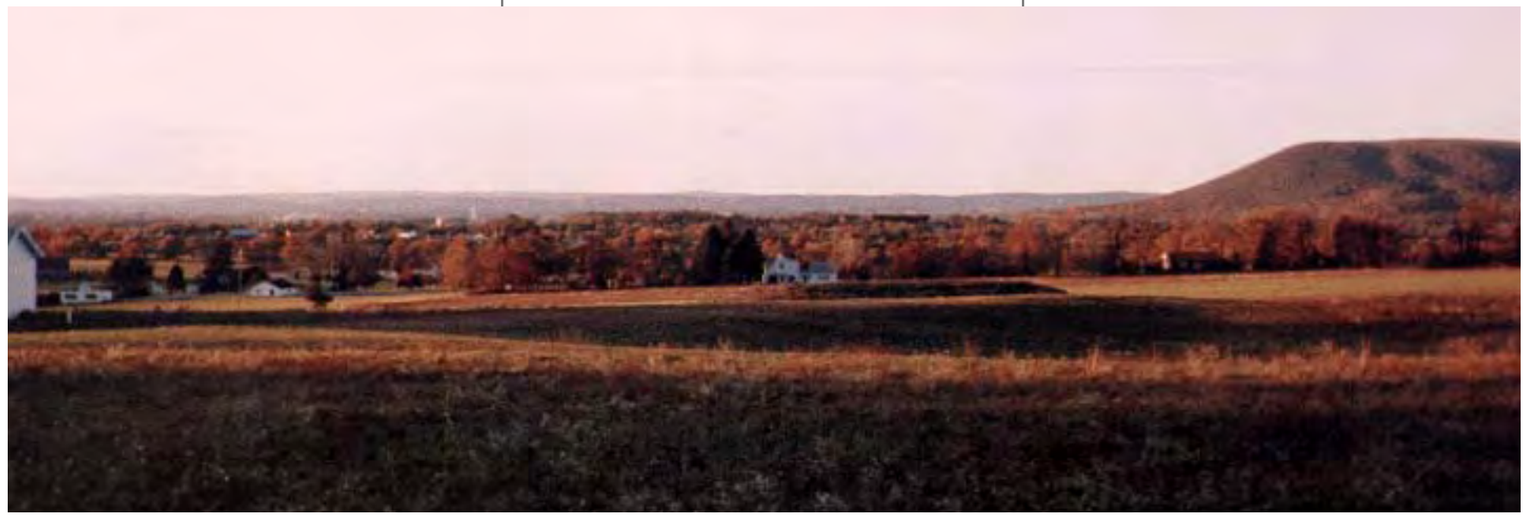
The recommendations shown on the Conclusions Maps, included in the Appendix to this report are intended to stimulate discussion in our community about the issues and opportunities of conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Spring Creek Corridor. In general those recommendations urge us to consider the following actions.

Establish a healthy riparian zone along the stream banks engaging both the private and public landowners in this effort - a green corridor for Spring Creek through our community. Plant trees to cool and protect the stream and allow nature more freedom in this flood-prone zone. Apply the green corridor idea to all new development along the stream and its tributaries as bucolic farms and forests are inevitably subdivided and developed. Provide greenways through the community for recreation, stream protection, and habitat enhancement and address the issues of storm water management and non-point source pollution.

Recognize, reveal, and exploit the rich rural and urban cultural history that surrounds us. Use these resources to enhance the region's identity and to present the community to the world.

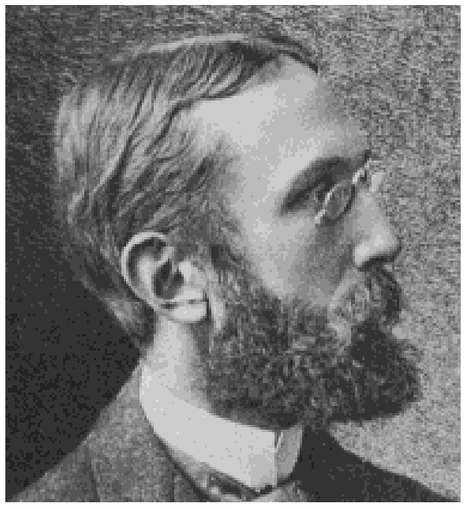
Ensure the permanent protection of the Spring Creek Canyon wilds at the center of our metropolitan region. The aquatic life of the stream, the wild trout, the cliffs and forested hills are an ecological resource of national significance that deserves recognition and protection.

Connect the abundant accessible public lands along the creek with a unified trail



system extending into the heart of our communities. Protect the quality of our environment and enhance our access to outdoor recreation.
Unite the creeds and missions of our fragmented authorities toward these ends and ensure the vitality of Spring Creek and the quality of our environment and recognize that our community is being transformed into a metropolitan area in the Nittany Valley.

History can be a great teacher as we strive toward these goals A century ago the city of Boston, Massachusetts faced a dilemma similar to ours. Charles Eliot proposed an open space system for the Boston region that responded to the growth of that metropolitan area and the rise of the industrialized city. Eliot was a landscape architect, an apprentice to Frederick Law Olmsted--the father of Central Park in New York City and the designer of open space and parks



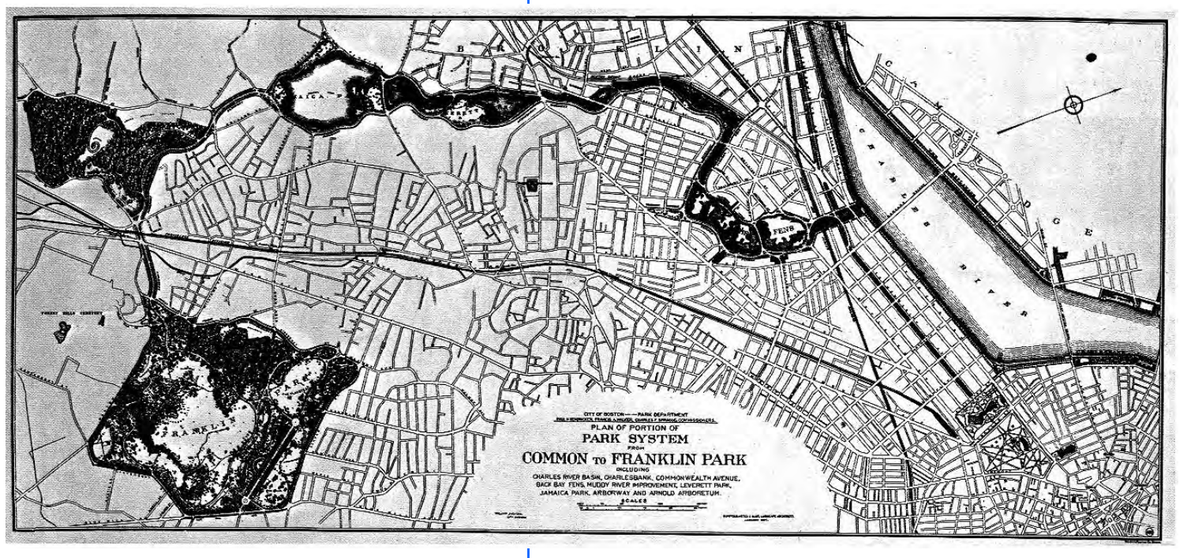
in metropolitan areas across the country. Eliot and Olmsted both appreciated Ralph Waldo Emerson's ideas about the uniqueness of America's natural heritage and the idea that true art is derived from nature. Many of Charles Eliot's proposals were adopted and survive today treasured by the residents of the Boston area as their "Emerald Necklace" of parks and open spaces.

It is the conclusion of the ClearWater Conservancy that the Nittany Valley today is at a point of decision analogous to that of a century ago in Boston. Our region is swiftly being transformed from the small towns of the post-war years, to the larger towns of today, and beyond to tomorrow's information and service based metropolitan area. Spring Creek and its associated natural and cultural landscapes are a vital part of the quality of life in this region and special to this community and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The creek and its associated ground water systems are at risk from the thousands of incremental changes to its watershed that over time may overwhelm the system and its sustainability. Likewise, the historic sites, buildings, and landscapes along the creek are at risk of being obscured or diluted by these changes. These historic landscapes and elegant ecosystems, with their many attributes, give the Nittany Valley its unique identity and contributes significantly to our pride as a very special place. History will judge whether we grasp our moment and direct our energies towards embracing the idea of a community that values its natural, cultural, an scenic heritage and brings them forward into its future.

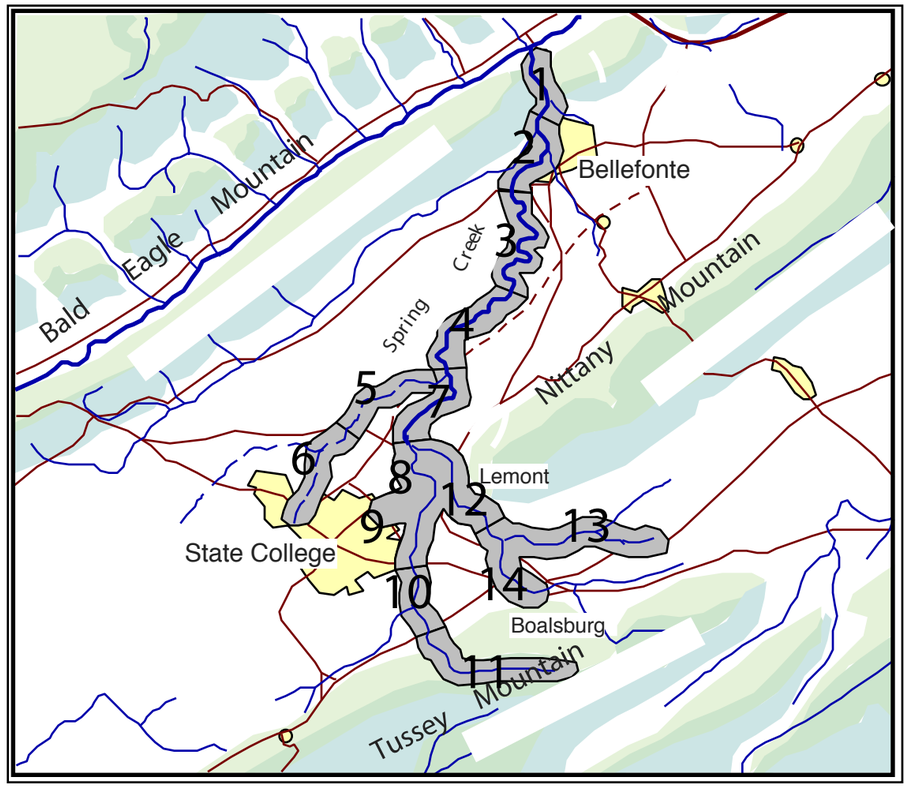
This report summarizes Phase I of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. It is not a master plan, it is but a step in a process of understanding that derives its value primarily from its educational role of informing and engaging the public in the process of protecting and enjoying the resources of the Spring Creek Corridor. Please join the ClearWater Conservancy in participating and supporting this historic effort.

Here is a rapidly growing metropolis planted by the sea, and yet possessed of no portion of the sea-front. Here is a city interwoven with tidal marshes and controlling none of them...Here is a district possessed of a charming river already much resorted to for pleasure, the banks of which are continually in danger of spoliation...Here is a community which must have pure drinking water, which yet up to this time has failed to secure even one water basin from danger of pollution....Here is a community, said to be the richest and most enlightened in America, which yet allows its finest scenes of natural beauty to be destroyed one by one, regardless of the fact that the great city of the future which is to fill this land would certainly prize every such scene exceedingly, and would gladly help to pay the cost of preserving them today.

Charles Eliot, to the Trustees of Public Reservations, Boston Park Commission
December 16, 1891
from Design on the Land, p. 324
by Norman T. Newton



Appendix: Study Maps



1. Milesburg
2. Bellefonte
3. Fisherman's Paradise
4. Rockview
5. Big Hollow East
6. Big Hollow West
7. Houserville
8. Slab Cabin North
9. Thompson Run
10. Slab Cabin South
11. Roaring Run
12. Lemont
13. Cedar Run
14. Boalsburg

The Appendix includes reductions of the Conclusions Maps for each of the fourteen mapping sections of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. Each map contains both an Analysis Map, summarizing the salient issues and opportunities, and a Recommendations Map, which presents a vision and develops ideas for consideration by the community for each section.

A sample of four of the study Inventory Maps is also included in this Appendix. For each of the fourteen sections four Inventory Maps record the attributes of that section. They are thematically organized: Ecology Map (Vegetation and Hydrology); History Map; Property Ownership Map; and Land Use and Zoning Map.

Additional maps of the Spring Creek Watershed were also developed for this study: Corridor Location Map; Topography and Surface Hydrology Map;Civil Divisions and Roads Map.

These maps, more than seventy-five in total, constitute the primary data record of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. They are available to the public through the ClearWater Conservancy.

The Spring Creek Corridor Study

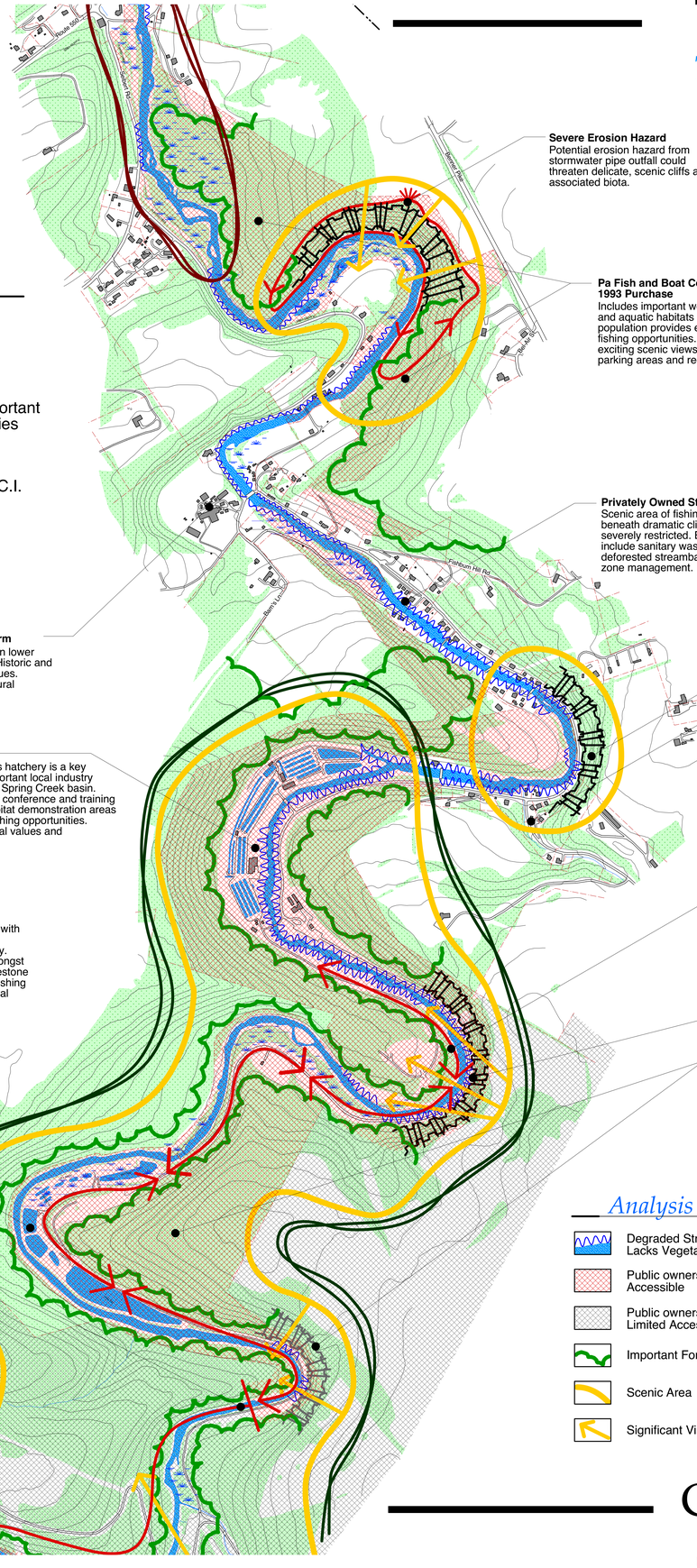
The ClearWater Conservancy

Penn State • Department of Landscape Architecture

Analysis Summary

Spring Creek Canyon:
A Precious Natural and Scenic Resource

- Spring Creek Canyon: Outstanding Natural Heritage Inventory Site
- Outstanding Scenic Limestone Cliff and Important Native Forests and Rare Natural Communities
- Outstanding Recreational Fishing Facility
- Public access restricted due to Rockview S.C.I. Management
- Degraded Privately Owned Riparian Area



Analysis Map

Feet 400 200 0 400 800

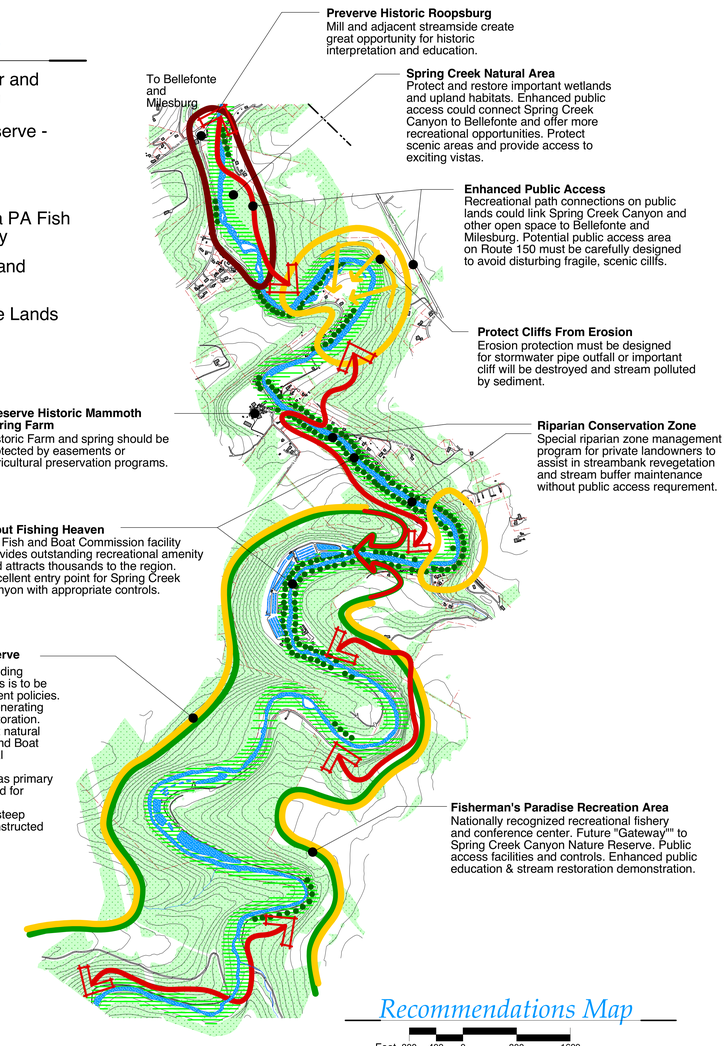
Analysis Legend

- Degraded Stream Bank — Lacks Vegetated Cover
- Public ownership — Accessible
- Public ownership — Limited Access
- Important Forest
- Scenic Area
- Significant View
- Cliff
- Important Wetlands
- Existing Pedestrian Access
- No Pedestrian Access
- Area of Historic Importance
- Natural Heritage Inventory Zone

Recommendations Summary

Fisherman's Paradise: Trout Fishing Center and Northern Gateway to Spring Creek Canyon

- Establish Spring Creek Canyon Nature Reserve - Crown Jewel of Region's Natural Areas
- Fisherman's Paradise - Special Fishery Demonstration and Public Recreation Area
- Recreational Path Linkage to Bellefonte Via PA Fish & Boat Commission's Spring Creek Property
- Preserve Historic Mammoth Springs Farm and Roopsburg Mill
- Spring Creek Conservation Zone for Private Lands

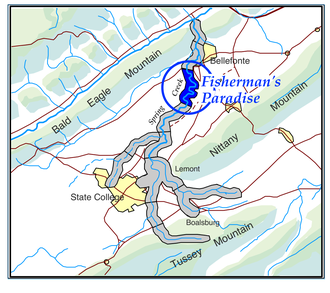


Recommendations Map

Feet 800 400 0 800 1600

Recommendations Legend

- Revegetated Streambank
- Scenic Resource Protection Area
- Historic Resource Protection Area
- Natural Resource Protection Area
- Riparian Conservation Zone
- Proposed Recreational Access



Corridor Inventory: *Conclusions*

North

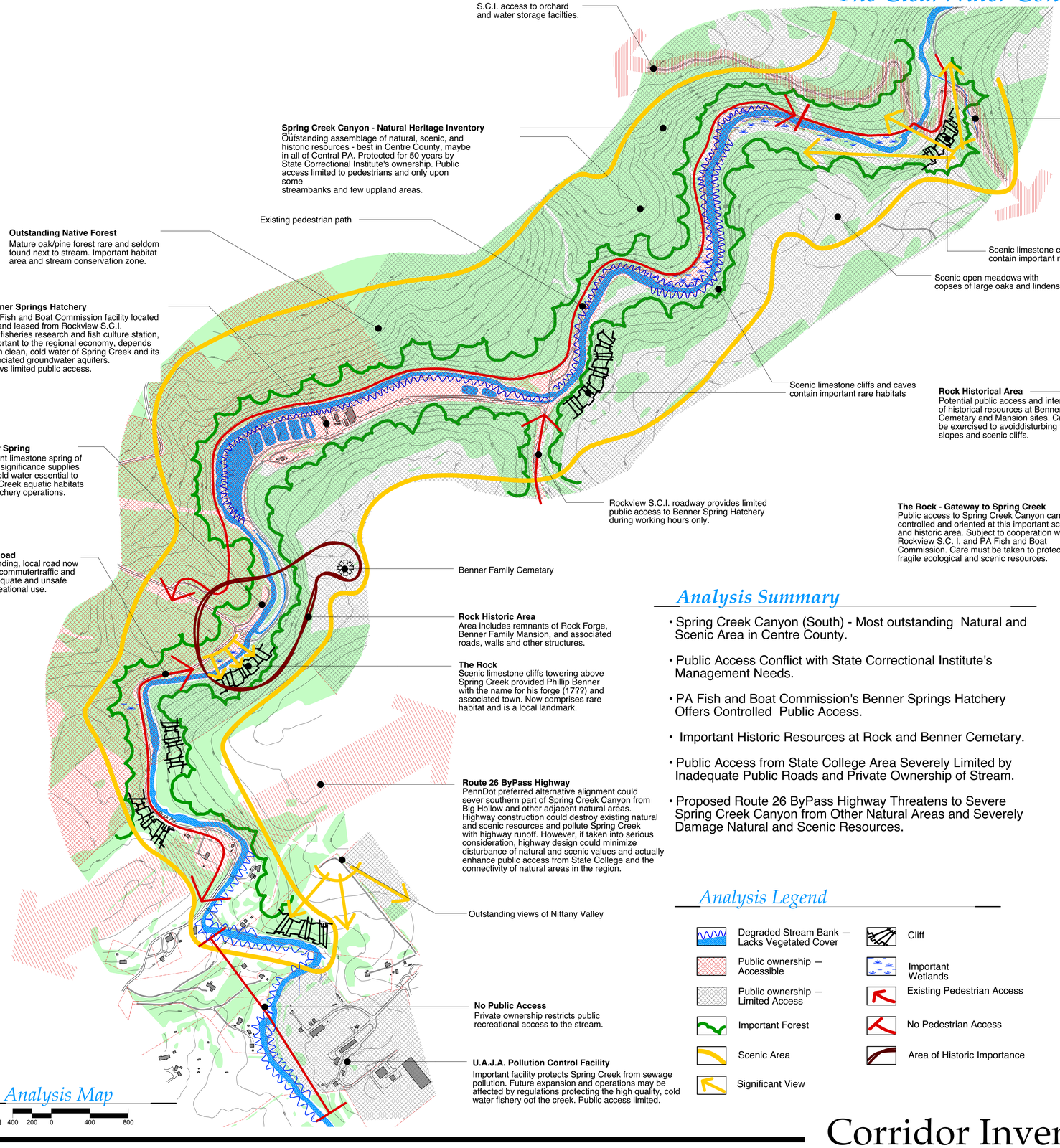
Scale: as shown Contour interval: 25 feet

Fisherman's Paradise 5/5

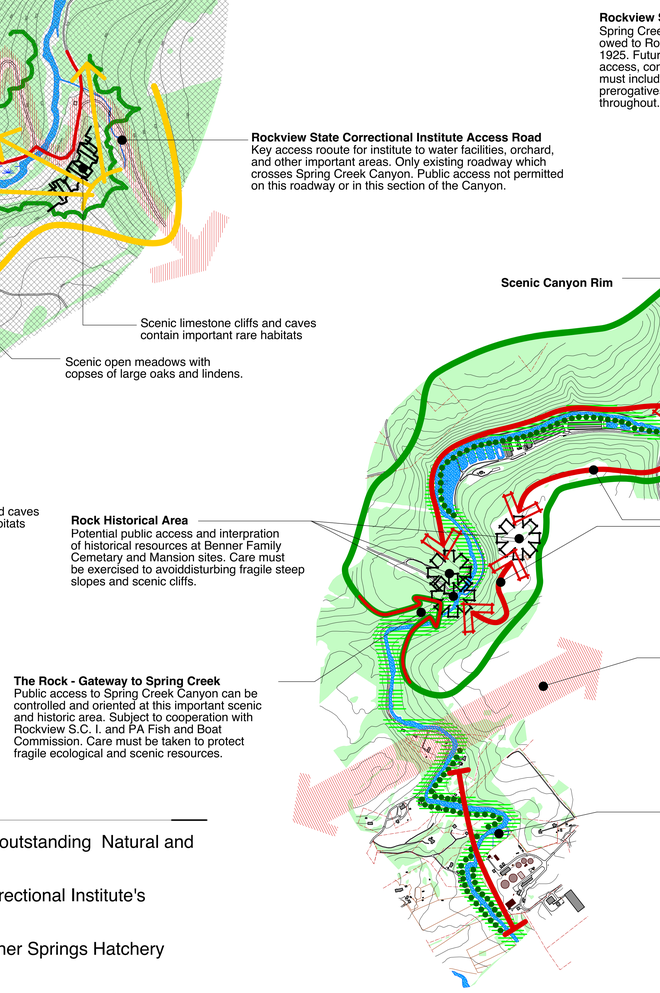
The Spring Creek Corridor Study

The ClearWater Conservancy

Penn State • Department of Landscape Architecture



Analysis Map



Recommendations Map

Feet 800 400 0 800 1600

Analysis Summary

- Spring Creek Canyon (South) - Most outstanding Natural and Scenic Area in Centre County.
- Public Access Conflict with State Correctional Institute's Management Needs.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission's Benner Springs Hatchery Offers Controlled Public Access.
- Important Historic Resources at Rock and Benner Cemetary.
- Public Access from State College Area Severely Limited by Inadequate Public Roads and Private Ownership of Stream.
- Proposed Route 26 ByPass Highway Threatens to Severe Spring Creek Canyon from Other Natural Areas and Severely Damage Natural and Scenic Resources.

Analysis Legend

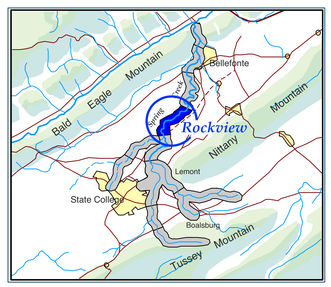
- Degraded Stream Bank — Lacks Vegetated Cover
- Public ownership — Accessible
- Public ownership — Limited Access
- Important Forest
- Scenic Area
- Significant View
- Cliff
- Important Wetlands
- Existing Pedestrian Access
- No Pedestrian Access
- Area of Historic Importance

Recommendations Summary

- Establish Spring Creek Canyon Nature Reserve - Crown Jewel of Region's Natural Areas
- Create Southern Gateway at Rock for Public Access to Spring Creek Canyon
- Recreational Path Linkage to State College Area Via Big Hollow and to Bellefonte Via Spring Creek Canyon
- Spring Creek Conservation Zone for Private Lands
- Proposed Route 26 Bypass should have parkway design standards to minimize disturbance, enhance scenic beauty and connect, not sever, ecological areas and recreational access.

Recommendations Legend

- Revegetated Streambank
- Scenic Resource Protection Area
- Historic Resource Protection Area
- Natural Resource Protection Area
- Riparian Conservation Zone
- Proposed Recreational Access



Corridor Inventory: *Conclusions*

North

Scale: as shown Contour interval: 25 feet

Rockview 5/5