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WCCSP MASTER PLAN

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Background

Division Mission

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide Delaware's residents and visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities and open spaces, responsible stewardship of the lands and the cultural and natural resources that we have been entrusted to protect and manage, and resource-based interpretive and educational services.

Purpose and Expectations

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a vision and a framework for the management of White Clay Creek State Park, including enough details to give clear understanding while keeping content as simple as possible. Many people and programs contribute to the use, maintenance, innovation, and protection of White Clay Creek State Park. A unified and coordinated plan will save staff and volunteer time, complete projects faster through better understanding of priorities and relationships, improve cohesion and collaboration, and provide open information on the management of White Clay Creek State Park.

This Plan is intended to be a guide and to clarify a course of action for substantial Park projects. Although projects are prioritized and their importance discussed here, the Plan is limited to White Clay Creek State Park. Other projects in other State Parks and across the Division may take precedence over items in this Plan. Future land acquisitions, future budgets, the dynamic nature of the environment, and unforeseen needs can affect decisions. The Division is committed to this Plan, but retains discretion to make its own decisions to balance tasks within White Clay Creek State Park and across the Division.

This Plan should be:

- available to, and understood by, all Division staff, so they can regularly reference it and make progress on its content;
- readily available to the public for their own understanding;
- reviewed annually by Park management to formally assess progress and need for changes; and
- revised in ten years to keep priorities relevant based on current circumstances.

Park Description and Operation

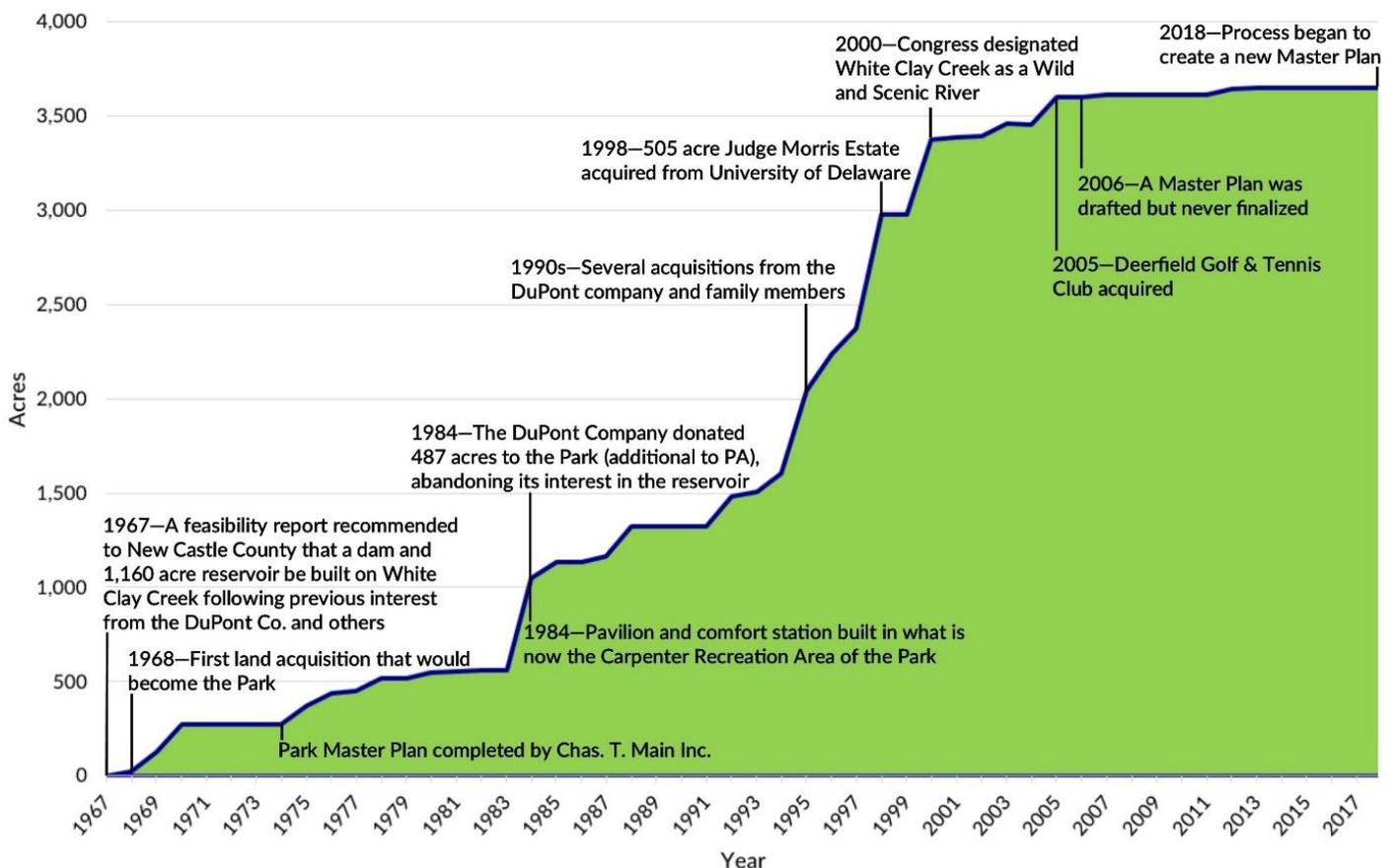
The purchase of 24.3 acres of land from Joseph and Velma Smith in 1968 created the first piece of what is now White Clay Creek State Park. With numerous acquisitions since, the Park has grown to 3,647 acres. Among other characteristics, its boundaries are complex with various public access points (10 vehicle, 35 trail). It currently has the

most trails (about 40 miles) of any State Park, with 24% of the total trail miles in the Delaware State Park system. Elevations range from 60 feet to about 350 feet. The Park currently hosts partnership agreements with a full-service golf course, a remote controlled aircraft club, and a community-supported agriculture organization. A rich history and unique features provide content for popular Park programs. The lush greenery, vast landscapes, and sparkling streams of White Clay Creek State Park offer a refreshing change of pace from the surrounding growth of development.

There are currently 8 full-time, salaried staff focused on White Clay Creek State Park: a Park Superintendent, Administrative Specialist, Maintenance Supervisor, two Maintenance Technicians, two Enforcement Officers (Rangers), and one Interpretive Program Manager (Park Naturalist). There are 5 additional hourly staff that regularly work in the Park: an Assistant Superintendent, a Volunteer Manager (splitting time with Brandywine Creek State Park), a Trainer-Educator, and two Park Patrol Officers. There is a Regional Park Administrator that oversees White Clay Creek State Park along with six other State Parks. There is a Regional Enforcement Officer that is responsible for enforcement in the same region. Part-time staff, volunteers, and Division of Parks and Recreation central staff also help support the park.

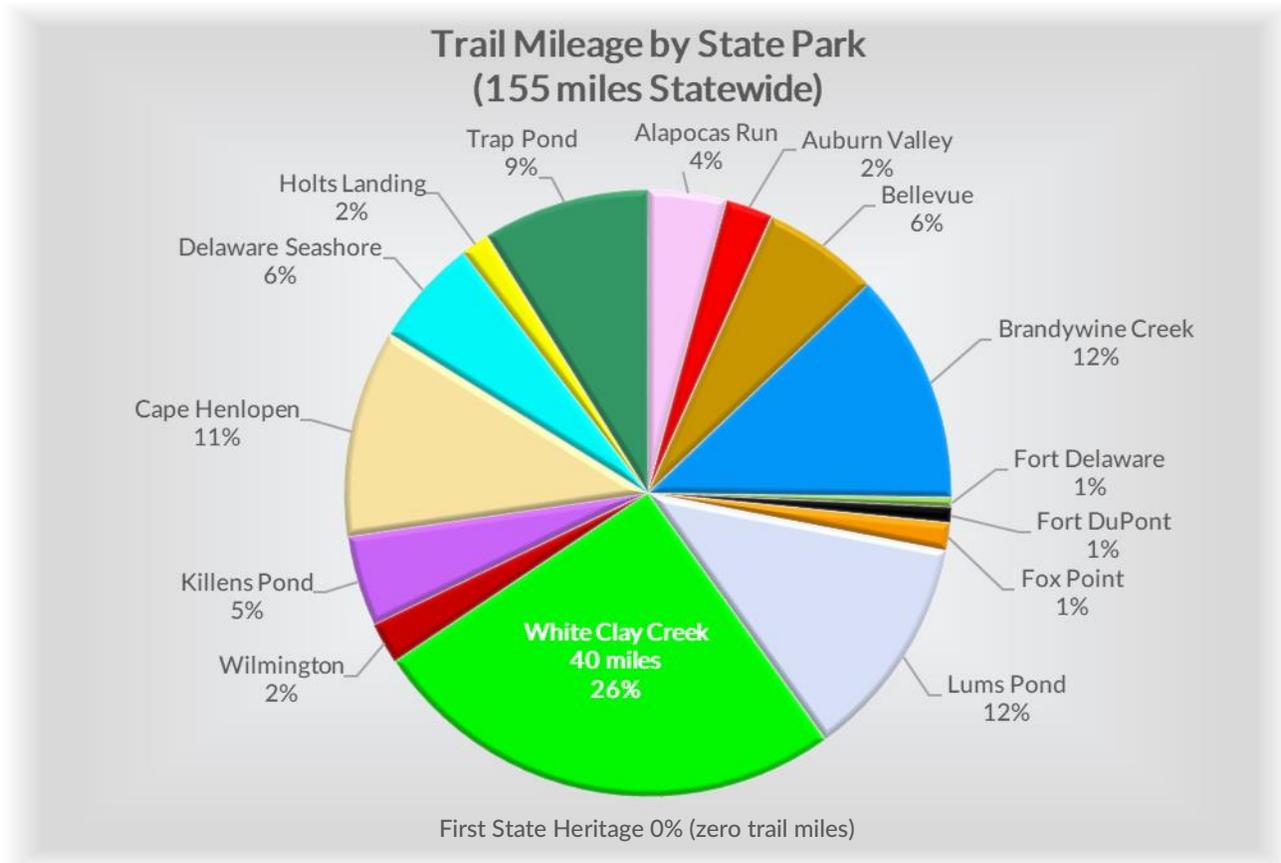
A current map of the Park is in **Appendix A.**

Notable Moments and Park Growth



Trail Plan

For over a decade, the Division has created and published robust trail plans for individual State Parks. The last Trail Plan for White Clay Creek State Park was adopted in 2011. The Division completed much of the public engagement and work to update the Trail Plan in 2017, but held approval because of the Master Plan process beginning. With both efforts ongoing and because the two are tightly related, the Division decided to formally adopt the updated Trail Plan as part of the Master Plan process. The Trail Plan document is incorporated by reference as **Appendix X** of this Master Plan. Prioritization of the more substantial trail projects are discussed in this Master Plan.



Public Input

This Plan was made possible because of public thoughts and ideas. The input on the front end of the process, from the public who attended open houses, participated in the online survey, or otherwise shared comments was especially valuable. Common themes of what people want are keeping the Park natural and minimizing development. The largest asset of this Park is its network of landscapes that allows visitors to be immersed in the natural environment. Open spaces of field, forest, and stream are resources in limited supply but hugely valuable for public enjoyment. Minimizing development is important for aesthetic and environmental reasons. The things people enjoy most about the Park are trails, nature, biking, and hiking/walking. About 75% of comments

mentioned one or more of these topics. Other comments specific to birdwatching, running, fishing, or similar would have raised that percentage if they were added. The most common comment was to prevent any dramatic change in the feel of the Park.



NOTICE

WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

The Division of Parks and Recreation is beginning the process of creating a Master Plan for this Park. The purpose is to provide a vision and a framework for the stewardship and use of White Clay Creek State Park.

Webpage for info and updates:
www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/information/pages/white-clay-creek-state-park-master-plan.aspx

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN A BRIEF [SURVEY](#) TO PROVIDE INITIAL COMMENTS. THE LINK FOR THE ONLINE SURVEY IS ON THE WEBPAGE ABOVE.

Four [open houses](#) are scheduled to gather public interest and ideas before creating a draft of the Master Plan.

- Open House 1 - Natural Resources and Interpretation - June 25, 2018*
- Open House 2 - Buildings/Infrastructure - July 10, 2018*
- Open House 3 - Roads and Trails - August 1, 2018*
- Open House 4 - Recreation - August 20, 2018*

All open houses are tentatively scheduled from 4pm-7pm at Deerfield, 507 Thompson Station Road, Newark, DE 19711.

*Unforeseen circumstances could change the date, time, or location. Please check the Statewide meetings calendar or the website before you set out to attend a session.

The Division plans to hold another open house or workshop for public feedback in the fall, once a framework is created.

FOR QUESTIONS: DNREC_WCCmasterplan@state.de.us OR 302-739-9240

Every comment was heard or read, and considered important to the development of the Plan.

Implementation Strategies

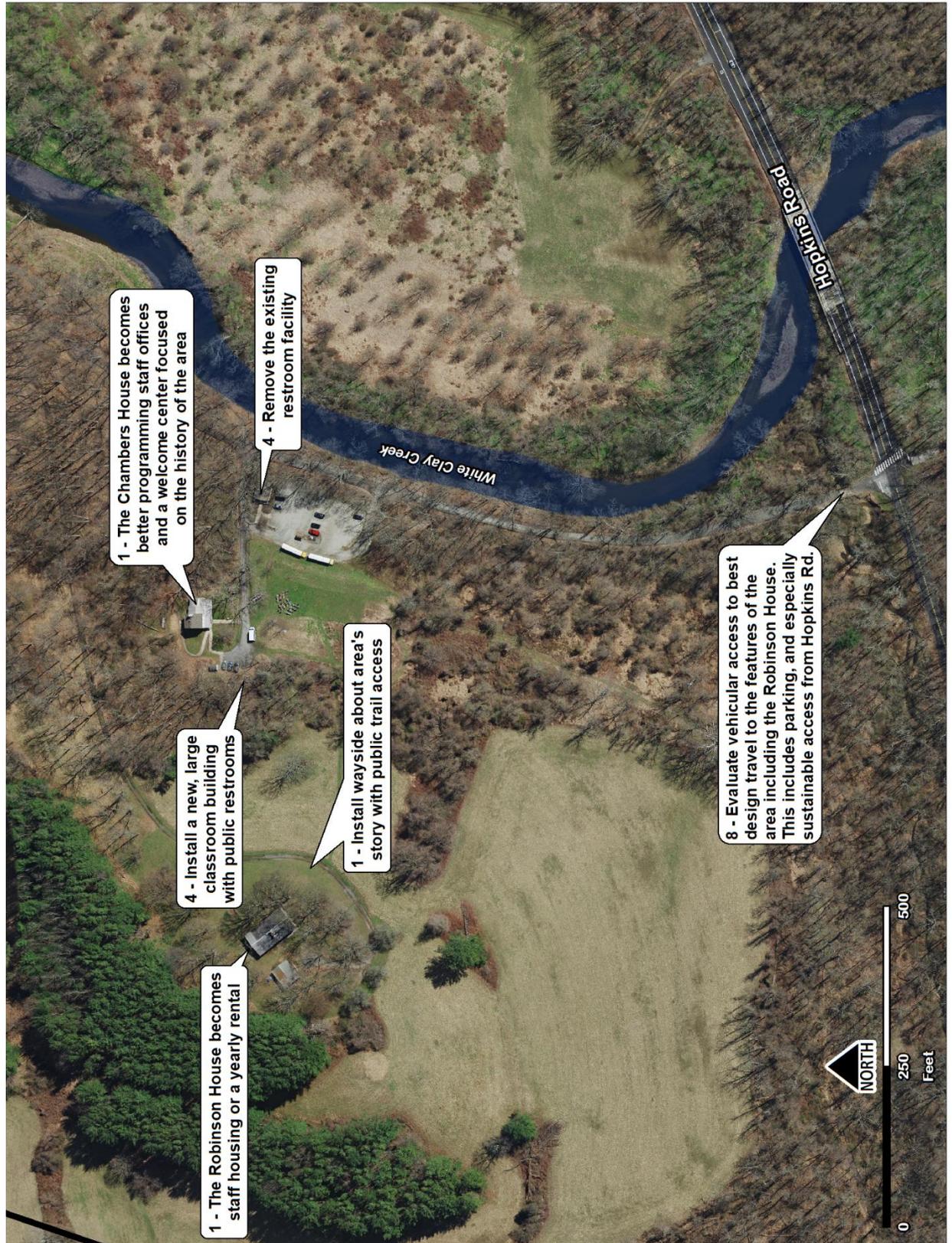
This section describes the broad approach to implementing projects in the Park. Many individual items in the next section titled ‘Formation of Action Items’ can be packaged together as they share a theme or location. Implementation would be more effective and efficient if they are considered together instead of individually. Overall, this ‘Implementation Strategies’ section of this Master Plan serves as the strongest guide for the Division’s timing and priority of projects.

Some of the language in this Section may be paraphrased, as it is intended to be akin to an executive summary. But each Implementation Strategy includes numbers to reference each action item. Further background and details for each action item can be referenced by the number in the ‘Discussion of Action Items by Row’ subsection beginning on [page 24](#).

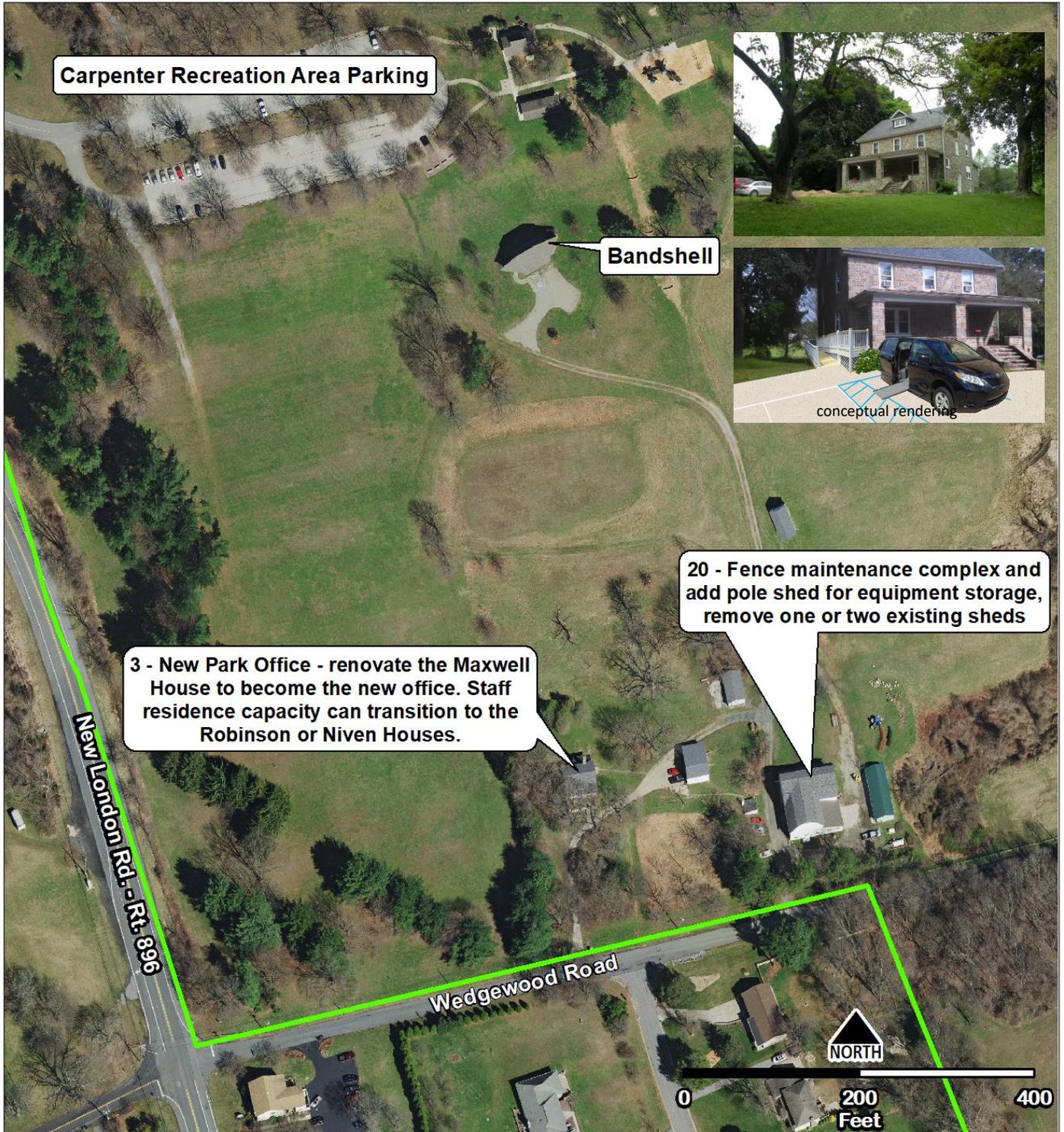
As part of the planning process, the formation of action items actually occurred before implementation strategies were considered. Because the implementation strategies are the most substantial piece, they are given a primary placement in this Master Plan document. But the process began with communication, public input, and drafting individual action items. This is discussed in the ‘Formation of Action Items’ section.

The following strategies and action items require further planning to decide subordinate details. Further planning efforts will include representation from the Park staff, Office of Design and Development, Regional Operations and Enforcement, Cultural Resources Unit, Environmental Stewardship Program, Parks Resource Office, and input from the public. There should also be some threshold for flexibility in implementation of this Plan as described in the ‘Expectations’ paragraph of the ‘Background’.

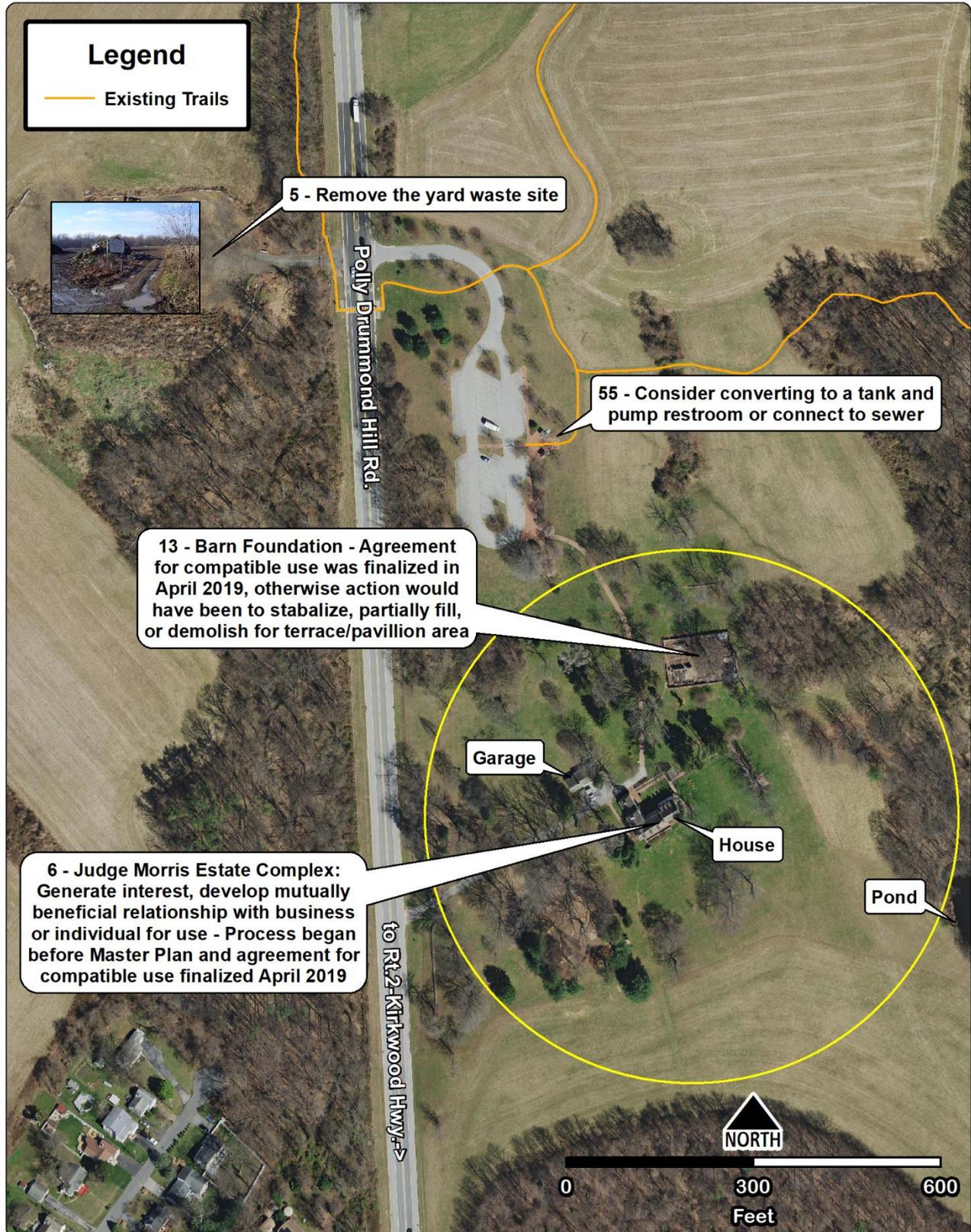
Strategy 1 - Nature Center and Programming Complex - The Nature Center area needs infrastructure improvements to meet the demand for programs. A new name for the complex should be considered to more accurately portray education and history. The existing buildings should be repurposed to accommodate program and conservation interests. Please reference items [1](#), [4](#), and [8](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



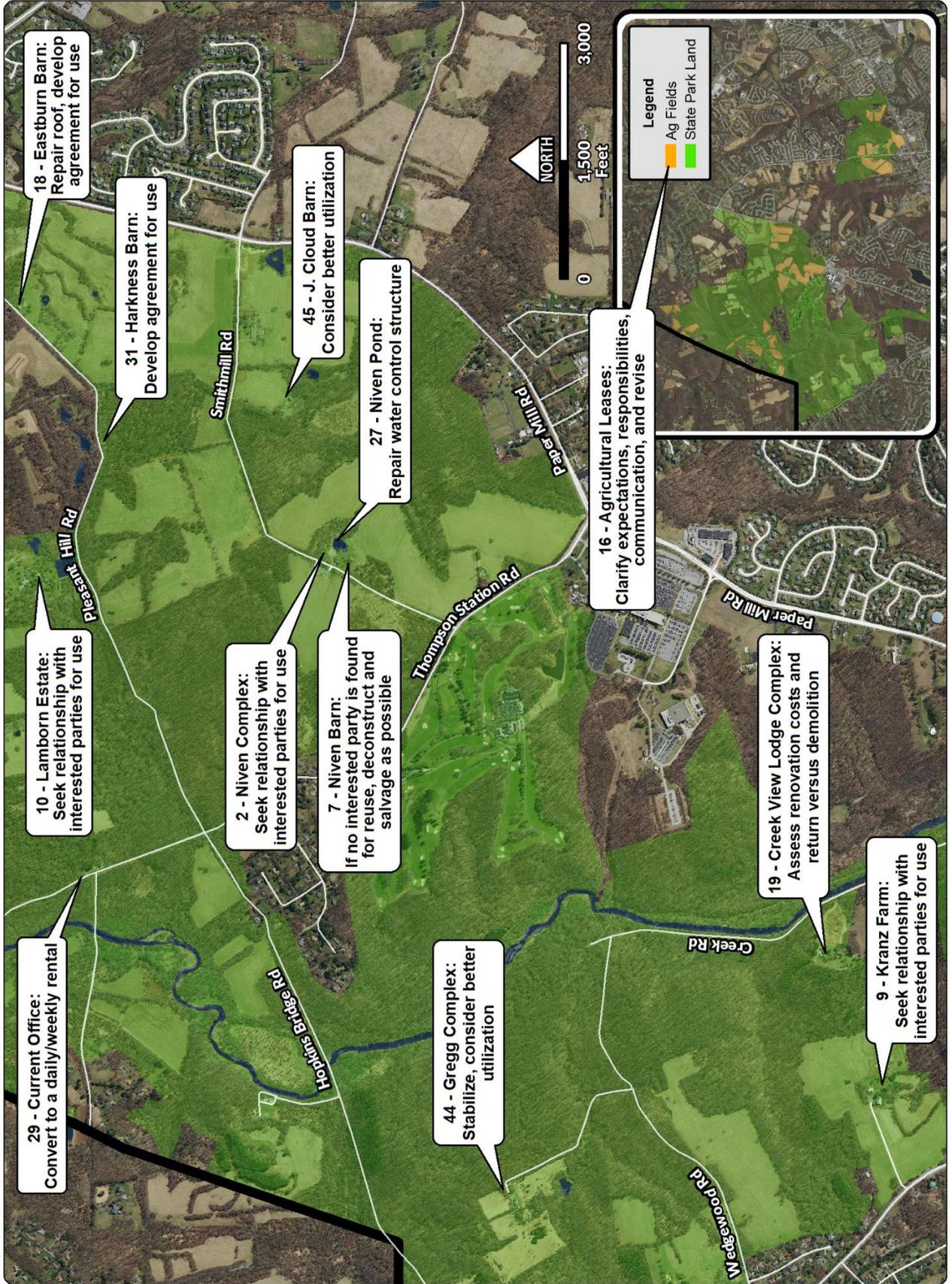
Strategy 2 - Park Office moves to the Maxwell House - The current Office lacks several desirable attributes for its function. Several options were considered, with the Maxwell House best accommodating function, location, cost, and limiting new development. Coordinating the office move with the fencing and pole shed at the Maintenance Complex would be effective. Please reference items [3](#) and [20](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for a more detailed description.



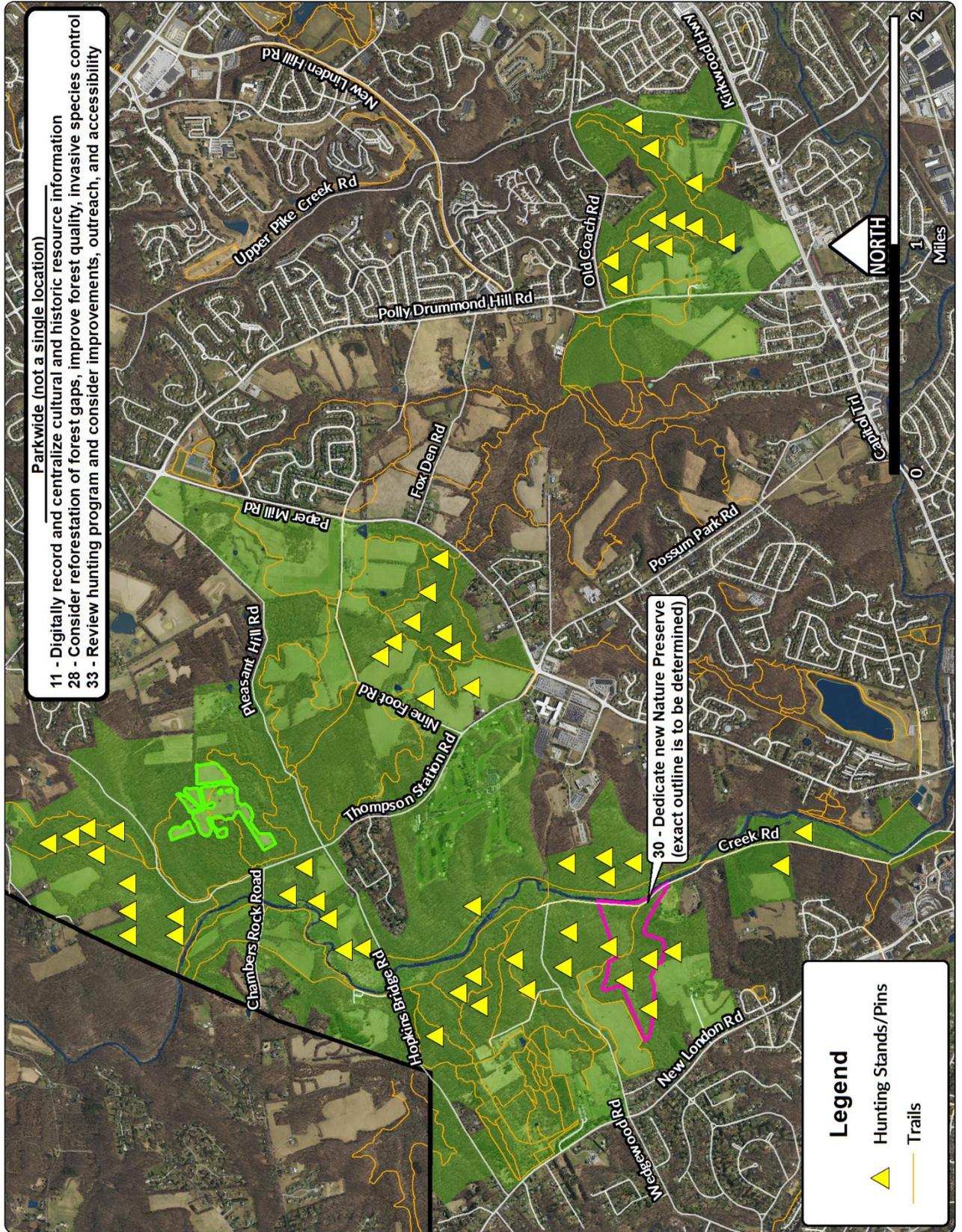
Strategy 3 - Judge Morris Area - The large house and adjacent grounds are underutilized, though that will soon change with a new agreement and partnership. Removing the yard waste site is a necessary improvement, and upgrading the restroom would be ideal. Please reference items [5](#), [6](#), [13](#), and [55](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



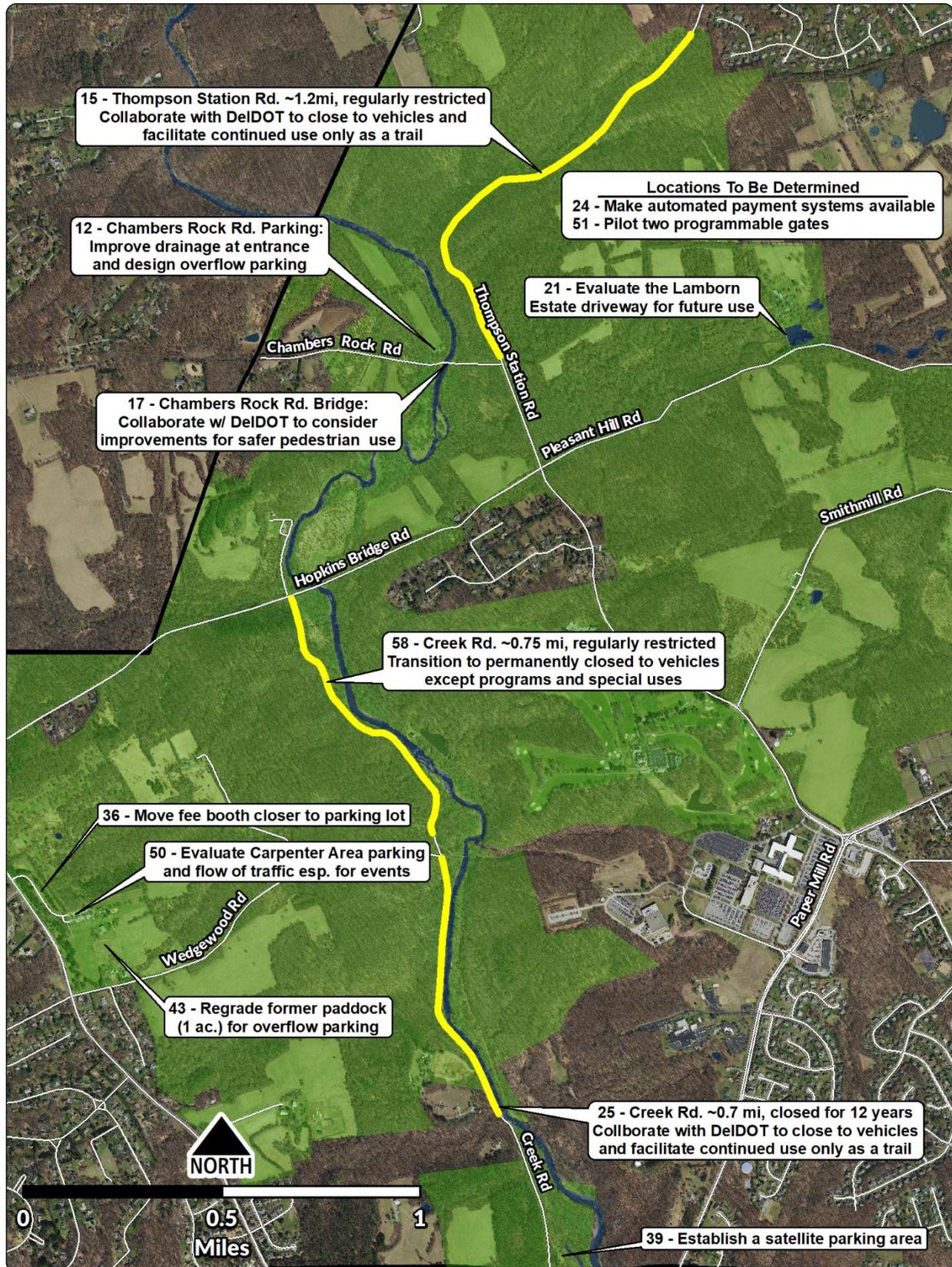
Strategy 4 – Potential Partnerships to Locate within the Park – About half of the Park's 75 buildings are underutilized. There are several opportunities to develop partnerships to better utilize idle buildings and a few limited areas in the Park. Please reference items [2](#), [7](#), [9](#), [10](#), [16](#), [18](#), [19](#), [27](#), [29](#), [31](#), [44](#), and [45](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



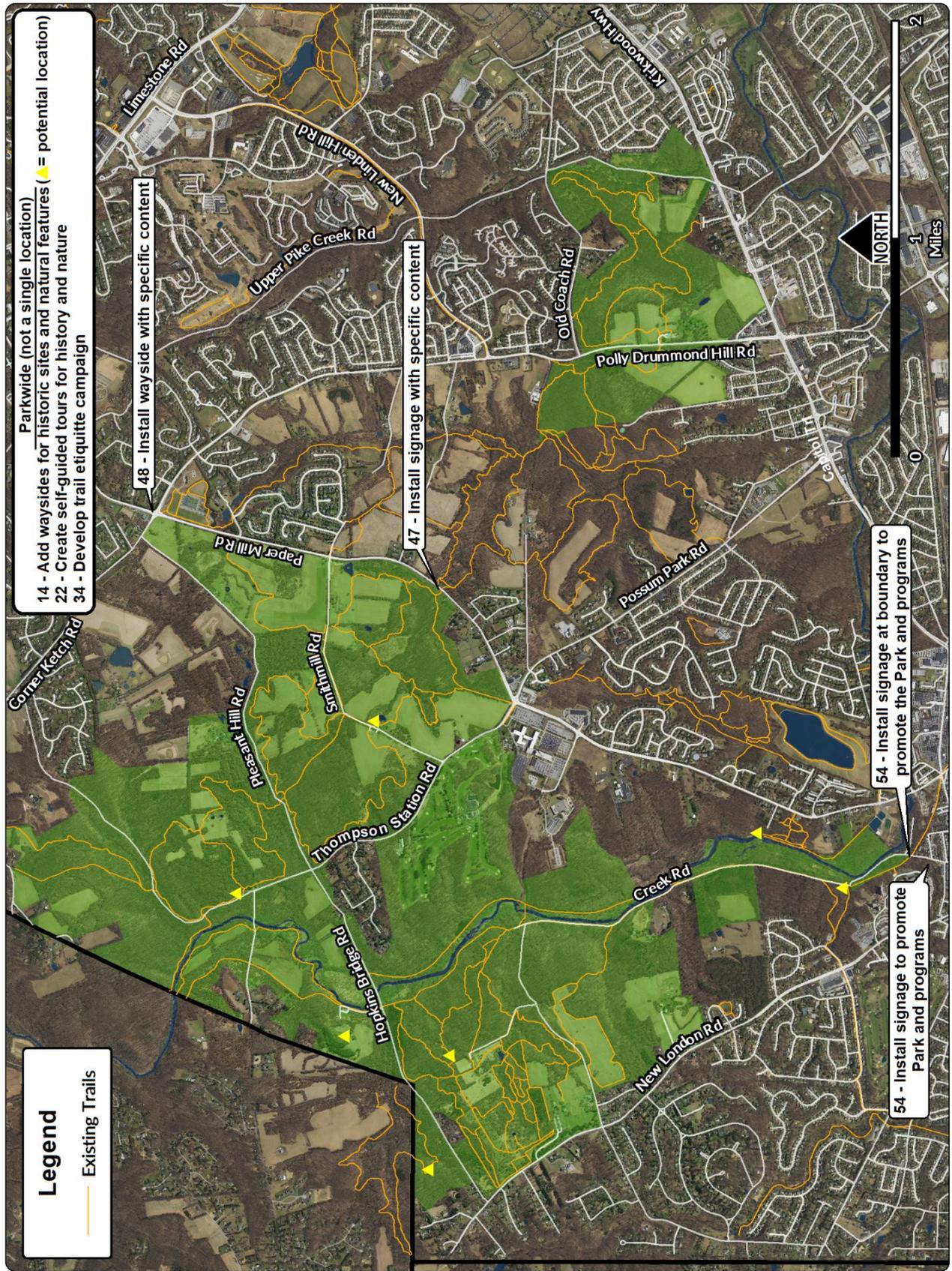
Strategy 5 - Natural and Cultural Stewardship - These items focus on protecting and enhancing the native ecology and cultural history of the Park. Please reference items [11](#), [28](#), [30](#), and [33](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



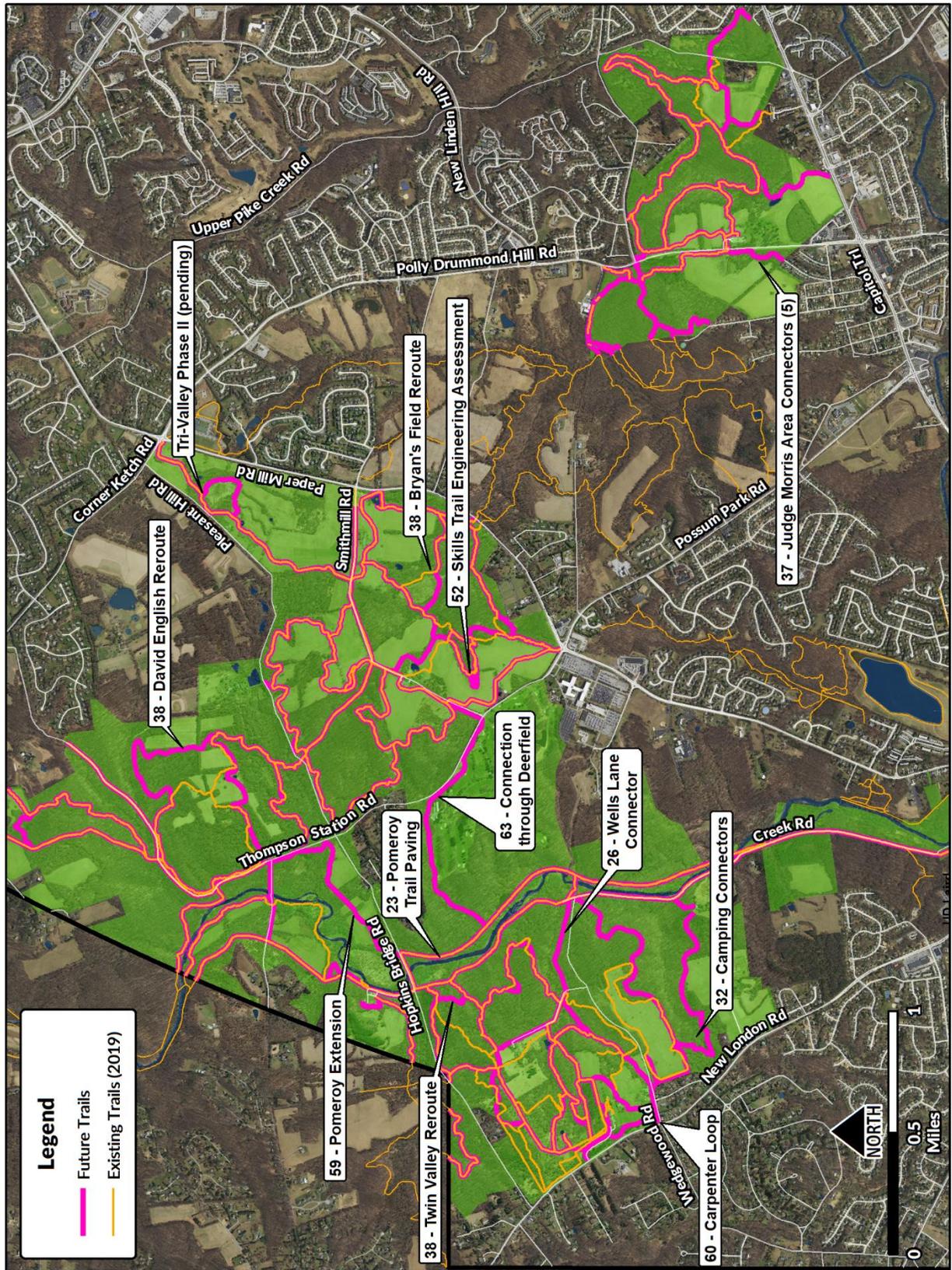
Strategy 6 – Parking and Vehicular Ingress/Egress – There are several items related to vehicular traffic flow and parking. Please reference items [12](#), [15](#), [17](#), [21](#), [24](#), [25](#), [36](#), [39](#), [43](#), [50](#), [51](#), and [58](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



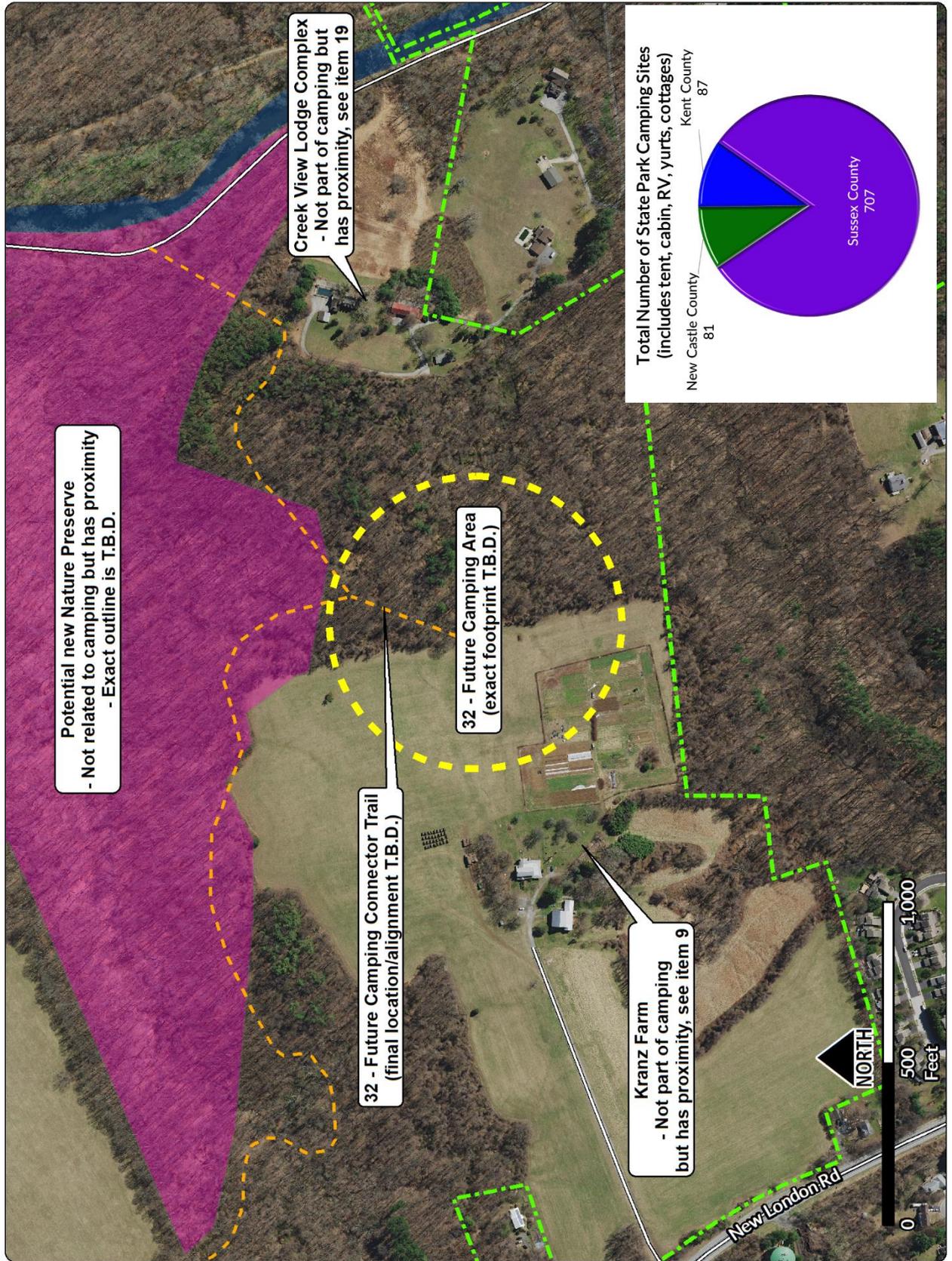
Strategy 7 - Signage and Programming - Please reference items [14](#), [22](#), [28](#), [34](#), [47](#), [48](#), and [54](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions.



Strategy 8 – Trail Projects – Please reference items [23](#), [26](#), [37](#), [38](#), [52](#) from the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions. Items [59](#), [60](#), and [63](#) have the lowest priority of these trail projects. Item [32](#) is tied to the status of camping.



Strategy 9 - Camping - The Division is interested in providing camping opportunities that can deepen a visitor's Park experience. Several factors and locations were considered, with one location standing out. Please reference item 32 from the Formation of Action Items section for a more detailed description.



Strategy 10 – Miscellaneous – A fusion of several remaining items. Their priority might be lower, but there is still value in these action items. Several of these will be ongoing efforts. Please reference the Formation of Action Items section for more detailed descriptions of each item.

- [35](#) – Partner with the Delaware T2/LTAP Program (engineering interns and resources)
- [40](#) – Coordinate with New Castle County and City of Newark’s Parks and Recreation Department (on connectivity and shared interests)
- [41](#) – Coordinate with University of Delaware (wealth of opportunities, foster more open communication)
- [42](#) – Develop a water quality plan with an implementation path based on results
- [46](#) – Seek partners to organize an entry-level run/bike biathlon or triathlon that benefits the Park
- [49](#) – Develop a better database for tracking infrastructure locations, interpretive sites, attributes, and maintenance
- [53](#) – Consider additional or all-season restrooms and water fountains
- [55](#) – Convert the Judge Morris Lot Bathrooms to a tank and pump restroom or connect to sewer
- [56](#) – Plan to implement a small fee for extended use permits
- [Additional Concept](#) – Identify and use a single, clear name for each area and building, and cease using alternative names

Formation of Action Items

Initial Formation

Considerable work went into communicating the start of the Master Plan process along with a commitment to public involvement. In addition to a kickoff meeting, press release, and emails to announce this in May 2018, the Division held four open houses over the Summer of 2018 to solicit public thoughts about current conditions and ideas for the future. There were at least 235 unique individuals who attended the open houses. The Division engaged several councils and organizations with known interests in the Park and opened an online public survey to provide an additional opportunity for gauging public interests and generating comments. There were 1,096 individuals who responded thoughtfully to the online survey. Several individuals emailed or called the Division with comments. Dozens of Division staff were consulted on their experiences and thoughts, including all of the White Clay Creek State Park staff as well as regional staff and central office staff. Significant focus was given to the features, programs, and operations of the Park from the visitor's perspective. Potential action items for this Master Plan were then created with inputs from all of the above sources.

Ranking

The amount and diversity of ideas and potential action items required considerable thought to prioritize and qualify for implementation. The Division used scoring criteria that included how an item:

- supports key park experiences;
- is needed for safety;
- improves operations and maintenance;
- reduces infrastructure;
- assists with revenue;
- may be inadequate if ignored;
- improves access, navigation, or service; and
- protects or enhances cultural, historic, or natural resources.

Each item was evaluated and ranked with the higher numeric score being a higher priority. Then cost estimates were gathered for each item. This was purposefully done second, so that cost would not bias the score for any given criterion. Then costs and scores were compared such that items were rearranged and reprioritized. An item with a higher score and lower cost would be prioritized over an item with a lower score and higher cost (see Chart 1).

Table of Action Items and Additional Concepts

A tabular format was used to arrange and view the results of ranking and prioritization. See Table 1. Also included were additional items that are related or are ancillary.

Chart 1 - Demonstration of Score versus Cost for Ranking of Action Items. This Chart is meant to help visualize a step in the process, not to be the final reference for items in the Plan.

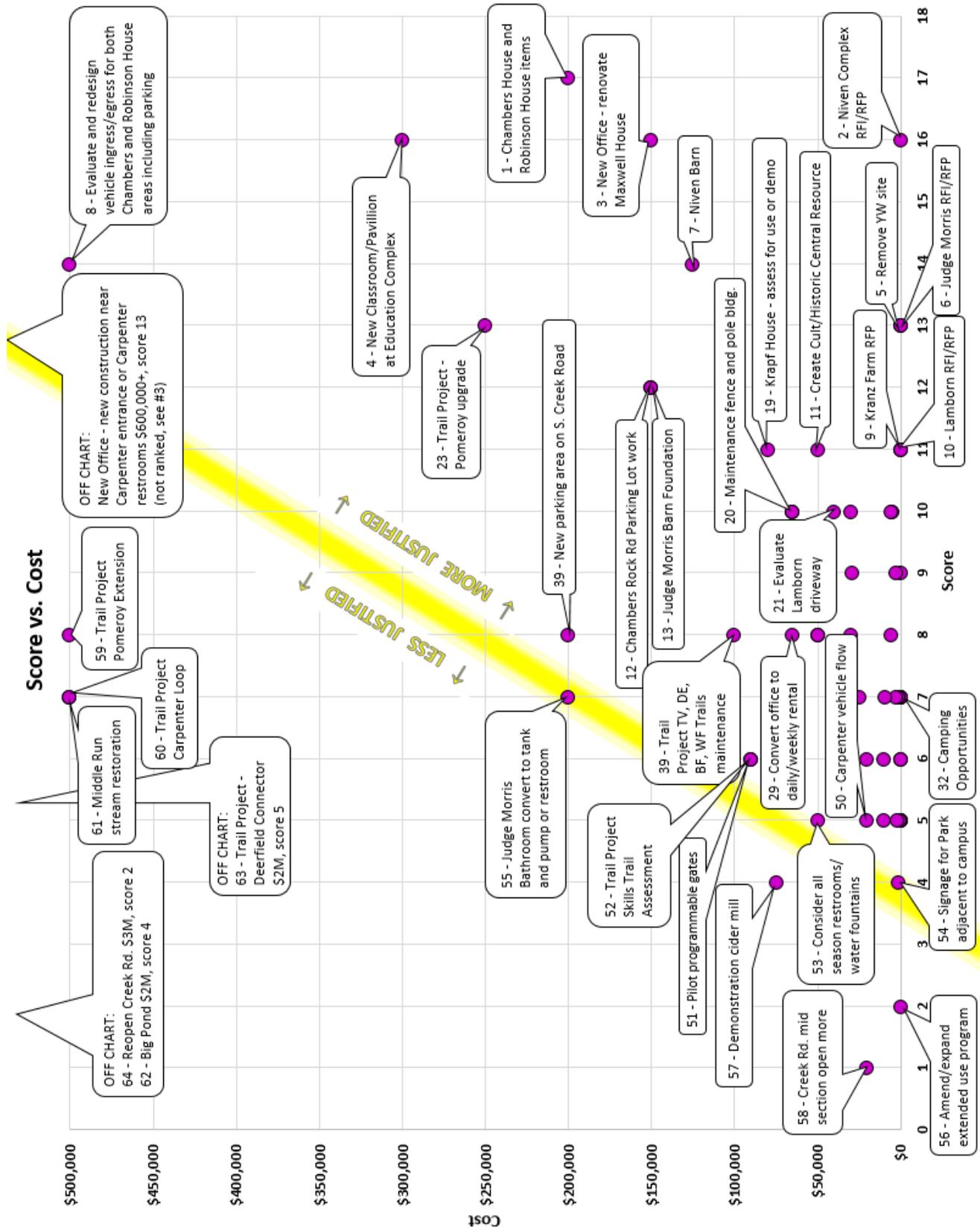


Table 1 - Results of the ranking exercise (details in next subsection). Also included below are additional items that are noteworthy and consequentially related to one or more action items.

Row #	Item	Score	Cost Estimate
1	Chambers House becomes staff offices/welcome center. Robinson House becomes staff housing or yearly rental, with trail access to new wayside.	17	\$200,000
2	Niven Complex - generate interest, develop mutually beneficial relationship with tenant (business or individual)	16	\$0
3	New Office - renovate Maxwell House (other considerations were new construction adjacent to Carpenter Area entrance or in place of existing Carpenter Area bathrooms)	16	\$150,000
4	Add a 4-season education building near Chambers House to accommodate programming use and rentals, with attached publicly accessible bathrooms	16	\$300,000
5	Remove Yard Waste Site	13	\$0
6	Judge Morris Estate - generate interest, develop mutually beneficial relationship with tenant (business or individual)	13	\$0
7	Niven Barn - If no interested tenant, deconstruct and use materials to construct cabins in the park. Create replacement pole shed for haywagons.	14	\$125,000
8	Evaluate and redesign vehicle ingress/egress to both the Chambers and Robinson Houses, including parking	14	\$500,000
9	Kranz Farm - address current agreement and firm up expectations, then develop/issue new RFP for ag/educational uses	11	\$0
10	Lamborn Estate - generate interest, develop mutually beneficial relationship with tenant (business or individual)	11	\$0
11	Digitally record and centralize cultural and historic resource information into one reference	11	\$50,000
12	Chambers Rock Rd. Parking Lot - fix drainage, design overflow parking	12	\$150,000
13	Judge Morris Barn Foundation - stabilize, grade leaving 2' wall, or demo for use as a terrace and/or pavillion	12	\$150,000
14	Add waysides for historic sites and natural features	10	\$5,000
15	Thompson Station Rd. north of current office - close to vehicles, convert to permanent trail	10	\$6,000
16	Ag Leases - revise agreements, clarify expectations, responsibilities, and communication	9	\$0
17	Chambers Rock Rd. corridor across Creek - consider improvements for safer pedestrian crossing across bridge	10	\$30,000
18	Eastburn Barn - Repair roof then generate interest, develop mutually beneficial relationship with tenant (business or individual)	10	\$40,000
19	Krapf House Complex - Rename (e.g. Creek View Lodge), assess renovation costs and potential market lease values. Consider the potential return to decide on renovation, demolition, or securing and stabilizing.	11	\$80,000
20	Add perimeter fencing and pole shed to the maintenance complex	10	\$65,000
21	Evaluate the Lamborn Estate driveway	10	\$65,000
22	Create self-guided tours for history and nature	9	\$3,000
23	Trail Project - Pomeroy Trail upgrade, likely paving	13	\$250,000
24	Make automated payment systems available	9	\$29,000
25	Creek Road (currently closed section) - permanently close to vehicles, manage as trail	8	\$6,000
26	Trail Project - Wells Lane Connector (from Wedgewood Parking lot to Carpenter Area)	8	\$30,000
27	Repair water control structure (outlet) of the Niven Pond	8	\$50,000
28	Forest habitat improvement: consider reforestation of gaps within existing forest, improve forest quality, and plan for invasive species control	8	\$50,000
29	Convert the current Park Office to a daily or weekly rental	8	\$65,000
30	Dedicate Fall-Spring Woods as Nature Preserve	7	\$0
31	Harkness Barn - generate interest, develop mutually beneficial relationship with tenant (business or individual)	7	\$0

Table 1 continued

Row #	Item	Score	Cost Estimate
32	Consider providing camping opportunities between the Kranz Farm and Krapf House. If so, add connector trail from Wells Field and Creek Rd. (Camping connector trail in Trail Plan)	7	\$0
33	Review hunting program and consider revisions (e.g. improvements, accessibility, outreach)	7	\$1,000
34	Develop trail etiquette campaign to help with user conflicts, leashes, weather restrictions	7	\$3,000
35	Utilize UD T2 engineering interns to monitor bridges/infrastructure	7	\$9,600
36	Move Carpenter fee booth further in closer towards parking lot	7	\$25,000
37	Trail Project - Five new connections in the Judge Morris Area	7	\$30,000
38	Trail Project - Maintenance projects and reroutes among the Twin Valley, David English, Bryan's Field, and Whitely Farms Trails	8	\$100,000
39	Establish new parking area on southern section of Creek Road with info board and payment system, as an established trailhead. Restrict unofficial parking spots along road. Add trail to dam with wayside(s). Add trail to Pomeroy Trail Bridge.	8	\$200,000
40	Coordinate with NCCo/DNS (Middle Run V.N.A.) and Newark-Parks and Rec. on ag. management, hunting, events, trail etiquette, and other areas of opportunity	6	\$0
41	Collaborate with the University of Delaware	6	\$0
42	Develop water quality plan with an implementation path based on results	6	\$10,000
43	Regrade former paddock just south of bandshell for more stable overflow parking	6	\$20,000
44	Stabilize the Gregg Ag. Complex and consider better utilization or demolition	5	\$0
45	Consider better utilization of the J. Cloud Barn	5	\$0
46	Organize entry-level triathlon/biathlon for the park	5	\$0
47	Install a sign facing inbound traffic at the pending tunnel underneath Paper Mill Rd. that explains the trail user is now entering the Park and has donation-by-text information	5	\$300
48	Install waysides facing inbound traffic on north end of Tri-Valley Trail about history of area, nature, how fees are used, and donation-by-text	5	\$2,000
49	Develop a better database for tracking building and infrastructure locations, attributes, and maintenance	5	\$10,000
50	Evaluate flow of parking and event traffic at Carpenter Area	5	\$20,000
51	Pilot two programmable gates	6	\$90,000
52	Trail Project - Assess integrity of Skills Trail features and consider upgrades	6	\$90,000
53	Consider additional or all-season restrooms and water fountains	5	\$50,000
54	Install sign at UD campus interface to invite visitors, show Park & programs as an amenity	4	\$1,000
55	Convert the Judge Morris Parking Lot Bathrooms to a tank and pump restroom or connect to sewer	7	\$200,000
56	Amend/expand extended use permit program	2	\$0
57	Construct demonstration cider mill	4	\$75,000
58	Creek Road (Wedgewood to Hopkins), consider opening to vehicles for two days	1	\$20,000
59	Trail Project - Extend Pomeroy Trail north from Hopkins Rd. to current Park Office	8	\$500,000
60	Trail Project - Carpenter Area Loop	7	\$500,000
61	Middle Run stream restoration in Possum Hill Area	7	\$500,000
62	Former "Big Pond" - pond reconstruction (Middle Run in Possum Hill Area)	4	\$2,000,000
63	Trail Project - Connection through Deerfield, from Tri-Valley Trail to Pomeroy Trail	5	\$2,000,000
64	Creek Road (currently closed section), open for one-way vehicle traffic	2	\$3,000,000
ADDITIONAL CONCEPTS/ACTION ITEMS			
	Maintain an interest to purchase in-holdings and adjacent properties when available		
	Incorporate Trail Plan into Master Plan		
	Foster the "One Park" concept		
	Identify and use a single, clear name for each area and building. Cease using other names.		
	Initiate text message donations		
	Note projects in-progress, and relationships with Deerfield and SKSS to remain status quo		

Discussion of Action Items by Row

Below is a discussion of the contents of the above table, given row by row. It is important to note that many items may be related by area or type. The Implementation Strategies section of this document connects like items. When items are regrouped in this way, the priority may change for a given item. For example, if items 1, 4, and 8 become group A and items 5, 9, and 10 become group B, then item 8 becomes a higher priority than item 5. Focusing attention on grouped projects within a certain area of the Park or on projects that share similarities will likely demonstrate a more efficient use of resources. Please reference the Implementation Strategies section of this document for more details, and as the primary implementation plan.

The items below, and grouped concepts in the Implementation Strategies section, require further planning to decide subordinate details. Further planning efforts will include representation from the Park staff, Office of Design and Development, Regional Operations and Enforcement, Cultural Resources Unit, Environmental Stewardship Program, Parks Resource Office, and input from the public. There should also be some threshold for flexibility in implementation of this Plan as described in the 'Expectations' paragraph of the 'Background'.

1 – Reorganizing the uses of the Chambers House and Robinson House

The Nature Center and Programming area of the Park has existing parking and restrooms with proximity to the Creek that is easy for children to access. This is critical for the types of programs offered. The area also includes the Robinson House, which is part of a key story related to the formation of the Park, and the historic Chambers House. Infrastructure improvements to the area are needed to better serve the



increasing number of park visitors and over 10,700 program participants per year. The Chambers House will become programming staff offices and a welcome center with a focus on the history of the Park. The Robinson House will become staff housing¹ or a yearly rental, with future consideration for a nature-based interpretive center, a group meeting location, and a research field office. The Division will install an information wayside about its story and public trail access to the area. The Chambers House is used for classroom activities and for poor weather, but it can only accommodate groups of about 25. Programs are very popular among school groups which regularly include 90 people. With a new education building (see item 4), the Chambers House would no longer be used for classroom activities. It would be outfitted as a new welcome center for programming with history-focused exhibits, also including programming staff offices and storage. While the Robinson House is part of a story related to the formation of the Park, providing it with suitable vehicle access would be costly. The Division will consider a new name for the complex that embraces programming and historic interpretation. Also see [Implementation Strategy 1](#) which includes this item.

2 – Generate interest in the Niven Complex and develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant

The Niven Complex is a former agricultural complex including a house, barn, springhouse, sheds, and small pond near the Nine Foot Road parking lot. It has historic



and cultural appeal because it is a largely intact farmstead surrounded by field, forest, and bucolic views akin with its beginnings. The complex is also significantly underutilized. The bank barn has great character but needs to be rebuilt or demolished. The house is in fair shape but needs some interior renovations. It is important to find a use for the house and ideally the whole complex because remaining vacant will rapidly contribute to disrepair. The use of the house and the barn could be split. Concepts could include, but are not limited to, a residence, bed and breakfast, reception center, a business office, carpentry shop, or any number of fitting uses. The Division would solicit outside interest through requests for information and requests for proposals, ultimately to develop an agreement that is mutually beneficial. In the immediate future, or if a concessionaire² is not found, the house would probably be utilized as staff housing. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

¹ 'Staff housing' or 'park housing' is typically temporary housing offered to interns in need of low-cost, local housing or key staff such as rangers or superintendents.

² The Division uses the term "concessionaire" broadly to refer to any outside party that operates within park property under an agreement

3 – The Park Office moves into the Maxwell House

The current Office has limited parking, no cellphone reception, no meeting space, is not easy to find, has accessibility challenges, and is far from other facilities and organized activities. Several areas of the Park were considered as a new location, with the

Carpenter Area standing out as the best option for being centric to concerts, cross country meets, large events, and a popular starting point for recreation. Three options were considered in the Carpenter Area: a new office constructed near the main entrance, a new office constructed in place of the existing bathrooms, and renovating the Maxwell House into an office. The Maxwell House is currently used as staff housing. It is a fair-sized residence on the south side of the Carpenter Area, off of



Wedgewood Road. The two new-construction options were not selected because they have significantly higher estimated costs and would be counter to significant public concern about limiting development in the Park and utilizing existing buildings. The Maxwell House conforms with the latter concerns, where the staff housing could shift to other underutilized buildings in the Park (e.g. Robinson or Niven Houses). With more than double the floor space of the current office, the Maxwell House could easily accommodate 12 staff and a small conference room with minimal reconfiguration. It would need an ADA compliant ramp to enter the main level, an accessible bathroom on the main level, designated parking spaces, and possibly septic system upgrades. The Maxwell House provides many of the attributes lacking from the current Park Office and is also adjacent to the maintenance complex. Also see [Implementation Strategy 2](#) which includes this item.

4 – Add a four-season education building near the Chambers House to accommodate

programming use and rentals, with attached restroom facilities. The programming offered from this area of the Park is very popular among large school groups and summer camps. The Chambers House is used for classroom activities and it can only accommodate groups of about 25. The school groups are regularly 90 people. It is especially problematic to accommodate school groups in poor weather. The education building would be usable year-round, like an outdoor classroom, and could accommodate groups of all sizes. It may be located on an old barn foundation in the hedgerow near the Chambers House or in a suitable location in proximity. The education building would be rentable like park pavilions when not in use for programs. It would also include restrooms. The current comfort station (composting restrooms)



would be demolished. The unit has never composted efficiently, special cleaners have to be used, and solids have to be periodically shoveled out manually. The shoveling is unpleasant and the solids are not desirable nor comparable to garden compost. Also see [Implementation Strategy 1](#) which includes this item.

5 – The Polly Drummond Hill Road Community Yard Waste Demonstration Site will be removed

This site was opened in 2007 as a temporary demonstration site to help citizens transition into a ban on yard waste at the Cherry Island Landfill. It was managed by the Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances (formerly Division of Air and Waste Management) following direction from the General Assembly. This yard waste site was initially opened for just Friday to Sunday, and was one of many options for managing yard waste. Because the site was convenient and free, it became very popular. The site



has also been abused by contractors, non-residents, and illegal dumping. Sediment and aesthetic concerns have increased. The site is a continual risk for the introduction of invasive plants and insects like the Spotted Lanternfly and Emerald Ashborer which are significant threats to the Park's native ecology. The Park-land that is used for the site was acquired via Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies, with Federal restrictions on how the land can be used. The Division saw temporary, limited use as an accommodation to the Department. But the ongoing use is in conflict with the Title 36, Part 59 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. This Parkland cannot continue to be used as a public yard waste drop-off site. There are several other options for the public to manage yard waste including taking it to another (commercial) drop-off site, arranging for pickup by a waste hauler or landscaper, or managing it as mulch or compost on one's own property. There may be minimal costs for some alternatives but no more than for Delawareans in all other areas of the State. The Division supports the Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances efforts to close the site and transition the public toward other options. Also see [Implementation Strategy 3](#) which includes this item.

6 – Generate interest in the Judge Morris Estate and develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant

The Judge Morris Estate includes the house, garage, and stately grounds of former U.S. District Court Judge and University Board of Trustees President Hugh M. Morris. The

complex is underutilized, used occasionally for programming, meetings, or special events. The house is large, but needs HVAC and cable/internet upgrades. More regular use of the facility would help contribute to its upkeep. Concepts could include, but are not limited to, a bed and breakfast, reception center, a business office, or any number of



fitting uses. The Division had been working to solicit interest in the Judge Morris Estate prior to the Master Plan process. A Request for Proposals was issued, with vendor award announced in April 2019. The selected vendor, Prime Hospitality doing business as Emmas Pond, will be using the house, barn foundation, and immediate grounds as a special event venue including catering and food service. They also plan to provide public programming and events that blend with the Division's programs. They plan to construct a rustic-chic barn on the footprint of the old barn to be used for large events. The Division will benefit from direct payments from the vendor, as well as the facility improvements and maintenance that the vendor will perform. The agreement runs through 2024, with an option to extend. Also see [Implementation Strategy 3](#) which includes this item.

7 – If no partner is found to restore the Niven Barn, the Barn will be deconstructed

The Niven Barn is part of the Niven Complex, a former farmstead. The Niven Complex is very appealing aesthetically and culturally as small agriculture has



faded from the area. Currently the barn is largely unused except as shelter for two haywagons. It is in such poor condition that if there is not outside interest and funding to rebuild it, collapse or demolition is inevitable. Where material from the barn can be utilized for architectural or decorative elements, its history

can live on. If camping cabins are constructed, Barn elements should be used there or for similar uses. Reusing the material may be challenging but would be the best outcome. In the absence of the Barn, the Park may need to construct a pole shed to house two haywagons that are used for programs in this area. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

8 – Evaluate and redesign vehicle ingress/egress to both the Chambers and Robinson Houses, including parking

The Nature Center and programming complex is a popular area that will receive additional attention as a result of this Master Plan. Current access to this area is from Hopkins Road across a small, timber bridge that has been dislodged regularly during flood conditions. The gravel approaches to the bridge also become eroded in severe flood conditions. The bridge, the location of the Creek, the location of the tributary, and the number of visitors to the Nature Center and programming complex, drive the need to evaluate the entrance to this area. In addition, there may be opportunities to better design parking and vehicle access to the Chambers and Robinson Houses. The evaluation and redesign of vehicular accessibility to and within the Nature Center and programming area is likely going to come at a high cost, but is also a high need. Also see [Implementation Strategy 1](#) which includes this item.



9 – Set expectations for the concessionaire opportunity at the Kranz Farm

The current concessionaire uses a barn and about six acres for a community supported agriculture program, produce stand, education programs, and a few small animals. There is a farmhouse on this area that is used for park staff housing, and that use is not intended to change. With the term for the current concessionaire anticipated to end in late 2019, the Division will develop a request-for-proposals to solicit agriculture-educational use. This is not done to exclude the current concessionaire, in fact their current use is consistent with the proposed future use and they would be encouraged to

submit a proposal. Rather, the issuance of a new RFP is common practice for state-managed agreements when they have reached the end of their term. As an aside, the potential nearby campers and occupants of Creek View Lodge could be customers of the farm stand or participants in programs. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

10 – Generate interest in the Lamborn Estate and work to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant

The Lamborn Estate includes a 6,100 sq. ft. residence, a 2,100 sq. ft. main garage with finished loft, and ten other buildings such as garages, sheds, greenhouse, and studio. The dramatic entrance, pond, and stately grounds sprawl over 12 acres. The former private estate came under the Division's full possession in the Fall of 2018. Previously it



was an occupied private DuPont residence. The Division intends to find a scenario where it is fully utilized. Concepts could include, but are not limited to, a bed and breakfast, corporate retreat, reception center, business offices, wedding party accommodations, or any number of fitting uses. The Division has been anticipating the full possession of the Lamborn Estate prior to the Master Plan process and at the time of the drafting of this Master Plan, a Request for Information is being developed. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

11 – Digitally record and centralize cultural and historic resource information into one reference

Finding details about cultural and historic information of the Park, even for just one location, usually requires research among many sources. Bringing those details into a central reference along with mapping and pictures would eliminate errors in, and duplication of, research and education. It would also provide ease and confidence to interpreters, management, and others who need accurate facts about the history of the Park. This effort is an internal exercise and is not intended to put this resource directly in the public's fingertips. There are certain details and locations that are purposefully kept secure to protect sensitive resources or discourage vandalism. But the public will subsequently benefit from more knowledgeable interpreters and Division staff as a result of this effort. Also see [Implementation Strategy 5](#) which includes this item.

12 – The Chambers Rock Road Parking Lot will be designed for overflow parking and improved drainage

The entrance to the Parking Lot adjacent to Chambers Rock Road is subject to poor drainage, sometimes with standing water and sediment buildup that restricts safe ingress. A culvert repair and grading should provide a solution to the drainage. This area is also hugely popular during trout fishing season, often with vehicles improperly parking along and in the roadway. Additional parking at the Chambers Rock Road Parking Lot should provide some relief. Permanent, paved parking is not needed for overflow since the demand is just for a few weeks out of the year. But a designated area with reinforced turf or a similar low-impact, permeable solution for temporary parking would be best. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

13 – Judge Morris Barn foundation would be stabilized or filled and graded for use
As mentioned in item 6, the Division has selected a vendor which will be using the Judge Morris house, barn foundation, and immediate grounds as a special event venue including catering and food service. They plan to construct a rustic-chic barn on the footprint of the old barn to be used for large events. Because the outcome of the Division’s solicitation of proposals was unknown when the Master Plan process began, concern for the barn foundation was included. If no concessionaire would have been found or if the concessionaire had no plans for the barn foundation site, the Division wanted the barn foundation area to be safe and usable. With the ground floor inside the foundation being several feet below grade, considerations would need to be given for access, visibility, and stability. The foundation would need to be repaired or stabilized. Alternatively, the inside areas could be filled and graded close to existing grade which would leave very short wall (~2 feet high). Both options would keep the history of the wall and provide visual appeal. The site could then be used for a picnic area, a pavilion, a patio garden, or similar usable space. The concessionaire’s plans for the barn site eliminate the Division’s need to take action. Also see [Implementation Strategy 3](#) which includes this item.

14 – Add waysides for historic sites and natural features

Significant public interest exists for information on building ruins, past uses, and other historic features within the Park. Natural features are also of interest. Adding waysides, a poster-sized panel with picture(s) and information, adjacent to a handful of historic and natural features would appeal to many and help foster appreciation of those sites. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.



15 – Collaborate with DeIDOT to close Thompson Station Road from the current Park Office to the northeast Park boundary

This 1.2 mile section of road is currently gated at both ends and open only to one-way traffic for special uses during limited times. It is winding, narrow, encroached with vegetation, and deemed unsafe for two-way traffic. This segment of road mostly remains closed to vehicle traffic. DeIDOT indicated this segment of road is not important for motor vehicle use, but is important for non-motorized use.



Restricting vehicles is critical to the safety of non-motorized users here. The Division is interested in working with DeIDOT to permanently close this segment of Thompson Station Road to vehicle traffic, and installing bollards at each end to better facilitate the regular pedestrian and bicycle use in that area. DeIDOT and DNREC should consider transferring ownership of the right-of-way to DNREC. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

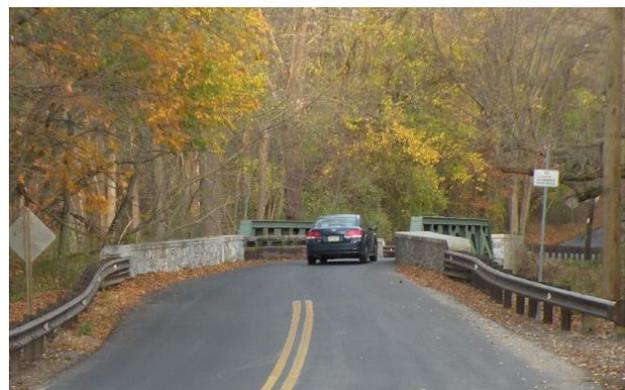
16 – Revise agricultural leases, clarifying expectations and communication

Over 600 acres of agricultural lands in the Park are managed by agricultural lease. A farming business uses the land to grow crops, mostly hay and some row crops, in exchange for payment. The Division may want to consider further restricting the use of pesticides or herbicides in some areas, revising the farm business and Division points of contact and responsibilities (e.g. who coordinates reducing the lease around a new trail or found cultural site), clarifying how the public is notified of certain activities (e.g. harvesting, spraying), or removing lands from the agricultural lease for other use (e.g. reforestation, camping, etc.). The goal would be to make sure agricultural practices do not negatively impact the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Park. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

17 – Collaborate with DeIDOT to consider improvements for safer pedestrian use along the Chambers Rock Road Bridge

This Bridge is the only nearby connection between the current Park Office Parking Area trailhead and Chambers Rock Road Parking Area trailhead. Park users commonly cross from one trail network to the other via the Chambers Rock Road Bridge. It is a narrow bridge where opposite traffic must yield so that one direction crosses at a time.

Because it is a congestion point and because of its width, pedestrians have reported feeling unsafe while crossing the Bridge. Installing a cantilevered walkway or



separate pedestrian bridge would probably cost at least \$500,000, but would not be justified by the limited frequency of use. Signage, a designated pedestrian lane, or other options should be considered and would be significantly less cost. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

18 – Repair the roof of the Eastburn Barn (aka Sheep Barn), and develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant

This stone barn, probably constructed circa 1809, is along Pleasant Hill Road about 2,000 feet south of Corner Ketch Road. It is currently used in the spring and summer by a 4-H group for raising a few sheep. There is not an active agreement for this use of the Eastburn Barn. At the time of the drafting of this Master Plan, the Division is planning to repair the roof. Because at least a temporary vacancy will likely be needed for safety during the repairs, it is also a good opportunity to ensure future use of this barn is under a proper agreement with the Division. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

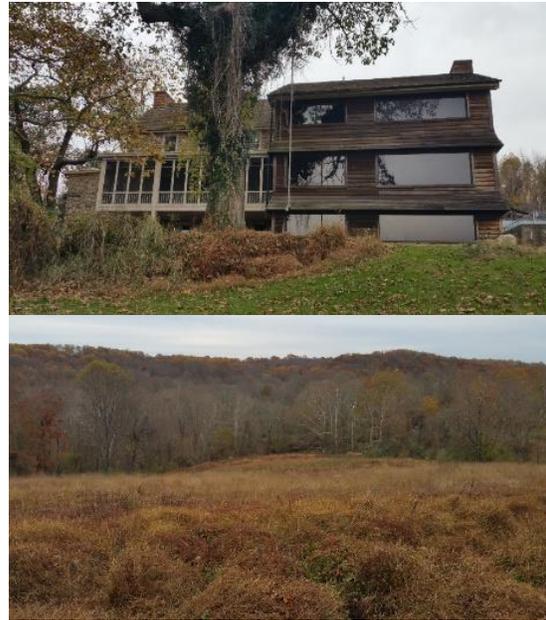


19 – Rename the Krapf House Complex (e.g. Creek View Lodge) and evaluate its renovation costs for future use to consider investment or demolition

The Krapf House Complex consists of a 7,500+ sq.ft. house, a large barn, 800 sq.ft. garage, and 1,000 sq.ft. modular home. A portion of the house, originally built circa 1700, would have been historic but is not a candidate for preservation because it has undergone such extensive remodeling under previous ownership. A huge addition was added around 1995. The house was most recently used as staff housing but has been vacant without utilities for several years. The size, location, and breathtaking views of the valley are incredibly desirable. But the



complex is slipping into disrepair and would require complete interior remodeling, restoration of utilities, and some roof/façade repairs at a minimum. The cost and extent of repairs needed is unknown but thought to be significant. The Division should get thorough assessments of renovation costs and comparable market rates if it were to be renovated. If the potential market rate would not provide a reasonable return on the renovation cost investment, then the Division should consider demolition or securing and stabilizing the property. If the return on investment is expected to be reasonable, then the Division should restore the complex, generate interest, and work to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant where the complex is fully utilized. Potential concepts could include a bed and breakfast, corporate retreat, environmental education center, business offices, farmette, or any number of fitting uses. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item. If running new utilities is necessary, future camping opportunities (see [Implementation Strategy 9](#)) are not too far away and may help share costs.



20 – Add perimeter fencing and a pole shed to the maintenance complex

The older bank barn that houses the maintenance complex would greatly benefit from the security of a perimeter fence. The complex also needs a pole shed with wide bays and good turning and height clearance for tractors and other large equipment that are currently stored in different locations. Also see [Implementation Strategy 2](#) which includes this item.

21 – Evaluate the Lamborn Estate driveway

If a concessionaire is found for the Lamborn Estate (item 10 above) with plans that include frequent vehicle traffic or heavy vehicles, the Division and the concessionaire may benefit from an assessment of the driveway. Currently the driveway only accommodates one vehicle at a time. With the past use of the area as a single residence, it may need to be evaluated for commercial traffic. The restricted size of the driveway and it's function as a dam for the small pond, may be concerns for future use. An



assessment of the current driveway to determine condition and improvement options is needed. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

22 – Create self-guided tours for history and nature

There is a strong interest in interpretive programs especially geared towards adults. Self-guided tours would not be limited by available staff or recurring personnel costs. A number of tours could address interests in diverse topics and geographical locations within the park. Development should consider different technology platforms. A cellphone application program might be desirable, but would be a challenge due to the lack of full network coverage across the Park. Though some costs would certainly exist for making self-guided tours available, the Division already has a library of potential content. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.

23 – Trail Project – Pomeroy Trail Upgrade (paving)

The Pomeroy Trail extends southward into Newark, outside of the Park. It is a very popular corridor connecting City residents and University students into the Park. The 1.5 mile portion of the Pomeroy Trail on the eastern side of the Creek has a compacted stone surface between 6 and 10 feet in width. Because of the surface, and the Trail's location in the Creek valley, it is occasionally subject to severe washouts. To protect the stability of the trail, minimize maintenance, and prevent sediment loss, the Trail Plan recommends the trail surface be upgraded to asphalt pavement. It may be a possibility that repairing drainage issues could avoid the need to pave this segment. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which includes this item.

24 – Make automated payment systems available

Because the Park has 10 vehicular entrance/parking areas, most are not staffed with a fee booth. If Park users do not have cash or the correct change, they leave or risk the penalty for nonpayment. Having an automated payment system using credit cards and cellphones would be helpful. People would more easily pay entrance fees, creating happier Park users and better funding for the Park. Each system costs about \$9,000 with a \$45 per month activation fee. Remote cellular systems, solar power, and other options could allow these automated units where utilities are not available. The costs would have to be justified by regular use of an area. The Division should install two or three units in the Park as a pilot and, depending on results, could subsequently install more. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.



25 – The currently closed section of Creek Road, approximately 0.7 mile immediately south of Wedgewood Road, should be permanently closed to vehicle traffic

This segment of Creek Road currently has bollards at both ends preventing vehicular traffic. It has been closed to vehicles for about 12 years and has been used as a trail. Several public comments called for permanently eliminating vehicular traffic. Some interest exists to restore this road for vehicular traffic, at least one-way. However, a large portion of this segment is immediately adjacent to the Creek, and flooding and erosion have deteriorated and undercut portions of the road. Topography and environmental sensitivity are challenges for reconstruction. Costs for restoring the road

would be in the millions. More importantly, DeIDOT has indicated they do not consider this segment of road a motor vehicle transportation priority and could not justify investing resources as such. Furthermore, DeIDOT would be unlikely to obtain the required permits and approvals if the project was of interest. DeIDOT especially does



not believe they could justify the purpose and need required for the National Environmental Policy Act documents. The history of the area, environmental factors, and absence of a motor vehicle transportation priority leave DeIDOT very clearly opposed to re-opening this segment of Creek Road for vehicle traffic. DeIDOT and DNREC believe this segment is important for non-motorized use, and restricting motor vehicles is critical to the safety of those non-motorized users. The Division will work with DeIDOT to formalize closure of this segment of Creek Road to vehicle traffic, still allowing pedestrian and bicycle access. Notably, the closure should not restrict wheelchairs, electric scooters, and other assistive devices from accessing the road segment as a multiuse trail. DeIDOT and DNREC should consider transferring ownership of the right-of-way to DNREC. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

26 – Trail Project – Wells Lane Connector (from Wedgewood Parking Lot to Carpenter Area)

The Carpenter Recreation Area and the Creek valley are two main recreation locations within the Park. But there is no direct trail connection between these two adjacent areas, and the trails that do connect are for pedestrians only. Having a trail that is accessible for bicyclists and pedestrians would be desirable and well used. The Trail Plan recommends this connection with some of the existing trail on the southeast portion of the Carpenter Area realigned to be more sustainable and to accommodate this connection. The surface would likely be compacted stone about 4 feet in width. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which includes this item.

27 – Repair the water control structure (outlet) of the Niven Pond

For over a year, the manmade pond at the Niven Complex has not properly held and managed water levels. Repairs are needed on the pond side of the outlet pipe. A repair would restore control of the water level. While this pond has aesthetic value and has

potential for recreational fishing, it also provides an emergency source of water for fire suppression. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

28 – Consider reforesting gaps within existing forest, improving forest quality, and plan for invasive species control

These tasks are consistently of statewide interest to the Division's Environmental Stewardship Program. Unfortunately the vast majority of the Park is ecologically unmanaged. The passive succession of old fields have resulted in relatively poor quality forest with understory increasingly dominated with invasive shrubs. In White Clay Creek State Park, there are a few, isolated fields that are surrounded by large areas of forest which are candidates for reforestation. This would help increase biodiversity and key habitats, especially those threatened by invasive species. Controlling invasive species is an ongoing priority, but is also a huge challenge because they are so resilient and widespread. There are 60 alien plant species considered invasive in the Park, 10 of which are immediately threatening native plant communities. The continuous efforts to control invasives are limited by funding and personnel available. Coordinating projects that control invasive species and improve forest habitats will greatly benefit the native ecology within the Park. Also see [Implementation Strategy 5](#) which includes this item.

Some Ecological Quick Facts

- **798 species of vascular plants in the Park**
 - 240 are alien species
 - 60 are invasive*
 - 82 are native and rare
 - 11 are native and only found in the Park
- **2,325 acres of forest**
 - 27% of forest is at least 80 years old
- **200 species of birds****

*up from 35 in 2000, and these dominate the forest understory

**about half of those species nest in the Park

29 – Convert the current Park Office to a daily or weekly rental

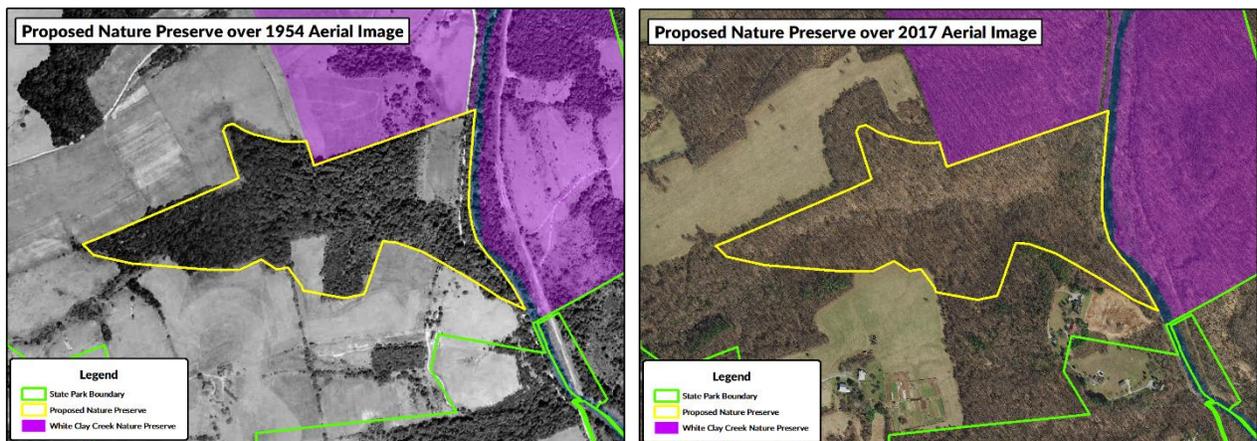
The current Park Office was originally a schoolhouse (Hillside School, District No. 100) built in the 1890s, and more recently has been a residence before converting to use as the Park Office. It has limited parking, no cellphone reception, no meeting space, is not easy to find, has accessibility challenges, and is far from other facilities and organized



activities. Item 3 describes the Park Office move. This building would be good as a cabin, rentable by Park visitors to extend their recreational opportunities. The small size and isolation issues that are bad for an office are ideal for a cabin. It is also located adjacent to a trailhead and in walking distance to the Creek. It would be very appealing to fishermen, hunters, mountain bikers, and other Park visitors who would enjoy an overnight accommodation. The building could be converted from a Park Office to a rentable cabin relatively quickly, preventing another building from being underutilized. The conversion of use could easily retain the history of the building and keep the aesthetic of the area. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

30 – Dedicate Fall-Spring Woods as a Nature Preserve

The Delaware Nature Society's 1978 publication *Delaware's Outstanding Natural Areas and Their Preservation* included the Fall-Spring Woods (#35 in the book). It includes mature woods and a deeply sloped valley of a tributary to the Creek. Nature Preserves generally prohibit buildings, advertisements, roads, parking, utilities, excavation, removal or destruction of plants or animals, and other uses that adversely affect the ecosystem. Exceptions do exist, but protections in Nature Preserves are greater than general parkland. Forty years ago, most of Fall-Spring Woods was privately owned. Now within the Park, and adjacent to an existing Nature Preserve, this land would be well served if dedicated. Also see [Implementation Strategy 5](#) which includes this item.



31 - Evaluate interest in the Harkness Barn (aka Gabor Barn) and develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a tenant

This stone barn, probably constructed in the mid-1800s, is along Pleasant Hill Road about one mile east of Thompson Station Road. Ingress and egress from Pleasant Hill Road is poor because of sight lines and lack of shoulder or turn lanes. The barn is being used for storage by the previous landowner. There is not currently an agreement for the use of the Harkness Barn. At this time there is probably no better use for this building, but the Division needs to

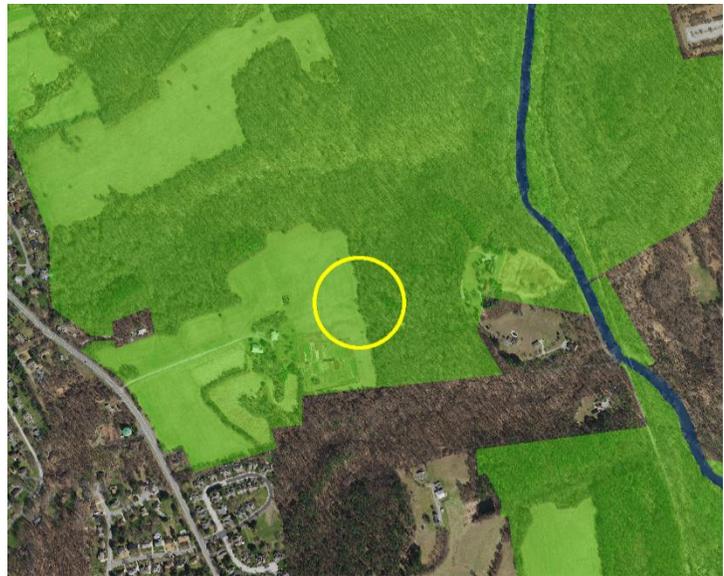


ensure continued or future use is under a proper agreement. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

32 – Consider providing camping opportunities in the area between the Kranz Farm and Krapf House areas of the Park

A primitive campsite, primarily for youth groups, has existed in the Park for many years. That site is moving near the Nine Foot Road area with surfacing and accessibility for all persons. Additional camping opportunities in the Park are of significant public interest, though about 40% of camping comments discourage RV camping. Several new camping locations were considered including an area northwest of the Nine Foot Road and Thompson Station Road intersection, area off of Chambers Rock Road, the northeast portion of the Wells Field, the Kraft House area, the Kranz Farm, the Robinson House area, and the J. Cloud complex. The field edge or wooded area between Kranz and Krapf areas of the Park was selected because of the pleasing setting, minimal impact,

being out of view from other areas, and option to tie into the agriculture-education experience. Sizing is a concern. The Division does not want camping to be obtrusive or take away from other Park experiences. The camping area would be smaller than the Lums Pond campground. The essence of camping provides a new recreational opportunity allowing visitors to extend their experiences in the Park. The farm road access from New London Road would need to be extended and improved. Design considerations would need to



evaluate the possibilities of providing water, restrooms, or electric. Utilities may need to be installed. Better trail access and connections would be needed. New trail connections would probably run northwest to the Wells Field Trail and then the Carpenter Area, and northeast to the trails in the Creek valley. The initial costs for implementing camping would be high, probably \$300,000 to \$1,000,000, but revenue generation would be cost-positive in the long term. Also the seasonal Assistant Park Superintendent should become a full-time merit employee. Additional evaluation is needed, but the Division will make efforts to plan for camping in the future. Also see [Implementation Strategy 9](#) which includes this item. With Creek View Lodge (see [Implementation Strategy 4](#)) not too far away, there may be an opportunity to share costs for running utilities if necessary.

33 – Review the hunting program and consider revisions

Many people still enjoy the hunting opportunities that exist within the Park. Others have commented that they do not like hunting or feel unsafe in hunting areas.

Management of white-tailed deer is the reason there is hunting in the Park. Deer populations in the Park are high enough that their browsing has impacted the recruitment of understory tree and shrub species in forest habitats. Deer browsing may also indirectly relate to invasive plant success. Management of the deer population is critical to improving forest habitat in the Park. The Division plans to allow hunting in the Park to continue, but a review of the existing program might be beneficial to everyone's palette. Reviewing the program with the Environmental Stewardship Program and wildlife biologists might result in changes to further manage the deer population. Other changes might provide opportunities for different stands or opportunities for hunters. There are currently 85 stands/pins (controlled, limited locations) for deer hunting in the Park. New methods of communicating when and where hunting occurs within the Park would be especially valuable. Park users would probably gain comfort by knowing that hunters have to meet prerequisites and follow additional regulations within the Park. Also see [Implementation Strategy 5](#) which includes this item.

34 – Develop a trail etiquette outreach campaign

There are several public concerns about various trail-related behaviors. These include dogs being off-leash, use of natural surface trails during wet conditions which creates ruts and poor conditions when the surface hardens, rights of way, and rude behavior. Most of this could be addressed with an outreach campaign to help identify common rules and foster courteous behavior. This effort should include a short catch phrase or action statement along with a very short bulleted list of cues to fit on a simple sign. Along with signage posted at strategic trail locations, messaging should be posted on social media, shared in Park newsletters and email, and disseminated through related organizations. Everyone is out to enjoy the Park, and each individual should respect the various other users. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.

Potential elements:

- BE COURTEOUS – Trail Courtesy is for EVERYONE
- Postpone trail use if the surface is soft
- Keep dogs on leash
- Recognize the varied use of park
- Adjust your speed and path to respect who you are approaching
- Communicate in a friendly manner

35 – Partner with the Delaware T2/LTAP Program, housed at the University of Delaware, to use Engineering interns and the resources available from the program to monitor infrastructure in the Park

Through the T2/LTAP Program, undergraduate or graduate engineering students have access to mentors, tools, and software which enable them to perform many engineering functions that do not require a Professional Engineer. The Park has a large number of pedestrian and multi-modal bridges that could be periodically monitored by the interns. Their recommendations and concerns could then be provided to a Professional Engineer for review on a less frequent basis, or as needed. By using interns in this program, the Division would minimize some of the contractual work given to engineering firms, spending fractions on the dollar in comparison. These interns should also be considered

for design planning, as they have a high spirit of collaboration and a fresh sense of creativity on how to approach issues. It is an opportunity to get quality work for minimal costs while assisting a new generation of engineers. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

36 – Move the Carpenter Area contact station (fee booth) towards the parking lot
During concerts, cross country meets, Creekfest, and other events, the large amount of incoming traffic to the Carpenter Area backs up and impacts traffic on New London Road. Moving the booth inward would minimize the amount of congestion on New London Road. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

37 – Trail Project – Five Connections in the Judge Morris Area
The Trail Plan recommends five new connections between existing trails in the Judge Morris Area of the Park and adjacent communities or sidewalks. These connections would be for both bicyclists and pedestrians. The surface would likely be compacted stone or natural surface, about 3 feet in width. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which includes this item.

38 – Trail Project – Maintenance projects and reroutes among the Twin Valley, David English, Bryan’s Field, and Whitely Farms Trails
The David English, Bryan’s Field, and Whitely Farms trails are popular for bicyclists and pedestrians. Most of the Twin Valley Trail is limited to pedestrian use. The Trail Plan calls for significant portions of these trails to be rerouted or armored (upgrading the surface, here to compacted stone) for stability and to minimize sediment loss. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which includes this item.

39 – Establish a new parking area on the southern section of Creek Road
This section of Creek Road is a popular area of use within the Park. There is no formal trailhead or facility in this section of the Park, so vehicles end up parking at any location along the road. Several informal parking spots have expanded over time. This area and the social trail leading down to Dam No. 5 sometimes have a higher occurrence of regulatory violations and suspicious behaviors. The Division will install a formal parking



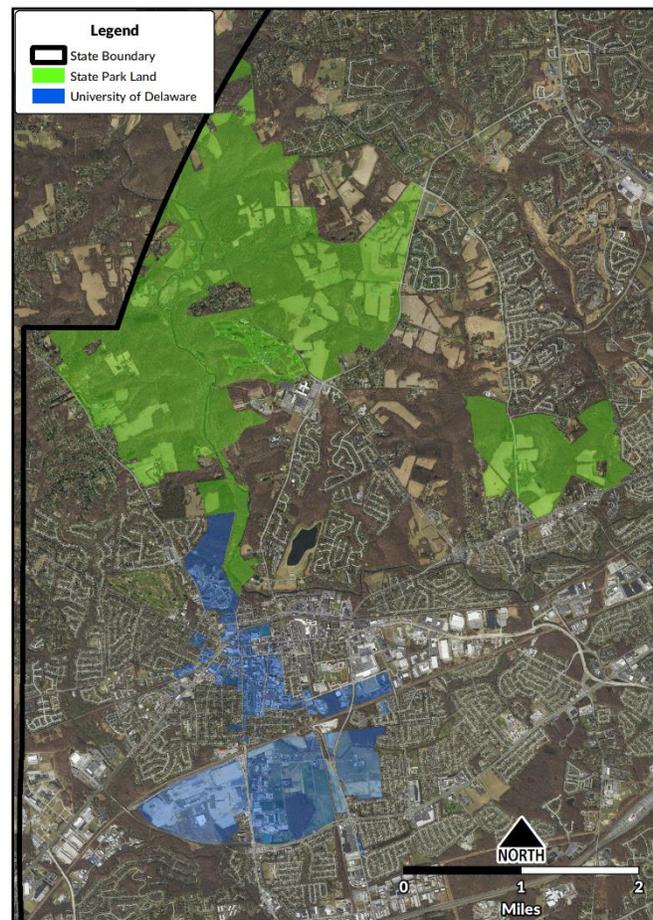
area, information board, trailhead, and trail with wayside. This will centralize use in this area and discourage prohibited behavior. It will also allow the Park to naturalize the improperly created parking areas, restoring the aesthetic and improving the environment. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

40 – Coordinate with New Castle County and City of Newark’s Parks and Recreation Department on connectivity and shared interests

New Castle County and the City of Newark own large, adjacent tracts of land and have similar interests and purview with White Clay Creek State Park. Topics for collaboration could include agriculture management, hunting, events, trail etiquette, and more. There are likely mutual benefits from sharing information and coordinating efforts. Existing trail networks have connectivity that transcends jurisdictions. The Division will maintain good contacts with these organizations and schedule conversations several times per year to discuss similar activities, future plans, and opportunities for working together. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

41 – Work to coordinate more with the University of Delaware

Many University instructors use the Park for studies or as a setting for coursework. Much of the time the Park Office is not notified. This is unfortunate because the Park could ensure study areas are not impacted, coordinate resources to help certain projects, and would also benefit from the result of studies. Other faculty and staff could benefit from using the Park and communicating with the Park management would help them understand the diversity of the Park and best plan activities. The University teaches agriculture management and the Park has over 600 acres of agricultural lands. Several underutilized buildings exist within the Park and the University could be the source to utilize some of them whether as a residence, field office, business incubator, environmental education center, or other use. The Park involves public policy, watershed management, invasive species control, wildlife ecology, bridge maintenance, trail and road engineering, hospitality, marketing, and partners that could provide great learning experiences for students. The University and the Division should also highlight the Park as a recreational resource for thousands of students that are not aware of the Park’s offerings. The size and proximity



of the Park and the University should lend them to be partners. The Division will seek several University of Delaware faculty and staff contacts to develop better dialogue and partnerships between the University and the Park. Building open communication is critical to this item. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

42 – Develop a water quality plan with an implementation path based on results
The White Clay Creek itself and its tributaries are enjoyed by many visitors who come in contact with the water or who intrinsically value the health of the ecosystem. The National Wild and Scenic River Program, University of Delaware, and other organizations conduct water quality monitoring in the area of White Clay Creek State Park. The 3,647 acres of the Park protect the White Clay Creek and its tributaries especially compared to development. But the Park does not have a water quality plan. The management of a golf course, commercial agriculture, erosion, and other human impacts are all factors that could be better managed to maximize surface water quality. The Division will consult partners, form a plan for monitoring, and subsequently develop an action plan based on monitoring results. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

43 – Regrade the former paddock just south of the bandshell in the Carpenter Area for more stable overflow parking

The large field south of the parking lot in the Carpenter Area of the Park is used for overflow parking several times of the year during concerts, cross country meets, Creekfest, and other events. For more popular events, the former paddock area is needed and used. This small portion of the field is not well drained and becomes an easy place for vehicles to get mired in all but completely dry conditions. The Division will regrade the former paddock area for proper sloping and drainage. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.



44 – The Division will stabilize the Gregg Agricultural Complex and consider better utilization or demolition

The Gregg Complex is at the end of Wells Lane with access from Wedgewood Road. The residence (Wells House) is well-utilized as staff housing and will remain as such.



There is a barn and several outbuildings in degrading condition. There is some storage here, and volunteers use the barn to construct memorial benches. One of the smaller outbuildings was the original Park Office. But these buildings are disjointed, not critical to operations, and not conveniently accessible by vehicle. The Division will consider repair and maintenance of the exterior envelope of the barn for weatherproofing and repair of the barn foundation. This would allow continued volunteer use and specialized storage while keeping the complex intact. The Division will consider preservation and use compared to demolition and the loss of the complex. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

45 – The Division will consider better utilization of the J. Cloud Barn

This approximately 3,000 sq.ft. barn is in an internal area of the Park off of Smith Mill Road. It is adjacent to a periodically used staff residence, and vehicular access passes through two gates and another residence.



The barn is not currently used, though it's foundation has recently been repaired. The Division would like to see the building used, but would have to be careful about third-party use because of the location and access. It could work well for storage by an agriculture concessionaire or another type of special partnership. Also see [Implementation Strategy 4](#) which includes this item.

46 – Seek partners to organize an entry-level run/bike triathlon or triathlon

This type of event has the potential to draw broad interest and grow participation over time with minimal environmental impact to the Park. These types of races are also popular locally and nationally. It would help generate awareness of recreational opportunities in the Park via marketing and promotion, and also via participants using diverse areas of the Park. Many non-profit organizations and causes receive the benefit of local 5k, 10k, and similar events. In this scenario, the Park would certainly benefit from a financial boost from such an event.



The Division will explore partnership opportunities to organize this type of event to raise interest in the Park and assist with funding for items in this Plan. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

47 – Install a sign facing inbound trail users at the pending tunnel underneath Paper Mill Road that highlights the entrance to the Park and has text donation information

This corridor is highly used by hikers and bikers for access between White Clay Creek State Park (WCCSP) and Middle Run Valley Natural Area (MRVNA). Many people park their vehicles at Middle Run for free and use the trail system through the corridor under Paper Mill Road to enter WCCSP. Some people also are unaware that MRVNA is owned by New Castle County and managed separately from WCCSP. Hours of access, funding, and regulations are different between agencies. Some draft language for a sign might be “You are now entering White Clay Creek State Park. Fees are important for trail upkeep, educational programs, and habitat protection. Please consider donating \$2 by texting ‘two’ to 55555”. This would foster better appreciation for the Park and fees collected, and would generate some funding from users who park outside the Park. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.

48 – Install waysides facing inbound trail users at the north end of the new Tri-Valley Trail, near the intersection of Corner Ketch and Paper Mill Roads

This new trail will offer access from Paper Mill Park, a New Castle County owned facility with free parking. Some trail users will likely park their vehicles at Paper Mill Park instead of the Smith Mill lot in White Clay Creek State Park. This location would be great for a three panel wayside, trailside informational panels, with two sides having information about nature and history and the third side having information about how fees are used and the option to donate via text. The third panel information could read similar to item 47 above “You are now entering White Clay Creek State Park. Fees are important for trail upkeep, educational programs, and habitat protection. Please consider donating \$2 by texting ‘two’ to 55555”. This would foster better appreciation for the Park and fees collected, and would generate some funding from users who park outside the Park. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.

49 – The Division will seek a better method for tracking infrastructure locations, interpretive sites, attributes, and maintenance

In many cases, the Division has records that are disjointed or lacking. For example, the date a building was originally constructed may not be known, or several sets of files have to be referenced to find it. A relational database could track various forms of data, along with a mapped location and links to supporting documents. The more information about infrastructure and resources the Division can collect and spatially document, the better prepared it will be to minimize impacts and manage Parks. For example, locating an unmarked graveyard and linking its information could avoid accidental tractor impacts and allow for interpretation and programs. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

50 – Evaluate flow of parking and event traffic at the Carpenter Area

The Carpenter Area is a center for large events like concerts, cross country meets, and Creekfest. The large field south of the parking lot is used for overflow parking. Managing traffic associated with events is a concern for the Park. As part of this Plan, the Park Office will soon be moving to the Maxwell House in the Carpenter Area. Primary vehicular access to the new Park Office would be from Wedgwood Road. However, an internal connection should be considered between the Maxwell House and the main entrance of the Carpenter Area for authorized use, along with reconsideration of the flow during events and regular use. The Maintenance Complex is also in this area and should be a consideration for access. The Division will evaluate these options and may redesign future vehicular traffic flow at the Carpenter Area. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

51 – The Division will pilot two programmable gates within the Park

Currently there are nine established parking areas within the Park. Most of them have a gate that is manually unlocked and locked every day. Having programmable gates would save staff time from being physically present at each location every morning and every evening. It could also provide better service, as staff may occasionally run late if responding to an emergency issue. Gate technology can provide many options for solutions including remote controls, battery backup for continuous power, mechanisms to allow visitors to exit if locked in after hours, and emergency access. Units would require a power source and would require a trial to ensure expectations and use are acceptable. The Division will install two programmable gate units to trial as a substitute for conventional gates. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

52 – Trail Project – Assess the integrity of Skills Trail features and consider upgrades

The Skills Trail is a course to challenge mountain bikers with a variety of constructed elements and natural features to ride on or around. It is highly appreciated by the mountain biking community. Even though individuals enter the Skills Trail at their own risk, the Division would like to practice a higher level of safety. The Division will hire a professional engineering firm with related experience to assess the integrity of the Skills Trail's existing components. The firm would also be tasked to recommend features that

could be added to enhance the design of the course. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8 which includes this item.](#)



53 – Consider additional or all-season restrooms and water fountains

There is interest in having restrooms available year round. Established restroom facilities are available at four locations: the Carpenter Parking Area, the new Smith Mill Parking Area, the Judge Morris Parking Area, and the Nature Center Parking Area. Only the Smith Mill restrooms are open year round. The other three are locked in the winter because they are winterized to prevent pipes from freezing. Renovating the bathrooms with heating would be required for year-round use. It costs \$200 per month for electric just at the Smith Mill restrooms. Park use does drop in the winter and there is no entrance fee charged then. So while the Division is not rushing to provide all season restroom availability, it will be considered. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

54 – Install signage in proximity to where University of Delaware – Newark Campus and the Park meet

The Campus and Park are two huge neighbors. The Park is a resource available to students, faculty, and staff. Yet many individuals in the Campus community are not aware of the size and complexity, and some are not aware that the Park exists at all. To promote the Park as such a close amenity, the Division and University should partner for signage on campus that shows access points from Campus directly into the Park, as well as programs and features of the Park. This would provide additional, beneficial experiences for University students and staff. The Division should also place signage in the Park along one or two key corridors from Campus that is inviting to the University community with information about trails, programs, and features. Also see [Implementation Strategy 7](#) which includes this item.

55 – Convert the Judge Morris Lot Bathrooms to a tank and pump restroom or connect to sewer

This restroom was designed to be a composting unit. Unfortunately the system does not work well, cannot be cleaned with traditional cleaning supplies, and requires regular removal of solids from the chamber below the unit. The removal of solids is done manually by shovel, which is quite unpleasant, and the solids are not desirable nor

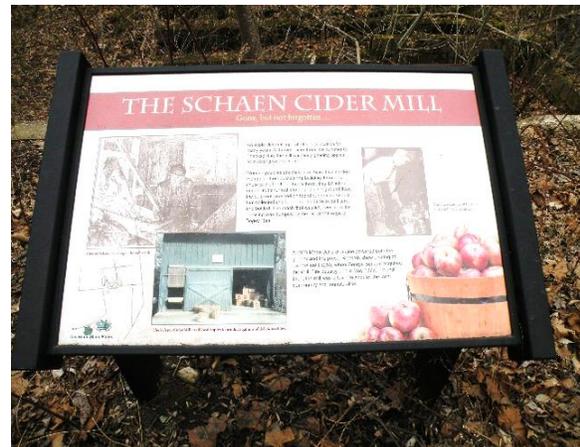
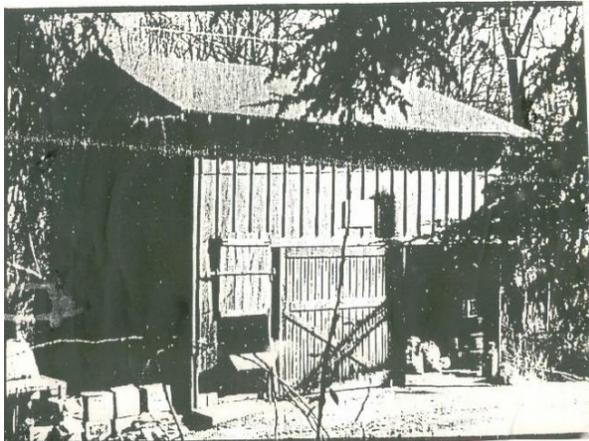
comparable to garden compost. Converting the unit to a tank and pump (latrine) or sewer-connected setup would reduce management and staff time. Also see [Implementation Strategy 3](#) which includes this item. Converting this restroom will also prompt consideration for upgrades that would make it usable year-round.

56 – Consideration for amending the extended use permit program

This program allows trail use from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. during certain times of the year via a permit that is obtained from the Park Office. Access is also limited to certain trails, including Whitely Farms Trail, Brian’s Field Trail (not Skills Trail), Smith Mill Road, Creek Road south of Hopkins Road, and the Pomeroy Trail. Parking for permit holders is available at the Wedgewood Road and Nine Foot Road lots. Many refer to this extended trail access as “night riding”, but it is not limited to biking and the hours available do not extend all night. There is some interest in expanding the hours and locations available. However, there are existing management concerns with closing the gates, having Rangers in the area in case of emergency, impacts on native wildlife species that are most active at twilight, and existing participants not exiting the Park within times specified. The Division will plan to implement a small fee for extended use permits to assist with management burdens and minimize impacts. The Division will revisit the available hours and areas in the future. Also see [Implementation Strategy 10](#) which includes this item.

57 – Consideration for constructing a demonstration cider mill

There has been interest from several individuals to recreate the former Schaen Cider



Mill. The 20' x 20' apple cider mill was probably constructed in 1917, had a period of inactivity prior to 1940, and was destroyed by fire in 1972. George Schaen ran the mill beginning in 1941, bought it in 1960, and continued to operate it until his son Gene took over in the late 1960s. The cider mill was a notable part of the community when it was in operation. There have been efforts to capture its history and consider reconstruction since the late 1980s. However, cost and location are the biggest concerns. Reconstructing the building on, or in proximity, to the original location may be impossible for land use approvals, and would be undesirable due to high risk of flooding. The costs for the structure would be overshadowed by permitting, reconstruction of mill components, staffing, and operational costs. Public health requirements would have to

be met to actually produce cider. There are components from a similar mill which were acquired by the Division, but they are not in working order. There are just too many existing buildings within the Park that have a deeper history, are underutilized, and need attention. The Division cannot justify prioritizing a cider mill at this time with other areas of the Park in greater need of attention.

58 – Creek Road between Wedgewood Road and Hopkins Road should transition to being permanently closed to vehicle traffic except programs and special uses

This segment of Creek Road is currently gated at both ends and opened only during the daytime on Mondays and for the Spring Trout Fishing



Season. An informal survey of use demonstrated about 90 pedestrians and bicyclists per weekday (weekend days about 128), compared to 2 vehicles per day on the days the segment of road is open. The survey was actually done to consider if it was worth expanding the number of days the segment of road would be open to vehicles. But the use does not support that. Furthermore, this segment has a poorly graded, gravel surface with several small, wooden bridges. Conversations with DeIDOT indicate they do not consider this segment of road a motor vehicle transportation priority and are not interested in investing resources as such. DeIDOT and DNREC believe this segment is important for non-motorized use, and restricting motor vehicles is critical to the safety of non-motorized users. The Division should work with DeIDOT to close this segment of Creek Road to vehicle traffic, except under the control of the Park for special uses. Trail use would continue as the primary function. DeIDOT and DNREC should consider transferring ownership of the right-of-way to DNREC. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) which includes this item.

59 – Trail Project – Extend Pomeroy Trail northward

The Pomeroy Trail extends from the downtown Newark area into the Park. It is one of the most heavily used trails in the Park. The northern terminus of the Trail is at Hopkins Road. The Trail Plan recommends the trail continue northward, connecting with Chambers Rock Road in the area of the current Park Office. However, this item is low ranking and has a high cost. For those reasons, the Division will not prioritize this trail project. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which discusses trail projects.

60 – Trail Project – Carpenter Area Loop

The Carpenter Recreation area is the most popular area of the Park and is used for concerts and other events. The Trail Plan recommends the creation of a loop trail, accessible for all abilities in this area. Walking or biking the loop could be enjoyable

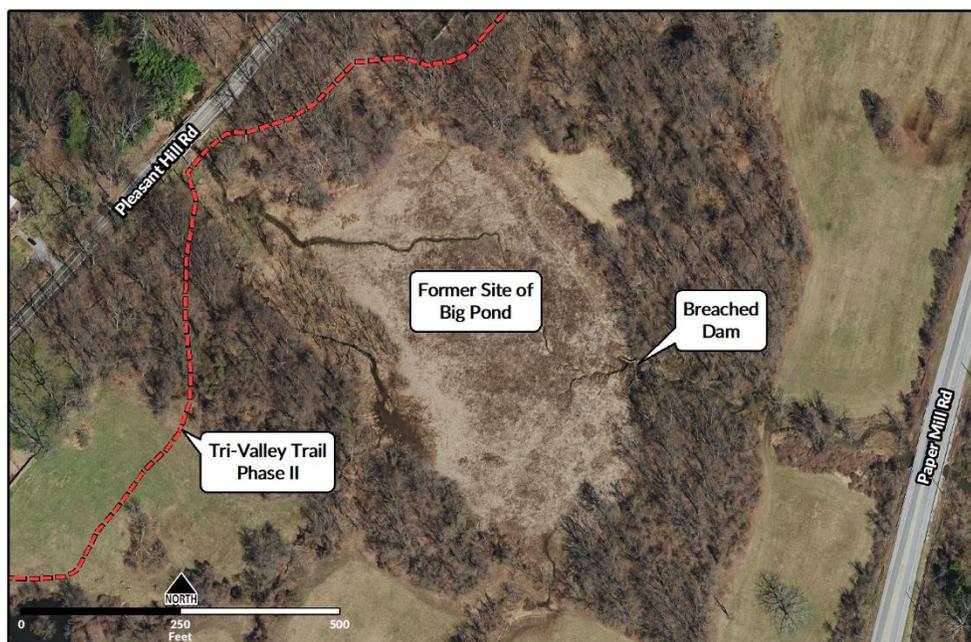
during concerts or while other family members enjoy the playground or other amenities. However, this item is low ranked and has a high cost. For those reasons, the Division will not prioritize this trail project. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which discusses trail projects.

61 – Consideration for a stream restoration project for the upper portion of Middle Run at the former location of “Big Pond”

A former landowner, S. Hallock Du Pont, constructed a shallow pond in this location in the early 1950s to attract waterfowl for hunting. The pond was held back by an earthen dam and concrete weir wall (spillway) which breached prior circa 2015. The earthen dam has eroded adjacent to the spillway and the pond has drained. One consideration for action is recreating a pond which is discussed in item 62 below. Another consideration is conducting a stream restoration project. This would involve removal of the dam and spillway, excavation and removal of some sediment, creation of meandering stream channel, and native plantings. Costs for this item would be high, though would be of ecological interest. The former pond sediments are converting to a wet upland meadow likely to be dominated by invasive species. The stream channel is eroding those former pond sediments contributing to decreased water quality. The Division cannot justify spending time and money on stream restoration here with other areas of the Park in greater need of improvements. If the National Wild and Scenic River Program, DelDOT, or other watershed-improvement organizations raise interest and funding for stream restoration, the Division would be a willing partner.

62 – Consideration for a pond construction project to recreate the former “Big Pond” at the upper portion of Middle Run

A former landowner, S. Hallock Du Pont, constructed a shallow pond in this location in the early 1950s to attract waterfowl for hunting. The pond was held back by an earthen dam and concrete weir wall (spillway) which breached circa 2015. The earthen dam has



eroded adjacent to the spillway and the pond has drained. One consideration for action is conducting a stream restoration project which is discussed in item 61 above. Another consideration is reconstructing a pond. During the drafting of this Plan, the Division was made aware of a petition circulating on the topic of “Big Pond”, and very much appreciates the efforts of those involved. Pond reconstruction would involve repair of the dam and spillway, dredging or excavation of several feet of sediment, and installation of access points to fish or view the pond. Costs for this item would be very high, and pond construction is not a need from an environmental or operational perspective. The Creek, Smith Mill Pond, and Millstone Pond already provide fishing opportunities and a water-centered aesthetic within the Park. The Smith Mill Pond is in the same area here, and is closer to the parking lot and provides a paved trail and docks designed for persons with disabilities to access. The Division cannot prioritize construction of “Big Pond” with other areas of the Park in greater need of improvements.

63 – Trail Project – Connection through Deerfield, from Tri-Valley Trail to Pomeroy Trail
Two popular areas of the Park are the Creek valley and the Possum Hill Area. However there are no trail connections between these two areas. The Trail Plan includes the option of connecting the Tri-Valley Trail from the Nine Foot Road Area to the Pomeroy Trail adjacent to the Creek. The trail would be compacted stone or asphalt and designed for pedestrian and bicyclist use. However, this item is ranked low and has a high cost. It also would require crossing Thompson Station Road, which is challenging. For those reasons, the Division will not prioritize this trail project. Also see [Implementation Strategy 8](#) which discusses trail projects.

64 – Consideration for opening the currently closed section of Creek Road to vehicle traffic

This approximately 0.7 mile section immediately south of Wedgewood Road, should be permanently closed to vehicle traffic. This segment of Creek Road currently has bollards at both ends preventing vehicular traffic and has been used as a trail. It has been closed to vehicles for about 12 years. Some interest arose to restore this road for vehicular



traffic, at least one-way. However, a large portion of this segment is immediately

adjacent to the Creek, and topography and environmental sensitivity are challenges for construction. Costs for restoring the road would be in the millions. More importantly, DeIDOT has indicated they do not consider this segment of road a motor vehicle transportation priority and could not justify investing resources as such. Furthermore, DeIDOT believes they would be unlikely to obtain the required permits and approvals if the project was of interest. Specifically, DeIDOT does not believe they could justify the purpose and need required for the National Environmental Policy Act documents. Even if approved, the road would have to be reconstructed to updated safety standards that would require significantly higher costs and impactful earthmoving and engineering even for just a one way road. The history of the area, environmental factors, and absence of a motor vehicle transportation priority leave DeIDOT very clearly opposed to re-opening this segment of Creek Road. DeIDOT and DNREC believe this segment is important for non-motorized use, and restricting motor vehicles is critical to the safety of those non-motorized users. The Division will work with DeIDOT to formalize closure of this segment of Creek Road to vehicle traffic, still allowing pedestrian and bicycle access. Notably, the closure should not restrict wheelchairs, electric scooters, and other assistive devices from accessing the road segment as a multiuse trail. DeIDOT and DNREC should consider transferring ownership of the right-of-way to DNREC. Also see [Implementation Strategy 6](#) on the topic of roadways.

Additional Concepts – These items are important to the Park, but are either ancillary or not limited as a project with a set timeframe or geographical boundary:

- Maintain an interest to purchase in-holdings and adjacent properties as they come available – The Division does not have endless funds to acquire every property. However it does have programs for protecting or purchasing lands that expand the Park. Lands do need to meet some qualifications to be eligible for the Division’s interest. But the Division is always ready to discuss the potential for protection or acquisition with nearby landowners (lands do not need to be immediately adjacent). Persons interested should contact the Division’s Land Preservation Office 302-739-9935 or elena.stewart@delaware.gov.
- Foster the ‘One Park’ Visitor Experience Strategy – The Division goal is to ensure all park visitors have an experience that directly and personally connects them to the natural, historic, and cultural resources found at each Delaware State Park, inspiring them to acts of stewardship in support of these resources. The Visitor Experience Strategy incorporates each park’s theme and essential experience into statewide planning and preservation efforts, marketing, and customer interaction points. Delaware State Parks act as one park, working collaboratively to create meaningful visitor experiences that inspire lifelong stewardship. All staff, regardless of position, are empowered to develop and deliver resource-based interactions with visitors, utilizing the themes and essential experiences that make each Delaware State Park unique. The theme and essential experiences for White Clay Creek State Park are:

From creek’s edge to piedmont ridge, the natural vistas and rich history of the White Clay watershed endure because members of the communities surrounding

it advocated on behalf of this critical resource. Discover White Clay Creek's National Wild and Scenic Watershed by exploring the Chambers House area. Experience the watershed on trails that meander from the bank of the creek to scenic views of the valley. Explore the most diverse trail system in Delaware State Parks with its scenic views, the Millstone Pond, the Mason-Dixon marker, and bridges spanning White Clay Creek.

- Identify and use a single, clear name for each area and building, and cease using alternative names – Many areas of the Park and buildings are referenced by more than one name. This leads to confusion among visitors and staff and can be misleading about the location's history. The Division will establish a team to assign one name to each building, building complex, and area. Historic context will be a primary influence in naming. The Division will then update maps and educate staff to provide consistency.
- Initiate text message donations – Donations by text are a tool that can help generate needed revenue from the Park. This is particularly useful for neighbors and other visitors who enter the Park on over two-dozen trail access points. Park user fees are only charged to vehicles, but many of the users who enter the Park via other means would be willing to contribute to the betterment of the Park. Text donations are an easy way to collect a modest amount from concerned individuals. The Division will also coordinate the availability of this with well-placed signage.
- In-progress projects – Accessibility and connectivity in the Possum Hill area, the new playground, labeling information boards with 911 addresses, Tri-Valley Trail phase 2, Judge Morris Estate use, and Wells Lane Bridge are all projects that have been planned prior to the start of this Master Plan and are in progress or nearly complete as this Plan is being completed.
 - Connecting features and activities which are accessible to persons of all abilities. Several projects in the Possum Hill area of the Park are designed to be accessible for all abilities and to connect. Docks were installed in Smith Mill Pond to especially provide access for wheelchairs and youth fishing events. A primitive campsite is being constructed a short-distance from the Nine Foot Road parking lot which will have surfacing, a tent platform, picnic table, and connector trail designed for accessibility. The Nine Foot Road parking lot is also the location for fall hayrides. This is the first State Park to have a specialized lift to enable persons with all abilities to ride with others on the haywagon. Tri-Valley Trail is a wide, paved trail with only gentle grades that enables wheelchair and other uses. It also connects the hayride area, primitive campsite, accessible fishing docks, and will soon connect to Paper Mill Park.
 - The new playground is designed for 2-5 year old children and is immediately adjacent to the existing playground at the Carpenter Area. It will allow better play for younger children and expands the overall playground area. As part of



this project, new curbing for mulch containment will also be constructed around the existing playground as one unified play area.

- Labeling all information boards with area name and 911 addresses will help provide a quick reference for location in the event of an emergency. Information boards are the large, vertically-facing, protected map and information panels at most trailheads and parking areas. Having a conspicuously posted 911 address will help Park visitors describe where they are to emergency services. The Division will also explore the possibility of labeling marker posts at trail intersections with GPS coordinates.
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- Phase 2 of the Tri-Valley Trail will extend from the existing paved trail (Smith Mill Road), between the Possum Hill and Nine Foot Road Parking Areas, to the intersection of Corner Ketch and Paper Mill Roads. It will be an accessible, paved trail. Construction has begun and will probably be completed in late 2019.
 - Soliciting interest in the Judge Morris Estate began prior to the Master Plan process. A Request for Proposals was issued, with vendor award announced in April 2019. The selected concessionaire will be using the house, barn foundation, and immediate grounds as a special event venue including catering and food service. They also plan to provide public programming and events that blend with the Division's programs. The Division will benefit from direct payments from the vendor, as well as the facility improvements and maintenance that the vendor will perform. The agreement runs through 2024, with an option to extend.
 - The Wells Lane bridge is a small bridge along an internal Park road with restricted vehicle access. It is important for resident, volunteer, and maintenance use as well as heating fuel deliveries. The bridge has been a concern for a few years and the flooding in 2018 brought the need for a temporary fix. As this Plan is being written, the bridge is in construction for replacement and should be completed in 2019.
 - Continue concessionaire management and operation of Deerfield – The golf course and banquet facilities known as Deerfield are owned by the Division. Along with Garrisons Lake Golf Club (another Division-owned facility in Smyrna), Deerfield is currently operated and managed under agreement by Forewinds Hospitality. This relationship has been beneficial from a financial and day-to-day operational standpoint for the Division. The Division receives funding from a flat fee and percentage of gross revenue agreement. Deerfield provides a treasured public golf course (home to UD's Women's Golf Team), pub and gourmet dining, venue
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for elegant weddings, and host to various other community events. The 145-acre property is managed independently with minimal oversight required from the Park. The current concessionaire agreement for Deerfield runs to the end of 2023. The Division will likely begin the request-for-proposals (RFP) process in 2022 to select the future concessionaire and to prepare for an orderly transition if a new vendor is selected. The Division RFP would be consistent with the current use and management structure of the property.

- Continue the Silent Knights Soaring Society (SKSS) relationship – The SKSS operates remote-controlled gliding aircraft at the field north of Smith Mill Road under an agreement. The Division is not currently interested in altering the use of the SKSS area. However, a new agreement would be necessary in 2021 based on the term of the current agreement.