



Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, September 20th, 2022

7:00 - 9:00 PM

MEETING AGENDA

Introductions

Project Team & Experience

Master Plan Process

Site Photo Tour

Site Inventory & Analysis

Brainstorming

Next Steps



STEERING COMMITTEE

Jason Albert	OSAB Member
Laura Bocko	OSAB Member
David Clunie	OSAB Member
Bryan Cope	Superintendent of Parks Northampton County
Nick Graziano	OSAB Member
Ian Haddad	Resident
Allison Heinsohn	Resident
Janet Pearson	OSAB Member
Stephanie Steele	Portland Borough Council, President
Jim Wilson	Recreation Specialist Northampton County
David Friedman	BOS Liaison
David Due	BOS Liaison

OSAB – Upper Mt. Bethel Township Open Space Advisory Board

PROJECT TEAM

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

- Pete Simone, RLA, ASLA, Principal
- Sarah Leeper, RLA, Project Manager
- Jack Nichols, Staff Landscape Architect



Environmental Consultation Services

- Kevin S. Keat, President
- Larry Laubach



ECSi

Environmental Consultation Services inc

Seiler + Drury Architecture

- Doug Seiler, AIA, LEED AP, Principal in Charge

SEILER + DRURY
A R C H I T E C T U R E



Simone Collins Landscape Architecture is a planning and design firm committed to creating an ecologically enduring society.



Conduct
Careful research.



Respect
ecological
context & limits
of each site.



Build
on sustainable
practices of the
past.



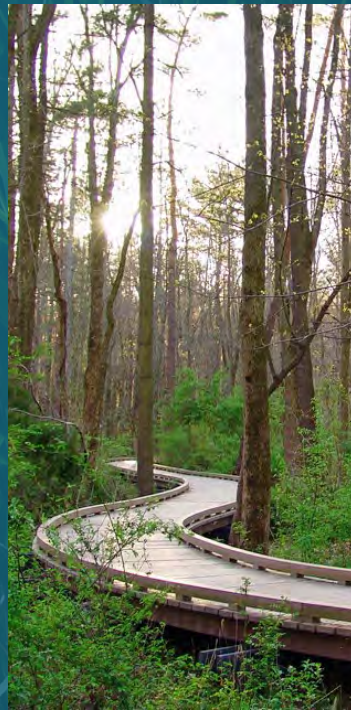
Employ
new methods
prudently.



Conserve
materials &
energy.



Support
local economies.



Design
biologically &
culturally diverse
communities.

SIMONE COLLINS EXPERIENCE

- 32nd year of service.
- Principals – over 45 years' experience each
- Primary focus: parks, recreation & trails
- Trusted partner / consultant to DCNR
- Scores of park and recreational projects
- Experience with communities across PA



The background of the slide is a photograph of a pond. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding green trees and foliage. On the right side, there are tall, green reeds or grasses. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and blue, with a semi-transparent blue overlay across the entire image.

Master Planning Process

Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

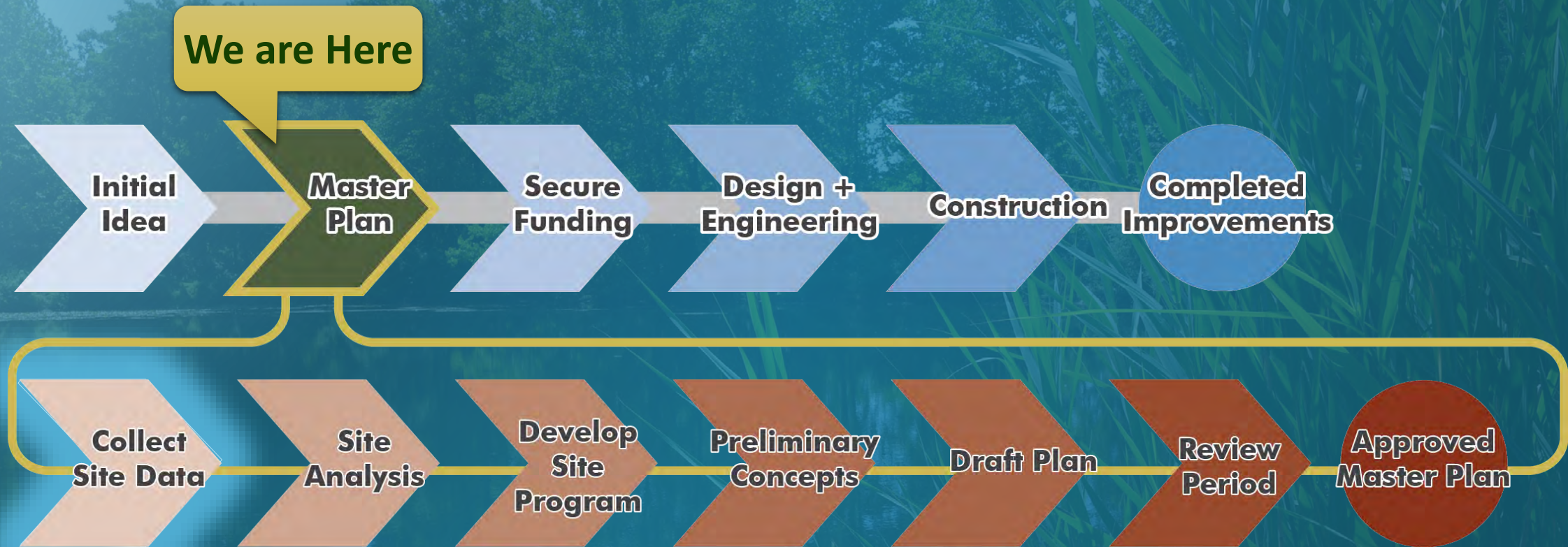
MASTER PLAN PROCESS

- We recognize that a municipality's park and open space are the most visible component of local government.
- Residents will likely have more interactions with Upper Mt. Bethel Township government through open space and recreation than any other Township function



MASTER PLAN PROCESS

"All voices are heard and all ideas are honored"



Transparent Public Outreach Process:

- 4 Public Meetings
- 4 Study Committee Meetings
- 10 Key Person Interviews
- 1 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Web-based Public Opinion Survey
- 60-Day Review Period
- Total Public Access to the SC Team During the Master Plan Process

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Upper Mt Bethel Preserve	Purpose	Date	Time
Steering Committee Meeting #1	Kickoff meeting / Brainstorming	Thurs, August 25, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #1	Programming	Tues, Sep 20, 2022	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Web Based Survey		Sep 20, 2022 to Feb 10, 2023	
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Steering Committee Meeting #4	Draft Comments / Final Plan Recommendations	Wed, Apr 26, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #4	Final Plan	Wed, May 31, 2023	7:00 - 9:00 PM

PROJECT SCOPE

Though the Township is funding the plan the Master Plan Report will follow DCNR guidelines to position the Township to pursue public funding grants.

Collect Background Information

Site Inventory & Analysis

Building Assessment

Activities & Facilities Analysis

Design Considerations

Design Process & Recommendations

Cost Estimate

Maintenance Recommendations & Cost

Implementation Plan & Funding Strategy

Master Plan Document





Site Photo Tour

Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

SITE PHOTO TOUR

Materials Yard Area

- Outside of Conservation Easement
- What is the best use for this area?
- Clearly define Public Work area.

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Rail Trail Entrance

- Trailhead parking?
- Portland to Minsi Trail Feasibility

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Existing Office Building

- Potential for reuse



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Existing Garage Structures

- Reuse for public works facilities

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Typical Haul Road

- Focus on existing corridors for trail system
- Consider long-term sustainability of corridor – drainage, sensitive habitat, etc.

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

North Central Pond

- Largest Pond



PHOTO KEY



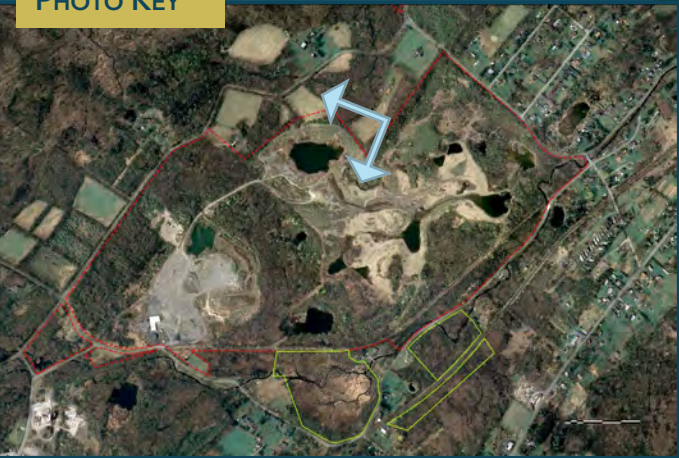
SITE PHOTO TOUR

North Central Pond overlook Trail

- Good views
- Adjacent Properties
informal Access Points



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Central Haul Road

- Level area lends itself to an ADA trail
- Need to have parking close to ADA trail

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

South Central Pond



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Central Overlook

- Eagle Scout Project



PHOTO KEY

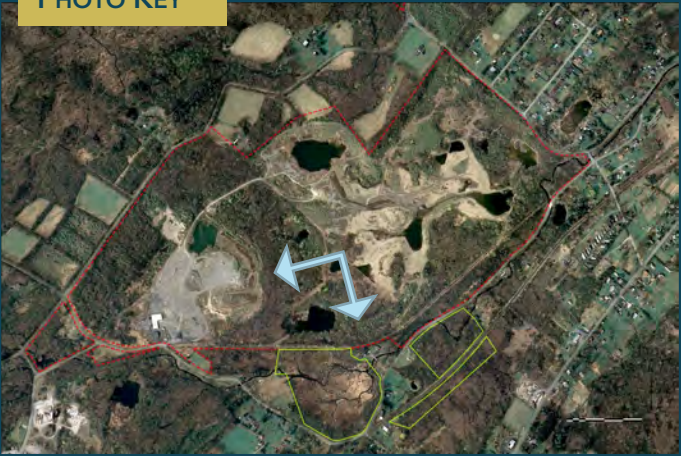


SITE PHOTO TOUR

Central Woodland Trail



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

South West Pond



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Rail Corridor

- Future Portland to Minsi Trail – eastern end of the Northern Tier Trail – grant request to DCNR - successful! and DCED grant request pending.

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

South Central Pond

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Forested Trail



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Overlook towards
South eastern pond



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Southeastern Pond

- Popular spot for fishing



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Southeastern Haul Road

- Water flow due to beaver activities in adjacent pond

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

South Eastern Pond



PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Eastern Haul Road

- Young Cedar Forest

PHOTO KEY



SITE PHOTO TOUR

Eastern Haul Road

- Young Cedar Forest
- Elevation Change
- Areas of Erosion

PHOTO KEY





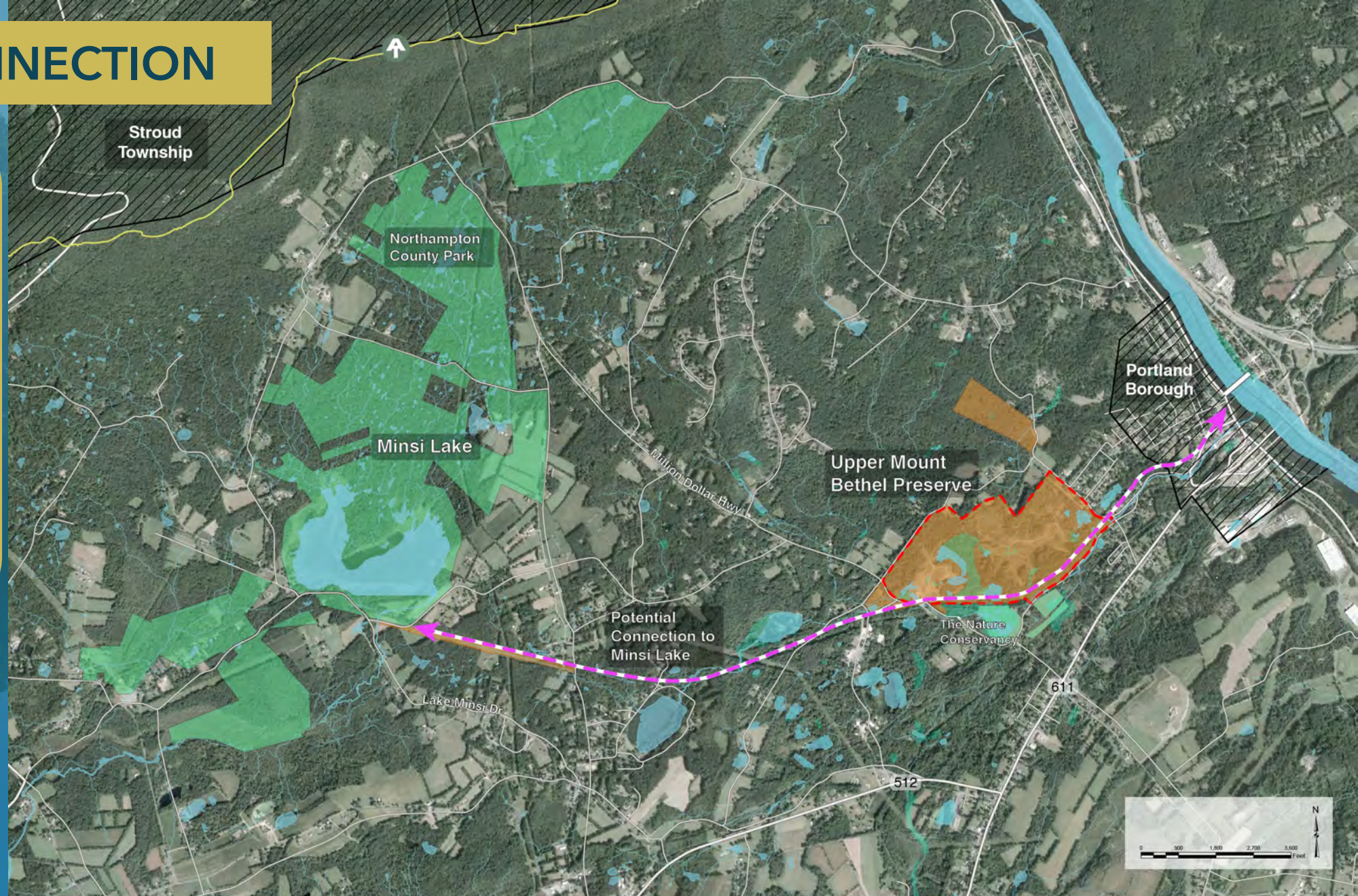
Site Inventory & Analysis

Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

REGIONAL CONNECTION

Legend:

-  Study Area
-  Township Property
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Water Bodies
-  Wetlands
-  Misni Lake Connection
-  Township Boundary



BASE MAP

Legend:

- Conservation Boundary
- Project Study Area
- Township Property
- State Roads
- Local Roads
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Nature Conservancy
- Existing Trails
- Parcels



PERMITTED USES WITHIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Conservation Easement Area (171 Acres)

- Dawn to Dusk, except for night-time Township programs

Permitted Activities

1. Walking, fitness & cross-county skiing trails, fitness stations
2. Non-motorized bicycles, horseback riding
3. Nature observation & photography
4. Fishing
5. Improvements such as bridges, ramps, & docks at ponds
6. Picnic tables / waste receptacles
7. Motor vehicles only for maintenance, security & emergencies
8. Improvements that do not damage protected plant species
9. Dog walking on leash only, waste removal
10. Tree tapping with Township approval
11. Trapping in designated areas with State License & Township ID tag
12. Deer hunting in designated areas – archery / flintlock
13. Study & research as approved by Township
14. Guided events after dusk with Township approval
15. Boy scout / girl scout merit badge or service projects



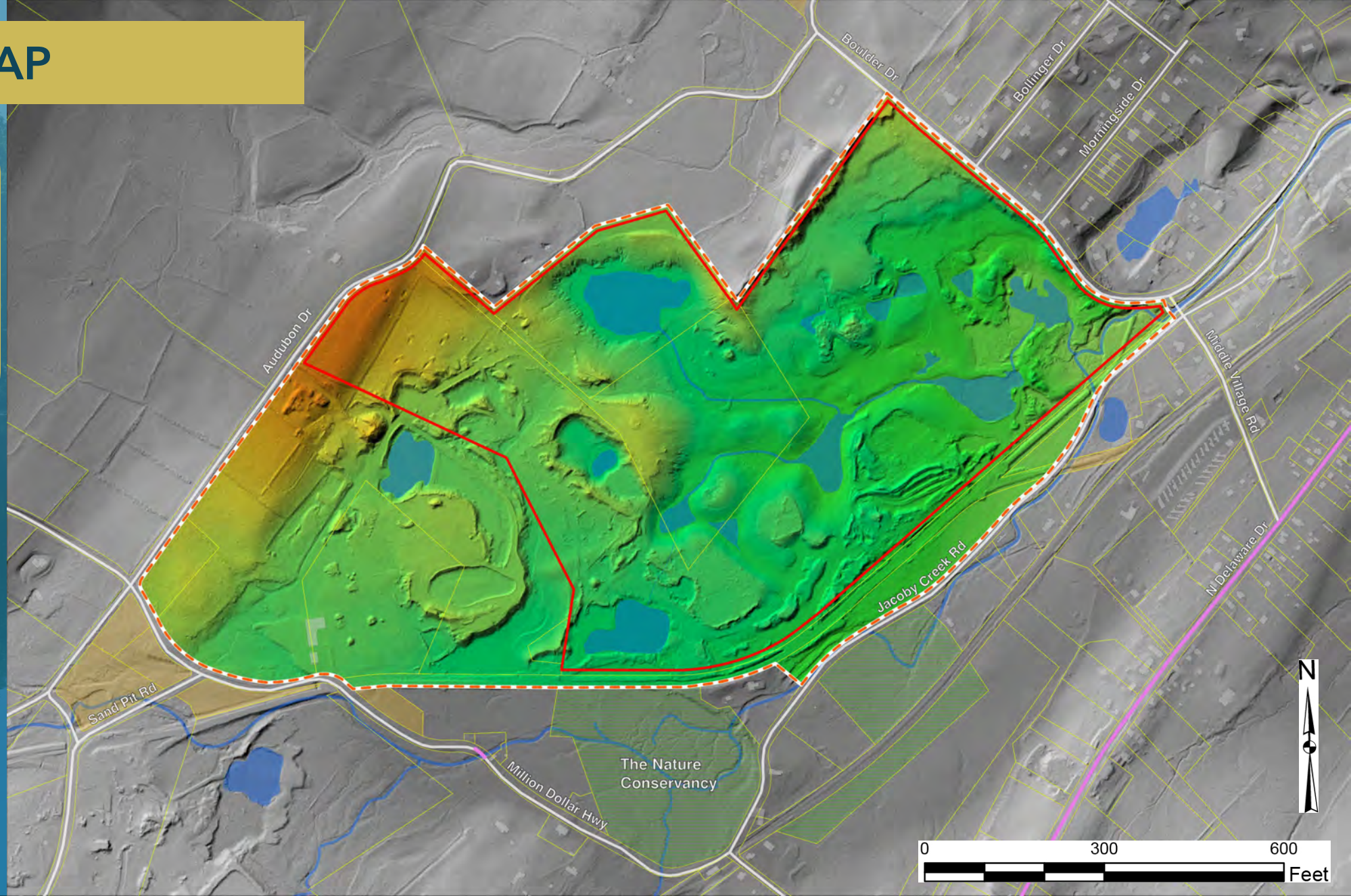
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN CONSERVATION EASEMENT

1. Building or structure, unless directly beneficial to environmental use
2. Ice skating or ice fishing
3. Swimming
4. Mining, quarrying or hydraulic fracturing
5. Spraying, dumping, release or placement of hazardous chemicals, wastes or fill as regulated by PA DEP
6. Spraying, dumping, release or placement of biosolids as defined by PA DEP
7. Cuttings, chips or other by-products of invasive species
8. Cutting or spraying of native trees and plants without consultation with PA Bureau of Forestry (DCNR)
9. ATVs, motorcycles, e-bikes, motor boats, - w/ exception of snowmobiles after 10 inches of snow on approved trails.



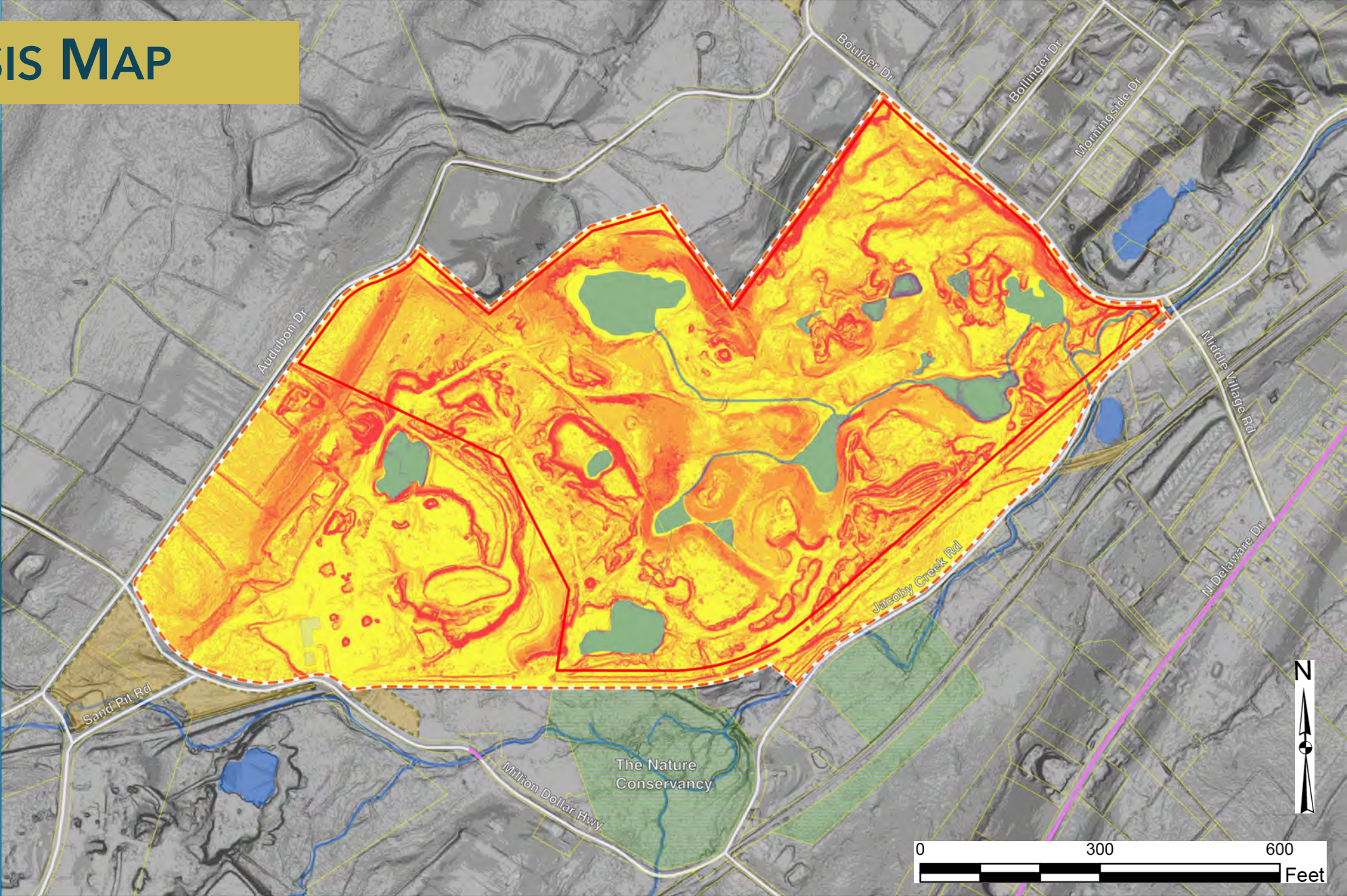
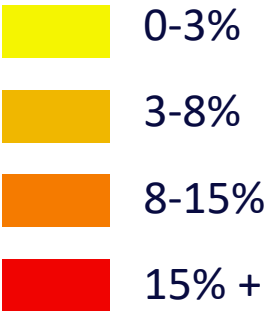
ELEVATION MAP

Elevation Legend:



SLOPE ANALYSIS MAP

Slope Legend:



HYDROLOGY MAP

Hydro Legend:

- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Streams
- Flow Direction



CIRCULATION ANALYSIS

Circulation Legend:

- State Roads
- Local Roads
- Vehicular Entrance
- Former Rail Corridor
- Informal Access



BUILDING ANALYSIS

- Building is a candidate for renovations
- Need to explore potential reuses
- May be larger than required for an environmental education center
- Location next to potential public works building / yard not ideal to a visitor / public amenity



SITE ANALYSIS & INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

1. A joint public works and Preserve public entrance is not recommended.
2. Location of office building and its proximity to a public works facility does not function well for a nature center.
3. SC to explore another location for public driveway and a nature center facility.
 - Who is to manage and operate center?
4. The large yard area – not part of the conservation easement – what are the best uses for this area?
 - Clearly define limits of public works area
 - Are there recreational needs that this area could meet that are not permitted in the conservation easement area?
 - Consider inclusion of area for habitat restoration recommendations
5. Trail Head for Minsi to Portland Rail Trail (Northern Tier Trail)





Brainstorming

Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

BRAINSTORMING

Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...create a program for improvements

GOALS

Goals for the Project Initially broad, then specific: “Protect Sensitive Area” or “Provide facilities for all ages & Abilities”

Facts Neighboring land use, site conditions, existing trail, existing facilities, potential partners.

FACTS

CONCEPTS

Ideas for Attaining Project Goals “ADA hiking Trail”, or “Environmental Center” or “Seek DCNR funding”

BRAINSTORMING – CARD TECHNIQUE

Your Ideas,
Comments,
Suggestions...

GOALS

PROTECT
SENSITIVE HABITAT

DEVELOP
A
MASTER PLAN

PROVIDE FOR
ALL
AGES & ABILITIES

FACTS

233 ACRES

EXISTING
WETLANDS

LARGE BEAVER
POPULATION

CONCEPTS

ADA HIKING TRAIL

*ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER*

*“50 FOOT
TALL WATER
SLIDE”*

PARTNERS

DCNR

NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY

THE NATURE
CONSERVANCY



Next Steps

Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Please share the public meetings with your friends and neighbors.



Public Meetings!

Master Site Plan for

Upper Mount Bethel Preserve

Scan for
Public Meeting!



 **SCAN ME**
qrco.de/bdGpYC

A master plan is being completed the Upper Mount Bethel Preserve. Please attend upcoming public meeting to share information and your ideas!

Attend in-person at :
Upper Mount Bethel Township Building
387 Ye Olde Highway, Mount Bethel, PA 18343

OR attend virtually at the meeting links below:

- Public Meeting #1 - Initial Concepts
Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 - 7pm
- Public Meeting #2 - Initial Concepts
Wednesday, November 7th, 2022 - 7pm
- Public Meeting #3 - Draft Plan
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 - 7pm
- Public Meeting #4 - Final Plan
Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 - 7pm

The master plan is being conducted by Upper Mt. Bethel Township and Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, planning consultants to the Township. For more information, please contact Sarah Leeper, RLA at 610-239-7601 or sleeper@simonecollins.com

WEB-BASED PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

- Please take the Survey and share with your friends and neighbors.



Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Master Plan



Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve Public Opinion Survey

Public Survey Purpose

Located on Million Dollar Highway Upper Mt. Bethel Preserve was formerly a quarry and is a disturbed landscape that is slowly recovering from this intense land use. The 287.96-acre site was acquired by Upper Mt Bethel Township for open space and passive recreation. Of that acreage, UMBT has placed a conservation easement on 214 acres of that land for the Preserve. The site has approximately 13 ponds, several areas of wetlands, streams / creeks. It is also habitat to a number of other flora and fauna. The open space covenant restricts uses on portions of the property to a range of passive recreational and open space uses.


Township in undertaking a master plan process to explore the development of passive uses within the Preserve. You are invited to be a part of the design process by telling us if you might use this park for recreation and what improvements you would like to see it better. Your thoughts about the educational and recreational opportunities at the Preserve are vital to the planning process. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey which should require only 10 to 15 minutes.

The survey is available from September 20th, 2022, until approximately February 3rd, 2023. Your responses will not be identified by name and your responses will be anonymous. All responses will be used as part of the Master Plan Study.

The survey was developed by Upper Mt. Bethel Township and Simone Collins Landscape Architecture. For more information, please contact the Township.

PUBLIC MEETING 1 9.20.2022

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THANK YOU!

Please feel free to contact us anytime!

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

(610) 239-7601

- Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal
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- Sarah Leeper, RLA, Project Manager
sleeper@simonecollins.com
- Jack Nichols
jnichols@simonecollins.com

