

Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan

Executive Summary

**ClearWater Conservancy
The Pennsylvania State University Department of Landscape Architecture
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

October 2001

The Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan is composed of two separate studies sponsored by the ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania, Inc. The purpose of this Executive Summary is to describe the planning process underlying the Rivers Conservation Plan and to compile the recommendations of the studies into an easy to understand Management Options Matrix.

For the full text of the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, please visit the ClearWater Conservancy website at www.clearwaterconservancy.org.

Introduction

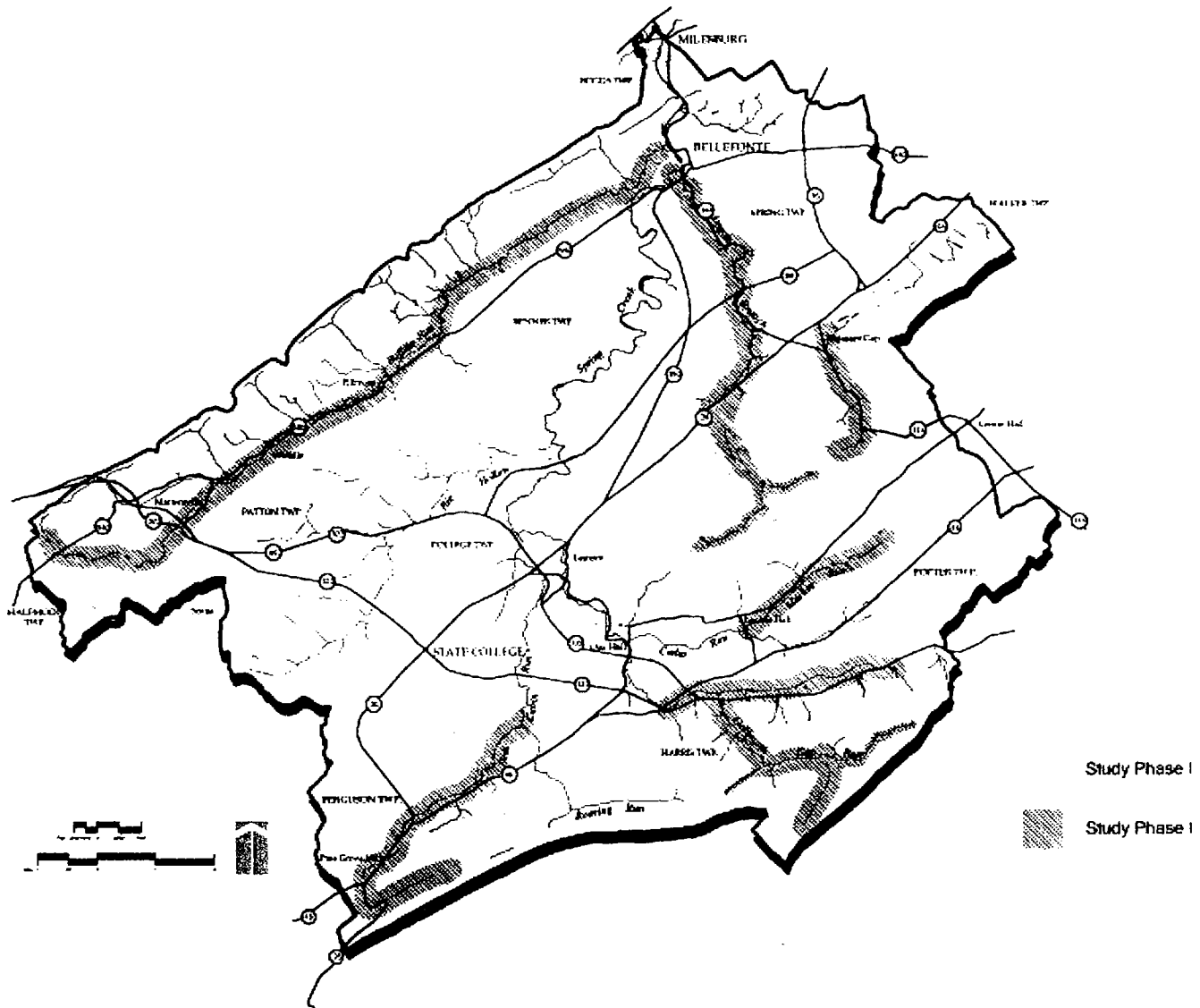
The landscape can be seen as an intricate fabric of diverse threads. The fabric of the Spring Creek watershed is woven of streams and forests, fields and mountains, roads and railroads, compact towns and rural villages. These threads of the natural environment and our development patterns compose our present landscape and are the basis for future growth. New threads replace the old as values and resources change. They express new values or enhance existing ones, strengthening our sense of community and our connection with the landscape.

The threads of Spring Creek and its tributaries flow through the heart of Central Pennsylvania. Located in the south central portion of Centre County in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province, the Spring Creek watershed drains an area of approximately 175 square miles and is part of the larger Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Within the Spring Creek watershed are fourteen municipalities that are searching for new and creative ways to weave together their common interests, heritage, and resources. The watershed contains all or a portion of Benner, Boggs, College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, Patton, Potter, Spring, and Walker Townships and the Boroughs of Bellefonte, Centre Hall, Milesburg, and State College. Together, representatives from these fourteen municipalities make up the Spring Creek Watershed Commission.

In its initial attempts at planning together on a watershed basis, the community began to recognize the importance of Spring Creek as a valuable asset for the future. Its high quality reflects on the environment, the economy, and the quality of life of the people who live, work, and play here. But in order for the community to consider Spring Creek as an integral part of its daily decision-making processes, a foundation must be created to raise awareness of how vital the Spring Creek thread is to the fabric of our identity. The Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan is intended to provide that foundation and give the community specific ideas for the future of the Spring Creek Watershed.

The following context map of the Spring Creek Watershed shows the fourteen municipalities, major place names and roads, and the stream segments studied in Phase I and Phase II of the Rivers Conservation Plan.



Spring Creek Corridor Study

The ClearWater Conservancy is a Centre County based non-profit organization that has been working since 1980 to foster conservation and resource protection in the heart of Central Pennsylvania. In 1994 the ClearWater Conservancy completed the original Spring Creek Corridor Study, with the invaluable help of many partners. The mission of this original study was:

“To protect and enhance the natural, historic, and scenic resources in the vicinity of Spring Creek through a planned program of easements, acquisitions, and cooperative arrangements with local landowners and local governments with provisions for improved public access, and recreational and educational use where feasible and appropriate. To ensure that the resources in the Spring Creek corridor are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations and to ensure that the public is informed about the corridor and engaged in its protection and enhancement.”

A number of issues were identified through the study process for their effect on the resources of the Spring Creek watershed. Among the issues that the community must understand and address in any attempt to protect and enhance Spring Creek are growth and change, water quality, loss of natural habitats, quality of life, historic resources, and fragmentation of authority.

With these issues in mind, the study team embarked upon the task of establishing a comprehensive inventory of the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural attributes of the corridor, which was defined as an area 2,000 feet on either side of the stream. Due to the extensive nature of the watershed, the original study was limited to a corridor that followed the main stem of Spring Creek from Boalsburg to Milesburg and the tributaries of Cedar Run, Slab Cabin Run downstream of its confluence with Roaring Run, and Roaring Run, as representatives of the varied conditions that exist within the watershed.

After collecting and recording the data, the study team analyzed the information, consulted with recognized experts, and suggested a set of issues and opportunities to be considered within the Spring Creek corridor. Finally, a set of conceptual recommendations was developed to describe actions that could be considered by the community in order to address the issues and take advantage of the opportunities presented along the Spring Creek corridor.

The value of the original Spring Creek Corridor Study was in informing the public about Spring Creek, increasing the community's awareness of the creek and its resources, and ultimately engaging the people of the Spring Creek watershed in its conservation. Several specific recommendations caught the interest and imagination of the community and have since been implemented. For instance, the recommendation to preserve a rare wetland in the urban core of the Centre Region through a Millbrook Marsh Nature Reserve led to the creation of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. This cooperative effort between ClearWater Conservancy, Centre Region Parks & Recreation, and the Pennsylvania State University is a wonderful educational and environmental asset to the community.

The creation of the Nature Center led to the protection of the rare and sensitive limestone fen, which had formerly been privately held land adjacent to the

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center property. This ecological gem was given as a gift to the ClearWater Conservancy to protect with a conservation easement.

Another recommendation from the original Corridor Study that had fruitful results in the community was the identification of the eastern entrance to State College on Route 26 as an exciting opportunity to enhance the Spring Creek corridor, celebrate our history, and demonstrate the pride we take in our healthy, beautiful environment. An East College Avenue Gateway Corridor Study Committee was formed in College Township to further study the possibilities in this corridor. As a result, the community was prepared to embrace an opportunity to preserve an environmentally sensitive and important 43-acre piece of property that was slated for development within this Gateway Corridor area. Thompson Woods has now become a forest preserve in a partnership between the landowners, the developer, the ClearWater Conservancy, College Township and the Borough of State College, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and many individual community members who contributed generous private donations in order to make the land acquisition possible.

Probably the most important outcome of the original Spring Creek Corridor Study was that it provided the foundation for a broader, watershed-wide initiative. As a vehicle for building a cross-sector, multi-municipal dialogue between the various stakeholders of the watershed, the community hosted an International Countryside Stewardship Exchange Team in 1996. The excitement generated by this community project successfully translated into the creation of the Spring Creek Watershed Community, a diverse stakeholder group focused on activities to preserve and enhance the watershed, and the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, a cooperative governmental effort among the fourteen watershed municipalities.

The first Spring Creek Corridor Study was so effective in raising the community's awareness of Spring Creek's issues that the need for another study to pick up where the first left off became apparent. The community recognized the importance of the tributaries that were not studied in the first analysis, and Phase II of the Spring Creek Corridor Study was born.

Spring Creek Study, Phase II

In late 1996, ClearWater Conservancy, on behalf of the Spring Creek Watershed Community, applied for a planning grant through DCNR's Rivers Conservation Program to complete the Spring Creek Corridor Study and mold it into a Rivers Conservation Plan. The conservation plan was extended to the remaining tributaries of the Spring Creek watershed, including Buffalo Run, Logan Branch, Gap Run, and the upper reaches of Slab Cabin Run, Spring Creek, and Cedar Run.

In addition, a key component of Phase II of the Spring Creek Study was the conversion of the original data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) format. All new data has also been produced in GIS.

Process

The goals of the Spring Creek Study remained very similar to the earlier study and are as follows:

- to protect and enhance the natural, historic, and scenic resources in the vicinity of Spring Creek;
- to ensure that the resources in the Spring Creek corridor are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations; and
- to ensure that the public is informed about the corridor and engaged in its protection and enhancement.

Work began on Phase II of the Spring Creek Study in 1998. The Department of Landscape Architecture at The Pennsylvania State University, who performed the work on the original Spring Creek Corridor Study, was once again contracted to extend the geographic scope of the study and manage the conversion of the original data into GIS. The co-principal investigators for the project were Landscape Architecture faculty members Mark Battaglia, Neil Korostoff, and Thomas Yahner.

Because of the specialized nature of the task, the geospatial data compilation was performed on a subcontract basis by the Land Analysis Laboratory of The Pennsylvania State University. Mike Anderson served as principal investigator for this portion of the project. Sources for the geospatial data included the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA), the Centre County GIS Project, and others. Additional GIS data were also created specifically for the study project.

The project team conducted extensive field inventory, photography, archival research, and local interviews during the course of the study process, and recommendations were developed and refined throughout the study period.

The project team made sure that public participation was an integral part of the study process. First, a Steering Committee was formed to guide the study planning process and provide oversight of the project. In April 1999, the larger community was first introduced to the plan and asked to review its preliminary issues and analysis. By October 1999, the project team was ready to present its preliminary recommendations to the public on issues such as scenic resources, future development, water quality, landscape ecology, cultural and historic landscapes, and recreational opportunities. The process of integrating the earlier Spring Creek Corridor Study data with the current Phase II data and converting it all into a Geographic Information System was also explained to the public.

Finally, after considering the community's input and completing further study, the project team generated the Draft Rivers Conservation Plan and presented it to the public for review on February 22, 2000. A diverse cross-section of the community attended this meeting, but the local C-NET cable channel reached an even broader audience by broadcasting the presentation to the wider community.

Final editing and production of the study report and display boards were completed in the summer of 2001. Recommendations in the final plan can be broken down into two main categories: watershed-wide recommendations and site-specific recommendations. Watershed-wide recommendations, including conserving water resources, developing with history, creating recreational networks, and preserving scenic value, are ideas that can be incorporated into planning throughout the watershed and implemented in many locations.

In contrast to the watershed-wide recommendations, the final plan also provides site-specific recommendations for the tributaries analyzed in this phase of the plan. Ideas were generated for the Rothrock/Spring Creek Headwaters, Slab Cabin Run, Logan Branch, Buffalo Run, and Scotia, which is the major recharge area for Bellefonte's Big Spring and an important part of the Spring Creek groundwater basin.

Compilation of Significant Findings

The recommendations from the Spring Creek Corridor Study and the Spring Creek Study, Phase II have been thoroughly analyzed and compiled into the Management Options Matrix that can be found at the end of the Executive Summary. In the detailed breakdown of the recommendations, two distinct types of recommendations became apparent. The first type of recommendation is a Management Goal, which refers to a broader planning initiative. The second type of recommendation is a Special Project, which details a specific action the community can take to promote the various Management Goals.

The Management Goals and Special Projects are further classified and described in an attempt to organize the recommendations presented in the study. First, the Management Goals were broken down into three main categories:

- Conserve and Protect Water Resources,
- Maintain and Enhance Environmental Quality, and
- Emphasize Regional Identity.

From there, the Management Goals were further classified as Watershed-wide Goals or Site-specific Goals.

Special Projects were also classified as Watershed-wide or Site-specific. Site-specific projects were grouped into general locations, such as Bellefonte or Spring Creek Headwaters.

After the recommendations were classified, Potential Partners and Potential Funding Sources were identified. The lists are not exhaustive, but are meant to give a sample of contacts in each category.

The project team, with input from the Spring Creek Watershed Community Coordinating Committee, next assigned a Priority to each project. Classifications range from High to Very High to Highest. Finally, a Status column was included to describe any current action on a particular recommendation.

Future Activities

The Spring Creek Watershed Community and the ClearWater Conservancy are eager to move forward with the implementation of the recommendations of the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. In fact, progress is already underway to build the necessary support to create a comprehensive Watershed Plan for the fourteen municipalities of the Spring Creek Watershed. The Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan will be an important component of that overall Watershed Plan.

In addition, several focused plans are also in the works, including the Stormwater Management Plan that was created for the Spring Creek Watershed by Centre County and the Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenways Study that is currently being coordinated by the County with the assistance of a broad local steering committee.

But beyond the various watershed planning efforts, there are also many specific projects that are already receiving attention from stakeholders and decision-makers.

- In the Spring Creek Headwaters area, a Galbraith Gap State Forest Recreation Gateway Task Force has formed to develop plans for a trailhead area and stream restoration at a heavily used entrance to the Rothrock State Forest.
- Spring, Benner, and College Townships, three of the watershed's municipalities that are facing ever-increasing development pressures, are in the process of enacting Spring Creek Overlay Zoning districts.
- A riparian restoration demonstration project has been developed and constructed at the Pennsylvania Military Museum in Boalsburg.
- The ClearWater Conservancy's Stewardship and Resources Committee has prioritized a list of potential land acquisition properties based in part on the recommendations of the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan.

With all of the activity in the Spring Creek Watershed, the completed Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan is sure to serve as a guide and a resource for future water resource protection efforts. Spring Creek's listing on the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry will open new doors of opportunity for the community and will help us to continue to protect our water resources in an effective and meaningful way.

On behalf of the entire Spring Creek Watershed Community, the ClearWater Conservancy would like to thank the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for making this Rivers Conservation Plan possible.

**SPRING CREEK RIVERS CONSERVATION PLAN
Management Goals**

**1) Conserve and Protect Water Resources
Watershed-Wide Goals**

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Manage Stormwater				
	Develop creative strategies to reduce stormwater runoff, thus reducing non-point source pollution into our streams and increasing aquifer recharge.	County and Municipal Governments Centre County Conservation District Land Developers and Engineering Firms Local Water and Sewer Authorities Bellefonte Borough Public Works College Township Water Authority Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority State College Borough Water Authority University Area Joint Authority	PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) Spring Creek Watershed Commission The Pennsylvania State University- University Park Campus (PSU-UP) US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)	Arthur B. Shultz Foundation Ben & Jerry's Foundation EPA Environmental Justice Grants to Small Community Groups Howard Heinz Foundation Koch Industries, Incorporated USDA Water Quality Special Research Grants Program	Very High The Spring Creek Watershed Community has established a Water Resources Monitoring Project through ClearWater. Phase II of the Water Resources Monitoring Project will establish a Stormwater Monitoring component. Centre County has created an Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan with model Best Management Practices. Adoption is anticipated in the year 2001.
Phase 1	Control Point Source Pollution				
	Continue to manage point source pollutants and recognize the vulnerable state of our area's water resources as we develop and change.	County and Municipal Governments Local Water and Sewer Authorities PA DEP PA Fish and Boat Commission (PA F&BC) Spring Creek Watershed Commission Spring Creek Watershed Community	US EPA US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS)	USDA Water Quality Special Research Grants Program	High Spring Creek Watershed Community has established a Water Resources Monitoring Project. Enforce existing policies and regulation for point source pollutants, particularly in Special Protection Waters.
Phase 2	Conserve Water Resources				
	Protect aquifer recharge, protect vulnerable headwaters, and establish Riparian Conservation Zones throughout the valley.	Centre County Conservation District Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local Water and Sewer Authorities Outdoor recreation groups PA Bureau of Forestry PA Game Commission	PA Greenways Partnership Commission Private and public landowners PSU-UP Spring Creek Watershed Commission Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy	US EPA Watershed Assistance Grants PA DEP Stream Releaf Program USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	Highest

Site-specific Goals

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Big Hollow Greenway				
	Protect the aquifer that lies beneath Big Hollow from point and non-point source pollution by prohibiting inappropriate land use in the areas surrounding the aquifer recharge. Protect rare native plant communities, scenic open spaces, and our historic and cultural resources. Connect to other outdoor recreation sites to create a regional network of trails.	Centre County Conservation District Centre County Historical Society Centre Rails to Trails Association Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local Water and Sewer Authorities PA DEP PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) PA Native Plant Society PSU-UP	Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy US EPA US FWS	Butler Foundation Recreational Equipment, Incorporated (REI) Power Bar, Incorporated US EPA Non-point Source Control Branch	Very High Centre County has created an Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan with model Best Management Practices. Adoption is anticipated in the year 2001. PSU Arboretum is in the planning stage. PSU Stormwater Management Demonstration Project is in progress. Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenways project is in progress.
Phase 1	Lemont Village Center				
	Protect the existing well managed riparian conservation zones along Spring Creek on private lands. Create a community center at the old granary and link it to the regional outdoor recreational path network.	Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department College Township College Township Water Authority County and Municipal Planning Commissions Lemont Village Association Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT)	Private landowners The ClearWater Conservancy	Wildlife Forever	High The Granary has been acquired by the Lemont Village Association.
Phase 2	Spring Creek Headwaters				
	Protect headwaters and valley recharge in Rothrock State Forest and Galbraith Gap.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials PA DCNR, PA DEP, PA F&BC Private landowners Private outdoor recreational businesses Recreational user groups	Rothrock State Forest State College Borough Water Authority Susquehanna River Basin Commission The ClearWater Conservancy US FWS	Wildlife Forever	Highest A trailhead park is currently being masterplanned for the Galbraith Gap entrance into Rothrock State Forest.

2) Maintain and Enhance Environmental Quality
Watershed-wide Goals

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Conserve Environmental Quality				
	Conserve the integrity of the publicly owned open space that still remains in our area.	Centre County Conservation District Centre Region Council of Governments Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department Centre County Farmland Preservation Board County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials PA Bureau of Forestry, PA F&BC, PA Game Commission Penn DOT Private and public landowners	PSU-UP Rockview State Correctional Institution Spring Creek Watershed Commission The ClearWater Conservancy The Nature Conservancy US FWS USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Local Municipalities USDA Forest Service Economic Actions Program	Highest Various efforts have been made throughout the area by several groups both public and private to conserve and improve upon our open spaces.
Phase 1	Preserve Natural Resources				
	Acknowledge and preserve our natural communities of both rare and endangered flora and fauna.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Ducks Unlimited PA DCNR PA DEP PA F&BC PA Game Commission PA Native Plant Society PA Natural Diversity Index Private and public landowners	PSU-UP Spring Creek Watershed Community The Audubon Society The Nature Conservancy Trout Unlimited US EPA US FWS Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Common Counsel Foundation Ittleson Foundation, Incorporated Turner Foundation	High The 1990 Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory will be updated as part of the County Comprehensive Plan update. The Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, which combines the Spring Creek Corridor Study (Phase 1) and the Tributary Study (Phase 2), is now complete. The ClearWater Conservancy's Stewardship and Resource Committee has prioritized land preservation projects.
Phase 1	Preserve Habitat				
	Maintain the continuity of our natural habitats by preserving the biological diversity that they support.	Ducks Unlimited PA DCNR PA DEP PA F&BC PA Game Commission Private and public landowners PSU-UP Rockview State Correctional Institution	Spring Creek Watershed Community The Audubon Society The Nature Conservancy Trout Unlimited US FWS Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Wildlands Conservancy	Merck Family Fund USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Assistance	Very High Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan is complete. The Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory was completed in 1990. The ClearWater Conservancy Land Protection Program has protected 535 acres. The PA State Correctional Institute Demonstration Project is in progress.
Phase 1	Conserve Open Space				
	Maintain the quality of life we currently enjoy through the conservation of existing open space and natural resources.	Centre County Conservation District Centre County Farmland Preservation Board Centre County Farmland Trust, Centre County Historical Society Chapters of The Sierra Club County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Mount Nittany Conservancy PA DCNR, PA F&BC	PA Game Commission PA Greenways Partnership Commission Penns Valley Conservation Association Private and public landowners PSU-UP Rockview State Correctional Institution The ClearWater Conservancy		Highest The Centre County Farmland Trust has incorporated. The ClearWater Conservancy's Stewardship and Resource Committee has prioritized a current set of land preservation projects.
Phase 1	Establish Riparian Conservation Zones				
	Establish Riparian Conservation Zones to maintain the water quality throughout the watershed.	Centre County Conservation District Centre County Farmland Preservation Board Centre County Historical Society Chapters of The Sierra Club County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials PA DCNR PA F&BC	PA Game Commission PA Greenways Partnership Commission Penns Valley Conservation Association Private and public landowners PSU-UP Rockview State Correctional Institution The ClearWater Conservancy	The Conservation Fund - American Greenways	Highest An Overlay Zone has been established in two local municipalities.

Site-Specific Goals

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Millbrook Marsh				
	Protect Millbrook Marsh, as a natural area and habitat to rare plant species found nowhere else in Centre County, from the impacts of urban development and the associated runoff and pollution. Create a regional nature center for environmental education. Connect to other outdoor recreation sites using the regional network of trails.	Centre Region Council of Governments Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority Local Developers and Engineering Firms Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee PA DCNR PA DEP Pennsylvania Environmental Council PSU-UP The ClearWater Conservancy	The Nature Conservancy Spring Creek Watershed Community Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	The Pennsylvania State University Wildlife Forever Local Municipalities Nature Center User Fees	Very High Millbrook Marsh Nature Center has been established under public ownership and is largely protected and maintained. An invasive species management program is in progress. Water quality and biotic monitoring is in progress. Centre Regional Parks & Recreation uses the Nature Center for ongoing educational programs. Thompson Woods property acquired upstream.

Phase 1	<p>Shingletown Gap Forest Gateway Protect the scenic and natural resources in this area from degradation by timber harvesting and other potentially damaging activities. Create a recreational gateway to the heavily utilized state forest with appropriate facilities (parking, signage, trails) and connect to the regional network. Protect against excessive user impact.</p>	<p>Centre County Conservation District County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Outdoor recreation user groups PA Bureau of Forestry, PA DCNR PA DEP PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Private and public landowners Spring Creek Watershed Community</p>	<p>State College Borough Water Authority The ClearWater Conservancy</p>	<p>Power Bar, Incorporated Recreational Equipment, Incorporated</p>	Very High	<p>Ad Hoc efforts are underway through the State Forest Management. A Citizens' Group is working on trails and making repairs.</p>
Phase 1	<p>State College Gateway Create a Gateway Park on PA Route 26 East at the entry point to State College. This area includes the historic Centre Furnace Mansion and furnace stack and the Penn State Duck Pond; will also involve streetscape improvements, stormwater erosion and sedimentation control, and connection to other outdoor recreational facilities within the trail network.</p>	<p>Centre County Conservation District Centre County Historical Society Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Ducks Unlimited PA DCNR PA DEP Private and public landowners</p>	<p>PSU-UP Recreational user groups The ClearWater Conservancy The Nature Conservancy Trout Unlimited US FWS Western Pennsylvania Conservancy</p>	<p>Downtown State College, Inc. Local Businesses The Pennsylvania State University</p>	Very High	<p>College Township implemented a Gateway Corridor Zoning Ordinance. Hilton Garden Inn is the first redevelopment project. Thompson Woods has been purchased and protected in the public domain. Erosion and sedimentation control is currently under study by PSU-UP.</p>
Phase 2	<p>Spring Creek Headwaters Reserve Form partnerships between the community, private landowners, and the State Forest administration to adequately protect and preserve our land and water resources.</p>	<p>Local water authorities Outdoor recreation user groups PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers PA Bureau of Forestry Private and public landowners</p>	<p>Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy Trout Unlimited</p>	<p>Orvis Company</p>	Very High	<p>The Spring Creek Watershed Community formed as a broad-based stakeholder group that promotes actions that protect and enhance the quality of life, environment, and economy.</p>

3) Emphasize Regional Identity
Watershed-wide Goals

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status	
Phase 1	Maintain Regional Identity					
	Maintain the integrity and uniqueness of our area in an effort to uphold the attractive quality of our environment.	Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County Centre County Office of Aging Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau Centre Region Council of Governments County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local developers and engineering firms	Local seniors organizations PA Department of Tourism PA DCED (Community & Economic Development) Penn DOT PSU-UP Scenic America Incorporated	Local Municipalities USDA Forest Service Economic Actions Program PA DCED	High	ClearWater Conservancy has undertaken a visioning process called <i>Vision 2020: Living with I-99</i> to prepare for a sustainable future. Penns Valley Vision is also conducting a visioning strategy.
Phase 1	Preserve Historic Resources					
	Identify our existing and archeological artifacts in the landscape and utilize their potential as a learning tool to our cultural heritage.	Bald Eagle Archeological Society Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association Centre County Historical Society Centre County Office of Aging	Historic Bellefonte, Inc. Local Historical Societies Local seniors organizations PA Historic and Museum Commission	DCNR Land Trust Grant Ittleson Foundation	Very High	Centre County Historical Society is conducting a study of historic landscapes.
Phase 2	Preserve Scenic Corridors					
	Preserve "country roads" for their scenic, historic, landscape, and recreational value, including Route 144 (Pleasant Gap to Bellefonte), Route 550 (Buffalo Run Valley), and Brush Valley Road (Oak Hall to Centre Hall).	County and Municipal Governments County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local engineering firms Penn DOT Scenic America, Incorporated Municipal Road Maintenance Crews		Ittleson Foundation	High	
Phase 2	Develop with History					
	Acknowledge and inventory our existing local heritage in an effort to preserve historic artifacts and resources throughout future development and change.	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society Centre County Historical Society County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials	Historic Bellefonte, Inc. PA Historic and Museum Commission	DCNR Land Trust Grant Ittleson Foundation	High	The Centre County Historical Society currently maintains an inventory of historic resources and National Register sites.

Site-specific Goals

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status	
Phase 1	Milesburg					
	Inform the community, private landowners, and commercial transporters of the necessity to preserve and protect the ecological resources and scenic beauty of the Milesburg Water Gap.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Greenways Partnership Commission Milesburg and Bellefonte Boroughs Nittany and Bald Eagle Railroad PA Bureau of Forestry, PA DCNR	PA Game Commission Penn DOT The ClearWater Conservancy US Dept of Transportation US EPA	Common Counsel Foundation	High	Curtin Estate (3,000 acres) has been purchased and conveyed to PA Game Commission.
Phase 1	Bellefonte					
	Acknowledge the historic resources of the Bellefonte Waterfront District as an opportunity for education and recreation. Study the feasibility of extending the existing whitewater slalom course.	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association Borough of Bellefonte, Centre County Centre County Historical Society Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department Cerro Metals Gamble Mill Tavern Local businesses	Bellefonte School District PA F&BC PA Historic and Museum Commission Penn DOT Penn State Outing Club - Whitewater Division The ClearWater Conservancy Victorian Bellefonte Wild Water Boating Club	PA DEP - Growing Greener PA DCED	High	A Bellefonte Historic District has been established. The National Whitewater Slalom Training Center # 9 has been established.
Phase 1	Protect the scenic forested mountain slopes and the water gap from logging practices and further development.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials PA Bureau of Forestry, PA Cleanways PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative	Private and public landowners Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy		High	
Phase 1	Spring Creek Canyon					
	Monitor water and environmental quality for the impacts of I-99 along PA Route 26 and throughout the surrounding area.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Penn DOT Spring Creek Watershed Commission	Spring Creek Watershed Community	Federal Highway Administration US DOT US EPA Non-point Source Control Branch	High	The Spring Creek Watershed Community has established a Water Resources Monitoring Project through ClearWater.

Phase 1	Preserve and protect, with conservation easements, the Historic Roopsburg Mill and the Mammoth Springs Farm for educational and recreational opportunities. Protect natural resources, ecological communities, and scenic open spaces.	Centre County Farmland Trust Centre County Historical Society County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Current owners Land Trust Alliance Local Historical Societies	Mammoth Springs Farm Roopsburg Mill The ClearWater Conservancy	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Highest	A protection agreement Memorandum of Understanding has been arranged with the Rockview State Correctional Institution.
Phase 2	Protect natural resources, ecological communities, and scenic open spaces.	PA F&BC State Correctional Institute at Rockview Spring Creek Watershed Community	The ClearWater Conservancy The Nature Conservancy Western Pennsylvania Conservancy		Highest	A protection agreement Memorandum of Understanding has been arranged with the Rockview State Correctional Institution.
Phase 2	Spring Creek Headwaters Reserve					
Phase 2	Form an alliance between the community and private landowners to develop conservation easements to protect and preserve our scenic forested mountain slopes.	Bald Eagle and Rothrock State Forests Local Developers and Engineering Firms Mount Nittany Conservancy PA DCNR PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative	Private and public landowners Scenic America, Incorporated The ClearWater Conservancy Tussey Mountain Recreation Area Western Pennsylvania Conservancy		High	
Phase 2	Logan Branch					
Phase 2	Designate Route 144 as a scenic by-way to protect its historic and scenic integrity against modernization.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local developers Local Historical Societies	Penn DOT Scenic America, Incorporated Spring Township	Federal Highway Administration US DOT	High	

SPRING CREEK RIVERS CONSERVATION PLAN

Special Projects

Watershed-wide Projects

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Manage Waste Water				
	Develop a waste water management plan to support the population increase associated with our rapid growth.	County and Municipal Governments PA DEP Local Developers and Engineering Firms	Local Water and Sewer Authorities Spring Creek Watershed Commission US EPA	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania US EPA Water Quality Cooperative Agreements	Very high Beneficial Reuse is being studied by The University Area Joint Sewer Authority.
Phase 1	Manage Riparian Zones				
	Manage the riparian buffer of Spring Creek on both public and private land to protect all of the existing wetlands and natural vegetation along Spring Creek.	Centre County Conservation District Centre County Farmland Preservation Board Centre County Farmland Trust Centre Region Council of Governments	Penn DOT Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center Private and public landowners The ClearWater Conservancy	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania PA DEP Stream Relief Program The Conservation Fund US EPA Watershed Assistance Grants US FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	Highest Stream Corridor Overlay Zoning is planned for College, Spring, Benner, and Bellefonte. F&BC has enhanced acquisitions along Spring Creek. ClearWater is implementing a stream restoration at the PA Military Museum. Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenway Study is in progress.
Phase 2	Establish a Stream Conservation Corridor to protect instream and streamside cultural and ecological resources.				
		County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials PA DCNR PA DEP PA F&BC PA Game Commission PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers			
Phase 1	Address Fragmentation of Authority				
	Form a Spring Creek Watershed Commission to address the conservation issues that face our community.	Centre Region Council of Governments County and Municipal Governments County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Private and public landowners Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy		PA DEP Growing Greener Patagonia Incorporated River Network Singing for Change Charitable Foundation	Very high The Spring Creek Watershed Commission was formed with the 14 watershed municipalities and 3 County Commissioners in 1997. Long-term sustainability of the Commission must be addressed.
Phase 2	Create Recreational Networks				
	Connect State College with Bellefonte using the spine along the Spring Creek Canyon. Connect the Waddle Marshes and the Benner Township Park (Buffalo Run) with the Spring Creek Canyon and the future Penn State Arboretum. Connect State College and Scotia using existing bike routes and a trail along the edge of State Gamelands 176. Connect the two Forest Gateways with a loop to and within the Rothrock Highlands.	Centre County Conservation District Centre Rails to Trails Association Centre Region Parks & Recreation Department County and Municipal Governments PA Game Commission Penn State Horticulture Club Penn State Outing Club Ridge and Valley Outings Club Rockview State Correctional Institution Spring Creek Watershed Community The Pennsylvania State University-University Park Campus (PSU-UP)	US FWS USDA NRCS	National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	High Some efforts are currently underway.

Site-Specific Projects

	Management Options	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Status
Phase 1	Milesburg				
	Establish recreational trails through the Milesburg Water Gap to connect Bellefonte with Milesburg and Bald Eagle State Park.	Bald Eagle State Park Bellefonte Borough County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local Recreational Outfitters	Milesburg Borough PA DCNR Greenway Partnership Commission Penn DOT	NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program PA DCNR Rivers Conservation Program PA DEP Growing Greener	High Centre County has a Greenways Study Committee for the Nittany and Bald Eagle Valleys.
	Acknowledge and protect our historic resources throughout the water gap by creating a Milesburg Historic District.	Centre County Historical Society Local Developers Local Historical Societies	Milesburg Borough PA Historic and Museum Commission	Borough of Milesburg	High
	Interpret and preserve the historic artifacts of Harmony Forge and Milesburg Iron Works at the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation Company Canal.	Bald Eagle State Park Curtain Village Local Historical Societies PA Museum and Historic Commission		Ittleson Foundation PA DCNR Land Trust Grant	High
	Establish land use controls on Bald Eagle Ridge to preserve the scenic forested mountain slopes facing the water gap. Protect existing wetlands and restore streambank vegetation on both private and public lands through the installation of Riparian Conservation Zones.	Bald Eagle State Forest Local Conservation Groups Milesburg Borough Milesburg Water Authority PA Bureau of Forestry PA DCNR PA DEP	PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center Private and public landowners	Nathan Cummings Foundation Pew Charitable Trusts Arthur B. Schultz Foundation PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Conservation Turner Foundation	Very high Curtin Estate (3,000 acres) has been purchased and conveyed to PA Game Commission.

Phase 1	Bellefonte				
	Establish a Historic Waterfront District. Enhance access to Spring Creek and improve existing streetscapes, thus creating new business opportunities.	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Society Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce Borough of Bellefonte Centre County Historical Society Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County	Historic Bellefonte, Inc. Local Developers and Engineering Firms US Army Corps of Engineers	Ittleson Foundation Local Businesses Local Municipalities PA DCNR Land Trust Grant PA DEP Growing Greener	High A grant has been submitted to DEP Growing Greener to create a Bellefonte Waterfront Masterplan.
	Establish new waterfront parks on public lands, thus enhancing access to Spring Creek and the quality of life for residents of Bellefonte. Connect new and existing waterfront parks with a walkway, increasing outdoor recreational opportunities.	American Philatelic Society (Match Factory Property) Borough of Bellefonte Local Developers and Engineering Firms Local Recreational Outfitters Private and public landowners Residents of Bellefonte	US Army Corps of Engineers	Heritage Parks Program Local Municipalities NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	High The old Match Factory property is currently being redesigned for use by the American Philatelic Society. Part of the agreement is to extend Talleyrand Park to the new headquarters.
	Create Gateways to Historic Bellefonte, recognizing and improving entry points along Spring Creek with streetscape improvements, signage, landscaping, and ornamental additions.	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Society Borough of Bellefonte County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Historic Bellefonte, Inc. Local Businesses	Penn DOT Victorian Bellefonte	County Government Department of the Interior/ NPS Historic Preservation Fund Local Businesses	High National Slalom Training Center #9 applied for a DEP Growing Greener grant to stabilize and improve access to Spring Creek at their site below Lamb Street.
	Create public recreational access paths, on existing public lands, to connect Bellefonte to Milesburg, Bald Eagle State Park, Fisherman's Paradise, and State College.	Bald Eagle State Park Boroughs of Bellefonte, Milesburg, and State College Benner, College, Spring Townships Local Developers and Engineering Firms	PA DCNR PA F&BC US Army Corps of Engineers	The Abelard Foundation East Penn DOT TEA-21	High Local landscape architects are working in the conceptual stages. Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenways Study is underway.
	Protect and restore stream bank vegetation, wetlands, and adjacent upland forests through the restoration of riparian zones and installation of trees along the stream bank. Increase the greenspace of downtown Bellefonte through landscaping.	Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce Borough of Bellefonte Centre County Conservation District PA DEP PA Native Plant Society PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers	Local Developers and Engineering Firms Residents of Bellefonte Youth groups	Arbor Day Foundation Arthur B. Schultz Foundation Borough of Bellefonte Howard Heinz Foundation National Tree Trust PA DEP Stream Releaf Program	High Bellefonte Borough is putting a Stream Corridor Overlay in place.
Phase 1	Spring Creek Canyon				
	Establish a Spring Creek Canyon Reserve to protect and preserve the important natural resources of the area. Enhance public access to Fisherman's Paradise and the Spring Creek Natural Area, under carefully designed conditions, in order to protect the ecological processes of the canyon and follow the guidelines of PA Fish and Boat Commission and Rockview State Correctional Institution. Establish gateways to orient visitors and to monitor traffic into the reserve.	Centre County Conservation District County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials Local Sportsmen's Associations PA DEP PA F&BC Penn DOT Spring Creek Watershed Community Rockview State Correctional Institution The ClearWater Conservancy Trout Unlimited US Army Corps of Engineers	USDA NRCS US FWS	Charles / Anne Morrow Lindburgh Foundation DCNR Rivers Conservation Program Fish America Foundation NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Orvis Company	Highest There is an on-going (cabinet level) discussion with the Rockview State Correctional Institution. The Spring Creek Canyon was ranked in the top five priorities of the ClearWater Conservancy's Stewardship and Resources Committee for protection.
	Establish Riparian Conservation Zones on privately owned land to restore the stream bank vegetation and to maintain a buffer strip to protect Spring Creek from pollution.	County and Municipal Planning Commissions and Elected Officials County Conservation Districts PA DEP Private and public landowners	Spring Creek Watershed Community US EPA	PA DEP Stream Releaf Program Wildlife Forever	Highest The Canyon is being managed in a sound conservation fashion by Rockview SCI.
Phase 1	Big Hollow				
	Create an urban greenway at the Big Hollow tributary of Spring Creek, with paths for bicyclists, walkers, and joggers. This greenway would also serve as a connector from the Penn State campus to the Penn State Research Park and other recreational destinations of the area. Designate the Big Hollow Greenway as a nature reserve to protect the stands of rare, mature, native forests that surround the paths.	Centre Rails to Trails Association Centre Region Bike Coalition Nittany Valley Track Club PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Penn State Arboretum Penn State Outing Club Penn State Research Park PSU-UP Recreation enthusiasts Recreational Outfitters	Ridge and Valley Outing Club US Army Corps of Engineers	NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Power Bar Incorporated Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI)	High PSU has proposed an arboretum which is currently in the conceptual phase. Eastern Inner Loop is an issue. Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department has installed a recreational bikeway. Big Hollow ranked in the top five priorities of CWC's Stewardship and Resources Committee.

Phase 1	Millbrook Marsh				
	Protect Millbrook Marsh (Thompson Run and Slab Cabin Run tributaries of Spring Creek), as a natural area and habitat to rare plant species found nowhere else in Centre County, from the impacts of urban development and the associated runoff and pollution through the creation of a nature reserve.	Centre County School Districts Centre Region Council of Governments Centre Region Recreation Authority Millbrook Marsh Nature Center PA Environmental Council PA Native Plant Society Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center	Penn State Horticulture Club PSU-UP Spring Creek Watershed Community The ClearWater Conservancy	The Moriah Fund	High The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center was created in 1997. A partnership has been established with the developers of the new Hilton Garden Inn. Thompson Woods has been acquired upstream from the Marsh.
Phase 1	State College Gateway				
	Establish a Gateway Park to State College and University Park on Route 26 creating a more attractive entrance to our area, with opportunities for recreational connector paths and educational historic sites.	Centre County Convention and Visitors Center Centre County Historical Society Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County College Township Downtown State College, Inc. and individual businesses	Local Developers and Engineering Firms PSU-UP State College Borough The ClearWater Conservancy	Downtown State College, Inc. The Pennsylvania State University (PSU-UP)	High College Township has established a Gateway Zoning Overlay District. A partnership has been established with the developers of the new Hilton Garden Inn.
Phase 1	Lemont				
	Establish the Granary Community Park at the historic granary property acquired by the Lemont Village Association.	Centre County Historical Society Lemont Village Association Local community members		DOI Historic Preservation Fund Grant National Heritage Foundation	High The granary has been acquired by the Lemont Village Association.
	Install pedestrian safe walkways along Pike Street to access the park and other open spaces in the region.	Local Developers and Engineering Firms PA DEP PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative	Penn DOT	Penn DOT	Very High
	Restore the limestone quarry to natural wetlands and allow for the forested area to interconnect with the streamside habitats.	Local Developers and Engineering Firms Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center Private Land Owner - HRI	PA DEP US EPA	DOI Environmental Restoration Challenge Grant	High The quarry is still in active use.
Phase 1	Spring Creek Headwaters				
	Establish a Mountain Forest Gateway into Shingletown Gap (Roaring Run) allowing for a safe entrance, an orientation center, and emergency access into this heavily traversed landscape.	Local engineering firms Local recreational enthusiasts Harris Township PA Bureau of Forestry Penn State Outing Club	Ridge and Valley Outing Club	Rockwood Fund	Very High
Phase 2	Establish Riparian Conservation Zones in order to protect the headwaters from various types of pollution.	Centre County Conservation District Harris and Ferguson Townships		Wildlife Forever	High
Phase 2	Establish Forest Gateways to the State Forest, providing ample parking and a site for visitor orientation.	Harris Township PA Bureau of Forestry PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Local Developers and Engineering Firms US Army Corps of Engineers		High
Phase 1	Restore the channel along the Galbraith Gap providing educational, recreational, and research opportunities.	Harris Township PA Bureau of Forestry PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	US Army Corps of Engineers		Very High A conceptual masterplan has been developed. State money is available.
Phase 2	Install a public park along Slab Cabin Run to preserve open space and provide recreation. Creatively re-design the roadway to facilitate pedestrians, bicyclists, vacationers, and slow-moving vehicles.	Centre County Convention and Visitors Center Centre Region Recreation Authority Community members Ferguson Township Local Developers and Engineering Firms	Local recreation enthusiasts Penn DOT Ridge and Valley Outing Club	The Home Depot	High
Phase 2	Pleasant Gap				
	Establish a streamside park at the upper reaches of Logan Branch to provide needed outdoor recreational opportunities and to restore the natural riparian vegetation.	Community Members PA DEP Pleasant Gap Elementary School Spring Township			High A conceptual masterplan has been developed by Landstudies, Inc.
Phase 2	Waddle				
	Create a new riparian park in the Waddle Marsh wetlands to provide opportunities for environmental education and recreational opportunities.	Bellefonte and State College Area School Districts Benner and Patton Townships Local Developers and Engineering Firms Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center	PSU - UP	Captain Planet Foundation The Dunn Foundation	High
Phase 2	Scotia				
	Create a heritage park at Andrew Carnegie's 19th century village, to reveal and protect the remnants of our culture in the landscape.	Centre County Historical Society Ferguson Township Land Trust Alliance	PA Game Commission - SGL #176 The ClearWater Conservancy Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Carnegie Endowment DOI Historic Preservation Fund Grants PA DCNR	High Scotia ranked in the top five priorities of CWC's Stewardship and Resources Committee.