## Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan

March 9, 2017 Public Meeting Concept Presentation



#### Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Introductions
  - Project Committees
  - Project Design Team
- 2. Project Background
  - Master Planning Process
  - Schedule
  - Public meeting 1 Results
- 3. Organizational Structures Options
- 4. Types of Facilities and Activities
- 5. Choose your priorities
- 6. Next Steps

# Introductions

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Kevin Barnhardt	Commissioner, County of Berks		
Lee Olsen	Olsen Design Group, Architects		
Wes Stefanick	Reading-Berks Assoc. of Realtors		
Shannon Rossman	Berks County Planning Commission		
Mike Reinert	Pagoda-Skyline		
Phil Kline	Alsace Township		
Kim Mallatratt	Alsace Township		
Mark Dudash	Mt. Penn Borough		
Theresa Christof	Mt. Penn Borough		
Corri Crupi	Lower Alsace Township		
Linda Kelleher	City of Reading		
Jeff Waltman	City of Reading		
Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz	City of Reading		



#### Introductions

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Cheryl Auchenbach Lower Alsace Township

Beth Burkovich Berks County Planning Commission

Polly Corvaia Pagoda pacers
Larry Drogo Pagoda Pacers

Mark Faust Lower Alsace Township

Mike Frankhouser Pagoda Skyline; Aulenbach Cemetary

Richard Gerhart Lower Alsace Township

Barry Groebel Antietam Valley Community Partnership

Donna Hey COB / Pacers
Ralph Johnson City of Reading

Cindy Kauffman Pagoda Scott Kauffman Pagoda

Brendan Lederer Berks County Parks and Rec

Larry Lloyd Berks Nature

Tom Orth Lower Alsace Township

Craig Peiffer City of Reading

Alan Piper BCPC

Rich Rock BMR-SCCA

Ann Sellers Reading Environmental Advisory Council

Pat Shannon Alvernia University

Ashely Showers Berks County Planning Commission

Jay Sockel Lower Alsace Township

Christopher Stress Berks County Parks and Rec



Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

#### Introductions

**Design Team** 

# Simone Collins Landscape Architecture Peter M. Simone, FASLA, RLA

Project Principle

#### Sarah Leeper, RLA

Project Manager

#### Melisa Barley, Landscape Architect

Project LA

#### **Geoff Creary, Landscape Architect**

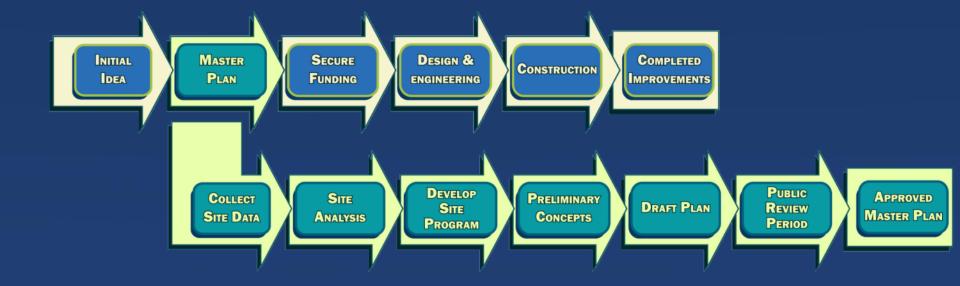
Project LA

#### Ryan Parisi, Landscape Architect

Project LA



#### **Master Plan Process**



#### **Transparent Public Process:**

- 3 public meetings
- 2 committee meetings
- 1 Web survey

# **Project Schedule**

Meeting	Date & Time	Location	Meeting Subject
Committee Meeting	Wed, Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> 3-5 PM	City Hall	Project Kick-off
Committee Meeting	Fri, Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> 9-11 AM & 1-4 PM	City Hall	Programing and Brainstorming
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# **Brain Storming Session**

**GOALS** 

**FACTS** 

**CONCEPTS** 

"All voices are heard and all ideas are honored"

Enhance use of the Mt. Penn Preserve

5.8 SQUARE MI.
STUDY AREA

**PICNIC PAVILIONS** 

Resource Preservation MULTI — MUNICIPAL
/ PARTNER
PLANNING

**RESTROOMS** 

**Economic Development** 

**CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT** 

"50 FOOT TALL WATER SLIDE" 50+ People 450 ideas shared

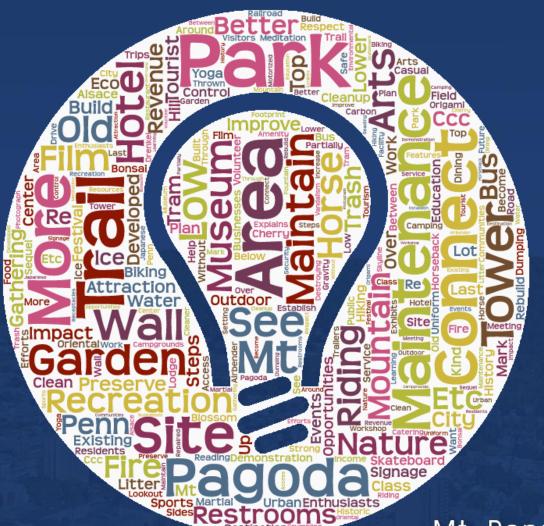
What's 1 thing you LOVE?





Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan

What's 1 thing that you WANT?





Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan

Goals we heard





Facts we heard

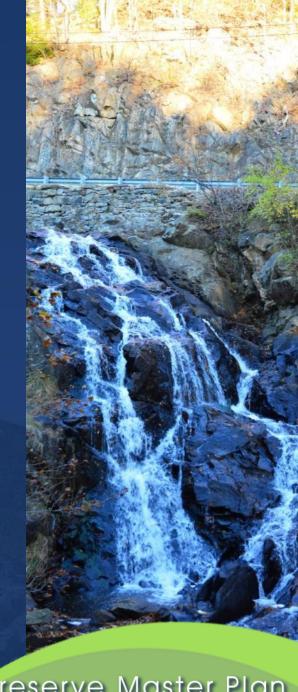




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#### **Concepts we heard**



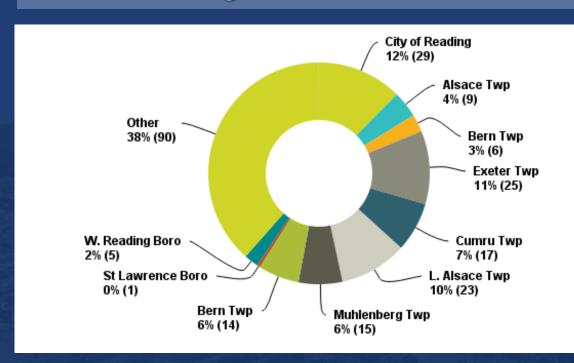


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# **Public Survey**

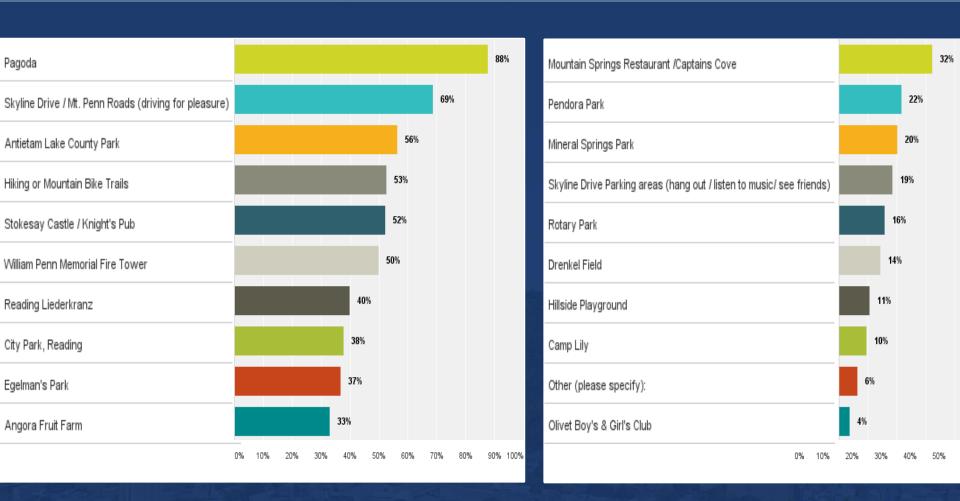
#### **236** Respondents

- 144 From Reading area
- 90 from other locations including
  - Lancaster County
  - New Jersey
  - San Diego



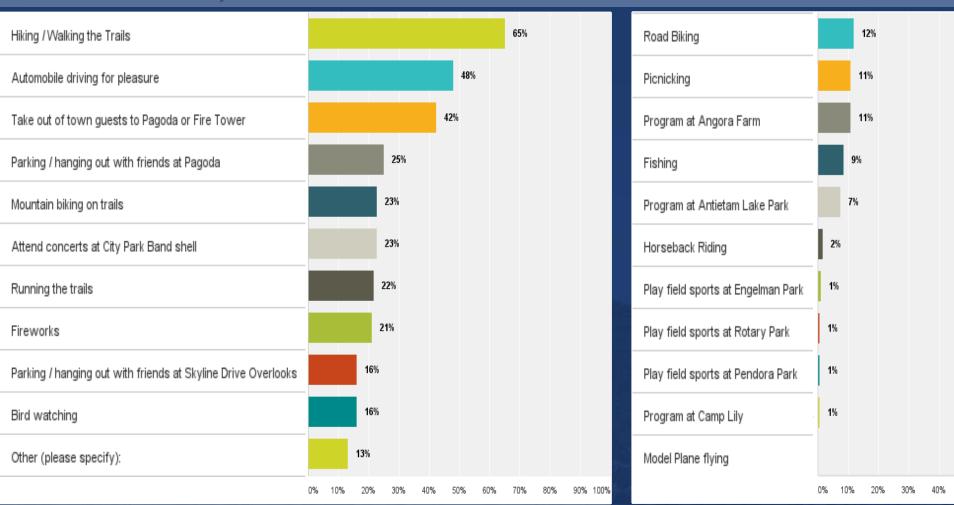


# Q5: In the past 12 months, have you or members of your household visited any of the following <u>facilities</u> in the Mt. Penn Complex?



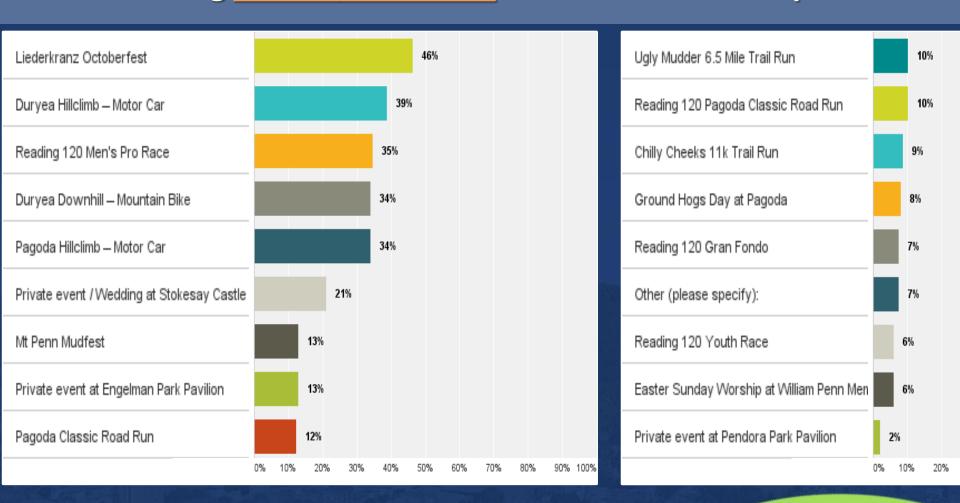
Answered: 188 Skipped: 48

# Q6: In the past 12 months, have you or any members of your household participated in any of the following <u>activities</u> in the Mt. Penn Complex?



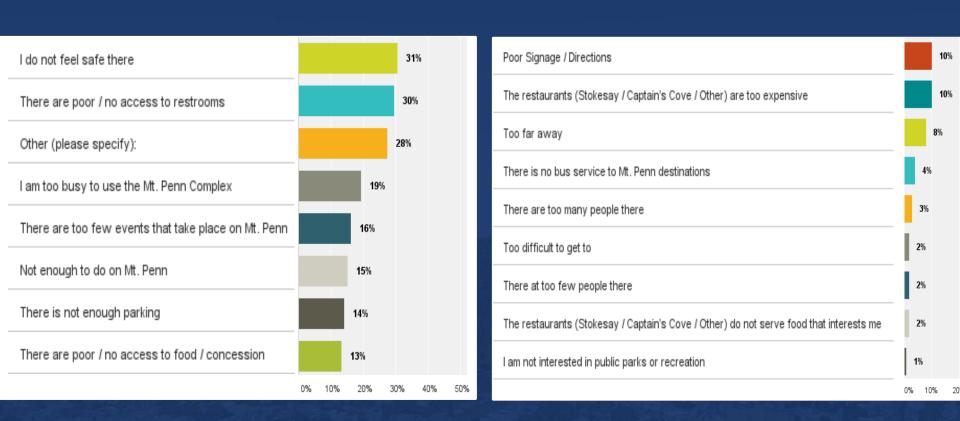
Answered: 175 Skipped: 61

# Q7: In the past 24 months (2 years), has any member of your household participated or been a spectator in any of the following events / activities in the Mt. Penn Complex?



Answered: 147 Skipped: 89

# Q8: If you or a member of your household has not visited the Mt. Penn Preserve recently, or if you visit infrequently, what are the reasons that you do not visit?

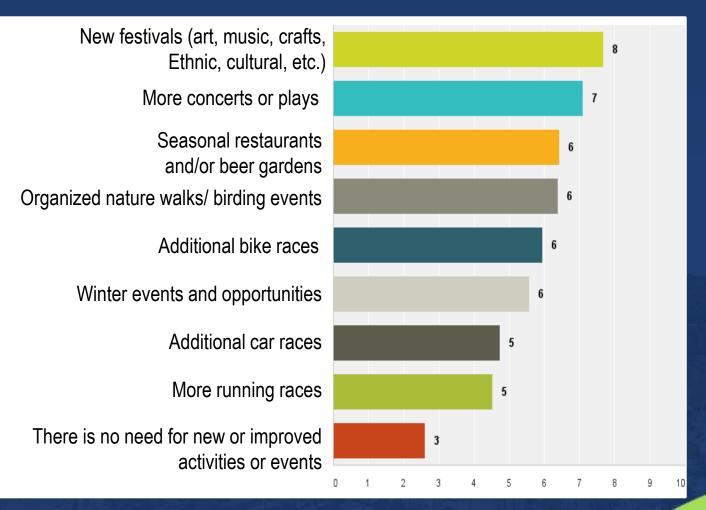


Answered: 98 Skipped: 138

# Q9: If you could create or recommend any types of new or improved facilities in the Mt. Penn Complex, what facilities would you recommend?



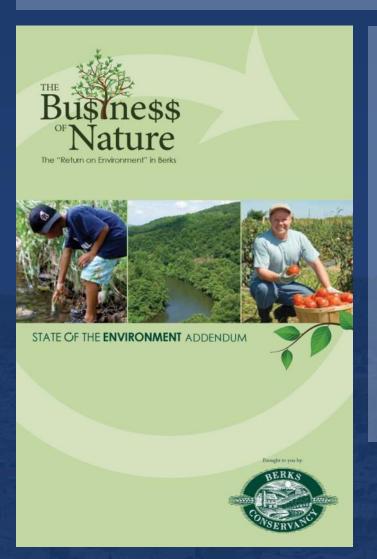
# Q11: If you could create or recommend any types of new or improved activities or events in the Mt. Penn Complex, what activities or events would you recommend?



Answered: 170 Skipped: 66

### The Business of Nature

The "Return on the Environment" in Berks – Sept 2015



Access to open space, trails and park facilities are community assets that add to our overall quality of life.

## The Business of Nature

#### The "Return on the Environment" in Berks



Nearly 336,000 people in Berks County participate in some form of outdoor activity – that is 82% of our population!

This is based on the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Outdoors Report on participation rates for the most popular recreational activities. With ising gasoline prices and volable economic cycles, having nature available close to home becomes even more critical for people who want recreation and relaxation.

#### \$47 million

Camping contributes to the Berks economy annually

#### \$84 million

Wildlife watching contributes to the Berks economy annually

#### \$63 million

Biking contributes to the Berks economy annually

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22

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Berks economy annually.

economy annually.

Berks economy menually

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### The Business of Nature

#### The "Return on the Environment" in Berks

# So What? Outdoor Recreation is increasing in Berks County.

Demand for outdoor recreation is increasing at the state and Berks County level and the natural resource capacity needs to be maintained and expanded to meet future demand.

What would happen if your favorite park or fishing spot would close due to new development or lack of funds?



#### According to Berks Countians:

- . Trails were ranked #1 as "most important" in satisfying household recreational needs.
- Water quality and streams were ranked as "most important" natural resources to Berks County citizens in a survey, followed closely by scenic views.
- 73% (mean) of respondents in a county-wide survey agreed that parks, protected natural areas, and greenways & trails increase the value of nearby properties.
- Over 82% of survey respondents agreed that it is important to preserve habitat and create
  connections that will allow for the movement of wildlife.

Cifizens Survey Results - Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan

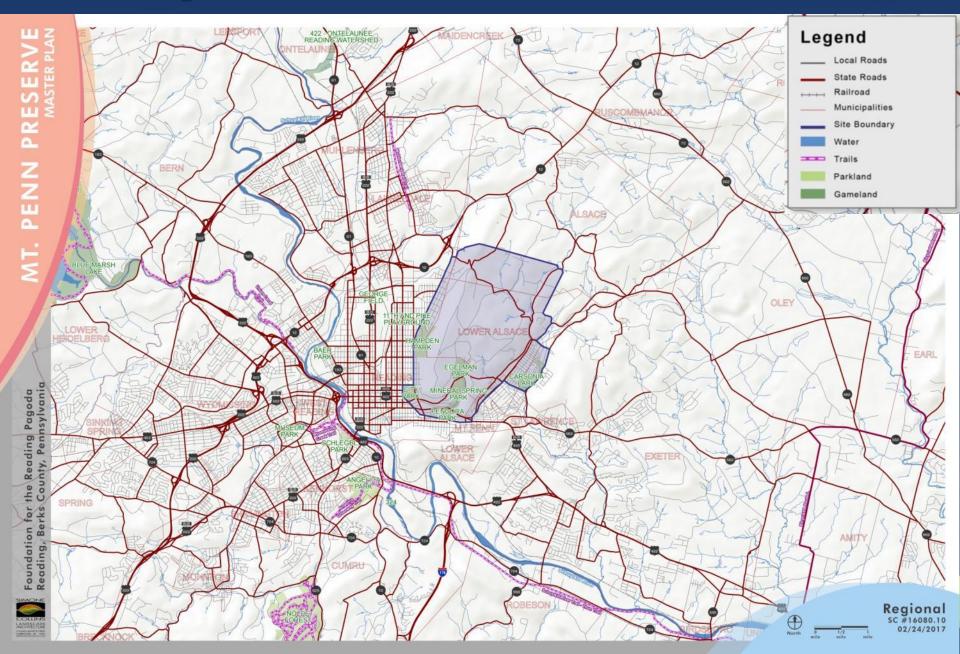
#### What now?

Currently only 39% of Berks County residents live within 34 mile of a public park or recreation area. The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) recommends at minimum, manicipalities should provide 6.25 - 10.5 acres of open space/recreational opportunities per 1,000 residents 62% of the 73 municipalities in Berks are deficient for providing recreational facilities to their residents.

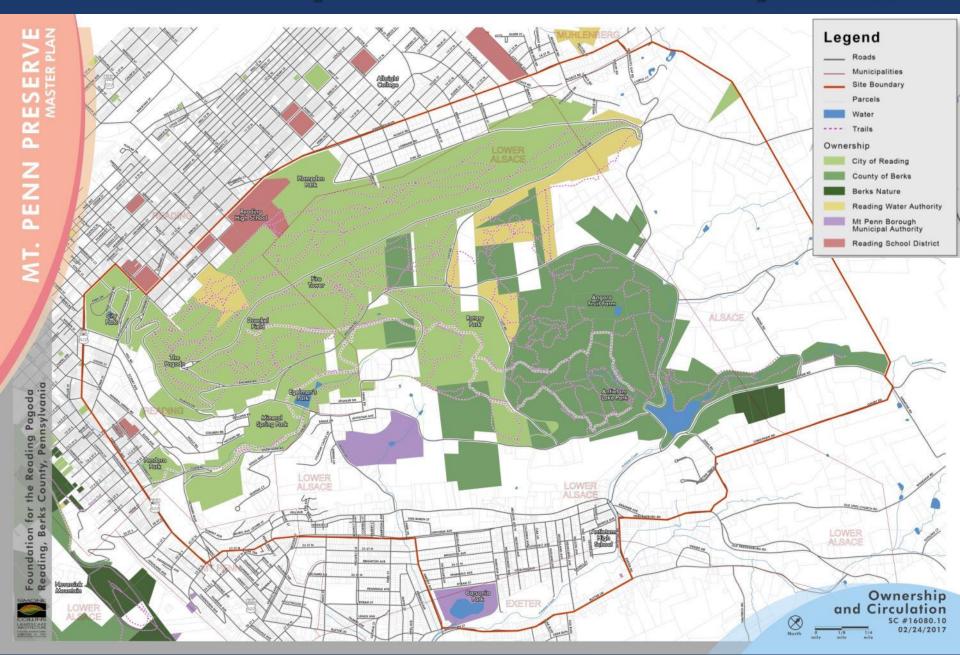
Implementation of the County Greenway, Park and Recreation plan and more connections and promotion are necessary to provide open space and recreational opportunities to the Berks county residents that better meet the national standard. Promote the public resources and volunteer to help maintain them. Local governments, agencies and non-profit organizations need to think across boundaries to utilize and promote greenways and recreation regionally.

- Trails #1 recreational need
- Water quality & streams most important resource
- 73% believe parks, open space, greenways & trails increase property value
- 82% agree that it's important to preserve habitat and create connections for wildlife movement

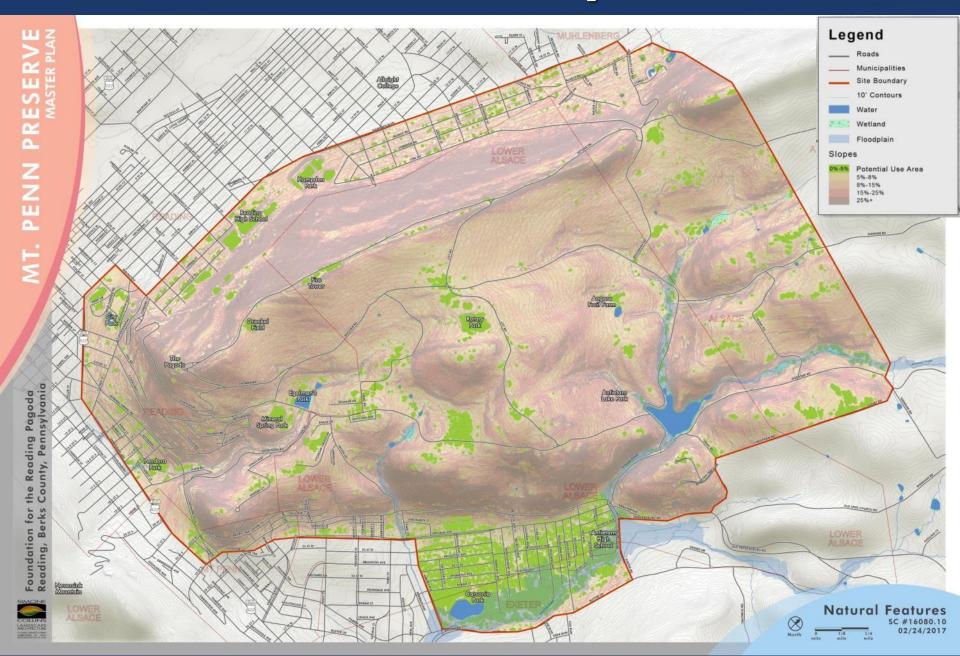
# Study Area



# Ownership / Circulation Map

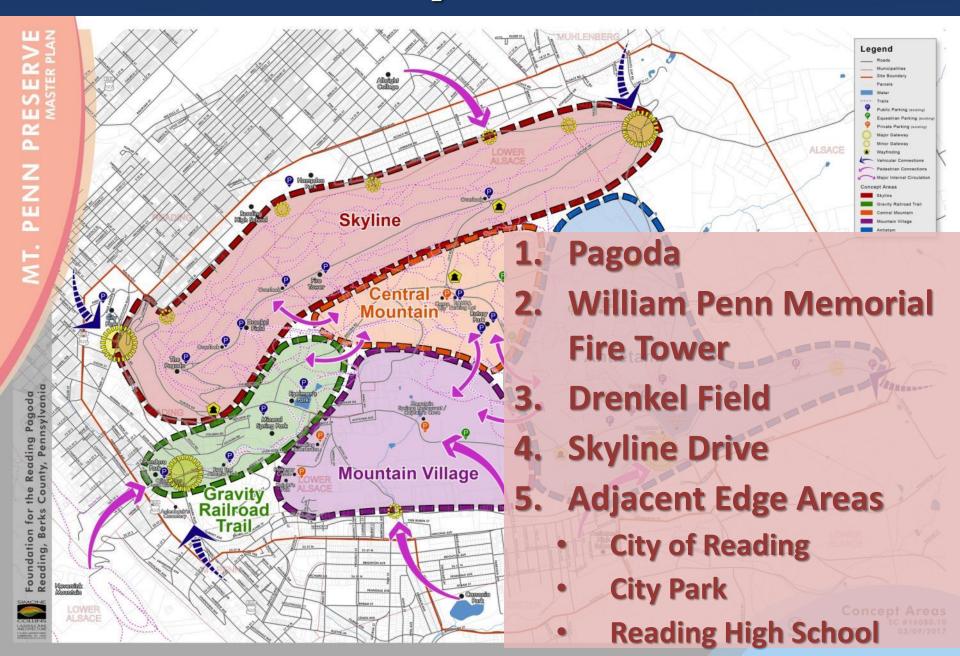


# Natural Features Map

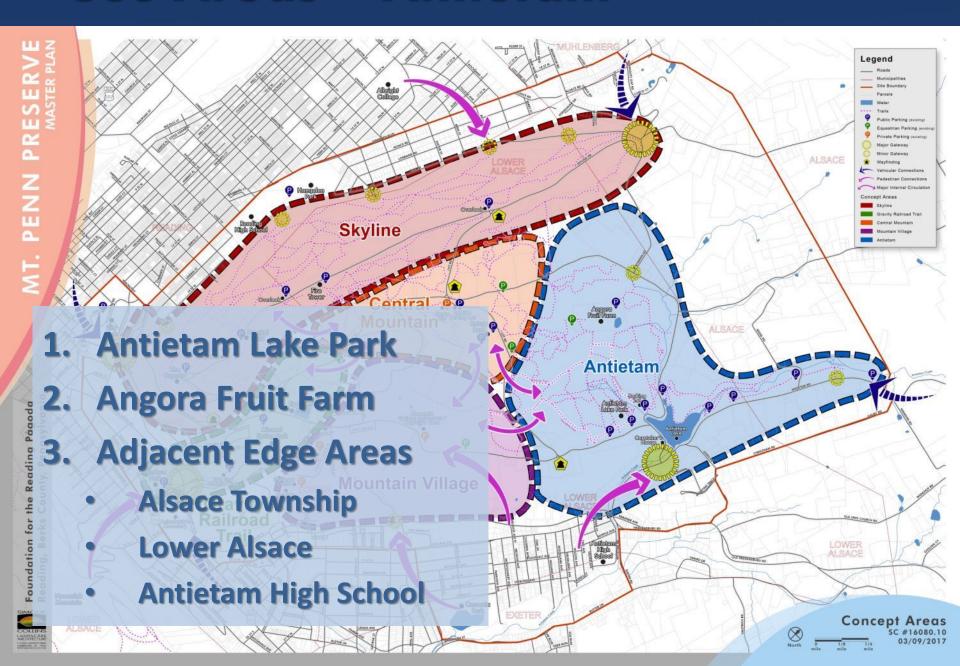


#### **Use Areas** Legend Roads Municipalities Site Boundary Parcels Water Trails Public Parking (existing) Equestrian Parking (existing) Private Parking (existing) Major Gateway **Skyline** Minor Gateway Wayfinding Vehicular Connections Pedestrian Connections Major Internal Circulation **Antietam** Mountain Village Trail **Concept Areas**

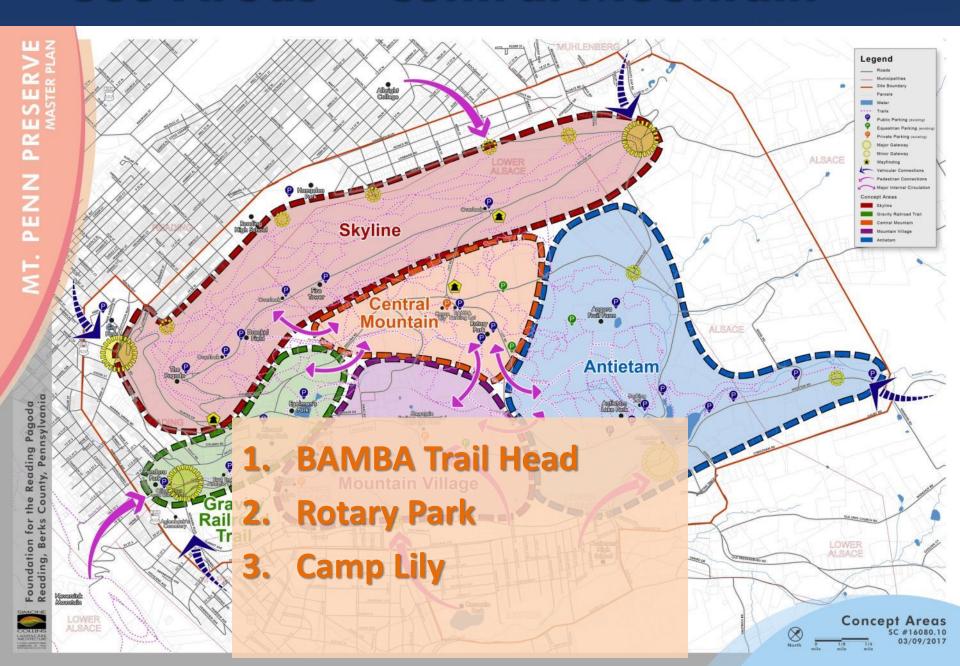
# Use Areas - Skyline



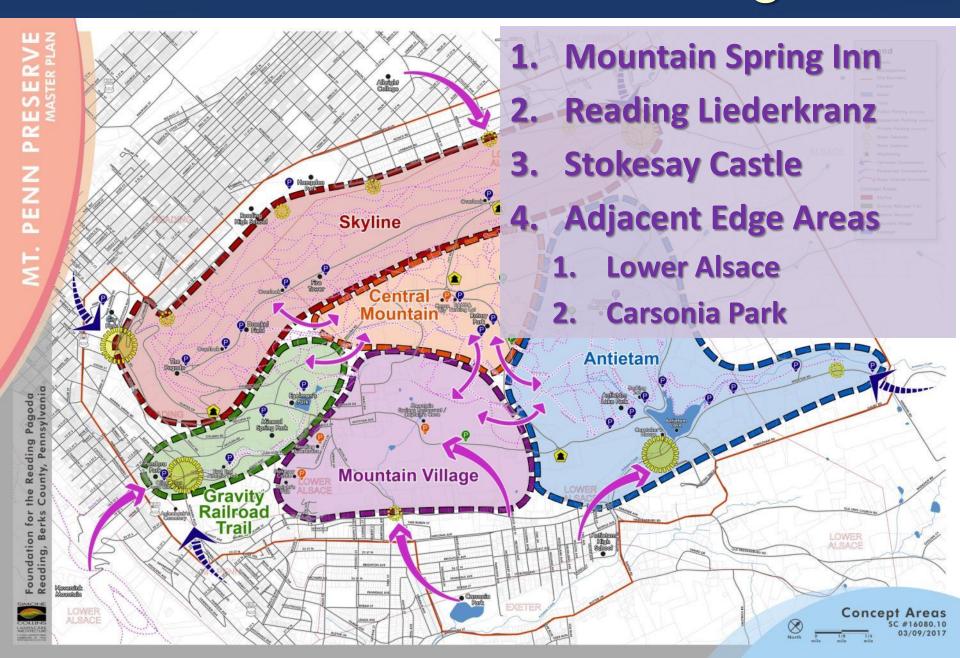
### Use Areas – Antietam



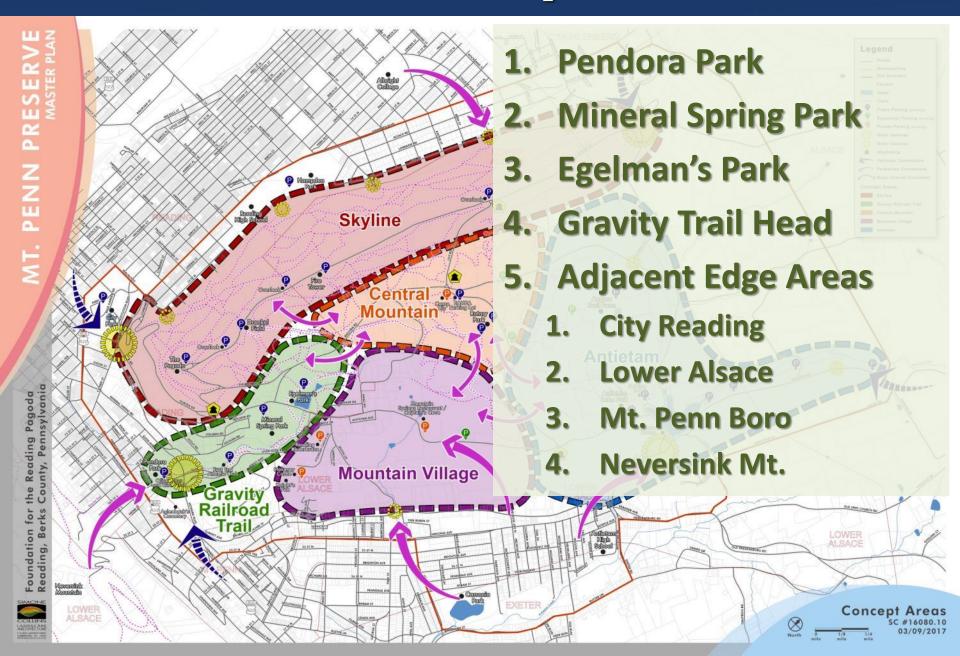
## Use Areas – Central Mountain



# Use Areas – Mountain Village



# Use Areas – Gravity Railroad Trail



# Organizational Structure

- 1. Status Quo
- 2. Reading Recreational Commission
- 3. Recreation Commission of the Antietam Valley
- 4. New Organization / Authority
  - Joint Municipal Authority
  - County Base Authority
  - Visitor Bureau Organization
- 5. Other?



# Hierarchy of Trails

#### **Multiple Uses**

- Fire Access
- Biking
- Hiking
- Horse











## Gondola / Chair Lift

- Group Gondola 2-4 person chair lift









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# Pagoda Area

- Building Addition
- Additional Parking
- Event Area
- Master Plan







## **Eco Tourism**

- Boutique Hotel
- Green Design
- Local materials







## Ropes Course / Tree House

- Challenge Ropes Course
- Tree Walk
- Tree House
- Can be ADA







## **Downhill Sports**

- Trike Drifting
- Downhill Skate Board
- Define Roads & Safety Parameters







## Play

- Destination Playground
- Adventure
- Art
- Music
- Nature
- Sense of Place









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- Destination Playground
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## Dog Park

- Small (>30lb) & large dog area
- Fencing
- Vestibule Gate Entrance
- 2-3 Acres
- Shade / Water / Seating
- Use all times of day (dawn-dusk)









#### **Skate Park**

- Pump Track
- Skate board
- In-Line Skates
- Trikes / Scooters











#### **Disc Golf**

- 9 or 18 holes
- Tee boxes & goal baskets
- Simple signage
- Play in open and wooded conditions







# Community Gardens

- Individual plots
- Group Plot
- Pollinator Boxes



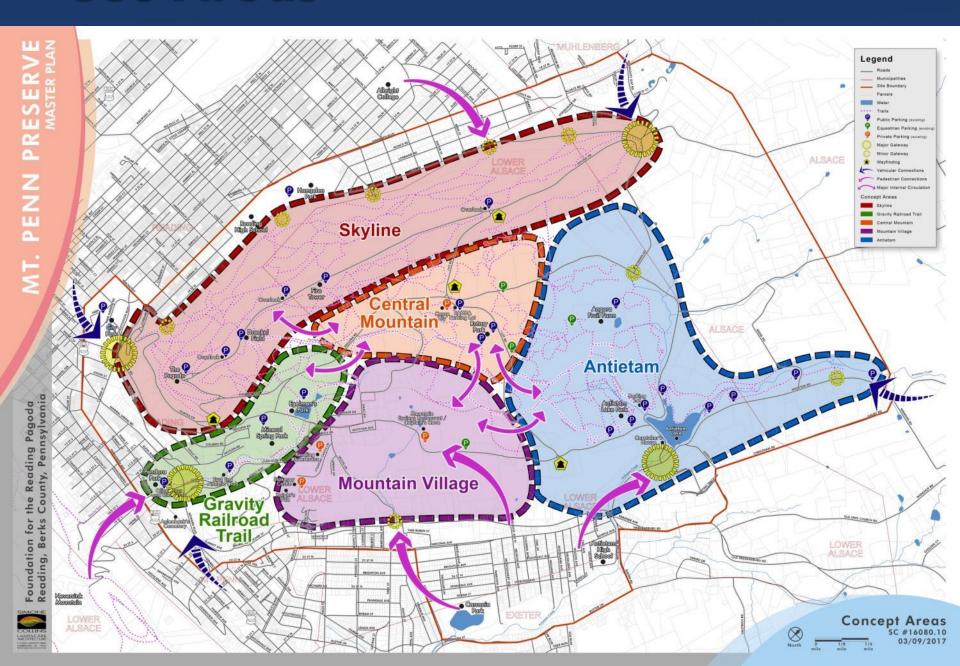








#### **Use Areas**



## Charts - Skyline

Concept Area	Which Recommendations Do You Like?	Recommendation	Description
		Pagoda Parking Improvements	Improve Skyline Drive circulation around the Pagoda to reroute vehicular traffic away from current parking
		Pagoda Site Improvements	Improve Bridle Path and implement improvements below the Pagoda to include additional ADA compliant parking and a site program for public use
		Pagoda Addition	Explore an addition to the pagoda that is design in a tasteful and architecturally similar style to provides larger and ADA accessible rooms.
		Additional Fire Tower Events	Seek additional event opportunities for the Fire Tower. Examples include: food trucks, festivals, pop-up beer gardens, etc
	Please Place	Boutique Hotel at the Fire Tower	Conduct a feasibility study (including economic analysis, site survey, parking study, visual impact, etc) for a Boutique Hotel located at the Fire Tower
	E	More Events at the Pagoda	Seek additional event opportunities at the Pagoda that draw more and diverse users at all times of the day. Examples include: cherry blossom festival, sunset events, monthly fireworks in the summer, yoga at the pagoda.
	3	Trail from City Park to the Pagoda	Reestablish a pedestrian connection between City Park and the Pagoda
	dots on your	Motor Vehicle Speed Control	Explore speed control measures along Skyline Drive
		Extend Pagoda's Hours of Operation	Extend the Pagoda's hours of operations
SKYLINE	top priorities on	ADA accessibility at the Pagoda	Make the Pagoda ADA accessible
	top priorities on each chart	Additional / Reprogram the Pagoda	Explore additional / different program opportunities for the Pagoda
		Pagoda Chairlift	Implement a chairlift from City Park to the Pagoda
<u>w</u>		Skatepark	Establish a skatepark
		Community Center	Conduct a Feasibility study for a community center within the preserve
		Organized Hikes	Organized Hikes
		Trailhead Improvements	provide improvements to trailhead parking lots that include trash receptacles, information klosks, etc.
		More Parking	Explore additional parking and trailhead locations
		Additional Restrooms	Implement ADA compliant restrooms at trailheads and significant destinations
		Zoning Overlay Districts	Establish zoning overlay districts in areas of the Preserve that encourage tourist and recreational based private sector development that respects the existing character of the preserve
		Additional Restaurants	Partner with private investors to establish additional restaurant venues in and around the preserve
		Additional Site Amenities	Create design standards for and add various site amenities throughout the preserve including: benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables and pavilions, fire places, grills, bike racks, klosks, etc.



#### **Charts - Antietam**



esspit Area	Which Reconstruedations Do You Like?	Resonandatos	Description
		Egelman's Park Improvements	Date impresents of Egypter's Park that increase created usage
		Pendora Park Improvements	Seek Improvements of Pending Parts
		Mineral Spring Park Improvements	Best represents at Meson Spring Plan.
		Dog Park at Egelman's	Emilian a ring park
		Private Sector Investment at East End Athletic Club	Enough problematic investment of the records usualed likel find Athers Club hallsy adjacen to thread lightnys
		Boy's and Girl Club Programs	Note with the Stay's and Strik state to decome programs that treatment Mount Plans Theorems
		Organized Hikes	Organizati Hilase
		Trailbead Improvements	provide improvements to hart and parties; title that makelin than recogniseles, information blooks are
GRAVITY		More Parking	Explore self-load parting and helhood hadants
		Additional Restrooms	Engineeric ASA Longitant restrooms all inglineals and equilibrations
	<u> </u>	Zoning Overlay Districts	Exists zong herity details a area of his Preserve that encourage hashel and wavelested hashed private sector assessment that require the cooling character of the preserve.
		Additional Restaurants	Parties with provide investors to neighbor additional restaurant tension in and selected the present
		Additional Site Amerities	Destr Swap denter to and add various sits arrantise throughout the presence including Sentres. Itself resignates politice and continues, the places, grits, time rates, tricks, pile.
		Additional Events and Festivals	Expose patricord asset " halfud approximate throughout the price mountain

	Year Round Activities at Antictorn Lake	Mont with Battle County in principle programming lapportunities year-month of Antolonin Cabo
	Food Venue at Angora Fruit Farm	Shift with Barba County to sinder a percentage, seasonal, or paying frost various of degree Prof. Form that offices long produce than the form.
	Viewing Platform at Dam	represents visioning platform allows the source slop claim of Arbeitanic Latter - according to Handar Plan
	Wetland Boardwalks	represent translations in related whose field bing years done to nature of the probability from sensitive areas - exceeding to Modes Plan
	Organized Hikes	Оздачания Мана
	Trailhead lingrovements	provide improvemente in implimate parting late that instabile hash receptables, information trades also.
_	None Parking	Expelor additional parking and hardware hostopies.
	Additional Restrooms	Implement ASA complete customers at traineach and agentual deathfaire.
	Zoning Overlay Districts	Equation covery marrier delicts in cross of the Presence find encourage havint and seculated based private socked development that respects the cooling obsession of the presence.
	Additional Restaurants	Patro, with utratic investors to establish additional medius are some in until addition the presence
	Additional Site Amerities	Drafts deep standards for and add common discernibles from placed the presence mutualing transfers, bask receptables, questioned products and products and products and products and products are products are products and products are products are products and products are products and products are products and products are products and products are products are products and products are produc
	Additional Events and Festivals	Expire additional event fashed appointmine throughout the eight maurean

pt Area	Which Recommendations Do You Like?	Reconnectation	Description
		Event Overflow Parking	Fig exertine parting for Louisninance exerts on County land from the nonthease of Hill Reset to the exultance of Hill Reset
		Group Campground	Conduct a Faustière shalp for a proup contrappound within the presents.
GE		Conveniency Center	Constant is Possibility shouly for a community contine within the preserve
LLA		Organized Hikes	Отратирот пійно
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE		Trailhead Improvements	provide improvements to implement particing talls that involvable transformed an international boundary data.
		More Parking	Egissa stational parking and harboard ecotoms
F		Additional Restrooms	Inspirements ISCA compliant continuems all high-banks and significant disabilitations.
n c		Zoning Overlay Districts	Solution during conting districts in state of the Present Parl concerning hashift and recording based physics social development that respects the conting consists of the presents.
		Additional Restaurants	Pathor with place trivelens to velable additional reduces review in and solved the preserve
		Additional Site Amenities	Drafts dropy mitrolate for and sald various sits omersian Proception/the presents notating landless, basin exceptions, as able only parties, the places grip, later sale facets, on
		Additional Events and Festivals	Eulen additional event / hadred reportunities throughout the addition measures

Please Place
5
dots on your top priorities on each chart

## **Questions & Suggestions**

Before you place your dots what questions or suggestions do you have about the concept information



## Next Steps - Next Meeting

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#### Next Steps - Contact Info

Contact us anytime with your ideas and suggestions

Simone Collins: 610-239-7601

Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA psimone@simonecollins.com Sarah Leeper, RLA sleeper@simonecollins.com **Geoff Creary, Landscape Architect** gcreary@simonecollins.com Ryan Parisi, Landscape Architect rparisi@simonecollins.com Melissa Barley, landscape architect mbarley@simonecollins.com

## **Next Steps - Survey**

Please take the survey here or at home and share the link with friends:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MtPenn

Thank you for your time and your ideas today!