

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: Moore Township EAC,
<http://mooretownship.org/>
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Moore Twp Appalachian Park Stewardship and Access Plan (Awarded 2016)

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Stewardship and Access Plan is to provide guidance to the Township Board of Supervisors for the sound management of the Township's Appalachian Park and its natural resources. The goal is to increase the conservation value of the property while providing increased passive recreational opportunities and a venue for learning through educational programs and research.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$4,006.54

Match:
\$4,006.54

Total Project Cost:
\$8,013.08

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Wildlands Conservancy, Emmaus, PA compiled the plan.

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and PA Game Commission advised as commentators.



CHALLENGE

The Township EAC is responsible for overseeing the Park under the direction of the Board of Supervisors. The request was to see if more could be done to encourage use of the park by residents for passive recreation by improving trails and extending them. Additionally, little was known of what was in the 140+ areas that had no formal trails.

The Moore Township Appalachian Park consists of 168 acres on the South slope of the Blue Mountain very close to the Appalachian Trail access on Smith Gap Road. The Park has a small trail system on less than 20 acres which is accessible off Skunk Road. The land is bordered on the East and west by State Game Lands and on the North by Federal Lands associated with the AT and Kittatinny Ridge protection. The South is bordered primarily by private land which is undeveloped.



SOLUTION

It was felt that before developing any recommendations or plans, the Township should seek the assistance of a professional organization in assessing the park and identifying how to best proceed in a responsible way. A number of alternatives were considered and evaluated and Wildlands Conservancy, of Emmaus, was selected to assist in developing the scope of a plan and developing its key elements. Wildlands personnel, members of the Moore EAC, along with members of the Moore Land Preservation Board and two members of the Board of Supervisors made a number of trips to the park to get a firsthand look at the property, understand the current issues and resources present. Wildlands made a number of trips over the spring, summer and fall to help them understand the natural resources on a season basis and map the key elements of the park, especially where it might benefit from association to surrounding preserved land under the control of the PA Game Commission, Federal Lands and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

RESULTS

The final result is the publishing of the Moore Township Appalachian Park Stewardship and Access Plan. The study includes a detailed description of each area of the park, the existing trails, unofficial hunter and game trails. It also includes an analysis of the geology, plant and animal life and other resources and identifies current deficiencies including trail issues, invasive species and other threats. These along with recommendations for future development provide a plan for the township to use in managing the park and developing its recreational use to a wider segment of the residents.

Key is the identification of opportunities to partner with a wide assortment of groups as the management and development of the park moves forward including the PA Game Commission and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Along with this are opportunities with a number of well-established conservation organizations who can assist in dealing with correction of existing defects and improving habitat areas for resident species.

There are a number of recommendations in all aspects of park management that need to be reviewed by the EAC and then recommended to the Board of Supervisors for their further consideration.

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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