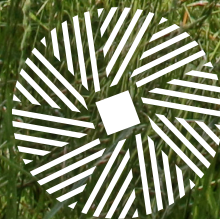


# *Birmingham Hill Preserve*

---

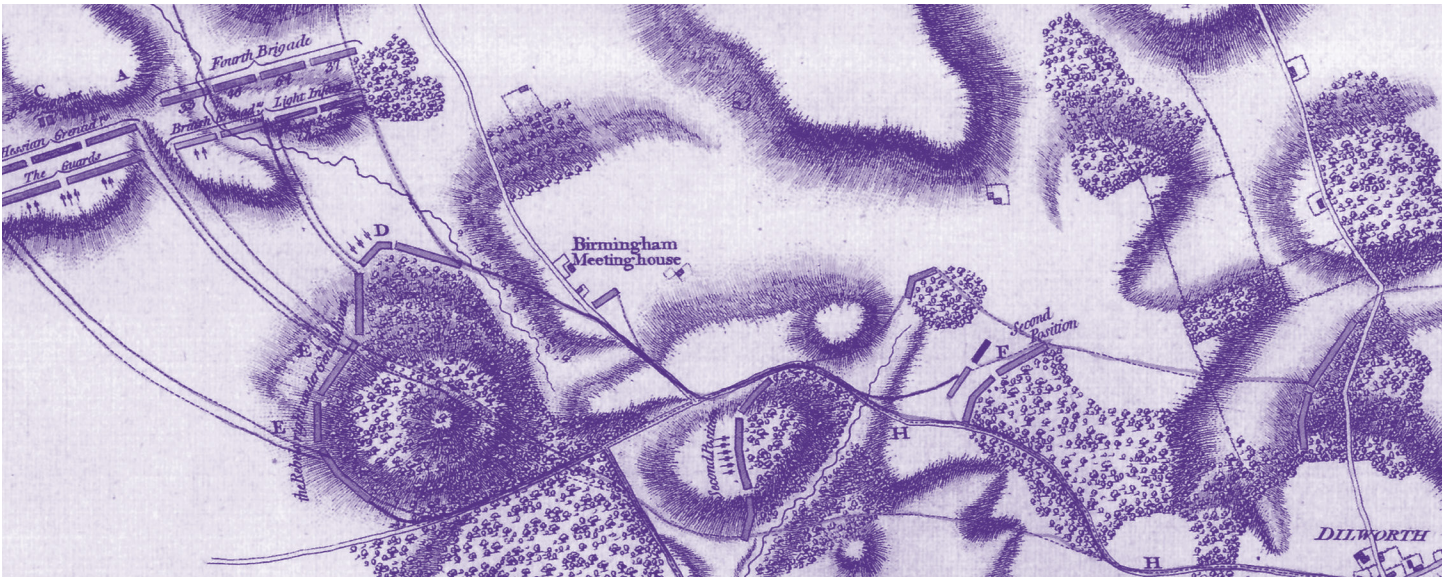
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Birmingham Township  
Chester County, Pennsylvania*



**BRANDYWINE  
CONSERVANCY**





# Battle of Brandywine and Land Preservation

Birmingham Hill Preserve consists of 113 scenic acres located in Birmingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania owned by the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art. The Preserve is a contributing resource to the federally designated Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark and is part of an area designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Commonwealth Treasure. The Preserve is the site of the first and second defensive lines of the Continental Army during the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. Some of the fiercest fighting during the battle is known to have occurred on Birmingham Hill.

The Brandywine Conservancy has been working since its inception to protect Brandywine Battlefield lands. Birmingham Hill Preserve is the last of 5 properties to be preserved in the Meetinghouse Road corridor. The second of two parcels that comprise Birmingham Hill Preserve was purchased by the Brandywine Conservancy in 2018 with funds provided by individuals, private foundations, and government grants.

The Birmingham Hill Preserve Master Plan was prepared by Brandywine Conservancy planners during 2019-2020. The Conservancy engaged nearby residents and other stakeholders in the planning process through an appointed advisory committee, key person interviews, written communications, public meetings, and a project web page. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the key elements of the Master Plan. The full Birmingham Hill Preserve Master Plan is available for download at [Brandywine.org/BirminghamHill](https://Brandywine.org/BirminghamHill).

*“Birmingham Hill Preserve is a significant landscape at the core of the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark.”*





## Vision

Birmingham Hill Preserve will reflect the landscape as it may have been during the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. It is hallowed ground where Americans fought and died to establish our liberties as a new nation. The Preserve will honor the history of the Battle of Brandywine through low impact education and interpretation. Birmingham Hill will be the first Brandywine Conservancy-owned preserve open to the public throughout the year.

**The Goal of the Master Plan** is to determine the long-range use and management of Birmingham Hill Preserve. Eight objectives are identified:

- Protect existing historic resources,
- Identify opportunities to interpret historical events and themes,
- Protect and steward the natural resources,
- Identify opportunities for natural features interpretation,
- Determine infrastructure and facility needs,
- Develop a plan for public access and passive recreation,
- Obtain stakeholder input and support, and
- Prepare an action plan for implementation.



# Birmingham Hill Preserve

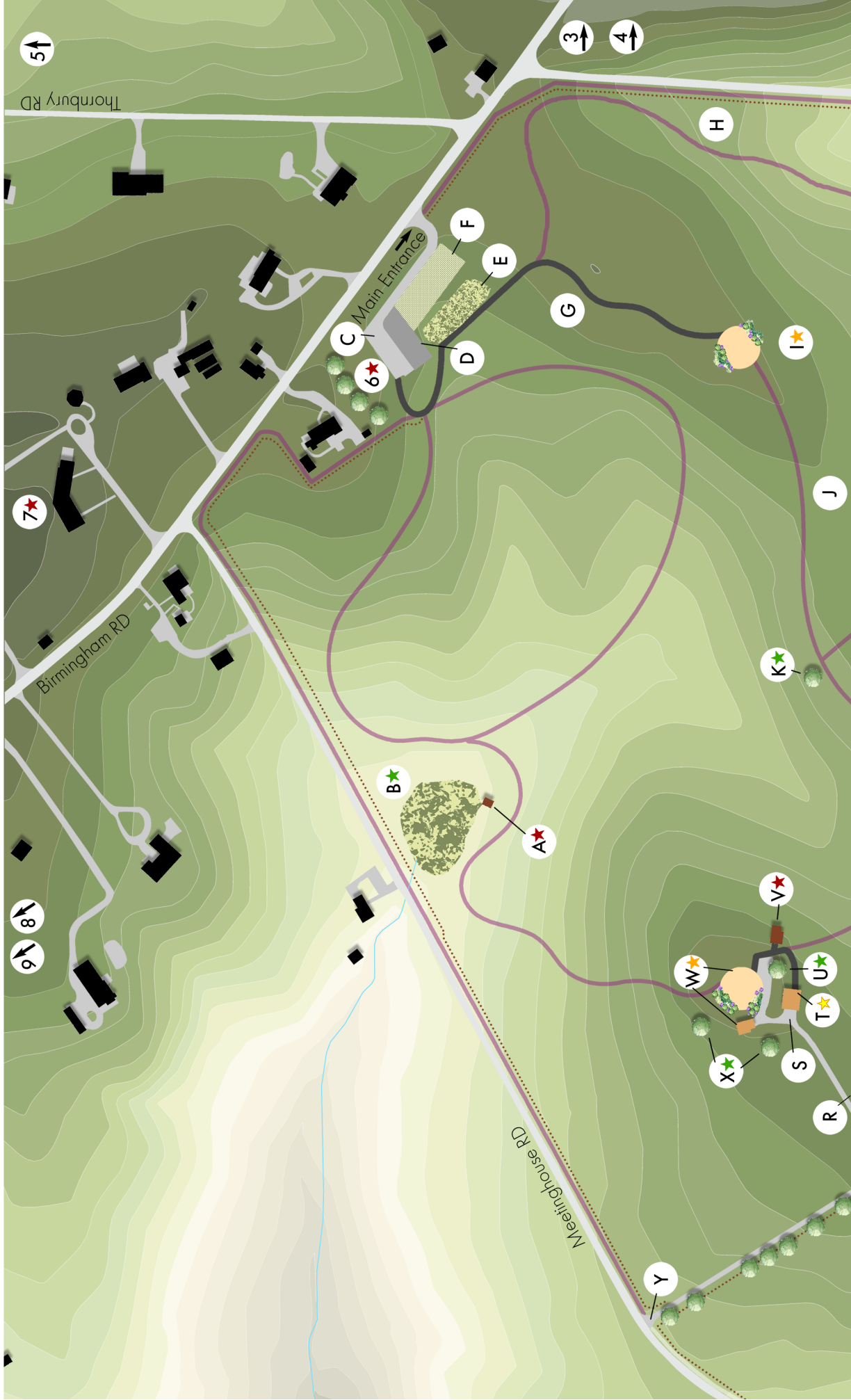
Conceptual Master Site Development Drawing

January 29, 2021

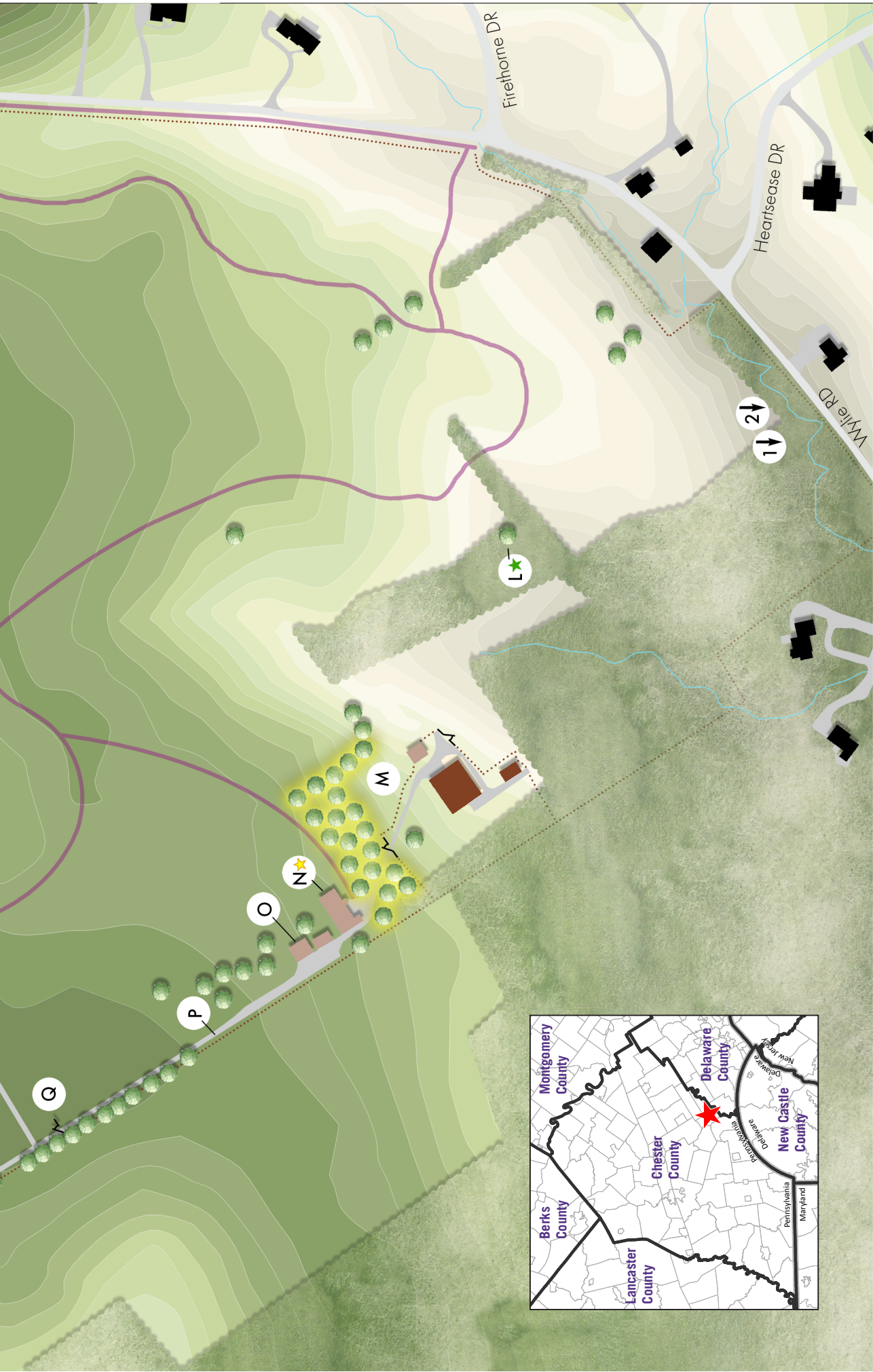


## Site Plan Key

- |                               |   |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| A) Springhouse                | I) Viewing Terrace & Commemorative Monument | R) ADA & Group Only Driveway          |
| B) Wetland Meadow Restoration | J) Hiking Trail                             | S) ADA Only Parking                   |
| C) Existing Parking           | K) Sycamore                                 | T) Lecture Room - Option 2            |
| D) Future Parking             | L) White Oak                                | U) Sugar Maple                        |
| E) Stormwater                 | M) Maintenance Lane & Private Residence     | V) Interpretive Site                  |
| F) Overflow Parking           | N) Lecture Room - Option 1                  | W) History Pavilion & Terrace         |
| G) ADA Accessible Pathway     | O) Maintenance Sheds                        | X) Weeping Beech                      |
| H) Fence                      | P) Maintenance & Group Access Driveway Only | Y) ADA, Group, & Maintenance Entrance |
|                               | Q) Gate                                     |                                       |







### Legend

- ..... Fenceline
- 5-Foot Countour Lines
- Water Resources
- Woodlands
- Trees
- New Trees
- Roads
- Interpretive Area
- Cultural/Historic Feature
- Indoor/Outdoor Facility
- Natural Feature
- Outdoor Interpretive Feature
- Hiking Trail
- ADA Accessible Pathway

- Off-Site Buildings
- Buildings/Structures - Keep
- Buildings/Structures - Maybe Keep
- Buildings/Structures - Potential New
- Parking Lot/Driveways
- Parking Expansion

### Off-Site Destinations

- 1) Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art (~2 miles)
- 2) Chadds Ford Village Historical Society (~2 miles)
- 3) Dilworthtown Village (~1.5 miles)
- 4) Sandy Hollow Heritage Park (~0.5 miles)
- 5) Thornbury Farm CSA (~0.3 miles)

- 6) Cemetery
- 7) Birmingham Friends Meeting
- 8) Osborn Hill (~1.5 miles)
- 9) Strodes Mill Historic District (~2 miles)





## Future Programs and Facilities

A variety of **future activities and programs** will support the anticipated interests of the Brandywine Conservancy, its partners, and the community.

- **History programs** will be offered by the Brandywine Conservancy and other partners including Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, Museum of the American Revolution, Brandywine River Museum of Art, Sanderson Museum, Chadds Ford Historical Society, First State National Historical Park, and others.
  - Many organizations and individuals have researched the events that occurred during the Battle of Brandywine, and new information is constantly being uncovered. The Brandywine Conservancy will partner with scholars, students, museums, and others to facilitate further **research** on the Battle of Brandywine and to document archaeological assets on the Preserve.
  - Visitors to Birmingham Hill Preserve will literally **walk** in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought and died on September 11, 1777. Natural surface footpaths will connect key site features, views, and facilities for all ages and abilities.
  - Natural areas at the Preserve will be used to engage visitors in **nature programs** such as bird watching and native plant identification.
  - Partners such as the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford Historical Society, and others will be encouraged to use the Preserve for **art classes** and plein air events.
- The following **new facilities** will enhance the visitor experience and provide access for all ages and abilities.
- **History Pavilion and Terrace** will be an outdoor interpretive facility that accommodates up to 50 seated visitors during warmer months. (W)
  - **Interpretive Site** will be a permanent indoor exhibition that will highlight the Battle of Brandywine and stories of people and events unique to the Preserve and surrounding landscapes. (V)
  - **Lecture Room** will be equipped with electricity, heating, cooling, and WiFi and will accommodate up to 50 seated visitors during colder months. (N) (T)
  - **Trails** will provide visitors with access to much of the Preserve for historic interpretation and passive recreation. (J)





# Summary of Improvements

## Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Improvements (subject to funding)

### SHORT-TERM

- Site restoration including removal of structures
- Establish overflow grass parking area (F)
- Establish ADA parking areas (D) (S)
- Stabilize springhouse (A)
- Layout and mow hiking trails (J)
- Remove non-native vegetation

### MEDIUM-TERM

- Demolition of indoor riding arena
- Branding, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage
- Viewing terrace at location of future History Pavilion (W)
- Stable upgrade for use as indoor classroom (N)
- Log cabin Interpretive Site possible relocation, repairs, and updates (V)
- Springhouse research (A)
- Wet meadow restoration (B)
- Security enhancements

### LONG-TERM

- Demolition of stables (N) and construction of new Lecture Room (T)
- Viewing terrace at arrival area (I)
- History Pavilion outdoor lecture area (W)
- Interpretive Site exhibit design and installation (V)
- Springhouse reconstruction/restoration and interpretive signage (A)
- ADA accessible pathways (G)
- Utility upgrades



Log cabin, planned interpretive site

*\*Circled letters correlate with locations on the map.*





For more information:  
610.388.8340  
conservancy@brandywine.org

[Brandywine.org/BirminghamHill](http://Brandywine.org/BirminghamHill)



**BRANDYWINE  
CONSERVANCY**