



# MASON-DIXON/ARC CORNER

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AND  
CONNECTIVITY PLAN





## PLANNING TEAM

### BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY

Sarah Sharp  
Beth Burns

### HERITAGE STRATEGIES

Peter Benton  
Heather Reiffer

### MILLER DESIGNWORKS

Scott Sharadin

## GRANT MONITOR

### CHESTER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeannine Speirs, Senior  
Community Planner

## MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT TASK FORCE

### LONDON BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

Aileen Parrish, Supervisor  
Brian Sachs, Supervisor  
Eric Baker, Historical Commission  
Don Morgan, Planning Commission  
Stephanie Town, Planning Commission

### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Jeff Eastburn, Operations Manager  
Dave Gerstenhaber, Supervisor  
Donna Dea, Supervisor  
Dawn Dowling, Supervisor  
Paul Lagassé, Historical Commission  
Paul Overton, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board

### NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP

Christopher Himes, Township Manager  
David Unger, Supervisor  
David Hawk, Historical Commission

### ELK TOWNSHIP

Michael Corcoran, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mark Gruber, Planning Commission  
Mary Gruber, Historical Commission  
Milt Rudy, Supervisor  
Pal Durborow, Trail Coordinator





# CONTENTS

- 01 Introduction.....4
- 02 Interpretive and Thematic Framework..... 12
- 03 Mason-Dixon Heritage Center and Interpretive Sites..... 18
- 04 New Garden Township Heritage Center and Arc Boundary  
Interpretive Sites.....32
- 05 Agricultural Landscape Interpretive Sites.....39
- 06 Natural Landscape Interpretive Sites.....44
- 07 Regional Connectivity.....48
- 08 Identity and Branding.....58
- 09 Implementation.....61
  - London Britain Site Index and Recommendations.....65
  - Elk Township Site Index and Recommendations.....68
  - Franklin Township Site Index and Recommendations.....70
  - New Garden Township Site Index and Recommendations.....72
- Appendices
  - A Interpretive Exhibit Costs.....75
  - B Glossary of Terms.....78
  - C Site Assessments.....127
  - D Cluster Arrangement.....162
  - E Public Engagement.....179





# 01. INTRODUCTION

Two lines define three states. Their stories date to the early colonial days of America, having been clearly—or not so clearly—specified in land grants to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, and William Penn. The contradictions in the charters and the ensuing disputes eventually resulted in the civil engineering known as the Mason-Dixon Line as well as the unique curved state line known as the Arc Boundary.

These lines that define the borders of three states form the basis for this heritage interpretation and connectivity plan. Four municipalities—London Britain, New Garden, Franklin, and Elk—partnered together to consider their heritage at a regional scale and the best methods for presenting its history to the wider public. The Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary are physical and cultural entities that connect and interweave through the townships' histories. They guided settlement and development within the region, playing a formative role in early colonial expansion and in the nascent years of the country. Telling these stories is as important to creating connections to a place as preserving the buildings and lands associated with the stories.

Guided by the model established in the Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan, this plan is intended to serve as a guide for the municipalities by establishing a framework for interpretation of themes and stories at selected sites. It provides an opportunity to recognize the rich history of this region, convey the expansive stories of the boundary lines, and set the stage for a cohesive network of sites that connect people to that history and those stories through places linked to them. By doing so, residents' understanding is enriched and visitor orientation is enhanced, and the region defines its identity. This plan is the result of 18 months of



*Detail of map prepared as an exhibit in the suit brought by the Penns against Lord Baltimore to determine the boundary in 1735.*



researching, listening, and strategizing about how history, community, and recreation can interconnect and amplify each other.

Interpretation is an ongoing and evolving process that will shift as the development of the Heritage Interpretation Network continues, further research is undertaken, and adjacent projects are implemented. The interpretive priorities of this plan are flexible and can accommodate these changes and advancements while remaining focused on the development of an accessible interpretive structure and the ongoing conservation of natural and historic resources.

## PLAN SCOPE

Within the study area, this plan focuses on the identification and establishment of sites as defined by the county-wide Heritage Interpretation Network. Sites were included based on assessments that focused on public accessibility, historic associations, orientation, and the thematic framework. The study team explored opportunities to connect the sites through active transportation such as sidewalks, trails, and bikeways as well as through vehicular means.

Specifically, the Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan aims to:

- Help define the identity of this region through its history. Through the refinement of heritage themes and implementation of heritage interpretation strategies, the history of the region is collectively told without repetition across township borders.
- Serve as a guide for how heritage and culture should be addressed and communicated. This plan considers how heritage can be interpreted over time by considering the short-term activation of identified places to long-term build-outs of heritage centers and sites.
- Identify sites with varying capacities for interpretation and interpretive media as defined by the Heritage Interpretation Network.
- Propose implementable strategies that support the goals and objectives of the plan.

While providing guidance and recommendations, some items are out of this plan's scope and will need to be considered during implementation. Specifically, this plan does not:

- Serve as detailed directions for the reuse or construction of structures intended as Heritage Centers or Interpretive Sites. The provided draft designs are conceptual in nature and require further analysis, study, and collaboration with property owners.
- Present new research. Research performed to develop the storylines and themes relied on existing documentation (some of it developed and compiled by Task Force members from the Townships), engagement, and subject matter experts.



- Develop specific interpretive content for Heritage Centers or Interpretive Sites.

Although these items are outside of this plan’s scope, the information provided throughout this process resulted in recommendations designed to guide the work necessary to realize this plan.

## STUDY AREA

Elk, Franklin, London Britain, and New Garden townships are situated along the southern boundary of Chester County, Pennsylvania, bordering Maryland and Delaware. Rolling hills and narrow valleys characterize the landscape, with natural lands and farms dominating the scenic viewshed throughout most of the study area. The townships are part of the Upland Piedmont, an area of remarkable ecological diversity, and open space preservation has played a key role in maintaining the region’s natural and rural character.

White Clay Creek, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River throughout its entire course, flows through Franklin, New Garden, and London Britain townships, its watershed encompassing over half the study area. The White Clay Creek Preserve, following the valley of White Clay Creek in London Britain, provides public open space for passive recreational activities and access to markers for both the Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary. Its trails connect into White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware, creating a contiguous tract of public land. Likewise, in Elk and Franklin townships, Big Elk Creek State Park sits adjacent to Maryland’s Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. Three Mason-Dixon mile markers are located on the common boundaries of these two public lands, making them among the few publicly accessible Mason-Dixon boundary markers in this region.

Ten stone Mason-Dixon Line mile markers can be found along the study area’s southern boundary. Placed in 1766, plain markers with M and P on the south and north respectively are located at one-mile intervals with crownstones, which have the Calvert and Penn shields on the appropriate sides, marking every fifth mile. The Tri-State Marker, at the intersection of the Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania lines is an 1849 replacement for a missing original double crownstone. The Tri-State Marker is the destination of the Tri-State Marker Trail, which starts in Delaware’s White Clay Creek State Park. The same trail also leads to the Arc Corner Monument. The Arc Corner Connector Trail, with a trailhead at the end of Arc Corner Road in White Clay Creek Preserve, connects to the Tri-State Marker Trail and provides a shorter walk to both monuments.

The stone markers delineating the Arc Boundary were placed in 1892 at half-mile intervals; the Arc Corner Monument, mentioned above, is the first and most significant of these markers. The locations of twelve of them fall within the boundaries of the study area, but two markers are missing. Of these, five locations are on public land; the marker at milepoint 1½ is missing. A recently cleared trail in White Clay Creek



*Landenberg Village, New Garden Township.*



*White Clay Creek, London Britain Township.*



*Meadow, Franklin Township.*

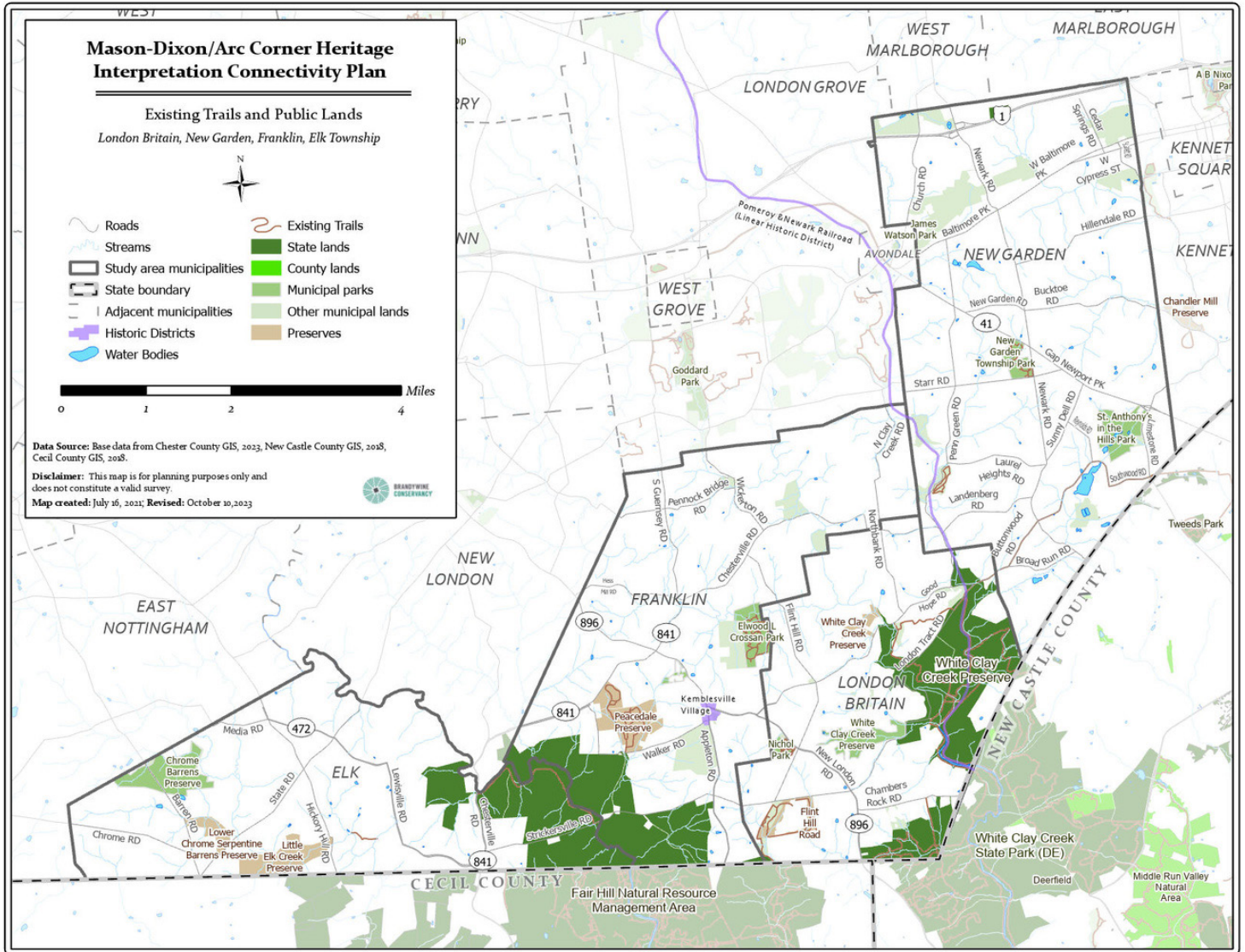


*Farm, Elk Township.*



State Park leads to the 1 Mile Marker.

Few high-traffic roadways cross through this corner of Chester County. One of the busiest, Route 1, closely parallels the northern border of New Garden Township. Route 896, running through Franklin and London Britain, connects Strasburg in Lancaster County, PA to Newark, DE. Route 841 connects Franklin and Elk with Elkton, MD. In Elk Township, Route 472 connects Lewisville to Oxford Borough before continuing on to Lancaster. The four townships are in close proximity to Wilmington and Newark, DE, a situation that has established the region as a rural commuter community but also has increased development pressure.



Map of the four townships that comprise the study area for this plan: Elk, Franklin, London Britain, and New Garden.



Defining this area of focus provides an understanding of the space within which this plan can inform future interpretation, but it should be noted that many heritage and cultural concepts, topics, and stories may, and often do, extend beyond the boundaries of this study area, connecting to communities and topics elsewhere.

## METHODOLOGY

The project team reviewed a range of existing documents, plans, reports, and books to inform the development of this plan and its themes and storylines. Municipal planning documents for the four townships were analyzed to ensure that the goals, objectives, and concepts in this plan aligned with existing planning initiatives. Township documents reviewed are:

- London Britain Comprehensive Plan (2019)
- New Garden Comprehensive Plan (2018)
- New Garden Trails Prioritization Plan
- Village of Toughkenamon Transportation Plan
- Franklin Comprehensive Plan (2022)
- Oxford Regional Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (2012)
- Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan (2024)

Each plan provided concepts, recommendations, and information useful in shaping this document. These plans covered a range of topics including trail concepts, open space prioritization, active transportation networks, and historic resource preservation.

The project team conducted numerous site visits to better understand available facilities, interpretive potential, and existing connectivity of the townships' resources. They proved indispensable in understanding the region's landscape and sense of place.

## ENGAGEMENT

This plan was guided by a multi-municipal, multi-disciplinary Task Force with representation from the townships' Board of Supervisors, Historical Commissions, Planning Commissions, Open Space and Trail Committees and Township staff. The members brought extensive insight into their township's local histories, the boundary line stories, and the sites of importance to these narratives. Seven Task Force meetings, which provided input and guidance, were held to discuss research, analysis, inventories, and draft materials.

Public engagement helped shape the vision for the heritage centers, interpretive sites, and interpretive media concepts addressed in this plan. The success of this plan will derive from the use of the network by township residents and visitors so understanding public preferences and







interests was imperative. This engagement was used to:

- Gauge what stories and topics are most important for visitors to the area to understand.
- Present and test interpretive themes.
- Gather ideas for future interpretation.
- Collect feedback on the draft plan for the purpose of refining the Heritage Interpretation Plan

Two public meetings were held, and there was outreach at one public event. The first public meeting, held virtually in May 2024, gave interested attendees an overview of the plan and its goals. A series of polls asked participants what themes and subthemes most interested them, what sites in the region they most frequented, and what sites should be included in the planning process. The polls and responses can be found in Appendix D.

In October 2024, White Clay Creek Preserve celebrated their fortieth anniversary with an event and invited local groups to exhibit. The

**— OCTOBER 19, 2024 • 10AM-2PM —**



**MORE INFO**

Join us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of White Clay Creek Preserve with a fun day at the preserve!

• Exhibitors	• Meeting House Open House	• Kids Activities
• Food Truck	• Historical and Nature Walks	• Ceremonial Hike

📍 White Clay Creek Preserve  
405 Sharpless Road,  
Landenberg, PA 19350

📞 610-274-2900

🌐 [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/WhiteClayCreekPreserve](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/WhiteClayCreekPreserve)

*The flyer developed by DCNR to promote the 40th Anniversary Celebration for White Clay Creek Preserve. The Brandywine Conservancy participated in the event, engaging visitors on the overall goals of the plan and asking them why they visit sites and how they prefer to connect with history.*

# PLAN FRAMEWORK

*The following goals for the Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan establish a framework that organizes plan objectives and recommendations for the region. The goals were derived directly from the issues and opportunities identified in the analysis and input processes. They were further refined by the guiding principles of the Heritage Interpretation Network. Implementing the objectives associated with each of the goals will work to achieve the intentions of this plan.*

Brandywine Conservancy hosted a table to talk with visitors about this Heritage Interpretation Plan, and the history of the Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary, and to ask them to respond to questions about where and how they enjoy learning about history. The responses are included in Appendix E.

The third public meeting presented the draft of this plan. It was held July 17, 2025. Three weeks were allowed for public review of the draft after the public meeting.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

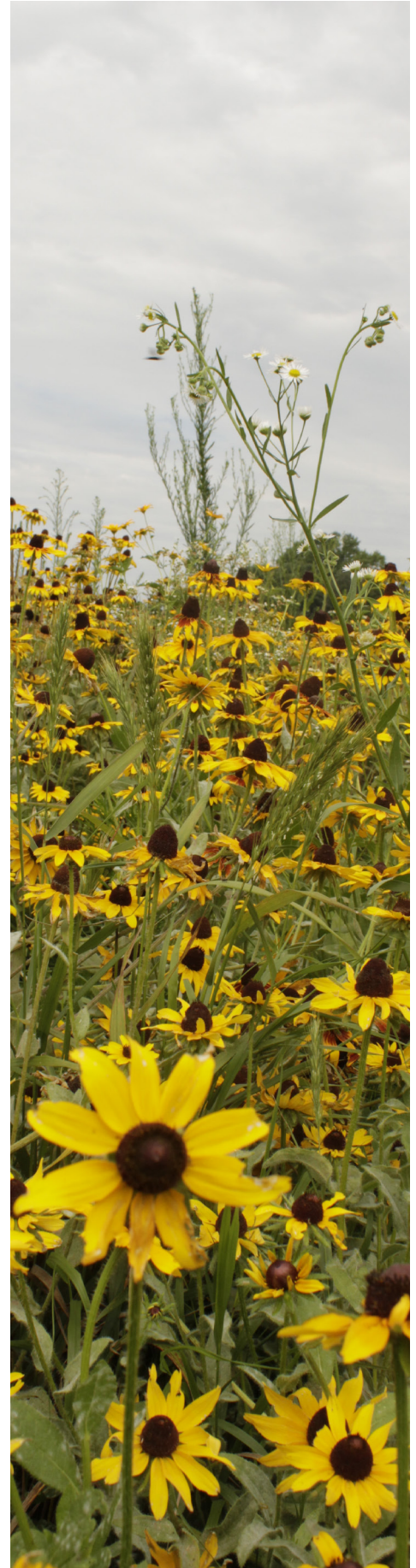
An overarching goal for heritage interpretation efforts moving forward should be that all future planning continue to work with the Chester County Planning Commission, the Oxford Region Agricultural Interpretive Network, the Kennett Region Path to Freedom Interpretive Network, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) while implementing the recommendations presented in Chapter 10 of this plan. This ensures regional connectivity and cohesiveness beyond the boundaries of the study area, integrating the ideas presented here with the larger countywide initiative.

Five goals and corresponding objectives were created to guide the plan in the development of heritage infrastructure, themes, connectivity, and visitor experience. Those goals and objectives are summarized below.

1. Develop and implement a multi-municipal plan that promotes thematic and physical heritage interpretation and connectivity between key sites within the project study area of London Britain, Elk, Franklin, and New Garden townships.
  - A. Identify and plan for new heritage amenities in a coordinated, collaborative, and efficient way, using a regional approach.
  - B. Implement previous planning efforts, in particular the Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan.
  - C. Engage communities through a public participation process, including a multi-municipal task force, public meetings, and key person interviews.
  - D. Prepare an implementation matrix to guide the execution of this plan.
2. Identify opportunities to expand heritage interpretation, local small-scale heritage tourism, and education about the Mason-Dixon Line, Arc Boundary, and other identified themes coordinated among the four partner municipalities.
  - A. Analyze options and determine appropriate locations for Heritage Centers in the study area.
  - B. Analyze options and determine appropriate locations in the study area for Interpretive Sites that will be interrelated both thematically and, if possible, physically.



- C. Develop general concept themes relating to the project study area that should be elevated at each site.
- 3. Identify methods that can be used to promote a deeper visitor and resident understanding and appreciation for the region's history and the people who played a role in it, and for the surrounding landscape, especially as these relate to the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner stories.
  - A. Individuals gain an understanding of the area and its importance through the history presented at each Heritage Center and Interpretive Site.
  - B. Individuals comprehend that the interrelated stories and connections between sites tell a fuller, more robust regional history.
  - C. Individuals explore the network of heritage sites by foot, where possible, and by car to actively learn and participate in connecting to the past.
  - D. Multiple opportunities are provided to explore the region's history through different types of sites that engage individuals of varying interests in learning about the communities' history and encourage further involvement.
- 4. Analyze and identify potential opportunities to promote connectivity between key sites.
  - A. Identify potential regional trail connections that would connect public open spaces.
- 5. An overarching brand identity is essential to enhance the visibility, comprehension, and accessibility of these sites.
  - A. Improve Wayfinding: Establish consistent signage and visual markers that guide visitors from site to site.
  - B. Enhance Understanding: Present a cohesive narrative that ties together the unique but related historical aspects of each site.
  - C. Increase Engagement: Provide a memorable, branded experience that encourages exploration and learning.
  - D. Strengthen Marketing Efforts: Create a recognizable identity to attract tourism and educational interest to the region.





## 02. INTERPRETIVE & THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

### HERITAGE INTERPRETATION NETWORK

This plan has been developed using the Heritage Interpretive Network concept that grew out of the Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan (2013) as a means to help creatively educate residents and visitors about the story of the Battle of Brandywine, the events of September 11, 1777, and the communities and landscapes it forever altered. The concept has since been applied to the themes of the Underground Railroad and Agriculture. A Heritage Interpretation Network (HIN) establishes a hierarchy of sites that coordinate and complement in their interpretive size and effort. The hierarchy includes several core components: Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors.

#### GATEWAYS

Gateways are locations suitable for large-scale interpretive facilities, which allow for larger groups of visitors, offer a greater range of visitor experiences and educational activities, and have public amenities. They are outside this scope of work.

#### HERITAGE CENTERS

Heritage Centers are locations suitable for medium-scale interpretive facilities, which are characterized by a shorter visitor experience than a Gateway but are still likely to include public amenities. They may be indoors, outdoors, or both. They highlight a main theme of heritage interpretation of the region and related subthemes. They also serve as anchors for Interpretive Sites.



*The Brandywine Battlefield Park Visitors Center acts as a Gateway for the Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Interpretation Network.*



*The Kennett Heritage Center tells the unique history of the Kennett area and hosts exhibits about the Underground Railroad.*





*Birmingham Hill in Birmingham Township, Chester County is an interpretive site for the core combat zone of the Brandywine Battlefield and is identified in the Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan.*



*These mature trees bordering a field and tree farm follow the Mason-Dixon Line along the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary in Lewisville, PA. This is an excellent viewing corridor of an otherwise invisible boundary.*

## INTERPRETIVE SITES

Interpretive sites are tied to specific locations, stories, or events. They have fewer amenities than Heritage Centers, if they have any, and are less intensive in use. The interpretive exhibits presented at these sites work in concert with those at the Heritage Centers and provide specific details about the landscape in which, and the site at which, they are located.

## VIEWING CORRIDORS

Viewing Corridors are identified areas along transportation routes that highlight the landscape and buildings and their importance within the interpretive framework of the community and the region. Identifying viewing corridors provides opportunities for highlighting landscapes through future driving, biking, or walking tours.

# CHESTER COUNTY HERITAGE TOURISM PLAN

Chester County developed a comprehensive Heritage Tourism Plan (2024) to provide guidance to communities, sites, and entities in telling local and regional stories. A countywide thematic framework was established, and six primary themes were identified as the basis for telling the stories of Chester County's history. These themes are The Natural Landscape, The Cultural Landscape, Evolving Values, The Philadelphia Campaign, Iron & Steel, and Creative Expression.

The Tourism Plan also highlights two different interpretation initiatives for conveying the stories tied to these themes: the Community Interpretive Program and the Outdoor Exhibit Program. The Community Interpretive Program provides guidance to interested communities on telling their local stories within the larger countywide thematic framework. Although the Heritage Tourism Plan was developed after the scope of work for the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Plan was finalized, extensive effort was made to align the multi-municipal plan with the larger countywide initiative and thematic framework to ensure continuity across the region.

## THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

The following Thematic Framework outlines the themes and storylines that are used in this plan to present and coordinate visitor interpretation within the four townships that comprise the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner heritage planning region. The primary themes listed are adapted from the Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan and are intended to guide communities and sites across Chester County in the development of a cohesive interpretive experience countywide.

Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner interpretation is most strongly linked to three of the county's six interpretive themes: The Natural Landscape, The Cultural Landscape, and Evolving Values. In discussion with the Task Force over the course of this plan, the following topics were identified as the most relevant to this region's history and narratives. They are:

1. The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary
2. The Natural Landscape
3. The Agricultural Landscape

Themes convey larger, overarching ideas and are not generally tied to a single story, place, or time. Through themes, the storylines developed for a specific location intertwine with the narratives of other sites to convey a robust and interesting history of the land and the people who shaped it.

The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary theme is uniquely placed-based, tied to lines drawn on a map and marked on the landscape with inscribed boundary stones. It is a significant theme that elevates this region to national significance. The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary theme touches on several possible theme topics and storylines:

1. The Penn-Calvert Boundary Dispute 1681-1760: This dispute, originating with Penn's charter for the lands of Pennsylvania in 1681, led to the survey by Mason and Dixon of the boundary between Penn's Pennsylvania and Delaware and the Calverts' Maryland.
2. The Arc Boundary 1701-1921: This unique state boundary was established in Penn's Pennsylvania charter (1681) and Delaware leases and deed (1682) as a 12-mile circle around the town of New Castle. It would be surveyed (1701) and resurveyed (1892) before the current curved boundary was adopted in 1921.
3. The Mason-Dixon Survey: This details the undertaking of the survey and the marking of the boundary from 1763 to 1768. It begins with the identification of the southernmost point in Philadelphia, the north wall of a house that would have been located at what is now 30 South Street (no longer extant due to the construction of I-95); the relocation some 31 miles west to the farm of John Harlan and the setting of the Stargazers' Stone; and the survey south that set the Post mark'd West 15 miles south of Philadelphia's southernmost point. Mason and Dixon then surveyed the Tangent Line, began surveying the West Line, surveyed the Arc and North lines and established the boundary between Maryland and Delaware, and completed their work on the West Line, establishing the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania.
4. National Significance: The Mason-Dixon Line became a political and cultural boundary that was reflected in social, legal, and economic decisions from 1780, when Pennsylvania adopted the Act for the Gradual Abolition of



*Arc Boundary 1 Mile Marker. Placed in 1892 by the Hodgkins Survey.*



*Mason-Dixon Mile Marker 4 is located on the boundary of two public lands. Placed in 1766.*



Slavery, until the beginning of the Civil War. The Mason-Dixon Line, symbolically extended west the length of the Ohio River by the banning of slavery by the Northwest Ordinance (1787), became the term used for the boundary between slave and free states around the time of the Missouri Compromise (1820), which barred slavery north of Missouri's southern boundary in areas west of the Mississippi. The term "Mason-Dixon Line" remains more commonly associated with the cultural division of the North and South than with the survey work completed in the 1760s.

5. Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad: This topic relates closely to the national significance of the Maxon-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary as the boundaries between the free state of Pennsylvania and slave states of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Although enslavement was more common in parts of the study area in the late 18th century than in most other parts of the county, southern Chester County became a beacon of hope to Freedom Seekers who emancipated themselves from the inhumane bonds of enslavement. Some Quaker communities and many abolitionists in the region provided support to people striving for freedom. Communities located north of the study area have been exploring this history and developing a Heritage Interpretive Network intricately linked to this Path to Freedom. Any exploration of this specific topic for the study area should coordinate with the efforts of neighboring townships and other local presentations of the topic to ensure an integrated approach to the subject without repetitiveness and redundancy.

The Agricultural Landscape theme seeks to present the history, within the study area, of the larger landscape, its development, and its peoples over the last three centuries. It focuses on the local story in the context of the cultural landscape and ties in with work currently being done within the Oxford Region to tell the larger agricultural history of the county. Further collaboration should be carried out with the Oxford Region as they develop their interpretive network, especially for sites that overlap within Elk Township. Possible topics and storylines explored within this theme include:

1. Early European Settlement: Early settlement of the four townships, including the context and people. This topic can also touch on the religious diversity found here.
2. Colonial Settlement Patterns: These patterns are still evident on the landscape today and reflect the Pennsylvania Cultural Hearth.
3. Farm landscapes: Farms throughout the region have similar layouts and components but differing landscape conditions and resources led to variations among individual farms. This storyline can be used to discuss

these aspects of farm landscapes.

4. Crossroad Villages: These villages supported the surrounding agricultural landscape and often retain their development patterns from when they were established.
5. The Central Role of Mills: This storyline can speak of the types, roles, and locations of mills as well as the rivers, rural industries, and 19th-century railroads that supported them.
6. Three Centuries of Agricultural Development: Depending on the site, this storyline can include 18th- and early 19th-century wheat farming, late 19th-century dairy farming and livestock, pleasure farming, and the equestrian scene.
7. The Mushroom Industry: While not a primary topic addressed through this plan's identified sites, it remains an important aspect of the Southern Chester County landscape, especially in New Garden Township. If this topic is undertaken in the future, collaboration with mushroom growers and adjacent municipalities such as Kennett Township should occur.

The Natural Landscape theme presents the region's natural landscape history as it has evolved over thousands of years and is present today. This theme focuses on the dynamics of the natural world, geology, landforms, ecology, and biotic communities. It focuses on the natural landscape's inherent character today as well as its health and environmental issues. Possible topics explored include:

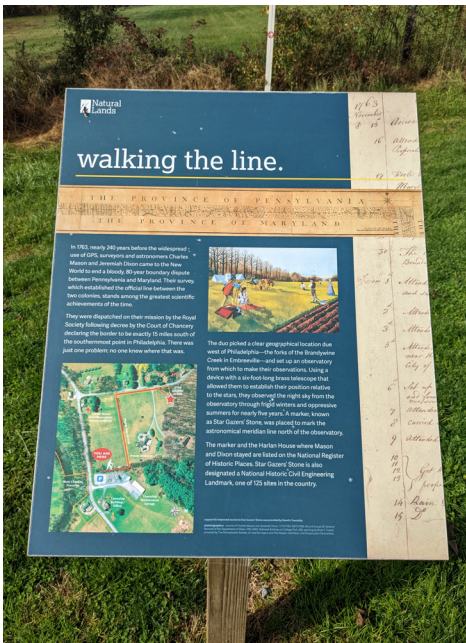
1. Geology and Landforms
2. Rivers and Watersheds
3. Piedmont Plant Communities and Ecosystems
4. Animal Species and Habitats
5. Land Conservation
6. Indigenous Peoples – The Lenni Lenape: This is included as a subtopic under the Natural Landscape because of the Lenape's relations to the natural world prior to colonization by Europeans. Work on this topic should be thoughtfully undertaken in coordination with DCNR, other interested stakeholders in Chester County, and with the federally recognized tribal nations—the Delaware Nation and the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Any interpretation of Lenape lifeways and belief systems should be presented by these two tribal nations, allowing them to tell their own story and to share what information they wish.

These themes address varying topics and perspectives. They can overlap and draw from one another in developing the interpretive content for the region. They serve as guides for the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region and all interpretation should be related to one or more of them.





*Interpretive posters inside the Lyceum building in New Garden Township Park touch on the local milling industry and township history.*



*The interpretive wayside in the parking lot for the Stargazers' Stone provides a brief history of the Mason-Dixon survey, the purpose of the Stargazers' Stone, and a map of the site.*



*The Post mark'd West commemorative monument in White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware.*

## EXISTING INTERPRETATION IN THE STUDY AREA

Much of the existing interpretation within the study area can be found at trailhead kiosks. They convey information about the trails themselves and the natural landscape. Occasionally, especially with trails that follow former railroad beds, they present the site's history, typically centering around railroads and mills.

The local historical commissions actively work to promote interpretation and have developed a series of interpretive posters and brochures to highlight their region's history. The Lyceum in New Garden Township Park, a proposed indoor/outdoor Heritage Center, displays posters relating to the history of the building and the township along with small artifacts. The building, however, is only open for special occasions.

Interpretive materials relating to the Welsh Baptist Historic District in White Clay Creek Preserve have also been created. These have been used during special events to create a walking tour of the district, with posters placed at select locations to act as temporary interpretive waysides. The content already developed at these two locations can be used in developing more permanent interpretive media at these sites.

## EXISTING INTERPRETATION OUTSIDE THE STUDY AREA

With respect to interpretation of the Mason-Dixon story, two sites located beyond the area of the current project should be included in the interpretation developed from this plan and referenced for visitors. First is the Harlan Farm with the Stargazers' Stone, in Newlin Township. It is the location where Mason and Dixon established their observatory after moving west from Philadelphia and where they began their survey due south to find the latitude that was 15 miles south of the southernmost point of Philadelphia. The Stargazers' Stone, a reference point for the longitude of their observatory at the farm, is an isolated feature associated with the adjacent ChesLen Preserve, which is managed by Natural Lands. The Harlan Farmhouse, a private residence, is located nearby at the intersection of Embreeville and Stargazers roads.

Second, within White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware, is the site of the Post mark'd West, located 15 miles south of Philadelphia's southernmost point and the reference point for the West Line. Mason and Dixon erected it after surveying due south from Harlan's Farm. From here, they surveyed the West Line and established that portion of the Mason-Dixon Line that forms the southern boundary of Pennsylvania. A Post mark'd West commemorative monument is located on the Park's Bryan Field Trail, and is enclosed by a low pipe fence, has a bench, and is interpreted by a wayside exhibit.



## 03 . MASON-DIXON HERITAGE CENTER & INTERPRETIVE SITES

White Clay Creek Preserve in London Britain Township shares borders with Delaware along the Arc Boundary and Top of the Wedge Line, and with Maryland along the Mason-Dixon Line. It is a key location for interpretation of both border stories, with the primary focus on the Mason-Dixon Line narrative. The Sexton's House (c. 1830) in the Preserve is proposed as a Heritage Center for that purpose. The southern portion of the Preserve borders the state of Delaware to the east along the Arc Boundary and to the south along the Top of the Wedge Line and the state of Maryland to the south along the Mason-Dixon Line, and encompasses the locations of both the Arc Corner Monument and the Tri-State Marker.

The landscapes, trails, and some of the historic resources within White Clay Creek Preserve extend southeast into White Clay Creek State Park in the state of Delaware. This connection across the Delaware line provides opportunities for coordinated interpretation between the Preserve and the Park, and is interpretively significant not only because of the shared natural landscape of the creek valley, but also in light of the impact of the boundary disputes and surveys, culminating in the establishment of the Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary, on the development of this region and the nation.

The Heritage Center will introduce the boundary topics that shaped early settlement including the Penn-Calvert Boundary Dispute of 1681-1760, the Arc Boundary survey, and ultimately the Mason-Dixon Survey of 1763-1768, which had a lasting influence on America's national story up until the Civil War. The Mason-Dixon story will be the primary focus of the presentation, with the Arc Boundary story told at the proposed Heritage Center in New Garden Township.

The Heritage Center will also introduce The Natural Resource story of





White Clay Creek, which can be explored further through interpretation along trails and at related sites, and the Early European Settlement and Agricultural Landscape stories, which are represented by historic sites within the preserve. The presentation will review three centuries of agricultural development, farm landscapes, and the role of mills within the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region with particular emphasis on the Welsh Baptist settlers of the London Tract. The Sexton's House, London Tract Meeting House and Cemetery, Evans House Ruin, Evans/Yeatman Mill Site and mill race, Pomeroy & Newark Railroad bed, and other nearby historic resources are potential subjects for interpretation within the Agricultural Landscape theme. Other locations outside the Preserve, such as London Britain's Mason-Dixon Greenway South and the Elk Township Building could serve as interpretive sites that tell the Mason-Dixon story in relation to the Heritage Center at White Clay Creek.

White Clay Creek Preserve is an excellent location for creating a meaningful interpretive experience within the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner initiative due to the rich array of historic and natural resources that can be experienced on foot. Because it is a state property, any interpretive proposal must be undertaken in full partnership with and with the approval of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). To date, initial informal conversations have been conducted with local Preserve staff, but the proposed interpretive presentation outlined below has not been discussed with either local or state level DCNR staff. This is a key next step.

Should the concepts outlined here be acceptable to DCNR, further development in conceptual design will need to be undertaken in close cooperation with DCNR staff. Interpretive content and processes for design, fabrication, and installation must be outlined and approved by DCNR. Although possible, it seems unlikely that funding for the phased implementation of the project outlined here could be provided by DCNR and would likely have to be raised from other sources. To some extent, the use of outside funding in lieu of state funding might help simplify the implementation process.



# MASON-DIXON HERITAGE CENTER

The Sexton's House (c. 1829) is a two-story, two-bay brick dwelling that once served as the residence of the sexton for the London Tract Meeting House. It is located across from the London Tract Meeting House (c. 1729) and cemetery, which served a Welsh Baptist congregation. The Sexton's House is proposed to be rehabilitated and adaptively reused as a Heritage Center in accordance with Chester County Heritage Interpretive Network standards. The Heritage Center will house high-quality interpretive exhibits focused primarily on the Mason-Dixon Survey story with connections to the Arc Boundary theme presented within New Garden Township. Additional exhibits on The Natural Landscape and The Agricultural Landscape within White Clay Creek Preserve will better inform visitors about the immediate vicinity.







The front room of the Sexton's House as viewed from the primary doorway. Note the peeling paint and the temporary lighting.

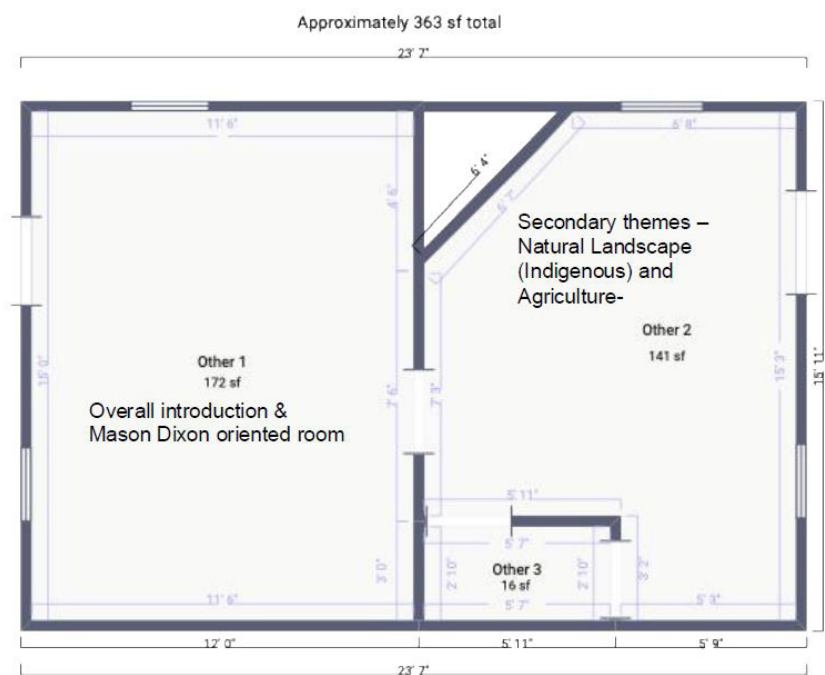


The rear room of the Sexton's House as seen from the doorway between the two rooms. Note the corner fireplace to the left, the boarded window opening, and the missing plaster around the window.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Meeting House interior has been restored, and DCNR as well as local groups use the space for meetings and events. DCNR is considering developing the building as a museum focused on the cultural and natural history of the Preserve. The Sexton's House has seen less use and repair than its neighbor. Through the efforts of the Friends of the White Clay Creek Preserve and DCNR, repairs have slowly been taking place on the exterior features of this mothballed structure. Recently, Friends of the White Clay Creek Preserve used grant money to stabilize the exterior brick walls, and DCNR has replaced the door and some windows in the building though the rest remain boarded up. The building has working electricity, but it is turned off unless interior access is needed. There are no other utilities, including heating or air conditioning, in the structure. Efforts are underway at DCNR to replace the wood-shingle roof on the building, further shoring up the exterior fabric to prevent additional deterioration of the structure or its interior finishes.

The interior of the Sexton's House is divided into two rooms on both floors. On the first floor, the rear room houses a corner fireplace as well as the stairs to both the basement and second floor. The interior finishes have degraded over time from lack of routine maintenance. The plaster has failed in several areas and the paint is chipped and peeling. The trim around the windows and doors has been removed, as have the baseboards. The floor appears in good condition, though the stairs to the basement have been removed, leaving a large opening that will require a cover before use. Rehabilitation of the first floor would be required to develop the Heritage Center at this location. Initial efforts could be undertaken in collaboration with DCNR to clean the space, find



Floor plan for the first floor of the Sexton's House. The front room is on the left.

alternative storage for the items currently being kept there, and consult with preservation professionals on the next steps.

## PROPOSED CONCEPT

Exterior rehabilitation of the Sexton's House windows, doors, and roof will be required to place the building in good condition. Primary entrance to the building will be from the small parking area along Southbank Road. Installation of a small, fenced garden at the back of the house is proposed to establish an appropriately scaled residential landscape context. A brick walkway will lead from the parking area to the west side of the house where a wood ramp will provide ADA access along the side of the building to the front porch. Entrance to the inside will be through the front door at the porch.

The Front Room of the Sexton's House will present the Mason-Dixon Survey story. A large graphic timeline is proposed along an Orientation Wall to introduce the boundary dispute, related events, and key figures. The introduction will help visitors understand the Mason-Dixon Line theme, context, and national significance.

*A draft concept for the Heritage Center at the Sexton's House as seen from the small adjacent parking lot.*



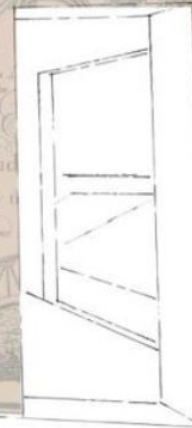


## Intro/Orientation Walls

Timeline of boundary dispute, survey, related events and key figures



## Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon PUSHING BOUNDARIES

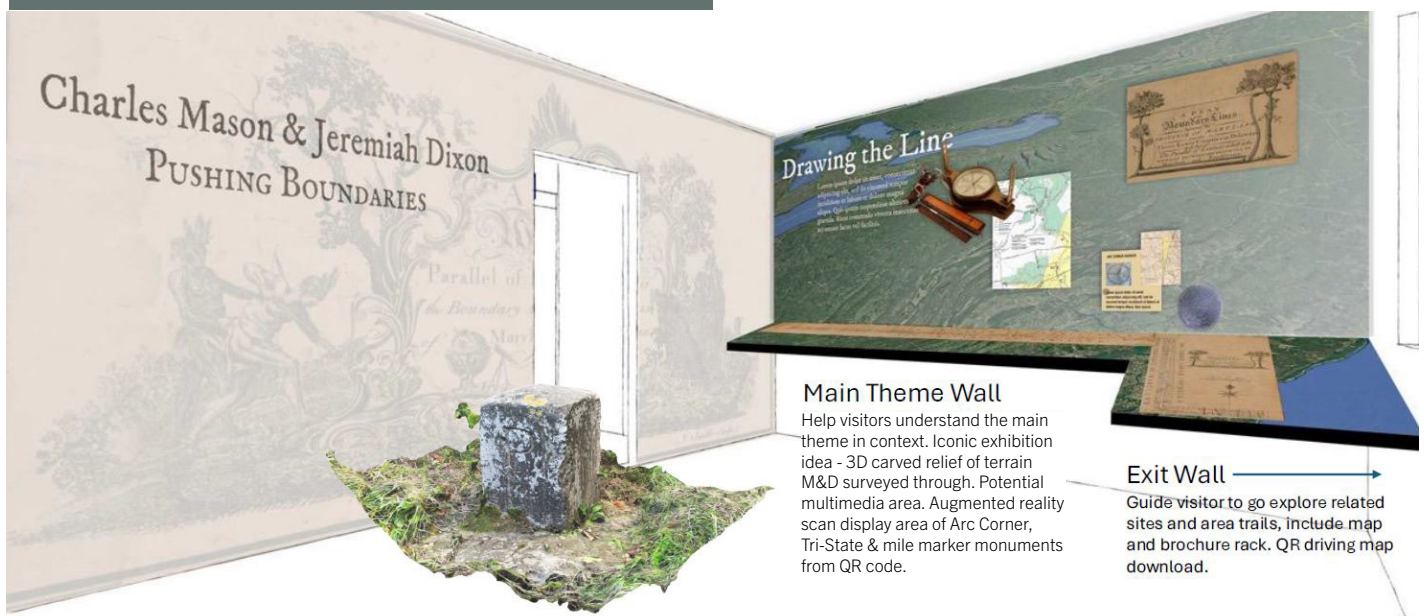


## Intro/Orientation Walls

Help visitor begin to understand the themes and the people and place

Artifacts (reproduction) or 3D pieces can help bring story alive

*A rendering of the proposed front room orientation wall at the Sexton's House. It serves as an introduction to the Mason-Dixon storyline for visitors and includes a timeline of the boundary dispute, survey, and other related key events. Artifacts, reproductions, or three-dimensional pieces can be included and help the story come alive.*



## Main Theme Wall

Help visitors understand the main theme in context. Iconic exhibition idea - 3D carved relief of terrain M&D surveyed through. Potential multimedia area. Augmented reality scan display area of Arc Corner, Tri-State & mile marker monuments from QR code.

## Exit Wall

Guide visitor to go explore related sites and area trails, include map and brochure rack. QR driving map download.

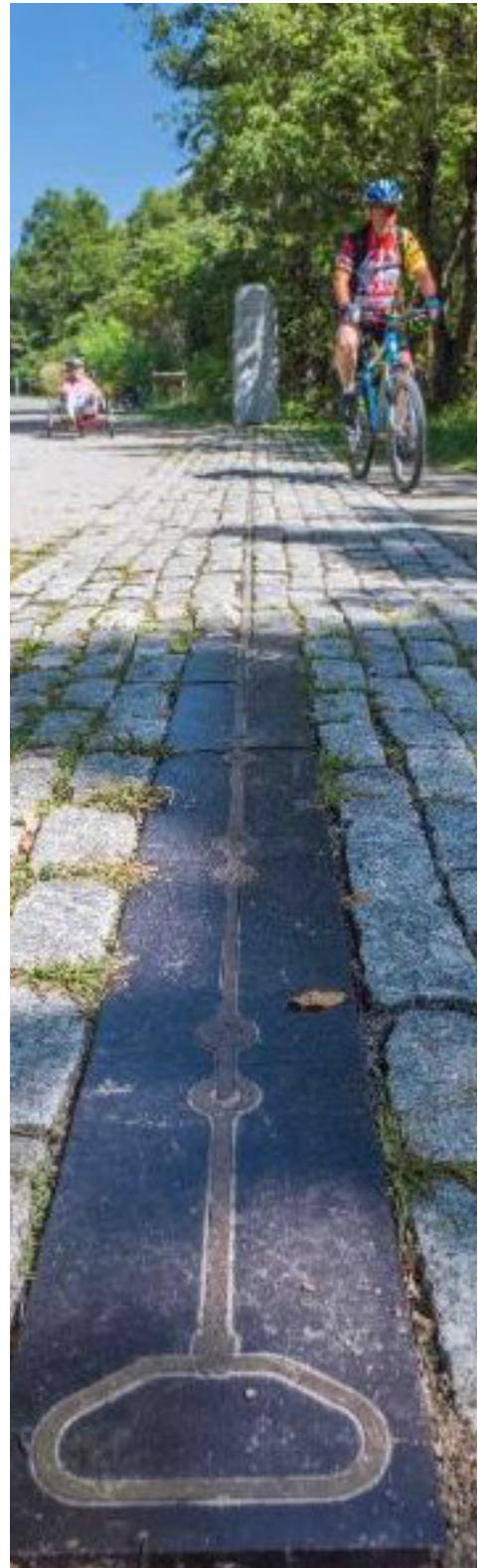
*A rendering of the proposed front room Main Theme Wall, which will provide context for the Mason-Dixon narrative. A three-dimensional map that would help visualize the terrain that Mason and Dixon surveyed through. QR codes either along the map or in a separate display could take viewers to an augmented reality scan of the stone mile markers.*

The Main Theme Wall will go into the Mason-Dixon Survey in detail, with maps, descriptions, and depictions of the survey process, conditions, methods, challenges, and results. The journey west from Philadelphia, observatory at the Harlan Farm, survey south to the Post mark'd West, and subsequent surveying to establish the Mason-Dixon Line will be illustrated. A potential multimedia area is proposed along with an augmented reality scan display area depicting monuments and mile markers.

The Exit Wall will encourage visitors to explore related sites and area trails, including places where monuments and mile markers may be accessed. The wall will include a map and brochure rack and QR downloads for driving maps.

The Back Room of the Sexton's House will address other themes associated with the White Clay Creek Preserve presentation, including The Natural Landscape of White Clay Creek – its geology, landforms, ecology, and plant communities – and The Agricultural Landscape – the early settlement of the London Tract in the vicinity of the creek and the preserve. The planning of this portion of the exhibit will need to be coordinated with DCNR to avoid duplicating the exhibits in the planned museum at the Meeting House.

Additional interpretive media could be considered along the ramp railing or brick pathway in the garden. Embedding a to-scale replica of the 66-foot chains used during survey in the brickwork or ramp would provide perspective on the equipment used in the surveying.



*The multi-use Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail crosses the Mason-Dixon Line and the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy used that as an opportunity to interpret the Line's history. Along the boundary line where it crosses the trail, they replicated the 66-foot measurement chains used during the line's survey.*

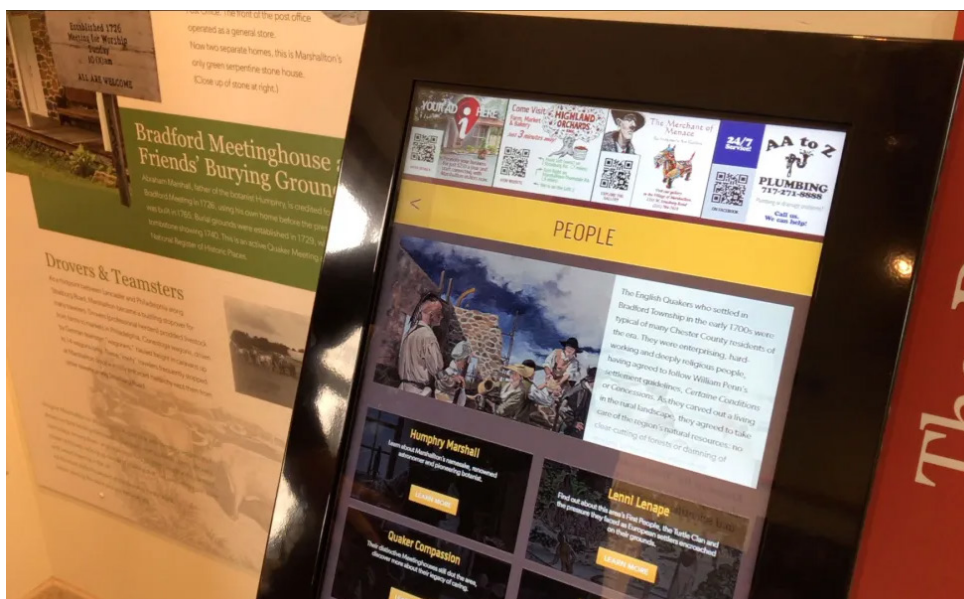


*A three-dimensional rendering of the exterior of the first floor of the Sexton's House showing the proposed ramp along the west facade. The ramp would connect to the existing porch and provide visitors with an accessible entrance.*





An example of interpretive media at the Kennett Heritage Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.



An example of an interactive kiosk and display. This is located in the Marshallton Heritage Center in Marshallton, Pennsylvania.

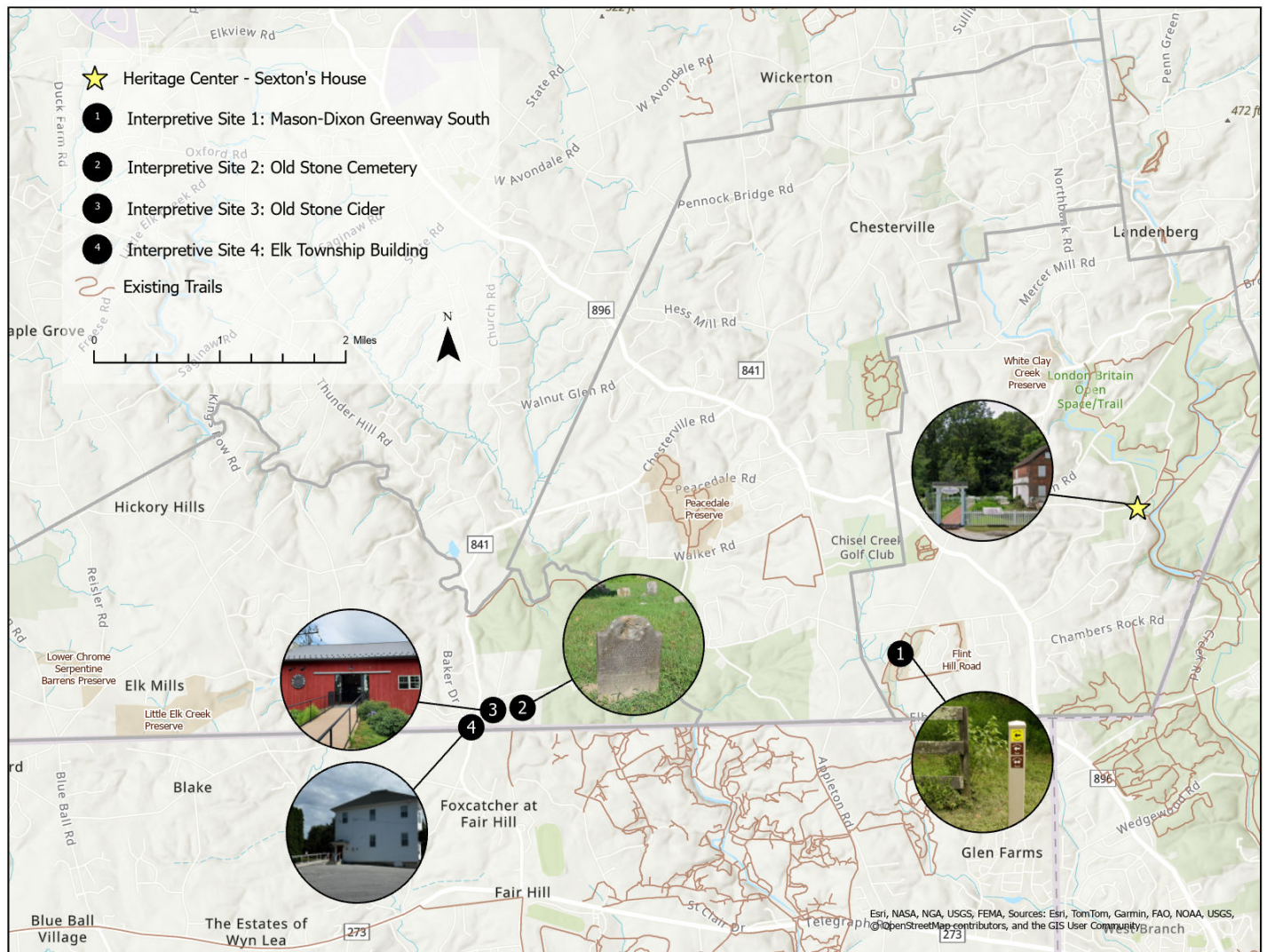
# HERITAGE CENTER COST ESTIMATE

It should be recognized that much of these costs could be offset by volunteer and sponsored work, e.g. garden construction and maintenance by local landscape firm with sponsor sign, or involvement of scouts working to earn their Eagle Scout Rank. A phased approach to implementation, such as Phase 1 exterior stabilization, Phase 2 exterior garden creation and interpretation, Phase 3 interior rehabilitation, mechanicals, and electric, Phase 4 front room interpretation, and Phase 5 rear room interpretation, can also disperse costs over a longer timeline.

<b>Sexton's House Heritage Center</b>	<b>\$135,000 - 175,000</b>
Garden walk, fencing, and features- including welcome signage and 2 interpretive panels rail- or fence-mounted	\$15,000-25,000
Exterior rehabilitation – windows, doors, porch, masonry	\$25,000
Interior rehabilitation – walls, painting	\$10,000
Mechanical systems	\$10,000
Electrical and lighting	\$10,000
Interpretive Exhibits (includes 3D carved table map, wall wraps, standoff panels, replica artifacts displays, AR and multimedia exhibits)	\$25,000-55,000
Exhibit Design, Project Management, signage prep	\$40,000
<b>Nine Interpretive Exhibits</b> (NPS Wayside Exhibit Carriers installed on prepared slabs)	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>Repair and Update Existing Orientation Exhibit</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Two Benches</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Brochure, 6 panel design (tri-fold) and print 500 qty</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$156,500-196,500</b>



# MASON-DIXON INTERPRETIVE SITES



Interpretive sites are a core component of the overall Heritage Interpretation Network. These sites provide opportunities for further interpretation of themes while also connecting visitors to sites that add context to the stories being told.

Sites identified as good locations for expanding the narrative of the Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary theme are naturally geographically dispersed due to the linear nature of boundary lines. While none of the sites identified are directly adjacent to the stone mile markers, they all abut the boundary line, and some have access to boundary markers within a short walk or drive. As visitors move from site to site, they begin to understand the distance traveled by the surveying party. Visual cues at certain sites, such as tree lines adjacent to large fields, help visitors read the boundary line on the landscape.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: MASON-DIXON GREENWAY SOUTH**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

Mile Marker 1 on the Mason-Dixon Line's West Line is located within easy walking or driving distance of the Mason-Dixon Greenway South. The Greenway Trail within the park takes visitors across the Mason-Dixon Line into Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area. In doing so it crosses Elbow Lane, a low-speed road, beside which this stone marker can be found. Interpretative exhibits within the park could reference the Heritage Center exhibits in White Clay Creek Preserve, expand on the Mason and Dixon Survey, and discuss in depth the stone markers along the boundary.

The existing infrastructure within the park coupled with the accessibility of a Mason-Dixon marker make this an excellent location for interpretation. The three sided bulletin cases located at the entrance provide an opportunity to develop and fabricate content at a lower cost. The ability to more easily update the content allows the interpretive material to better connect with other sites in the network as they are developed.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: OLD STONE CEMETERY**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** Elk

In the early 1700s the Scotch-Irish residents of the area, including those living in the colony of Maryland, established the Head of Elk Presbyterian Church and cemetery in Lewisville. Reverend Alexander McDowell, an early professor at the New London Academy, which eventually became the University of Delaware, led services for the church before it moved a short distance away to Cecil County in Maryland in 1761. The cemetery is the only vestige of the congregation's time in Pennsylvania and the burials provide a rich narrative of the region's inhabitants. One such individual, Samuel Maffitt joined Mason and Dixon as a surveyor while they moved through the region. This story could be further explored and connected to the interpretation at Old Stone Cider and the Elk Township Building. An interpretive display here could also discuss more in depth the individuals involved in the survey.

With the abundance of stories connected to those buried here, an interpretive exhibit could also touch on the history of Dr. John Maffitt, surgeon on the USS *Reprisal*, the first ship in the United State Navy and the one aboard which Benjamin Franklin traveled to France on America's first diplomatic mission. Gravestones for several indentured servants are located in close proximity to the Maffitt family; they most likely worked for the family or at nearby mills and farms during their servitude.





### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: OLD STONE CIDER**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** Elk

Old Stone Cider, a reconstructed barn turned cidery, sits along Route 841 amid fields and a tree farm. From the parking lot, the Mason-Dixon Line is clearly visible in the distance where the farm fields meet a long row of mature trees. A short walk south from the cidery to this treeline connects visitors with the Mason-Dixon Line, and a walk along the boundary leads to Mile Marker 3 located on the common boundary of two public lands, Big Elk Creek State Park and Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

The Oxford Region Historic Resources Subcommittee is in the final phase of designing an interpretive wayside sign that relates the agricultural history of this region and includes information on Pennsylvania bank barns, timber framing, and the mill industry. Any additional interpretation at this site should complement this signage. Further interpretation could expand on the Mason-Dixon Line story being told at the Elk Township Building and provide information on how to hike to Mile Marker 3.



### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: ELK TOWNSHIP BUILDING**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** Elk

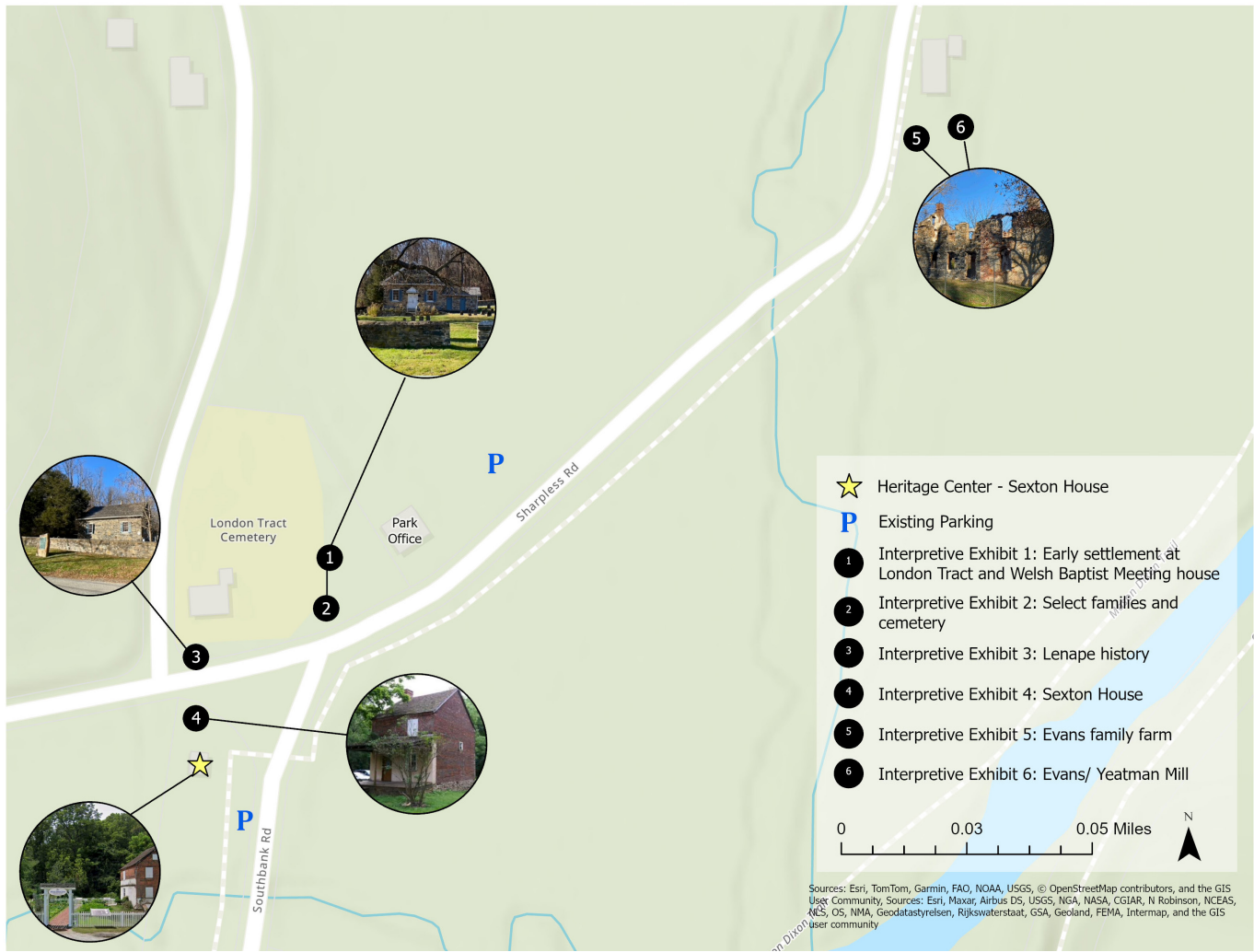
As one of the few publicly accessible sites immediately adjacent to the Mason-Dixon Line, the Elk Township Building provides an excellent interpretive opportunity. Interpretation here could touch on the boundary dispute and the early settlement and development of communities along border. Discussion of how the boundary can be read in the landscape, for example, in farm hedgerows, should be included.

The Oxford Region Historic Preservation Sub-Committee is in the final phase of designing an interpretive wayside sign that tells the story of the Mason-Dixon survey as they came through the area and the equipment they used. The proposed signage also mentions the schoolhouses and covered bridges in the township.



*Mile Marker 1 on the Mason-Dixon Line's West Line can be seen here immediately adjacent to Elbow Lane. It is a short walk from the Greenway Trail/Fair Hill Connector Trail in Mason-Dixon Greenway South.*

# WHITE CLAY CREEK INTERPRETIVE SITES



These sites are included within this chapter due to their physical proximity to the proposed Mason-Dixon Heritage Center, which allows them to be explored on foot from a central location. The self-guided exhibits are close enough together to be experienced as a coordinated whole while not impinging on the visual character of the natural and historic landscape. The resources for this area are largely made up of landscapes, sites, and trails within White Clay Creek Preserve, owned and stewarded by DCNR. These interpretive sites are closely linked to the Agricultural Landscape and Natural Resource themes and related sites just north along the White Clay Creek in Landenberg. Interpretation across these themes should be coordinated.

The sites included in this map and plan do not include all the resources within White Clay Creek Preserve that could be additionally interpreted and including in a walking tour of sites.





**INTERPRETIVE SITE:** LONDON TRACT MEETING HOUSE, c. 1729

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

Within easy walking distance of the primary parking area, Interpretive Exhibits should be positioned outside of the stone wall and facing the London Tract Meeting House and Cemetery. Two exhibits could interpret (1) the early settlement of the London Tract, and the London Tract Meeting House; and (2) the history of the cemetery and selected families buried there, showing their farmsteads on a historic map and telling their stories.



**INTERPRETIVE SITE:** MINGUANNAN INDIAN TOWN MONUMENT

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

An Interpretive Exhibit (3) could be located in the grass area outside of the stone wall to the south of the Meeting House in the vicinity of the 1924 Minguannan Indian Town Monument. The exhibit should update the information provided in the monument with current information as established by archaeologists and the Delaware Tribes. With their participation, the exhibit should present the Lenape in accordance with the desires and beliefs of the Tribes.



**INTERPRETIVE SITE:** SEXTON'S HOUSE, c. 1829

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

An Interpretive Exhibit (4) could be located facing the Sexton's House in the grass area on the south side of London Tract Road near its intersection with Southbank and Sharpless roads. The exhibit could interpret the Sexton's House in association with the Meeting House.



**INTERPRETIVE SITE:** EVANS HOUSE RUIN & MILL SITE

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**SUBTHEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

An Interpretive exhibit (5) here could present the establishment and development of the Evans Farm with maps and illustrations. The story and role of the Evans family in local life should be described, including their enslavement of peoples before and after the 1780 Gradual Abolition Act. Another exhibit (6) could present the history and workings of the Evans/ Yeatman Mill with maps and illustrations from its establishment until its closing in the 1950s. The mill race and connection with the Middle Branch upstream should be shown on historic maps and aerial photos.



# 04. NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP HERITAGE CENTER & ARC BOUNDARY INTERPRETIVE SITES

The Arc Boundary and Mason-Dixon Line narratives overlap and interweave through both space and time. Separating the storylines between two different Heritage Centers allows the two histories more dedicated space both for telling the story of each boundary line and for referencing the other associated interpretive sites identified by this plan. New Garden Township Park, located near the center of the township, is proposed as an outdoor Heritage Center that relates the rich local heritage of the township as well as the story of the Arc Boundary. Here, township residents can be engaged and provided with information about these stories as well as be guided to other interpretive sites within the region. New Garden Township Park is prominent for its size and facilities, including the Township Municipal Building, recreational fields, walking paths, and parking areas. New Garden's historic Lyceum building has been relocated to the park and is proposed as the vicinity for orientation and interpretive exhibits.

The southern boundary of New Garden Township is the Arc, and the park provides an opportunity for an interpretive installation that highlights that story, including exterior exhibits and additional interior exhibits in the Lyceum. The Lyceum will host exhibits on the history of New Garden Township as it does currently. This proposal is intended to introduce the Arc story in a location where it is likely to be seen by a large number of the general public, who can then be directed to other places for further exploration, such as Arc Corner Road in White Clay Creek Preserve, where there is a trailhead that provides access to the Arc Corner Monument. It is also intended to give the Arc story equal emphasis to the Mason-Dixon Line story presented at the Sexton's House in White Clay Creek Preserve. It is meant to be one component of the overall history told at this location.





# NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK HERITAGE CENTER

New Garden Township Park is an excellent location for orientation exhibits that provide information on the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner interpretive presentation because of the available space and amenities, and the ability to attract and engage Township residents who may be there for recreational or other purposes. Amenities include ample parking and restrooms. Goals of this installation are to (a) engage the general public, (b) introduce the Arc Boundary story, (c) exhibit Township history, and (d) direct the public to other locations within the Heritage Interpretive Network, such as the Arc Corner Monument where the Arc Boundary and Top of the Wedge Line meet.

The vicinity of the historic Lyceum that has been moved to this site is an excellent location for an interpretive installation. The Lyceum, however, is not able to serve as the primary Heritage Center for the initiative because it is open to the public only occasionally and lacks accessibility. Therefore, it is proposed that an outdoor installation be constructed, with the Lyceum as a supporting historic feature. The proposed self-guided installation would be available to visitors seven days a week, year-round, and the Lyceum could be opened periodically to provide additional interpretation.

It is proposed that an Interpretive Plaza be constructed in the lawn area in front of the Lyceum near the existing parking area. The front facade of the Lyceum would be visible from the plaza. The Interpretive Plaza would be paved in brick or stone and be about 400 sq. ft. in size – capable of accommodating a small group of visitors. A short walkway (assume 50 sq. ft.) would extend from the plaza to the existing sidewalk beside the parking area.

Covered Orientation Pavilions would be located along two sides of the plaza, each 12 ft. x 14 ft. in area with brick or stone paving extending from the plaza beneath the pavilions. Each Orientation Pavilion would have four double-sided 3 ft-wide x 4 ft-high exhibit panels with shared posts/legs set in a slight arc beneath the pavilions. This curved form could be followed by the bricks of the plaza beneath, or a concrete inset, to visually show how the Arc was marked in 1701, by straight lines (the signs) connecting equidistant points (the legs) that are points on the Arc.

The first Orientation Pavilion would present an introduction to the entire Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner interpretive network on one side of the exhibit panels along with a detailed presentation of the interpretive sites within the four townships. The three primary themes would be presented along with context for these sites. The other side of the exhibit panels would interpret the theme The Agricultural Landscape as it applies to New Garden, including discussion of Early European Settlement, Colonial Settlement Patterns, Farm Landscapes, Crossroad Villages, The Central Role of Mills, and Three Centuries of Agricultural Development. Specific reference would be made to places in New Garden Township

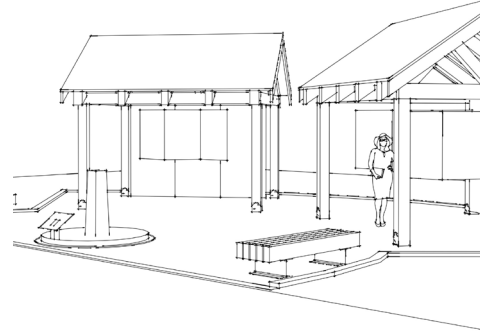
for illustrative detail. The story of the Lyceum would be included in the presentation.

The second Orientation Pavilion would have a primary presentation of the Arc Boundary story on both sides of its exhibit panels. The presentation would be highly visual and of comparable quality and detail to the presentation of the Mason-Dixon Survey story at the Sexton's House in White Clay Creek Preserve. The exhibit would encourage people to explore the Arc Boundary story as presented at other locations. The most important of these would be the parking lot at the end of Arc Corner Road in White Clay Creek Preserve, where a trailhead exhibit would be located at the trail leading to the Arc Corner Monument.

The upper floor of the Lyceum would have exhibits on the New Garden history that provide additional detail in support of the presentation in the pavilions. The interior exhibits at the Lyceum would be opened to the public on the weekends during the spring, summer, and fall as well as on special occasions.

Alternatively, a smaller set of exhibits could be installed than those proposed above, such as a single Orientation Pavilion with four double-sided exhibit panels and a smaller plaza.

*A sketch of the proposed interpretive plaza. A rendering is provided on the following page.*

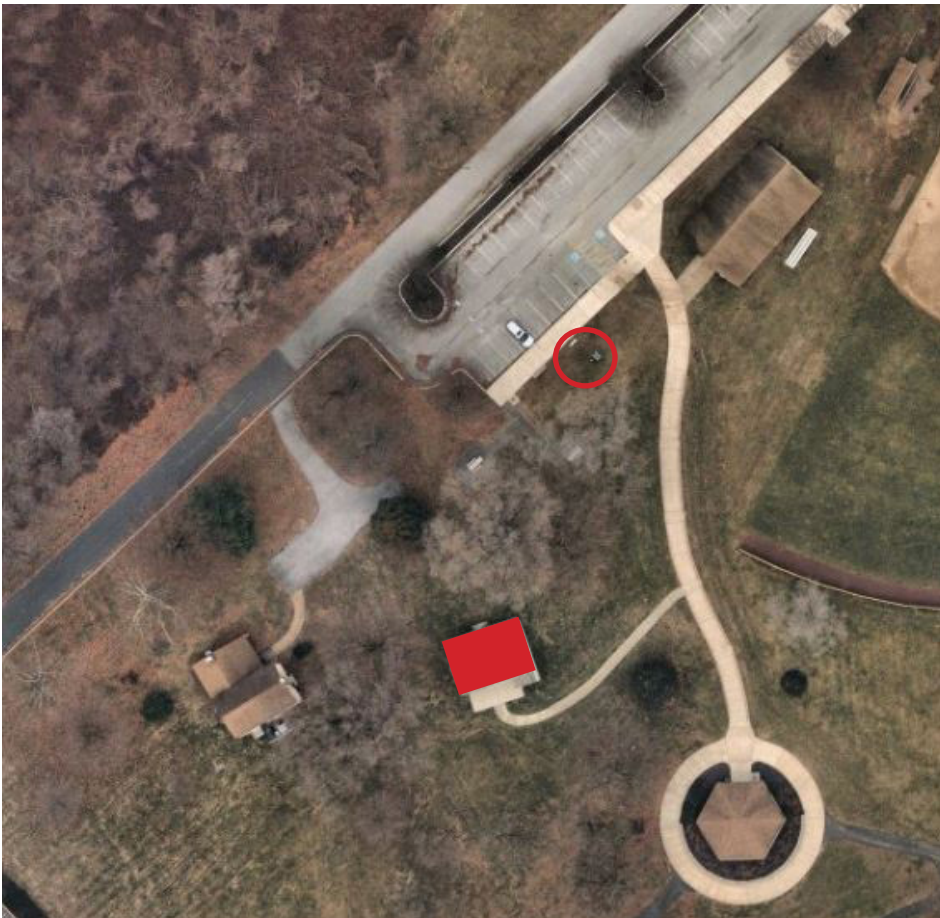


*The Lyceum Building was moved from its original location and placed in New Garden Township Park. Though open to the public irregularly, it could provide additional interpretive space to expand on the narratives told at the outdoor exhibit.*





*Above: A rendering of the proposed outdoor Heritage Center at New Garden Township Park. It includes two covered pavilions with upright interpretive panels and a replica of the Arc Corner Monument. A small interpretive panel in front of the replica would add context regarding the actual monument.*

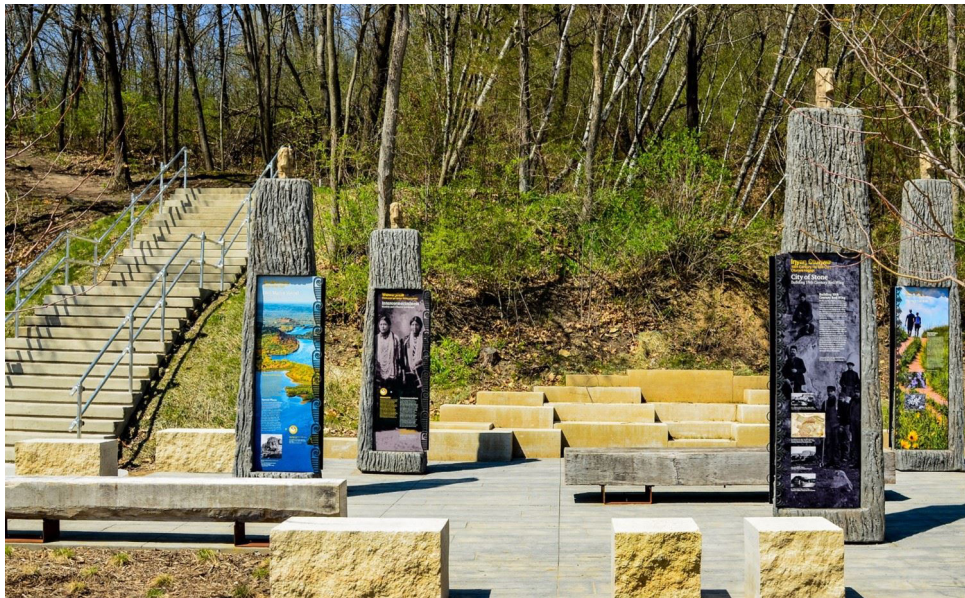


*Left: A small area near the parking lot with a view of the Lyceum Building (highlighted in red) could be used for the outdoor Heritage Center. A small orientation kiosk exists in the vicinity of the red circle and could be expanded slightly as an initial step.*





*An example of a triple upright interpretive exhibit with its signs in a curve in a park setting. Photo credit: Pannier Graphics*



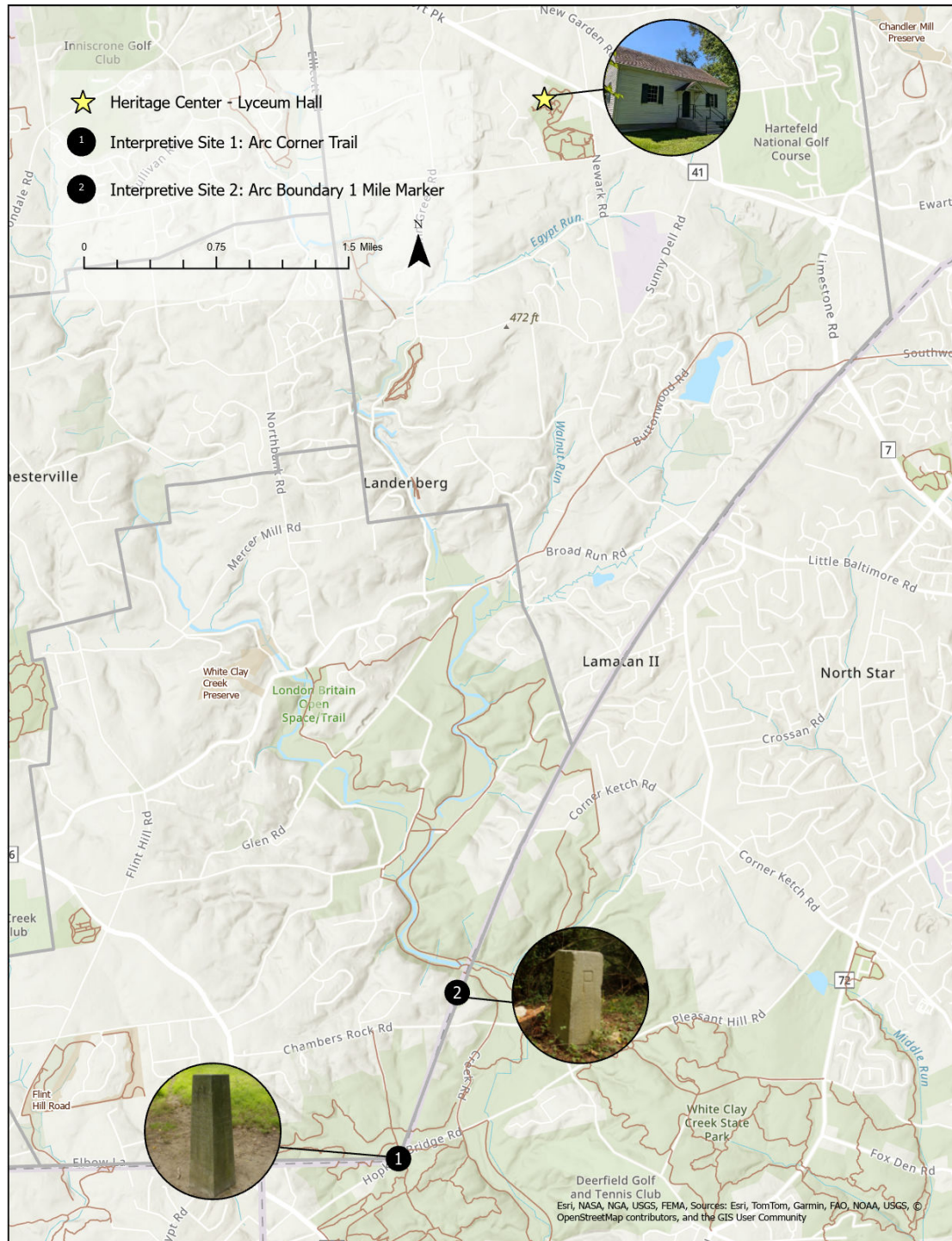
*The entrance plaza at He Mni Can-Barn Bluff in Red Wing, Minnesota is a great example of an outdoor interpretive exhibit. These panels are also of note as they provide information in both English and Dakota. The Interpretive exhibits at New Garden Township Park could likewise provide a bilingual interpretive display for the English- and Spanish-speaking residents of the Township. Photo credit: City of Red Wing, Minnesota*



*An outdoor interpretive pavilion located at the Five Oaks Historic Site in Hillsboro, Oregon. The arrangement of the panels provides an open sightline to the nearby oak trees. Photo credit: Jordan Rosenblum*



# ARC BOUNDARY INTERPRETIVE SITES





### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: ARC CORNER TRAIL**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

Interpretation at the Arc Corner Trail should be closely coordinated with the exhibit on the Arc Boundary located in New Garden Township Park. The presentation in the park is intended to promote the Arc Boundary story and encourage people to visit the trail and the Arc Corner Monument for an authentic firsthand experience. The orientation and interpretive content at the trailhead may replicate and should refer to the exhibit in the Township Park. It should introduce and summarize the Arc Boundary story and encourage people to follow the trail to the monument.

Three Interpretive Exhibits are proposed to be placed along the trail telling the Arc Boundary story in more detail. The story may be divided into three parts based on the events between Penn's charter for Pennsylvania in 1681 and final adoption of the boundary in 1921. The three parts may be divided into (a) background context and the Taylor-Pierson Survey (17th and 18th century), (b) the Wedge, the 1849 Graham Survey (and Tri-State Marker), and the 1893 Hodgkins Survey, and the Horn (19th century), and (c) the resulting controversy and final adoption (1895-1921).

White Clay Creek State Park (Delaware) is currently developing an interpretive wayside to be placed at the Arc Corner Monument. This should be referenced when creating the material for the Arc Corner Trail exhibits.



### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: ARC BOUNDARY 1 MILE MARKER**

**THEME:** The Mason-Dixon Line/Arc Boundary

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

A recent trail cut within White Clay Creek State Park has made the 1 Mile Marker for the Arc Boundary publicly accessible. This trail can be accessed in White Clay Creek Preserve near the proposed Mason-Dixon Heritage Center at the Sexton's House. Interpretation at the trailhead or along the trail could talk about the transfer of Delaware residents into Pennsylvania as a result of the redrawing of the western section of the Arc in 1892, the years this marker was placed. Interpretative materials should reference the proposed exhibits at New Garden Township Park and Arc Corner Trail.



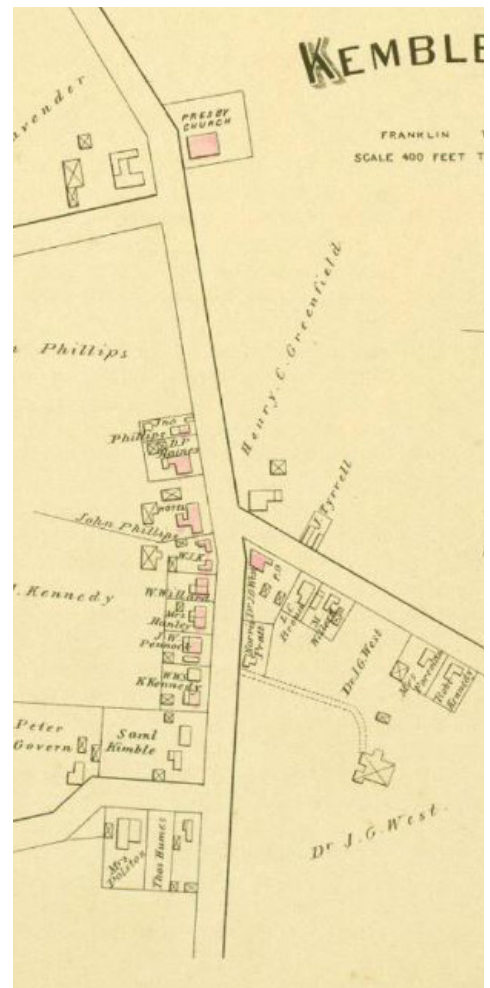


# 05. AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE INTERPRETIVE SITES

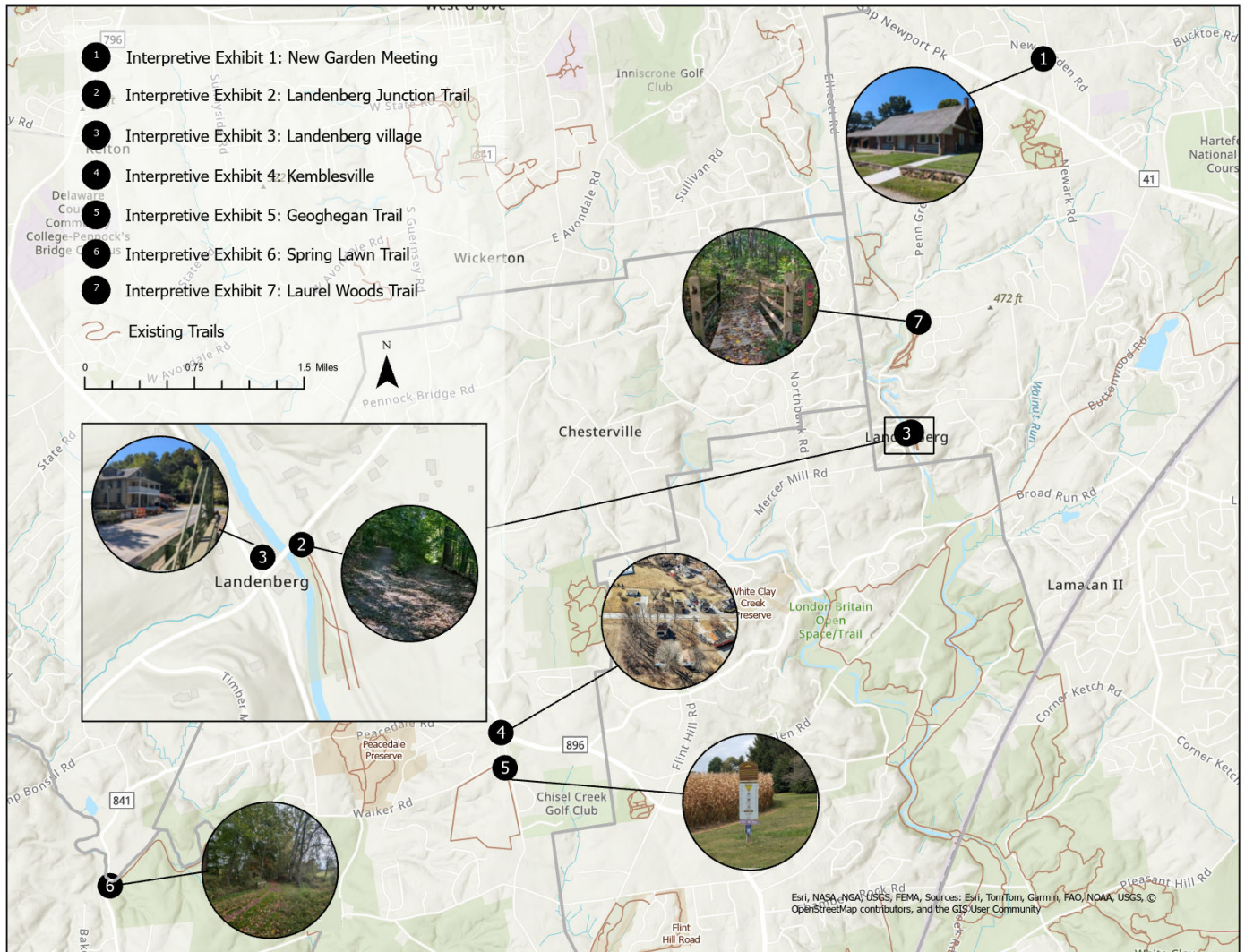
Predominantly upland landscape that was converted to farmland upon settlement by Europeans beginning in the 1720s, the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region largely retains its rural agricultural character despite suburbanization since the 1960s. The four townships are well-positioned to present themes related to The Agricultural Landscape of southern Chester County. Interpretation may focus on peoples, settlement patterns, farm landscapes, the role of crossroads villages in the agricultural community, three centuries of agricultural development, and suburban transformation

Kemblesville is central to this theme and is a highly significant interpretive site, exploring the role of a crossroads village in serving surrounding farms as well as the character of the farmland and its peoples. Kemblesville, however, is not accessible to pedestrians, with fast-moving traffic and no sidewalks, and has no stores or public facilities in the historic buildings of the village. The Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan (2022) calls for development of a Village Master Plan with traffic calming measures and sidewalks to be installed in the future. Much of Kemblesville is a township-designated, National Register-eligible historic district that is primarily residential in character, with historic homes close to the busy road.

Agritourism sites, like 1723 Vineyards, Paradox Winery, Va La Vineyards, Old Stone Cidery, Brandywine Polo Club, Mother Earth Organic Mushrooms, and To-Jo Mushrooms, could play a role in an interpretive presentation. Ag tourism sites have limited availability in terms of when people can visit – they are not publicly accessible all the time. Nonetheless, they have the potential to weave their own stories into the presentation of the overall landscape’s historical development.



*A map of Kemblesville from the 1883 Breou's Atlas of Chester County.*



### **INTERPRETIVE SITE:** NEW GARDEN MEETING HOUSE, c. 1743

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** New Garden

One Interpretive Exhibit could build on the theme The Agricultural Landscape and tell the story of Early European Settlement and Farm Landscapes in New Garden. A second Interpretive Exhibit could have a view of the Meeting House and outline the history of the New Garden Monthly Meeting and the Quaker perspective and heritage. A third Interpretive Exhibit could face the cemetery, outline its history, and discuss several of the local farm families buried there. Where the farm families lived should be shown on a historical map of the Township included in the first interpretive exhibit.





## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: LANDENBERG JUNCTION TRAIL**

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** New Garden

Interpretive exhibits on the Landenberg Junction Trail should continue the narrative interpreting Landenberg Village and its mill story. The picnic area offers an important opportunity to look back towards the village of Landenberg and to illustrate the locations of various existing and former historic structures – the store, the former mill, and other features. A new full-sized Interpretive Exhibit to interpret the village using historic photos and an illustrative map could be installed near the creek.

The current trailhead exhibit should be repaired and updated with a highly visual trail map that shows features of the historic landscape and the railroad routes in relation to this trail and the nearby Laurel Woods, and Mill Race trails. An introduction to the history of the railroad lines could be made here. The trail loop follows the railroad beds, though it is difficult to discern this currently. Interpretive exhibits along the trail could interpret more about the railroad lines and the natural landscape in the vicinity. The exhibits should connect the interpretation here on both topics with the interpretation at the Laurel Woods Trail where visitors can view the creek and the railroad cut.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: LANDENBERG VILLAGE**

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** New Garden

An Orientation Exhibit should introduce visitors to The Agricultural Landscape theme. It should include a plan of the village showing the locations of Interpretive Sites. The exhibit should present an overview of the village's history providing context for the other exhibits in the village. A second upright Interpretive Exhibit adjacent to the Orientation Exhibit is suggested to provide detailed interpretation of the history of the United Methodist Church and its congregation. A folding brochure holder should be provided, and the brochure should include a village map that identifies the exhibit sites as well as supporting photos and text content. A QR code on the panel (and other exhibit panels as well) should link to more detailed interpretive content available at the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner presentation online.

After the initial orientation to Landenberg's history, visitors could explore specific elements of the village's historic landscape by foot through a series of smaller interpretive exhibits installed at the store, hotel, mill and tenement house sites, bridge, and along the Landenberg Junction Trail. Working with property owners, locations should be identified that are accessible, safe, and unobtrusive. Proposed exhibits should be highly visual and use available photos from the 1870s. The exhibits should be located strategically within the landscape and positioned so that visitors can compare the modern views to the historic views depicted in the photos. Interpretation of the mills should include discussion of the milling process and product and product consumers. Exhibits located between the store, bridge, and trail can enhance visitors' experiences as they explore the village, and lead visitors to the trail.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: LAUREL WOODS TRAIL**

**THEME:** THEME: The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** New Garden

Interpretation at the Laurel Woods Trail should be designed so that it is coordinated with the interpretation at the Landenberg Junction Trail and Mill Race Trail. All three trails follow or offer the opportunity to view the course of the Pomeroy & Newark Railroad and White Clay Creek. Interpretive exhibits at the three trails should complement each other on both the railroad and creek valley stories and, together, build a full picture of these subjects.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: KEMBLESVILLE**

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Franklin

As Franklin Township's largest historic village located strategically along New London Road, Kemblesville is an important interpretive location for addressing the Township's historic agricultural landscape and the role of a crossroads village, which serves surrounding farms. Kemblesville is not accessible to pedestrians, with fast-moving traffic and no sidewalks, and has no stores or public facilities in its historic buildings. This plan's approach for interpretation is to support the Village Master Plan concept discussed in the Comprehensive Plan, and to propose that when master planning is undertaken and improvements are installed, they include comprehensive interpretive exhibits and enhancements beyond what is discussed here. Three sites within Kemblesville are proposed for interpretation at this time: Franklin Township's Municipal Complex, 1723 Vineyards, and Christ Church at the Grove.

The lawn area behind the Township building could be established as an interpretive area, with directional signage and a walkway from the parking area, landscaping, a small paved area, seating, and interpretive exhibits. In the future, pedestrian connections could be made from the park to the pedestrian walkways constructed along New London and Appleton roads. This site could introduce early settlement of the London Tract, provide an overview of the history of the village, outline the relationship of the village to the broader agricultural landscape, and map key buildings and the other proposed interpretive sites in Kemblesville. The region's two other nearby historic villages, Chesterville and Strickersville, could be mentioned in the discussion of crossroads villages.

Wayside Interpretive Exhibits could be located at 1723 Vineyards at a spot convenient for both patrons and visitors with owner consultation and approval. The exhibits could interpret the historic McMaster Farm, related agricultural topics, and the northern portion of the village, where Benjamin Franklin once owned property.

Wayside Interpretive Exhibits interpreting the former Presbyterian Church, Flint Hill and Kemblesville Methodist churches, and key historic families in the cemetery from the village and surrounding farms are proposed for a location adjacent to the cemetery at Christ Church at the Grove.





### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: GEOGHEGAN TRAIL**

**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Franklin

A Trail Orientation Exhibit should be installed at the trailhead on Walker Road to provide an introduction to the trail and to Fox Chase Farm; a trail map could be included. The Trail Orientation Exhibit should introduce The Agricultural Landscape theme. Install up to four wayside interpretive exhibits along the 2-mile trail that interpret the history of Fox Chase Farm, historic farming practices in the region and their evolution, farmland preservation efforts, and responsible land stewardship through sustainable farming practices.



### **INTERPRETIVE SITE: SPRING LAWN TRAIL**

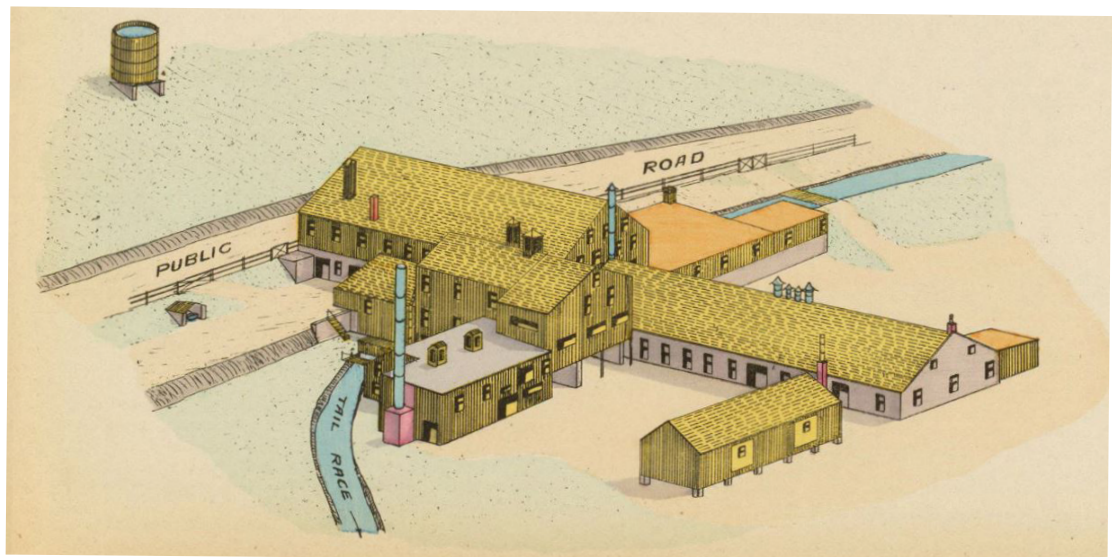
**THEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Elk

The Springlawn Trail offers the opportunity to interpret the region's milling history by highlighting the mills that once operated along the Big Elk Creek to produce flour, paper, and other products for both the local community and to sell in larger markets. Interpretation of the paper mill and dam ruins along the trail can show how people used the creek and land to harness water power to run the mills, creating an industry that allowed them to make a living and helped form communities. Topics could include water power and milling technology, mill products and how mills served the local community, both economically and socially. The interpretation on this trail can highlight the paper mill located along the trail using a historic insurance drawing of the structure to orient visitors to the ruins in relation to the trail.

Elk Township holds the trail easement for the Springlawn trail from DCNR and the easement allows for signage to be erected. This should be reviewed further by the township solicitor prior to developing interpretive content for this site. Interpretation at this site can remain limited and directed primarily at existing trail users and local residents.

*Detail of the survey page for Spring Lawn Mill, Megargee Paper Mills along Big Elk Creek. From Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 29.*







## 06. NATURAL LANDSCAPE INTERPRETIVE SITES

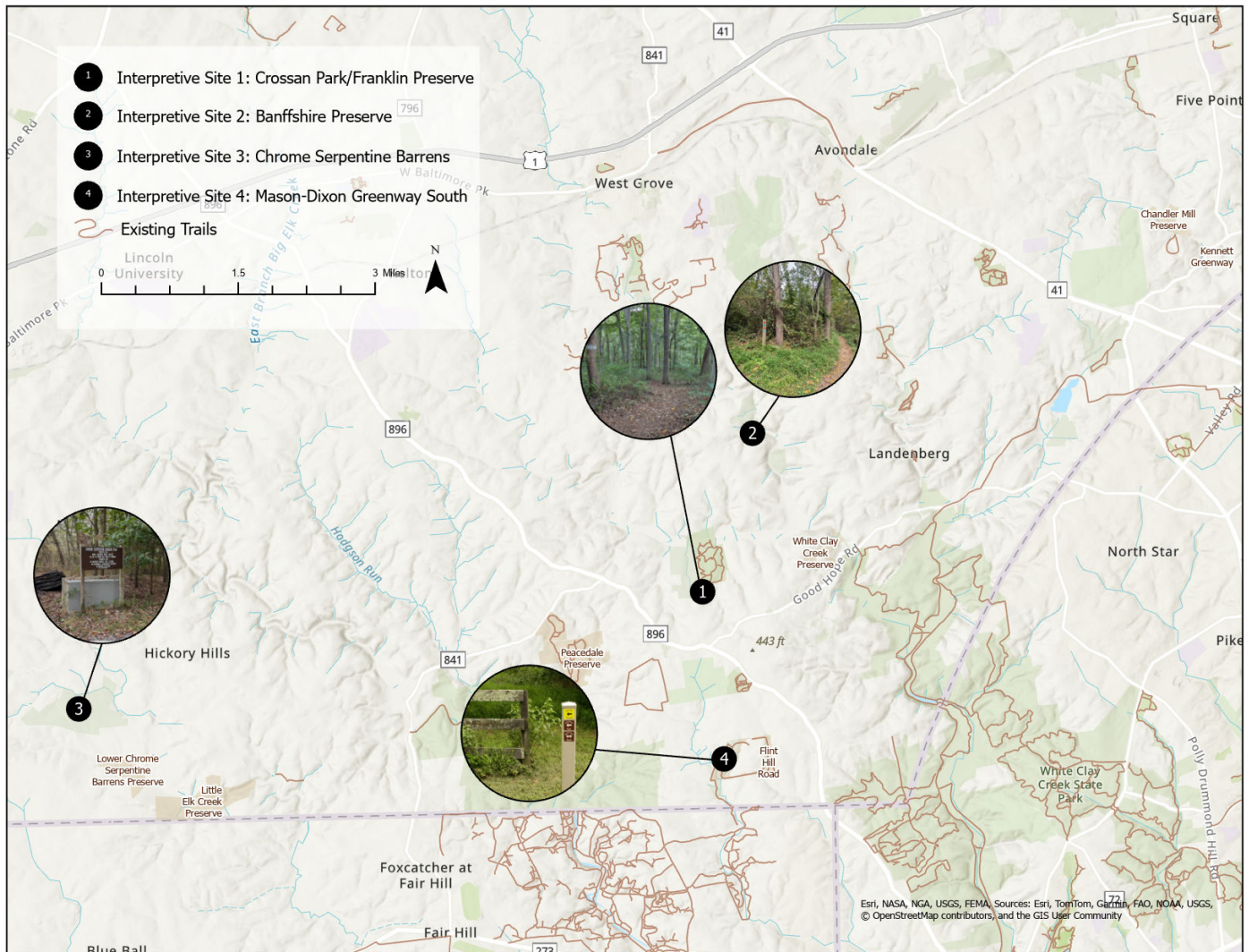
The Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region is characterized by rolling hills and wooded creek valleys that offer rich opportunities for exploration and education. Numerous parks and preserves provide ample opportunities to highlight the area's natural beauty and ecological significance. The places identified in this plan as potential interpretive sites are spread across these publicly accessible natural spaces, where the local flora, fauna, geology, and history can be interpreted for visitors out for a walk or engaged in traveling the Heritage Network.

Many of the sites can touch on the Agricultural Landscape theme as well. Many of the preserves were once farmland, and the landscape has seen a transition from agricultural use to native meadows and woodlands in such parks and preserves as Franklin Preserve, Crossan Park, Peacedale Preserve, and Mason-Dixon Greenway South. These areas not only showcase the historical agricultural landscape but also illustrate ongoing efforts to restore natural habitats, and thus offer opportunities to interpret the ecological benefits of reforestation, meadow establishment, and sustainable farming practices.

This region also straddles two major watersheds: the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay. White Clay Creek, which runs through Franklin, New Garden, and London Britain townships, is a tributary of the Christina River, which flows into the Delaware River. The Big Elk and Little Elk Creeks, in Franklin and Elk townships, empty into the Elk River, which then flows south to the Chesapeake Bay.







## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: CROSSAN PARK/FRANKLIN PRESERVE**

**THEME:** The Natural Landscape

**SUBTHEME:** The Agricultural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Franklin

The park and preserve are an excellent location to engage residents and visitors about the natural history of the area, beginning with its context within the Piedmont Uplands, then introducing early settlement history and the history of the two farms once on the site, and extending into today with the abandonment of farming and the creation by successional plant communities of the current fields and woods.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: BANFFSHIRE PRESERVE**

**THEME:** The Natural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Franklin

The preserve is largely made up of old farmland that has been unused and reforested naturally since the mid-1900s. Interpretive exhibits here could touch on birdlife, plant life, other aspects of the ecosystem of the woodlands and the White Clay Creek watershed, and environmental challenges, for example invasive species and the impacts of climate change.



## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: CHROME BARRENS PRESERVE**

**THEME:** The Natural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** Elk

Chrome Barrens Preserve, within the Stateline Serpentine Barrens, is owned by Elk Township, which has a management agreement with the Nature Conservancy. It has the potential to offer an opportunity for interpreting the serpentine barrens within the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region. Currently, its location on Barren Road is a rather remote setting, and it seems as though it is prone to vandalism. Lower Chrome Barrens Serpentine Preserve does not have parking or public access at this time but could be included as an Interpretive Site in the future.

This site is positioned to interpret the significance and role of the unique geology of serpentine metamorphic rock, with its signature green hue, and the associated rare plant ecosystems and plant communities in both the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region and Chester County as a whole. Serpentine stone was quarried and can be found in buildings throughout Chester County, and chromite ore was mined and shipped from Chester County, both domestically and internationally for other industries. It is important to note that neither the significance of the serpentine industry, nor the rare plant communities and ecosystems of serpentine barrens, are actively interpreted on an ongoing basis through outdoor exhibits or daily programs at any serpentine barrens location in Chester County.

Interpretation at this site should consider coordinating with Nottingham County Park/Serpentine Barrens, a recognized National Natural Landmark. As an established county park, it has the potential for connecting the serpentine barrens in the region.





## **INTERPRETIVE SITE: MASON-DIXON GREENWAY SOUTH**

**THEME:** The Natural Landscape

**TOWNSHIP:** London Britain

Mason-Dixon Greenway South is a high-quality open space that provides the foundation for future development of the full Mason-Dixon Greenway Trail connecting White Clay Creek Preserve with Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. In the short term, the property is a high-quality local park used by residents and can offer interpretation in addition to passive recreation.

Like Crossan Park/Franklin Preserve, Mason-Dixon Greenway South can be used to interpret both the natural landscape and the historical agricultural landscape. The interpretation should focus on how the natural areas have been preserved for the future, but the historical agricultural landscape from which the preserve is evolving can provide the basis for looking at that evolution. A detailed context on the Piedmont Uplands of southern Chester County, including its geology, landforms, watersheds, and plant communities, can be discussed. The property's location within that context should be shown. The Christina River watershed should be a particular focus.





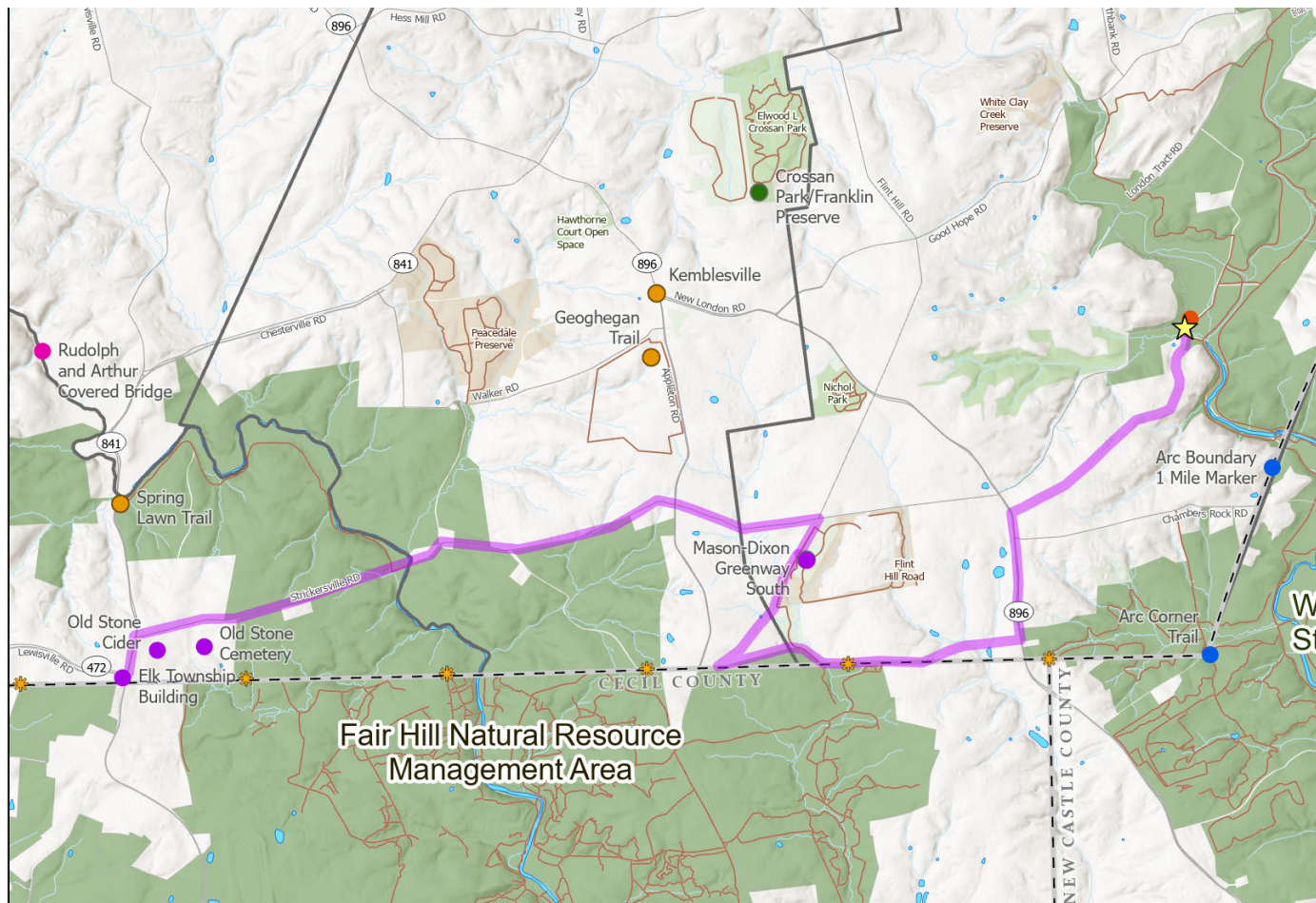
## 07. REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

The rural character of the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region offers picturesque views and opportunities for open space preservation, while also boasting a rich array of historic and local resources. However, the widespread distribution of these resources presents challenges in creating a cohesive trail network. Despite this, key trail connections have been identified to link regional sites and clusters of resources, specifically in New Garden and London Britain. Unfortunately, Elk and Franklin townships pose more difficulty, as their resources are dispersed and there is limited development of existing or planned trails, apart from those within parks and preserves. To address this, driving tours should be developed.

### DRIVING TOURS

Organized driving tours offer an excellent way to connect, in a cohesive and meaningful manner, sites that have limited or no pedestrian access in a cohesive and meaningful manner. These tours can be designed to narrate a story centered around the key themes outlined in this plan. Additionally, the driving tour directions can include prompts that highlight significant landscapes along the route, such as historic sites, active farms, and preserved lands that are visible from the road but not open to the public. This approach not only enhances the visitor experience but also fosters an appreciation for the area's history, culture, and natural beauty.





## Mason-Dixon Driving Tour

- White Clay Creek Preserve to Mason-Dixon South via Elbow Lane
  - Distance: 4.36 miles
  - Driving time: ~8 minutes
- Mason-Dixon South to Lewisville
  - Distance: 3.94 miles
  - Driving time: ~7 minutes

**Total Distance: 8.3 miles**

**Total Drive Time: ~ 15 minutes**

This tour can be expanded further to include additional sites associated with the Mason-Dixon Survey like the Stargazers' Stone in Newlin Township and the southernmost point of Philadelphia, no longer extant but commemorated with a Pennsylvania State Historic Marker on South Street.

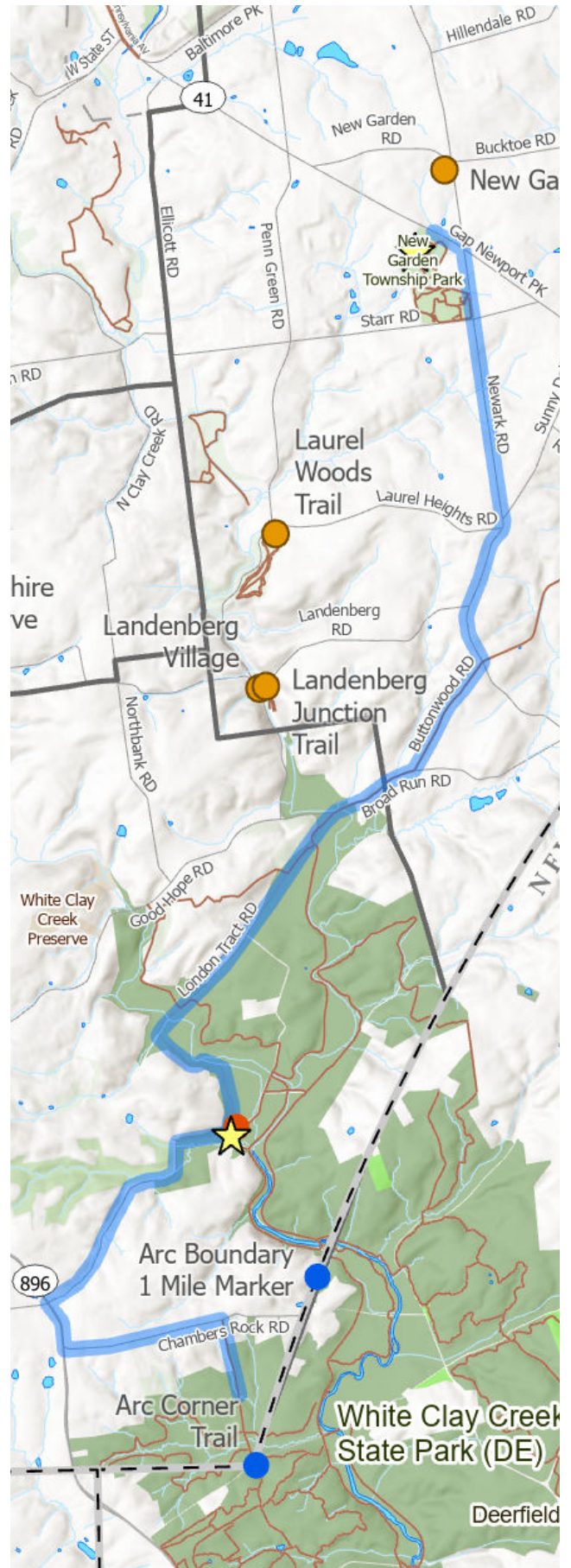
# Arc Corner Driving Tour

- New Garden Township Park to Arc Corner Road Trailhead
  - Distance: 8 miles
  - Driving time: ~ 15 minutes

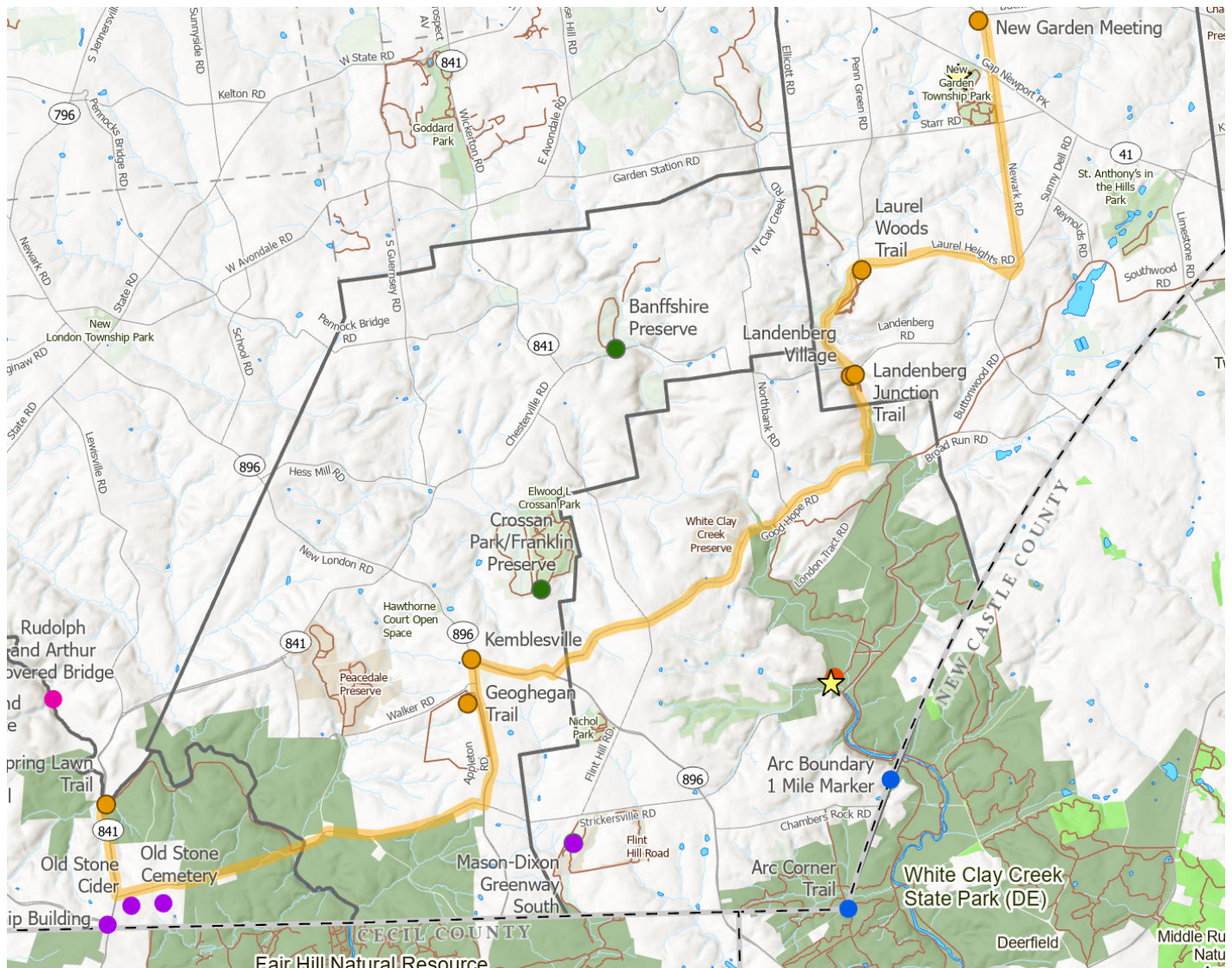
**Total Distance: 8 miles**

**Total Drive Time: ~ 15 minutes**

In order to see the Arc Corner Monument and Boundary 1 Mile Marker, this driving tour will require short hikes.





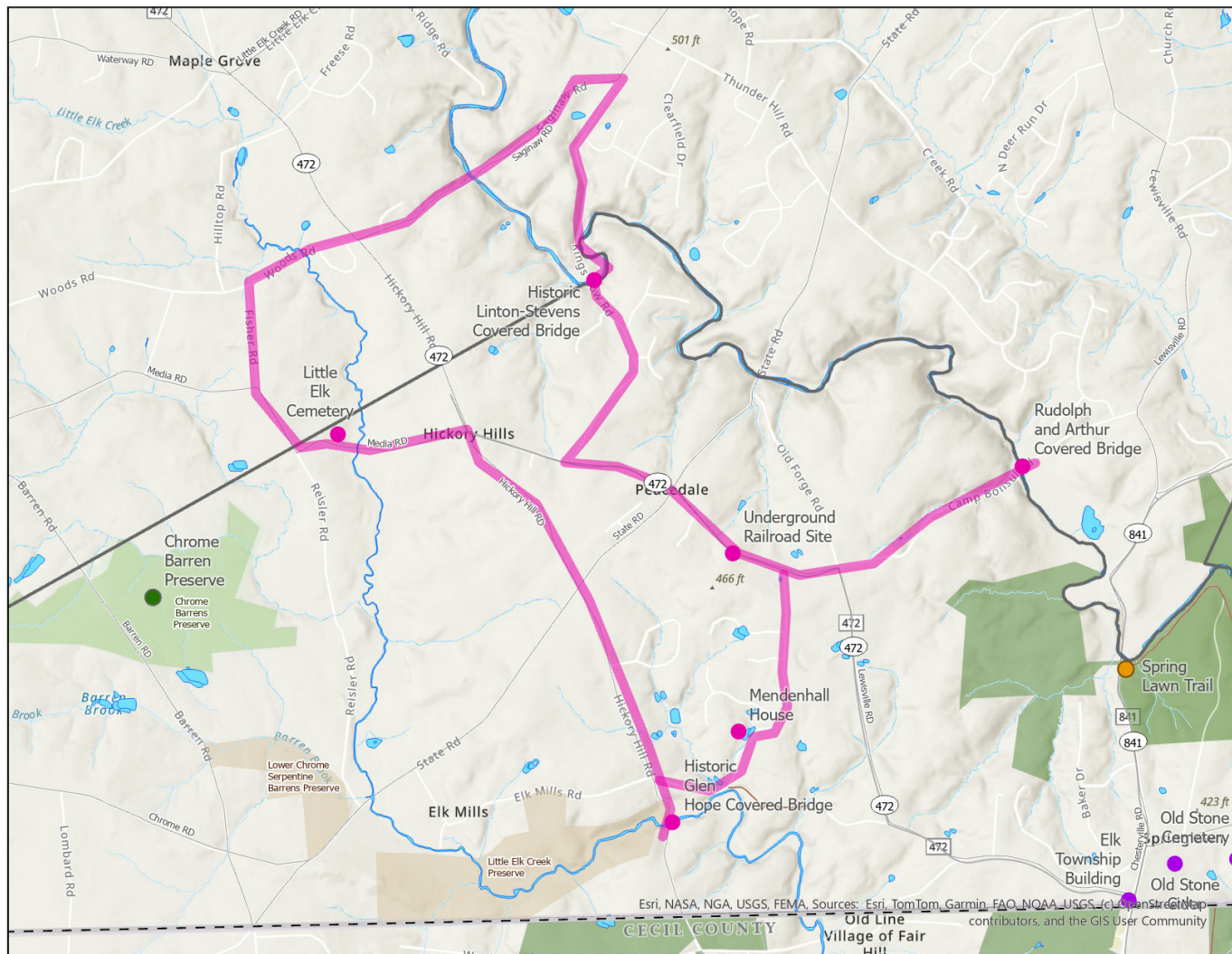


## Agricultural Site Driving Tour

- New Garden Meeting to Landenberg:
  - Distance: 3.50 miles
  - Driving time: ~7 minutes
- Landenberg to Kemblesville:
  - Distance: 4.4 miles
  - Driving time: ~7 minutes
- Kemblesville to Spring Lawn Trail:
  - Distance: 4.4 miles
  - Driving time: ~ 7 minutes

**Total Distance: 12.3 miles**

**Total Drive Time: ~ 21 minutes**



## Viewing Corridors

This route connects viewing corridors that showcase sites that do not have parking or are not open to the public but can be seen from the roadway. The sites include covered bridges, historic cemeteries, and houses associated with the Underground Railroad. These locations can be included in any of the themed driving tours. The tour as presented here would take approximately 10 miles or 20 minutes.

### Sites:

- Rudolph and Arthur Covered Bridge (currently being reconstructed)
- House on Lewisville Road (associated with the Underground Railroad)
- Linton Stephens Bridge
- Little Elk Meeting House and Cemetery
- Glen Hope Bridge
- Mendenhall House (associated with the Underground Railroad)



# LONDON BRITAIN TRAIL CONNECTIONS

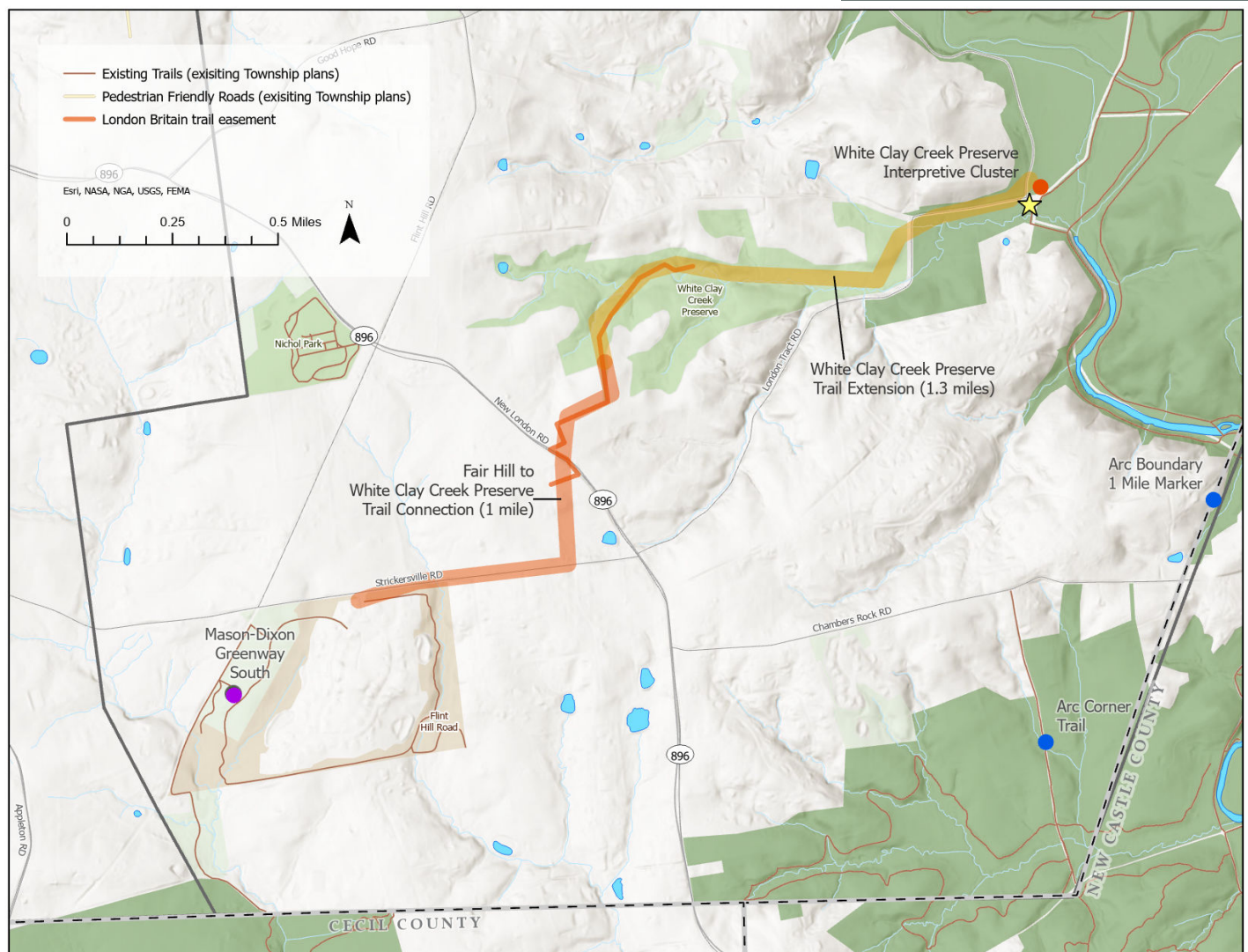
This trail connection would provide pedestrian, bike and equestrian access between Fair Hill Nature Center and the White Clay Creek Preserve in Pennsylvania. This connection would use an existing trail connection between Fair Hill Nature Center and Mason-Dixon Greenway South. From Mason-Dixon Greenway South options for a trail connection of about 0.7 miles along Strickersville Road to Route 896 would need to be investigated. London Britain Township has secured a trail easement that would connect from Route 896 to the White Clay Creek Preserve extension (dark orange line on map). Once within the White Clay Creek Preserve, trails would have to be created to extend into the existing trail system and to the proposed Heritage Center and interpretive sites located within the preserve. This trail connection is also proposed in the London Britain Township Comprehensive Plan.

## Fair Hill to White Clay Creek Preserve Trail Connection

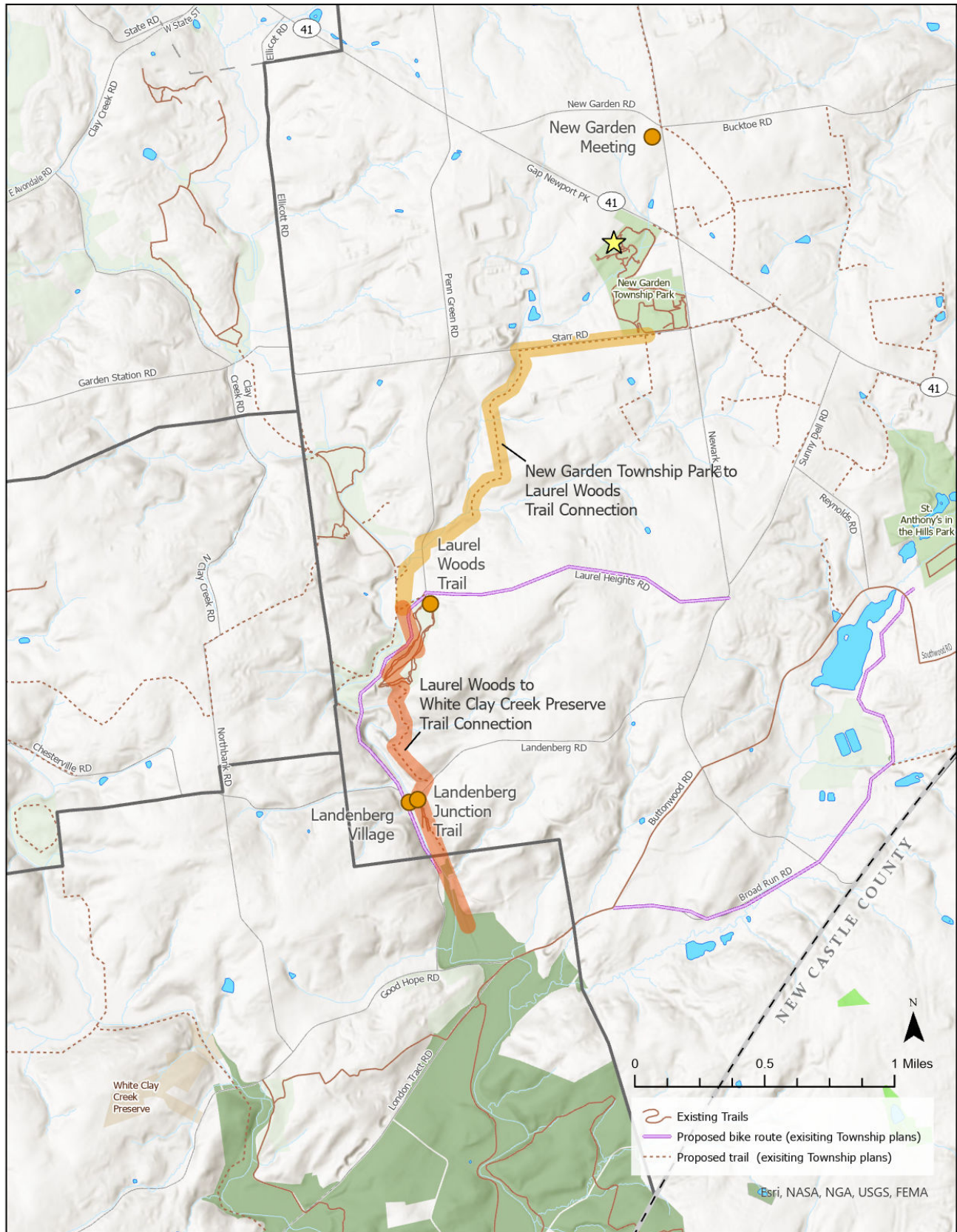
- *Proposed Uses: Pedestrian, Bike and Equestrian*
- *Length: 1 mile*
- *Trail type: Combination of natural and improved surfaces*
- *Combination of existing trails, trail easement and proposed trails*
- *Key Partners: London Britain Township and DCNR*
- *Next steps: Trail feasibility study*

## WCCP Trail Extension

- *Proposed Uses: Pedestrian, Bike and Equestrian*
- *Length: 1.3 miles*
- *Trail type: Natural surface*
- *Combination trail easement and proposed trails*
- *Key Partners: London Britain Township and DCNR*



# NEW GARDEN PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTIONS





This trail connection is comprised of two phases, the first phase would use a combination of existing and proposed trails to connect the Laurel Woods Trail through Landenberg and into the White Clay Creek Preserve. Portions of this trail could use existing trails within the Laurel Woods trail network and the Landenberg Junction Trail. The proposed trail connection between Laurel Woods and Landenberg Junction Trail would be approximately 0.45 miles and the gap between Landenberg Junction Trail and the boundary of the White Clay Creek Preserve is about 0.16 miles. Additional trails would need to be planned within the White Clay Creek Preserve to connect to the existing trail network. If feasible, this trail connection could follow the historic Pomeroy & Newark Railroad railbed. All portions of this proposed trail connection are included on New Garden Township trail plans.

The second phase of this trail connection would connect the New Garden Township Park with the Laurel Woods Trail. While a large portion of this trail connection is also proposed in township plans, there is a 0.3-mile gap that would need to be evaluated.

#### Laurel Woods to White Clay Creek Preserve Trail Connection

- Proposed Uses: Pedestrian and Bike
- Length: 1.4 miles
- Trail type: Combination of natural and improved surfaces
- Combination of existing and proposed trails
- Key Partners: New Garden Township and DCNR
- Next steps: Trail feasibility study

#### New Garden Township Park to Laurel Woods Trail

- Proposed Uses: Pedestrian and Bike
- Length: 1.7 miles
- Trail type: Combination of natural and improved surfaces
- Combination of existing and proposed trails
- Key Partners: New Garden Township
- Next steps: Trail feasibility study

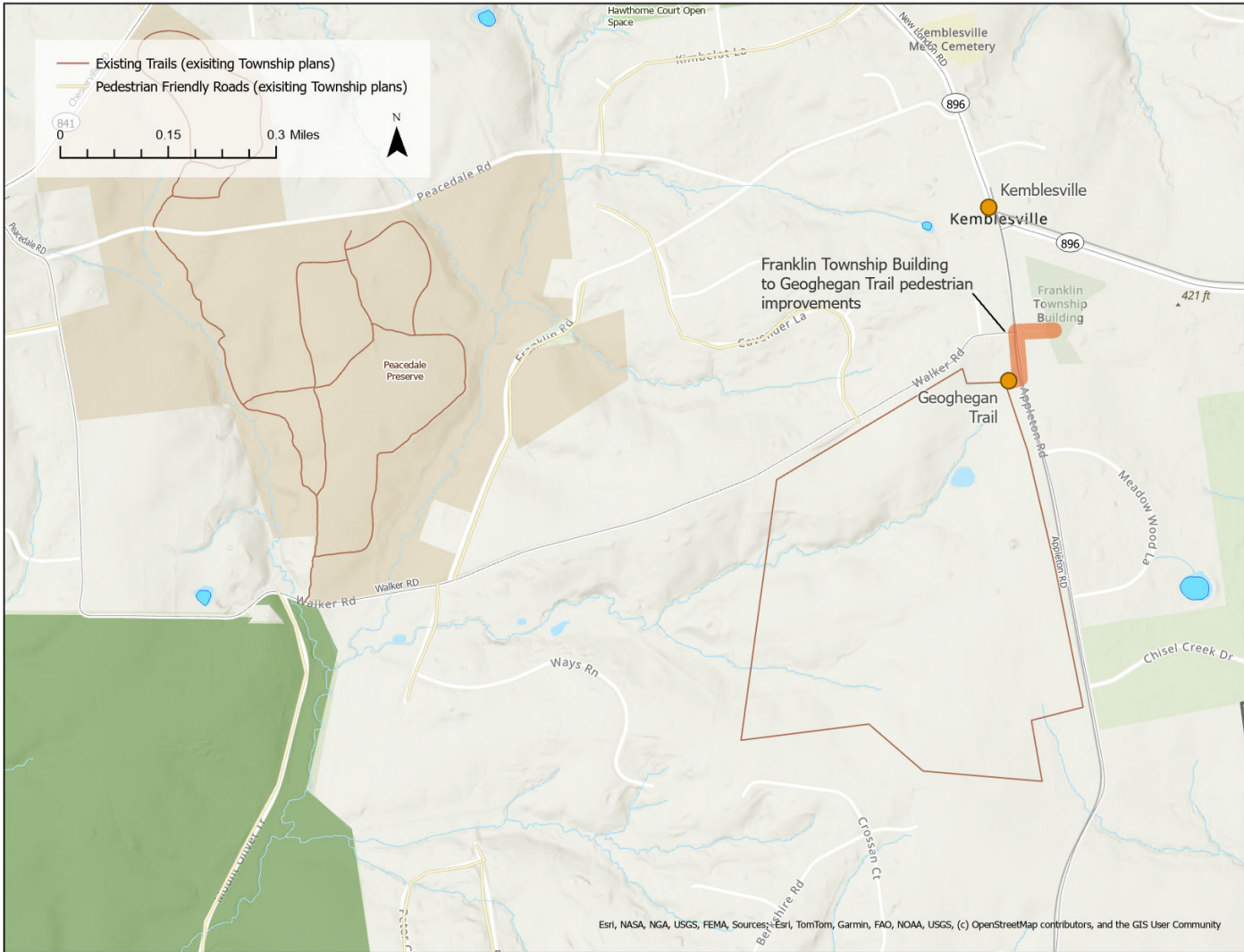
Total Length: 3 miles of new trails

# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION

This trail improvement is proposed to provide improved wayfinding to direct trail users from the trailhead parking to Geoghegan Trail. Additional pedestrian improvements from the trailhead parking located at the Township Building to Geoghegan trail should identify a safe pedestrian crossing across Appleton Road.

## Franklin Township Building to Geoghegan Trail

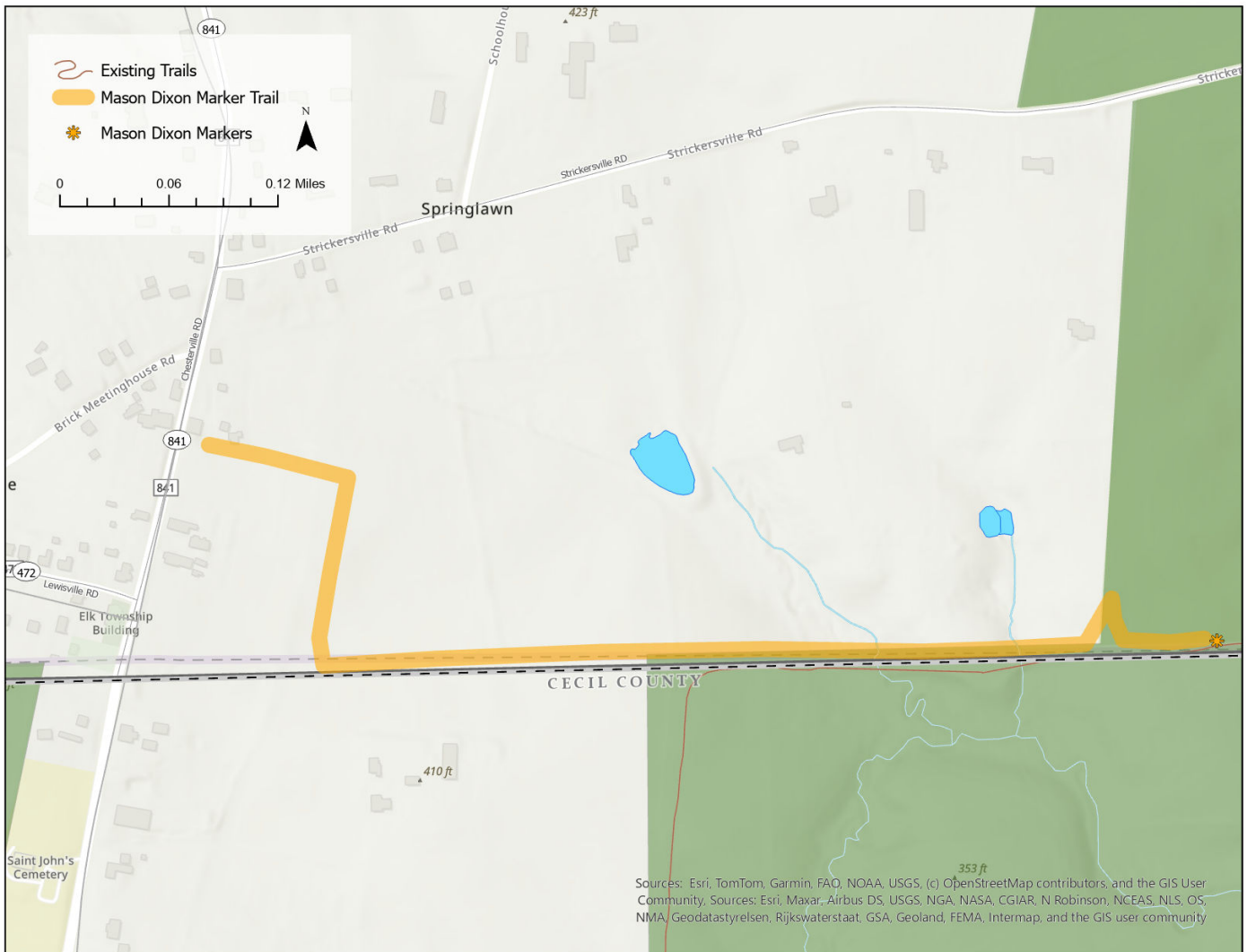
- *Proposed Uses: Pedestrian*
- *Trail type: Combination of natural and improved surfaces*
- *Combination of existing and proposed trails*
- *Key Partners: Franklin Township*
- *Next steps: Pedestrian crossing improvements*





### Old Stone Cider to Mason-Dixon Mile Marker 4

- *Proposed Uses: Pedestrian*
- *Length: 0.7 miles*
- *Trail type: Natural surfaces*
- *Combination proposed and existing trails*
- *Key Partners: Property Owner, Elk Township*





## 08. IDENTITY & BRANDING

The Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary weave through rural Chester County, PA, connecting various potential heritage centers and interpretive sites. Despite the wealth of history embedded within these locations, a cohesive understanding of their interconnectedness could be lost on visitors due to a lack of unified presentation and accessibility.

An overarching brand identity is essential to enhance the visibility, comprehension, and accessibility of these sites. By establishing a clear and consistent brand, the connected sites can present a unified narrative that emphasizes their collective significance with relation to the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region. A strong brand identity will also facilitate effective wayfinding, making it easier for visitors to navigate the region and appreciate the broader historical context.

### STRATEGIC APPLICATION OF BRAND IDENTITY

To effectively communicate the unified brand identity, it must be applied consistently across various marketing and signage materials, including:

**WAYFINDING AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:** Directional signs, interpretive panels, trail markers, and gateway signage.

**PRINT MATERIALS:** Brochures, maps, visitor guides, educational materials, and promotional posters.

**DIGITAL PRESENCE:** Website design, social media graphics, online advertising, and interactive digital maps.



**MERCHANDISING:** Branded souvenirs, apparel, and other retail items that reinforce the heritage experience and can provide fund-raising assistance.

**EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS:** Branded displays, banners, and event promotional materials that tie into the overarching identity.

## PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SYSTEM

To ensure cohesion and a consistent visitor and user experience, a comprehensive design system should be developed. This system should include:

**LOGO AND VISUAL ELEMENTS:** A distinctive logo, color palette, typography, and graphic motifs that convey the historical and cultural essence of the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Region.

(See proposed identity and application on the following page)

**DESIGN GUIDELINES:** A style guide providing clear instructions for consistent application across all materials, ensuring visual harmony and recognizability.

**TEMPLATES AND ASSETS:** Pre-designed templates for print, digital, and environmental materials to streamline future marketing efforts.

## ADAPTING FOR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Recognizing that much of the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner material may be produced by volunteer or municipal organizations with limited financial resources, the design system should be structured to be practical and affordable. This includes:

**PRE-DESIGNED TEMPLATES:** Providing easy-to-use templates for brochures, signs, social media posts, and flyers that can be edited with common software (e.g., Canva, Microsoft Word, or Google Docs).

**SMALL-QUANTITY DIGITAL PRINTING:** Recommending cost-effective printing solutions suitable for short-run prints that do not require large minimum orders.

**SHARED RESOURCES:** Establishing an online repository of graphic assets and guidelines accessible to all participating organizations.

**TRAINING AND GUIDANCE:** Offering simplified design guides and occasional workshops to help volunteers apply the brand identity effectively.



**PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS:** Exploring collaborations with local businesses and grant opportunities to subsidize design and production costs.

Creating a unified brand identity for the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner heritage sites in Chester County, PA, is essential to transform these dispersed historical points of interest into a coherent, engaging experience. Through strategic branding, these sites can collectively tell a more powerful story and attract greater appreciation and visitation.







## 09. IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter identifies key strategies to assist in advancing the vision of the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Network Concept. The completion of the recommendations falls to many different partners including private property owners, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and county government. While some efforts may be advanced by one entity, some may benefit from multiple partners, and could be implemented in a joint manner. Continued collaboration among different partners will be critical in ensuring the successful implementation of the recommended actions. As a regional effort, it is recommended that a Friends Group be formed to take primary responsibility for the project. This has been done successfully in Marshallton and Kennett Square where friends groups successfully partnered with private organizations to develop Heritage Centers. An alternative could be the joint working of the four townships' Historical Commissions. Quarterly joint meetings could be set to begin executing the plan.

Given the widespread enthusiasm and interest in heritage interpretation in this region, wherever possible partners should share information and collaborate with each other to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and promote consistency. A creative mix of funding sources, including donations, acquisition of grants, and coordinated fundraising efforts will help reduce the cost to plan, design, and construct the following projects and efforts.

The implementation matrices on the following pages outline a suite of recommendations. Each of these is assigned a priority and lead parties for implementation of the plan. The priority timeframe incorporates both the time to begin the strategy and the expected time it will take to implement. Lead parties should take the primary role during the process.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY			
ST	Short Term: one to three years	LT	Long Term: seven to ten years
MT	Medium Term: four to six years	O	Ongoing
LEAD PARTY ABBREVIATION			
LBT	London Britain Township	FG	Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Friends Group
ET	Elk Township	CCPC	Chester County Planning Commission
FT	Franklin Township	DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
NGT	New Garden Township	WCCSP	White Clay Creek State Park
HC	Historical Commissions (All Townships)		

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION NETWORK GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
1.1.	Establish a Friends Group to support the development of the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Network. Recruit members from local historical commissions and engaged residents. Friends group activities may include, but are not limited to: Assisting with fundraising and volunteer efforts, Promoting and marketing the MD/AC Heritage Interpretation Network to residents and visitors.	ST	LBT, NGT, ET, FT	
1.2	Set a quarterly joint meeting of the four township historical commissions to continue regional collaboration, seek grants, and promote the heritage network and the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner history.	ST	LBT, NGT, ET, FT	FG
1.3	Continue to engage with and support Chester County Heritage Tourism and Heritage Interpretation initiatives including the Heritage Tourism Plan (2024).	O	LBT, NGT, ET, FT	CCPC, FG
1.4	Continue collaboration with the Oxford Region's Agricultural Theme efforts and the Brandywine Scenic Byway Commission's Path to Freedom work to ensure complementary interpretation within the larger Heritage Interpretation Network.	O	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, FG	Oxford Region Historic Resource Subcommittee, Brandywine Scenic Byway Commission
1.5	Acquire funding through grant applications, fundraising, and/or private donations.	ST	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, FG	CCPC



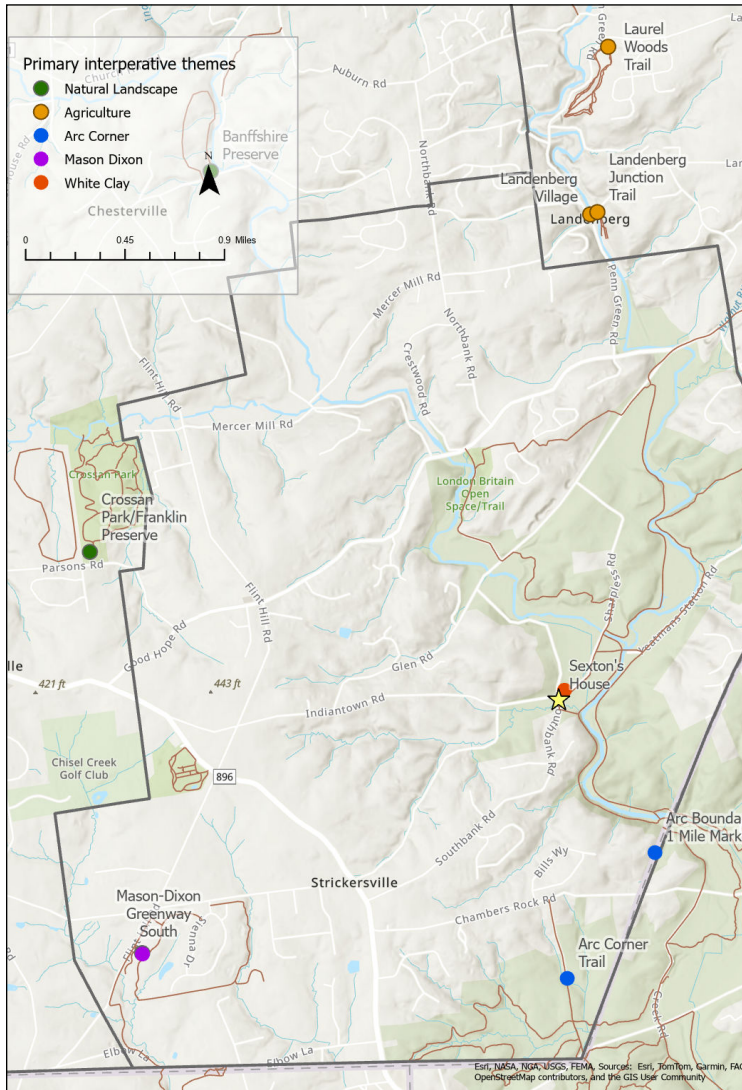
1.6	Design and launch a dedicated webpage for the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Network. A visit to the region is likely to begin with an internet search and a well-designed website is the first opportunity to engage visitors with the sites and its stories. The website can be used to: Educate visitors about the heritage center concept, Highlight progress towards implementation, Link into the larger county wide Heritage Interpretive Network and Highlight over sites like Iron and Steel, and the Brandywine Battlefield.	ST	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, CCPC
1.7	Update municipal websites to include links to the master website and/or Heritage Center and public Interpretive Site websites for destinations located within the Township.	ST	LBT, NGT, ET, FT	FG, HC
1.8	Utilize the branding presented in this report to develop further wayfinding and interpretive graphic standards. This will ensure all sites in the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Network are visually, interpretively, and physically connected. This will help welcome visitors to the sites, give them choices for how to move through the network, and provide an overarching understanding of how the events and stories throughout the region connect. This consistent visual voice should also carry through all the interpretive exhibits, associated printed matter such as brochures and maps, and all the online and digital content.	MT	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, CCPC
1.9	Create a tour guide or brochure that is available at Heritage Centers and Township Offices as well as on the network's website that covers the entire Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Interpretive Network.	MT	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT
1.10	Develop interpretive signage thoughtfully and in high quality materials with the understanding that they will not be changed or updated often. High-quality signs will require less regular maintenance and last longer.	MT	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT
1.11	Existing bulletin cases located at trailheads, parks, and preserves should be cleaned up, repaired, and professional, graphically appealing interpretive media installed within the case. Key features for these exhibits include: Park or trail regulations, Map locating the visitor (You are here) within the Heritage Interpretation Network and at the trail, park or preserve, Introduction to the site and its history as it relates to the themes identified in this plan.	ST	FG, HC	Friends of the New Garden Trails, NGT, LBT, FT

1.12	Monitor the progress of the PA Department of Natural Resources' development of a Master Plan and a future visitor center for Big Elk Creek State Park to see where future coordination might occur.	ST	LBT, NGT, ET, FT	FG, HC
------	---	----	------------------	--------

MASON-DIXON LINE/ARC CORNER THEME GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
2.1	Where the Mason-Dixon Line and Arc Boundary monuments are on public land, Historical Commissions should consider offering informative guided tours to them. Townships and their Historical Commissions should also help interested landowners with preserving the boundary survey markers on their property; and if they are interested in allowing public access to a marker on their land, offer help with developing a plan and guidelines for doing that. Experiencing these sites firsthand engages individuals and may further their interest in exploring the rest of the network.	ST	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, DCNR
2.2	Work with Historical Commissions, and Boards of Supervisors in East and West Nottingham Townships to extend the Mason-Dixon Heritage Interpretation along the entire length of the border between Chester County, PA and Maryland.	MT	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, FG, HC	East Nottingham Township, West Nottingham Township
2.4	Develop or commission an audio tour that engages visitors on the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner stories as they move through the Heritage Network. Relate the tour to the sites by referencing visuals in the building or landscape.	LT	FG, HC	LBT, NGT, ET, FT
2.5	Work with Natural Lands to connect the interpretive experience at the Stargazers' Stone with the Mason-Dixon Interpretive network.	MT	FG, HC	Natural Lands



# LONDON BRITAIN TOWNSHIP SITE RECOMMENDATIONS



SITE INDEX	
Name	Page
Mason-Dixon Heritage Center (Sexton's House)	20, 31
Mason-Dixon Greenway South	28, 47
London Tract Meeting House	31
Evans House Ruin and Mill Site	31
Arc Corner Trail	38
Arc Boundary 1 Mile Marker	38

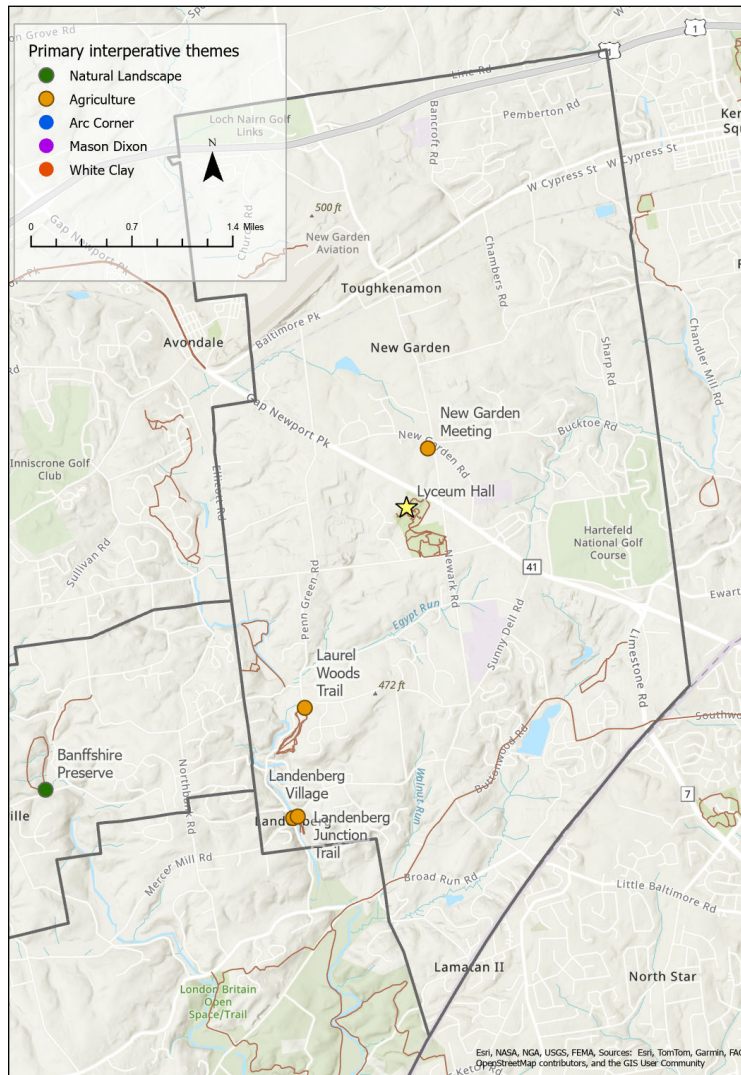
MASON-DIXON HERITAGE CENTER AT WHITE CLAY CREEK PRESERVE				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
LBT.1	Engage with staff at DCNR to discuss utilizing the Sexton's House in White Clay Creek as the Mason-Dixon Heritage Center. Provide copies of this report and discuss the draft concept plan with staff. Further development in conceptual design must be undertaken in close cooperation with DCNR if the state is amenable to the plan.	ST	FG, LBT	DCNR
LBT.2	Engage with Friends of the White Clay Creek Preserve to discuss their efforts to maintain the Sexton's House, their use of London Tract Meeting House, and best ways to secure funding for a state-owned property as grants may be limited.	ST	FG, LBT	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve

LBT.3	Identify funding that can be used on state owned properties, whether from grants, fundraising, or private donors.	ST	FG, LBT	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, LBT
LBT.4	Acquire funding through the identified sources to renovate the first floor of the Sexton's House and install interpretive media in the Heritage Center.	MT	FG, LBT	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, LBT
LBT.5	Consultant with preservation professionals on next steps and cost for rehabilitating the interior including removal of paint (potentially lead-based), stabilizing the plaster finish, and restoring the wood floor finish.	ST	FG, LBT	LBT, DCNR, Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve
LBT.6	If safe to do so (i.e. no lead paint, DCNR agreement), consider volunteer days or work weekends to clean and repair the interior.	MT	FG, LBT	LBT, DCNR
LBT.7	Reach out to local Universities with Historic Preservation programs (University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design) that could assist in documentation and/or perform fieldwork to repair the structure.	ST	FG, LBT	DCNR, University of Delaware CHAD
LBT.8	Conduct design, engineering, surveying, and permitting as needed to transform the first floor of the Sexton's House into a Heritage Center.	MT	FG, LBT	DCNR
LBT.9	Renovate the Heritage Center and construct site elements.	MT	FG, LBT	DCNR, Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve
LBT.10	Ensure ADA accessibility of the site through construction of a ramp along the west façade of the Sexton's House and inclusion of at least one ADA accessible parking space in the adjacent lot. If possible, work with volunteers or Eagle Scouts to complete the ramp.	MT	FG, LBT	DCNR,
LBT.11	Develop interpretive media for the Heritage Center in collaboration with design professionals to ensure engaging content, cohesive graphic identity, and visual appeal.	LT	FG, LBT	DCNR
LBT.12	Reference the interpretive material at the Post mark'd West in White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware when developing interpretive material for the Sexton's House Heritage Center.	LT	FG, LBT	



LONDON BRITAIN TOWNSHIP INTERPRETIVE SITE RECOMMENDATIONS				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
LBT.13	Continue engaging and collaborating with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations to develop content relating to the themes highlighted in this plan.	O	FG, LBT	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, DCNR
LBT.14	Develop draft content for interpretive sites in consultation with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations. Prioritize sites with existing bulletin case holders that can be refurbished and refreshed with new interpretive media like Mason-Dixon Greenway South.	ST	FG, LBT	LBT, NGT, ET, FT, DCNR, CCPC
LBT.15	Engage design professionals to finalize draft content to ensure engaging material, cohesive graphic identity, and visual appeal.	MT	FG, LBT	CCPC
LBT.16	Fabricate and install interpretive media elements using the recommendations provided in Chapters 3 and 6 of this plan.	MT	FG, LBT	LBT, NGT, ET, FT
LBT.17	Regularly maintain trails for visitor safety and use. Repair or replace existing picnic tables or benches located at trailheads or along the trail to encourage use.	O	FG, LBT	Friends of White Clay Creek, DCNR
LBT.18	Develop a script for and refine the delivery of a self-guided walking tour for visitors at White Clay Creek Preserve that takes them through the history of the Welsh Baptist Historic District.	ST	FG, LBT	NGT, ET, FT
LBT.19	The existing bulletin cases located at Mason-Dixon Greenway South should be cleaned up, repaired, and professional, graphically appealing interpretive media installed within the case. Key features for this exhibit include: Park or trail regulations, Map locating the visitor (You are here) within the Heritage Interpretation Network and at the site, and an introduction to the site and its history as it relates to the Mason-Dixon and Natural themes as identified in this plan.	ST	FG, LBT	Friends of the New Garden Trails, NGT, LBT, FT

# NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP SITE RECOMMENDATIONS



## SITE INDEX

Name	Page
New Garden Township Park Heritage Center	33
New Garden Meeting House	40
Landenberg Junction Trail	41
Landenberg Village	41
Laurel Woods Trail	42

## NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK HERITAGE CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

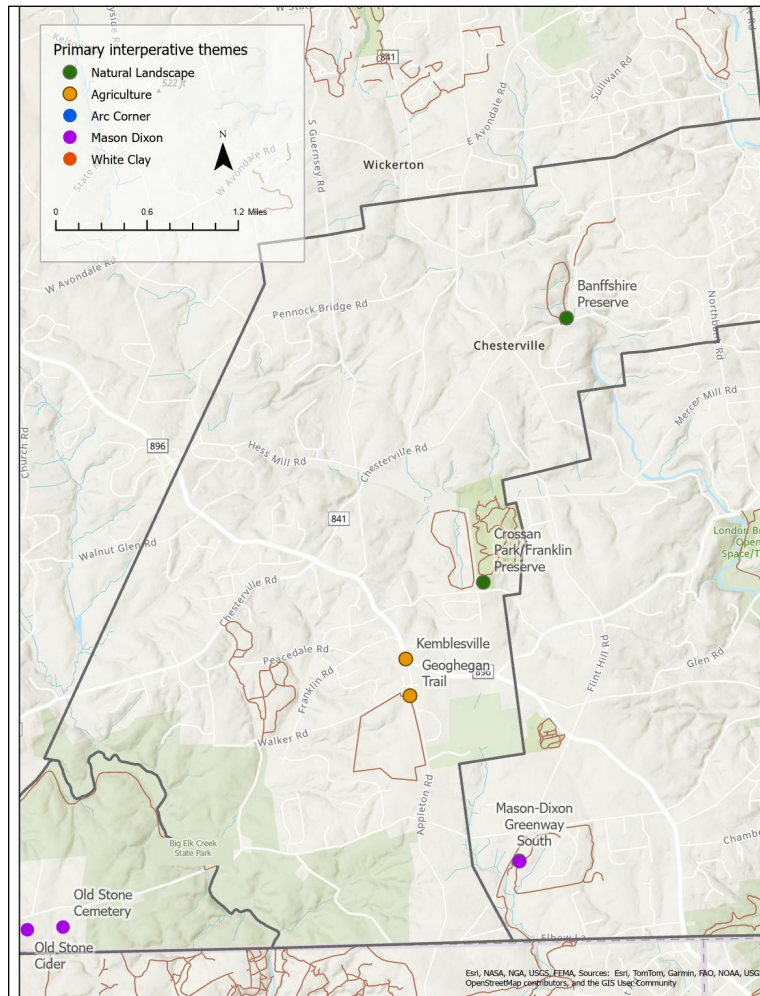
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
NGT.1	Engage with staff at New Garden Township to further develop the conceptual design for the outdoor Heritage Center in New Garden Township Park and additional exhibits in the Lyceum Building.	ST	FG, NGT	NGT
NGT.2	Identify funding sources, either through grants, fundraising, or private donors.	ST	FG, NGT	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, LBT
NGT.3	Acquire funding through the identified sources to plan and construct the Heritage Center interpretive plaza.	MT	FG, NGT	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, LBT
NGT.4	Engage a landscape design firm to site the Heritage Center, formalize design, and develop construction drawings for the interpretive plaza and pavilions.	MT	FG, NGT	NGT



NGT.5	Construct the Heritage Center and site elements.	LT	FG, NGT	NGT Planning Commission
NGT.6	Develop content, fabricate and install interpretive media. Consider developing bilingual English/Spanish interpretive panels for this site.	LT	FG, NGT	

NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP INTERPRETIVE SITE RECOMMENDATIONS				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
NGT.7	Continue engaging and collaborating with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations to develop content relating to the themes highlighted in this plan.	O	FG, NGT	LBT, ET, FT, DCNR
NGT.8	Develop draft content for interpretive sites in consultation with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations. Prioritize sites with existing bulletin case holders that can be refurbished and refreshed with new interpretive media.	ST	FG, NGT	LBT, ET, FT, DCNR, CCPC
NGT.9	Engage design professionals to finalize draft content to ensure engaging material, cohesive graphic identity, and visual appeal.	MT	FG, NGT	CCPC
NGT.10	Fabricate and install interpretive media elements using the recommendations provided in Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of this plan.	MT	FG, NGT	LBT, ET, FT
NGT.11	Coordinate with Friends of the New Garden Trails to update media on their website to include reference to the Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Heritage Interpretation Network Interpretive Sites located at Landenberg Junction and Laurel Woods Trails.	MT	FG, NGT	Friends of the New Garden Trails
NGT.12	Regularly maintain the Landenberg Junction and Laurel Woods Trails for visitor safety and use. Repair or replace existing picnic tables or benches located at the trailheads or along the trail to encourage use.	O	NGT	FG, Friends of the New Garden Trails
NGT.13	Thin vegetation and remove invasive species near the Laurel Woods Trail viewing platform to restore the view.	ST	NGT	FG, Friends of the New Garden Trails
NGT.14	Install tags or inconspicuous markers along the Laurel Woods Trail to identify trees from the completed Tree Survey.	MT	NGT	FG, Friends of the New Garden Trails
NGT.15	Develop additional engaging activities, similar to "Follow the Pommie Doodle," for the Landenberg Junction and Laurel Woods Trails that can help engage students and interested visitors in finding the elements of the railroads and other historical features in the landscape.	MT	FG, NGT	Friends of the New Garden Trails

# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SITE RECOMMENDATIONS



## SITE INDEX

Name	Page
Kemblesville	42
Geoghegan Trail	43
Crossan Park/Franklin Preserve	45
Banffshire Preserve	46

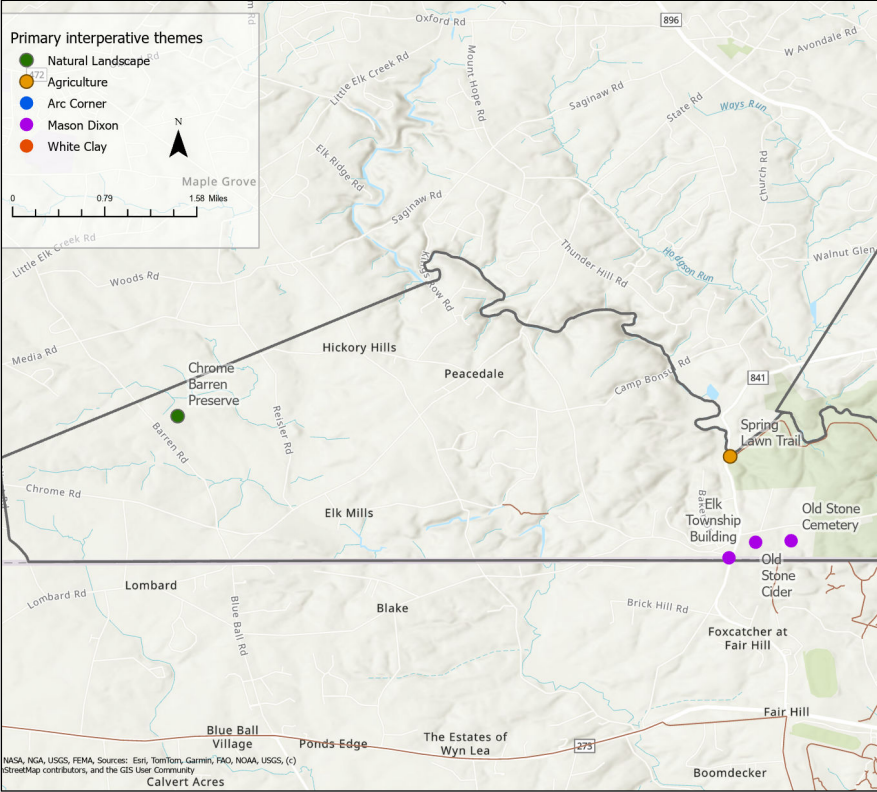
## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP INTERPRETIVE SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
FT.1	Continue engaging and collaborating with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations to develop content relating to the themes highlighted in this plan.	O	FG, FT	LBT, NGT, ET, DCNR
FT.2	Develop draft content for interpretive sites in consultation with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations. Prioritize sites with existing bulletin case holders that can be refurbished and refreshed with new interpretive media.	ST	FG, FT	LBT, NGT, ET, DCNR, CCPC
FT.3	Engage design professionals to finalize draft content to ensure engaging material, cohesive graphic identity, and visual appeal.	MT	FG, FT	CCPC



FT.4	Fabricate and install interpretive media elements using the recommendations provided in Chapters 5 and 6 of this plan.	MT	FG, FT	LBT, NGT, ET
FT.6	Increase wayfinding for the Geoghegan Trail along the trail and at the Township Building.	ST	FT Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board	FG, FT
FT.7	Regularly maintain trails for visitor safety and use. Repair or replace existing picnic tables or benches located at trailheads or along the trail to encourage use.	O	FT	FG
FT. 8	Increase pedestrian access to the Geoghegan Trail by installing a pedestrian crossing on Appleton Rd.	ST	FT	FG, PennDOT

## ELK TOWNSHIP SITE RECOMMENDATIONS



SITE INDEX	
Name	Page
Old Stone Cemetery	28
Old Stone Cider	29
Elk Township Building	29
Springlawn Trail	43
Chrome Barren Preserve	46

ELK TOWNSHIP INTERPRETIVE SITE RECOMMENDATIONS				
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	LEAD PARTIES	PARTNERS
ET.1	Continue engaging and collaborating with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations to develop content relating to the themes highlighted in this plan.	O	FG, ET	LBT, NGT, FT, DCNR
ET.2	Develop draft content for interpretive sites in consultation with Interpretive Site property owners or managing organizations. Prioritize sites with existing bulletin case holders that can be refurbished and refreshed with new interpretive media.	ST	FG, ET	LBT, NGT, FT, DCNR, CCPC
ET.3	Engage design professionals to finalize draft content to ensure engaging material, cohesive graphic identity, and visual appeal.	MT	FG, ET	CCPC
ET.4	Fabricate and install interpretive media elements using the recommendations provided in Chapters 3, 5, and 6 of this plan.	MT	FG, ET	LBT, NGT, FT



ET. 5	Coordinate new interpretive exhibits with the interpretive waysides designed by the Oxford Region Historic Resources Subcommittee that will be installed at the Elk Township Municipal Building and Old Stone Cider. New interpretive material should complement the existing.	MT	FG, ET	LBT, NGT, FT
ET. 6	Work with the Township Solicitor prior to developing interpretive exhibits for the Springlawn Trail to ensure compliance with trail easement requirements.	MT	FG, ET	DCNR
ET.7	Begin conversation with the county regarding the feasibility of establishing an interpretive exhibit at Nottingham County Park to introduce the serpentine barrens theme and connect it to interpretation at Chrome Barrens Preserve.	LT	FG, ET	CCPC