



Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

Big Elk Creek Master Planning Task Force Meeting #6

Site Plan Concepts

January 21, 2025

AGENDA



1. Introduction and Meeting Overview
2. Recap of State Park Core Standards
3. Group Exercise Overview - Master Plan Recommendations
4. Group Exercise Breakout
5. Break
6. Group Exercise Report Outs
7. Closing and Next Steps



State Park Core Standards



Resource Management

DCNR is charged with protecting, conserving, and maintaining the ecological and cultural resources located on state park lands. This includes aquatic and terrestrial resources and their native ecosystems as well as the cultural resources found within a park. Big Elk Creek State Park must have active resource management initiatives to protect the existing native species and ecosystems present at the park, as well as valuable cultural resources, and enhance them for generations to come.

Core Standards



Resource Management Examples

- Forest Restoration
 - Including tree and understory plantings, herbaceous meadow maintenance, and consideration for further field-to-meadow conversions
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Stream Health Assessment and Restoration Work
- Habitat Improvement Projects to support native species
- Management and Preservation of Cultural and Historical Resources



Accessibility

DCNR must commit to serving all Pennsylvanians during implementation of the Big Elk Creek State Park master planning process. This includes assessing all options for increased and appropriate accessibility to this new park and the planned improvements for the amenities there. Big Elk Creek State Park will be committed to being open, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone to enjoy. Safe public access is a principle need.

Core Standards



Accessibility Examples

- Park and Trail Accessibility
 - Signage (Park, Parking Lot, Road, Trail)
 - Parking Lots
 - Map Kiosks
- Recreational and Educational Accessibility
 - Trails
 - Facilities
 - Outdoor Educational Programming



Park Services, Visitor Satisfaction, and Safety

DCNR must provide safe and comfortable services to park visitors coming to Big Elk Creek State Park from across the Commonwealth and beyond. Facilities need to adequately address the needs and abilities of all park visitors to ensure an enjoyable, educational, and lasting experience in the state park, and provide DCNR staff the ability to provide these services. What a visitor experiences at Big Elk Creek State Park will be in line with the Bureau's Mission and execution across our State Park System.

Core Standards



Park Services, Visitor Satisfaction and Safety Examples

- Parking for various group sizes
- Pedestrian Walkways
- Restrooms
- State Park Visitor Center/Park Office
- Other Administrative Facilities



Recreation and Environmental Education

The Bureau's mission for all state parks is to provide healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for present and future generations, with first consideration to the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of the park. To fully accomplish this goal, the objective is to provide both indoor and outdoor education spaces.

Core Standards

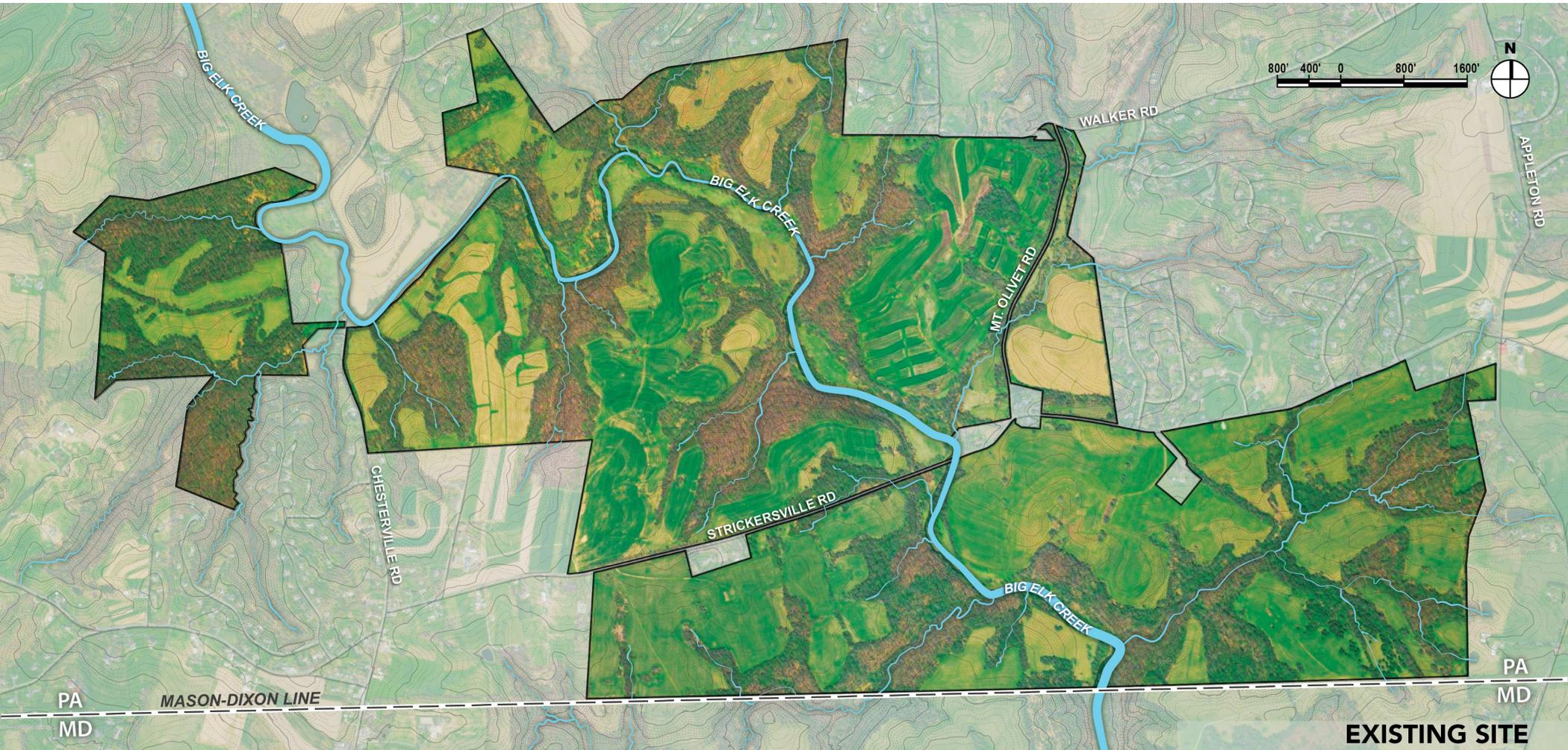


Recreational and Environmental Education Examples

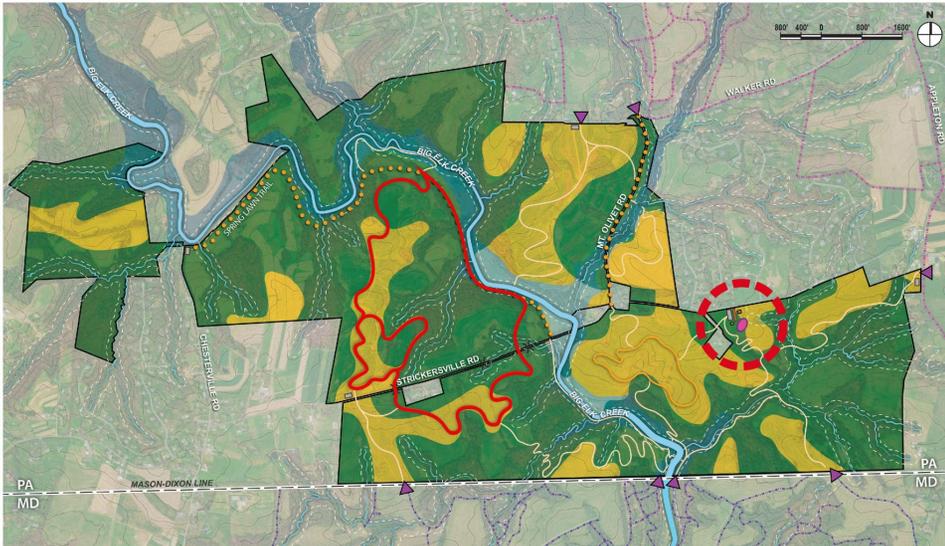
- Educational and Interpretive Programming
- Trails (hiking, biking, equestrian)
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Wildlife Viewing
- Stargazing
- Day Use and Picnic Areas
- Open Space



Group Exercise Overview - Master Plan Recommendations

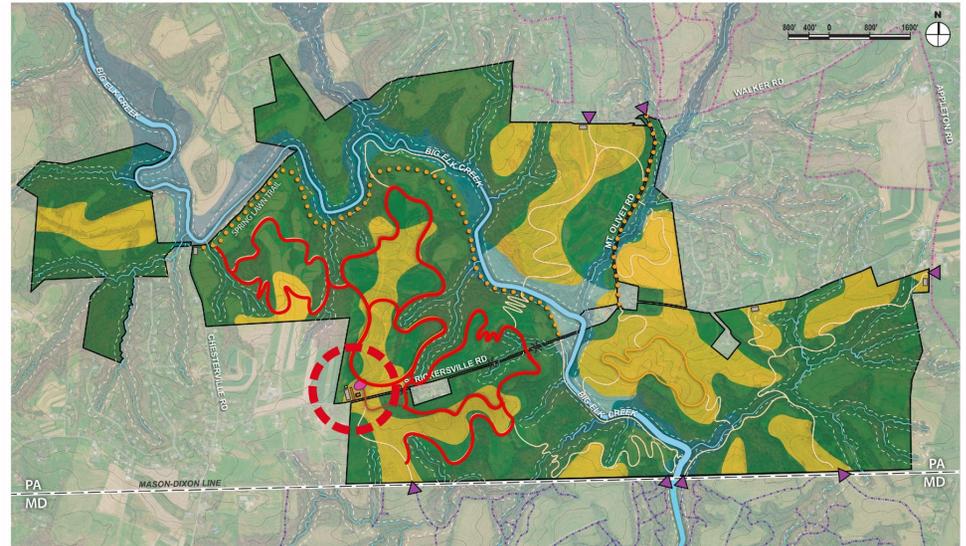


Big Elk Creek State Park



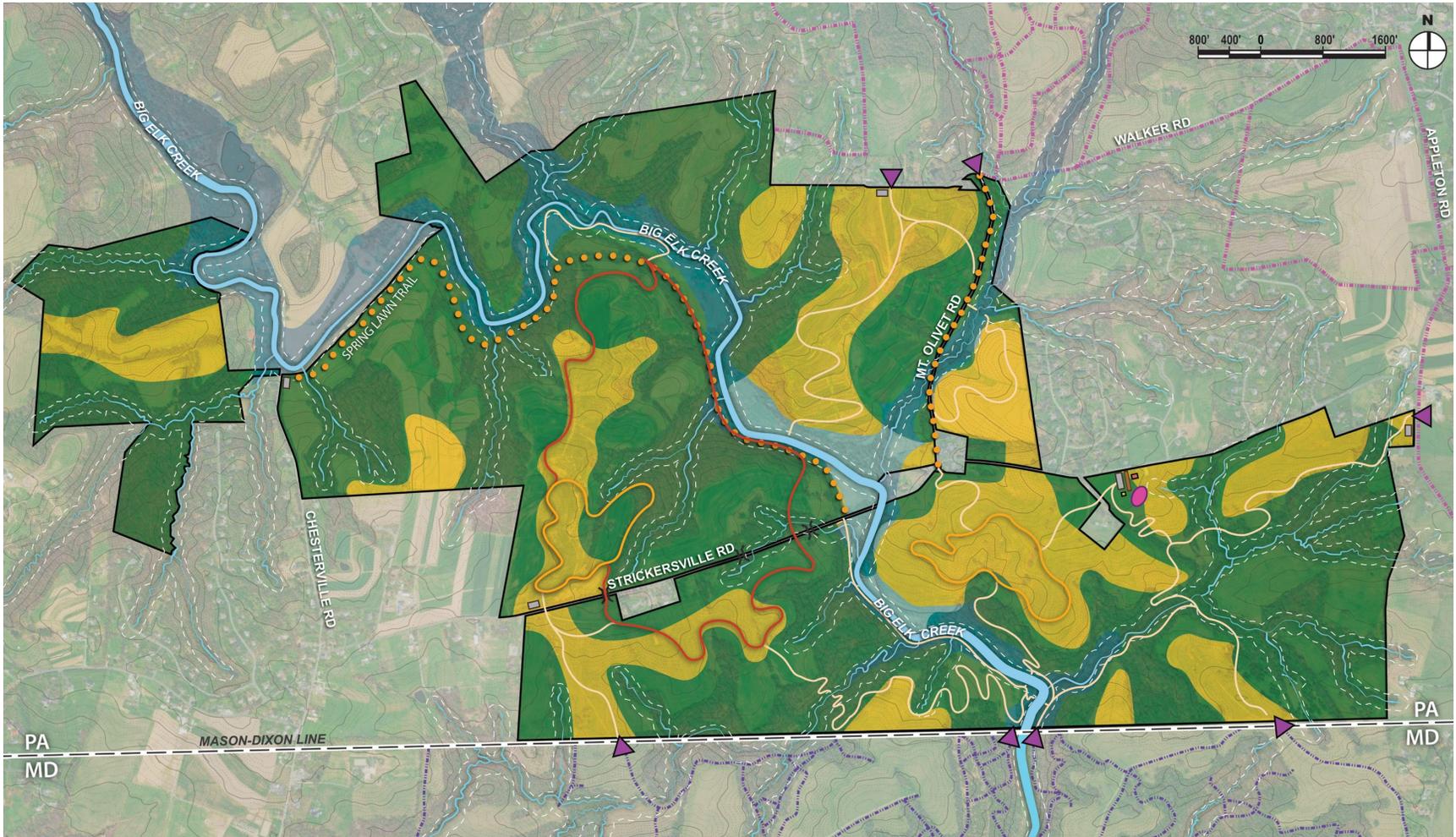
SITE PLAN CONCEPT A

- EASTERN EDUCATION CENTER / MAINTENANCE / DAY USE
- 3-MILE LOOP ALONG SPRING LAWN TRAIL



SITE PLAN CONCEPT B

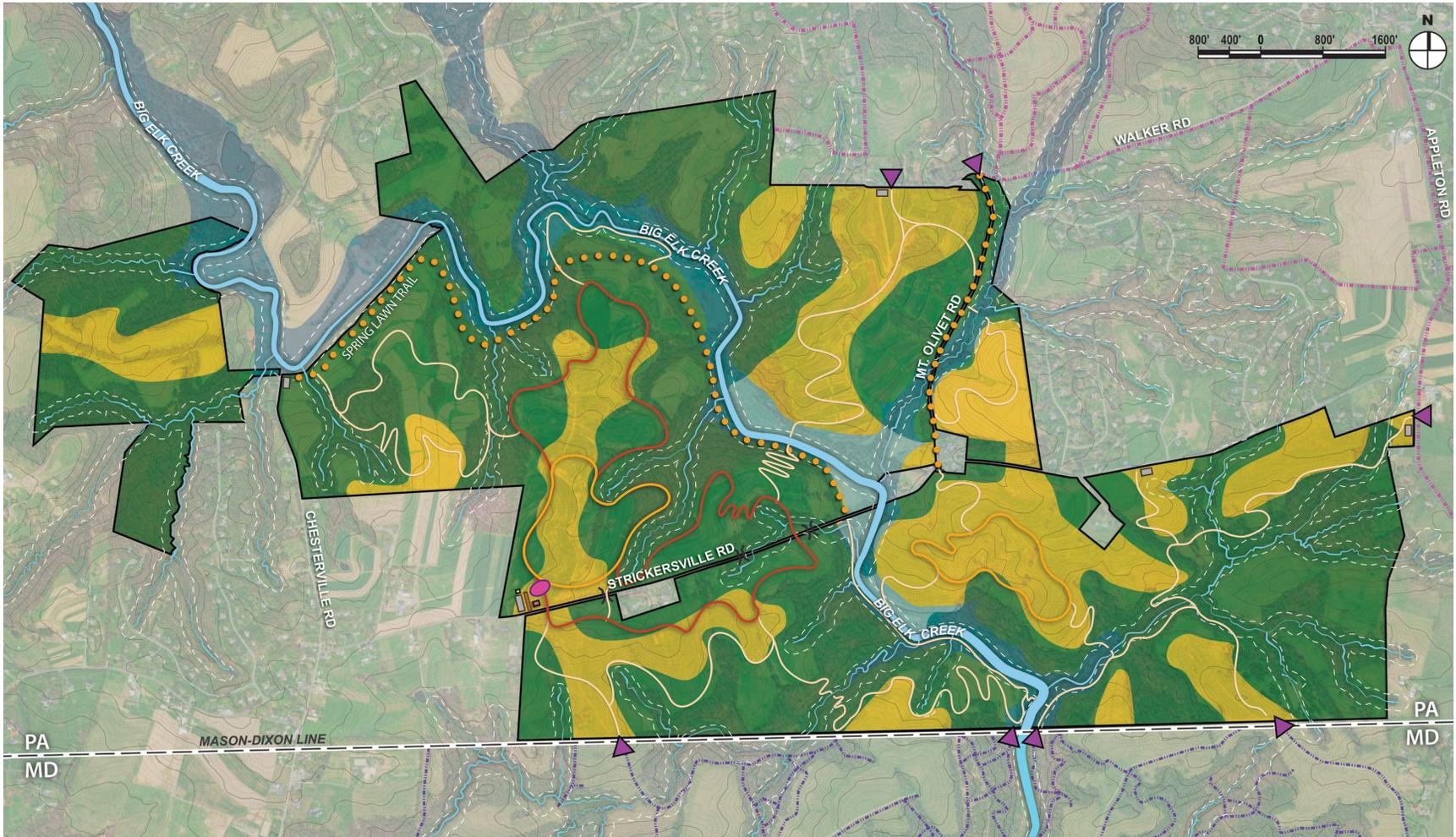
- WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER / MAINTENANCE / DAY USE
- TRAILS EXTEND TOWARD WESTERN AND SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES



**BIG ELK CREEK STATE PARK
SITE PLAN CONCEPT A**

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| WATERWAY W/ 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN | REGIONAL TRAIL/PARK CONNECT | PARK OFFICE | ROAD UNDERPASS | MULTI-USE TRAIL - 1 MILE LOOP | REFORESTATION ECOTYPE |
| 100' STREAM BUFFER | CHESTER COUNTY TRAILS | MAINTENANCE | PARKING | MULTI-USE TRAIL - 3 MILE LOOP | MEADOW HABITAT ECOTYPE |
| EXIST'G, WELL-ESTABLISHED TRAILS | FAIR HILLS TRAIL | DAY USE AREA | ACCESS ROAD | VARIED SURFACE TRAIL | |



**BIG ELK CREEK STATE PARK
SITE PLAN CONCEPT B**

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| WATERWAY W/ 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN | REGIONAL TRAIL/PARK CONNECT | PARK OFFICE | ROAD UNDERPASS | MULTI-USE TRAIL - 1 MILE LOOP | REFORESTATION ECOTYPE |
| 100' STREAM BUFFER | CHESTER COUNTY TRAILS | MAINTENANCE | PARKING | MULTI-USE TRAIL - 3 MILE LOOP | MEADOW HABITAT ECOTYPE |
| EXIST'G, WELL-ESTABLISHED TRAILS | FAIR HILLS TRAIL | DAY USE AREA | ACCESS ROAD | | |



Group Exercise Breakout



Group Exercise Report Outs

NEXT STEPS



- Comments on the conceptual master plans due by February 6
- Task Force Presentation of Final Conceptual Master Plan:
 - March 6, 6:00-9:00 PM, White Clay Creek Preserve