PLAN STRUCTURE

Phases
As previously described, the Master Plan seeks to be developed in phases over a 15 year time period. Phase I (years 0 – 5) intends to focus on projects with immediate impact that do not entail extensive outlay of capital or resources. Phase II (years 6 – 15) would initiate when momentum for the Park and its popularity has built to a point where it requires increased investment in order to continue to maintain its functionality. Phase III (beyond 15 years) represents long term capital improvement projects that depend on factors beyond the scope of this plan.

Projects
Initial projects focus on preserving the existing assets and experience of Wolf’s Hollow, with minor improvements for comfort facilities like restrooms and shelters. The creation of new trail connections and the disconnection of trails that are difficult to maintain are included. Parking may be seen as an option that would increase visitation and access to the park. Interpretive signage may also be an option for the early phase. Mainly, the focus will be on habitat protection and maintenance, and potentially the creation of new habitat zones around the Barn Complex and Core Loop Trail alignment.

Later phases include tackling further access issues, through the creation of the new park entrance on Glen Run Road. Also included would be paving the Core Loop Trail, creating an extensive interpretation plan, and stabilizing the Dam and floodplain behind it. The later phase would also address the creation of group event spaces, such as at the Barn Complex or Manor House, if these are deemed appropriate uses by Chester County.

Property
Two parcels within the Park boundary could be considered for sale in order to help finance other park improvements and consolidate operations: the River House parcel, in the southwestern corner of the Park, and the 12-acre outparcel along Schoff Road. It has been noted that the Stoltzfus property, near the northwest corner of the Park, is a desirable piece of land that would help the Park in numerous ways, including habitat protection and the potential for a new creekside trail. Final consideration for property transactions will have to be decided by the County in the future, and are only included here for their potential to shape the final Master Plan.

Testing
It is conceivable that many of the called-for improvements to the Park could first be tested on a small and inexpensive scale. For example, picnic tables could be placed in certain locations to test usability and visitation numbers, before ultimately choosing the place to build a picnic shelter. The same idea could be applied to the use of bikes along Wolf’s Hollow Drive (not wooded trails), by allowing them to use the road on weekdays or certain seasons. Camping could be tested near the proposed Day Lodge, and other programs could be tried as part of Phase I before being fully understood to implement in Phase II.
HABITAT MANAGEMENT (NATURAL RESOURCES)

Habitat creation zones
The Master Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the dominant habitat zones of the Park. Keeping the mature forest and forest interior intact and improving it with selective thinning practices in some areas, while allowing it to expand into other areas, will stimulate the health of this advanced ecosystem. The hayfields are proposed to be modified with a greater mixture of grasses, and the addition of forbs, which will create food sources for ground feeding animals and provide cover for nesting birds. Portions of the hayfields will also be converted to managed meadows, which will be allowed to grow a variety of plant species and maintained through annual mowing or prescribed burning. Successional forest zones will mediate between the fields and forest, creating interstitial zones that are critical to biodiversity of species. Bird watchers in particular will benefit from the addition of these new edge transition zones. Finally, the creation of a wet meadow floodplain behind the Dam, and in the retention basin near the Orchard House will expand upon the aquatic habitat currently only provided by the small pond. These features will not only be providing habitat and visitor experience benefits; they also contribute to the stormwater management practices in the Park.

The diagrams at right indicate the existing condition, and the variety of potential future conditions that could exist between the fields and the forest. Each transition zone provides benefits for specific birds and other wildlife, many of which would not be attracted by the existing edge. However, this is not to say the existing condition should disappear - it has its own inherent benefits and attracts its share of species. Instead, the adaptation of this part of the Park merely seeks to create a varied edge that can perform and attract a more diverse animal palette and create healthier conditions for more plant species to thrive. This all in turn creates a much more interesting experience for park visitors.

Preserve existing habitat resources.

Enhance new habitat zones to increase diversity of species.

Grow visitor base through increasing interest in wildlife and easier access to a more varied experience.
Exhibits / Signage
The following park features could be highlighted through signage or simple exhibits. This project makes no attempt to consider the design or system involved in the creation of these elements, but recognizes that they could be an integral part of the experience at Wolf’s Hollow.

Mill Ruins, stone walls
An exhibit could include graphics showing the mill process, the intake of water, the turning of the wheel, the grinding of material, and the outfall back into the stream. In addition, a floorplan of the structure or the potential image of what it could have looked like during operation.

Orchard House
Indoor exhibits could include reconstructions of what life could have been like in this house, while highlighting the design features and construction methods that influenced to the way it was built.

Viewpoints
The viewpoints offer a special opportunity to create unique spots along the Octoraro Ridge Trail for interpreting the history of the charcoal burn sites on the steep hillsides. Descriptions of the process of felling and burning trees for the creation of charcoal to be used in the iron forges would provide a direct historical reference for the existence of the viewpoints. These platforms also make an ideal setting for outdoor sculpture. In addition, the identification of significant tree species or vegetation, such as the large Red Oaks or dominant zones of Mountain Laurel, would be an interesting display.

Historic Road
Traces of a historic road cut down through the Park from Glen Run Road towards the intersection of Steelville, immediately to the southwest of the park boundary, and indicate the importance of this site to the industrial heritage of Chester County. Visitors could potentially walk this line, or at least be informed of its existence at various points. Other elements could be used to highlight the line as it cuts through the Park or is made apparent at certain areas, such as where it overlaps the existing streamside trail.

Dam and Boathouse
The idyllic scene that used to exist at this pleasure lake would spark the imagination of many visitors, as they identify the former islands of the lake by spotting the low mounds of the floodplain that still exist, and see how the boathouse foundation served to store boats and equipment. A drawing of the Dam as built, seen when the visitor climbs out on its viewing platform, would also reinforce the understanding of the site’s hydrology and the impacts of water control structures.

Environmental Education Areas
The following areas are key to providing an environmental education experience at Wolf’s Hollow. They are zones where a guided walk by a naturalist would have the most impact in the smallest area.

The Dam
This part of the Park could be a focus area for school groups that come to learn about stormwater management practices, stream processes, and habitat creation. The floodplain would be able to showcase how streams erode and deposit sediment, how they form meanders, the creation of oxbow ponds, and the function of the floodplain. In addition, the processes of wetlands and their ability to mitigate the effects of flooding or heavy rains, their ability to clean and filter water, and their many habitat advantages could be highlighted.

Barn Complex
This area of the Park will be exciting for birdwatching and wildlife viewing, but also for those interested in habitat / forestry management practices. By taking a tour of the edge conditions, which showcase different habitat and why each has value to the Park, a tour would come away with a different understanding of the roles various landscape play in the ecologic system. Constructed bat shelters, protected nesting areas in dead trees, and zones protected from deer browsing would all showcase different components of the system and how they come together to form a diverse habitat for many species.

The Pond
The small existing pond is a unique zone in the Park, and is attractive to waterfowl and animals seeking to drink from its shores. The creation of a simple bird blind would give visitors a place to not only view wildlife from a safe distance, but also would focus the gathering point so that the edge of the pond is not significantly impacted by park-goers.

The Lodge to the River House
A journey along the Octoraro Creek could be envisioned as a type of history walk, identifying the locations of various mills and forges along the creek and the function they served. The two buildings in the Park at the north (The Lodge) and south (The River House) create anchors for the trail, and could be an opportunity to start in one era and move through the Park to another time. This is possible only if it is determined that the River House should remain within park property, and not sold. If there were ways to bridge the creek and connect with the historic forge sites on the opposite Lancaster County shore, the experience would be amplified.

Goals:

Preserve existing significant features or structures of importance

Enhance safety and accessibility for visitor enjoyment

Grow interpretation experience for visitors
Iconic fences.

The breached dam.

Stone wall ruins.

Preserved agricultural lands.

The Manor House.

The Barn Complex.

The Pond.

The Orchard House.

A viewpoint above the Octoraro Creek.
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (STORMWATER MANAGEMENT)

Stormwater Toolkit
The following techniques are described as they relate to specific areas of the Park, but this does not mean they should not be considered for other areas as well in the future.

Reduced Mowing
There are many areas of the Park, particularly those identified near the Schoff Road entrance, where a reduced mowing regime would have positive impact on the rate of stormwater runoff entering the stream. By allowing certain zones to grow in, near drainage swales and adjacent to paved areas, plants will be able to intercept and slow the water before it quickly combines with the stream and causes erosion downstream.

Restore Riparian Buffers
The same technique applies to the streambanks, though these could be more intensely planted with a buffer system. By creating layers of planting adjacent to the stream, water will be not only slowed, but also cleansed, before entering the stream. This ultimately impacts water quality in Octoraro Creek.

Detention Basin Retrofit
Above the Orchard House, bordering the park boundary, is a detention basin that has been rendered ineffective by swift-moving water, cutting away a ditch in the basin and channeling water too quickly towards the Orchard House and Wolf's Hollow Drive. In order to re-adapt this zone, by working with the neighboring farm property owner, the Park could take advantage of natural topography to recreate a detention basin to control off-site water entering the Park. This is also important considering the runoff is from farm fields, where fertilizers and other chemicals may get washed away and end up spoiling the water quality downstream. A detention basin is intended to be dry most of the time, but to provide a place for storm event runoff to collect and be detained before slowly being released.

Infiltration Basin (Retention)
The zone immediately below the Orchard House has been identified for its potential to become an infiltration area. The storm drain that exists in the lawn currently channels runoff from the adjacent hillsides directly into the stream. By working the terrain of the lawn to create a shallow bowl, planted with moisture tolerant plants, this zone could contribute largely to eliminating erosion downstream where the effects of runoff form this zone are most felt.

Wet Meadow Creation
Behind the Dam, the stream currently follows a deep trench that winds through the field and cuts through the breach of the Dam. By constructing a controlled outfall for the stream that inhibits full flow, and reconnecting the stream with the floodplain, the field would become a wet meadow sanctuary, capable of absorbing large rainfall events, and handling the runoff that comes down from adjacent properties, which can be significant.

Parking Areas
The existing visitor parking has a subsurface infiltration trench that helps to absorb runoff. By continuing this precedent on any new parking lots and parking expansions, and by adding a planted buffer zone on the downhill side of all paved areas, the runoff from these zones can be minimized. In addition, where Wolf's Hollow Drive meanders uphill, planted swales could be installed to mitigate rapid runoff sweeping downhill.

Structural Reinforcement
In areas of the Park that are currently eroded, or steep slopes that see a consistent amount of runoff, structural reinforcement in the form of boulders and check dams could have significant impact. This is particularly important in forested areas, where trails on steep slopes are prone to rapid erosion. By placing stone piles or creating stepped terracing, with logs or other natural material, water can be slowed and allowed to pool before being released downhill at a less damaging rate.

Level Spreaders
It has been observed that the Barn Complex drains to an outfall pipe in the field immediately to the south, and directs runoff downhill towards the pond. The area surrounding the outfall can receive an intense amount of water, which a level spreader could help mitigate. Instead of creating a flume of water down the slope, an installed level spreader would "spread out" the water across a wider zone, helping much of it to infiltrate into the field and release a less erosive force.

Check Dams and Riffles
There are certain trails in the Park that are steep, and their lack of soil or plant cover makes them natural channels for rushing water, further deepening the channel and creating unsafe conditions for park visitors. By installing check dams on abandoned sections of eroded trails, runoff will be slowed, allowing time for sediment to build up and the cycle of erosion to be halted.

Goals:

Preserve natural character and protect natural assets.

Enhance ability of the landscape to cope with stormwater runoff.

Grow natural buffers and improve conditions which contribute to a healthy hydrologic system.
The proposed floodplain restoration area behind the Dam.

Erosion of the trail and banks of Sycamore Run.

Proposed infiltration basin area near the Orchard House.

Check dams will help repair this eroded slope.

Existing outfall pipe at Barn Complex.

Typical rain garden / planted swale for parking lots.

Reducing mowing upstream will slow runoff.
VISITOR ENJOYMENT AND EXPERIENCE (RECREATION)

Trailheads / Hubs
The following trailheads are described from north to south in the Park, and the amenities to be found at each are explained. Simply put, the trailheads are where many trails come together, and offer the chance to start, end, or change one’s intended route through the Park. Each trailhead will have a map and park information, a description of the various flora and fauna likely to be found nearby, and a seating area to take a break.

Visionary Center
Found at the northern end of Wolf’s Hollow Drive, this trailhead anchors the north side of the Park. There is a small parking lot for 10 vehicles, but this area is intended as a destination for day-visitors or as a base facility for overnight camping groups. From this hub, visitors can access the North Loop Trail, Creekside Trail, and Wolf’s Hollow Drive, with a short connection to the Core Loop Trail.

Barn Complex
This trailhead and its nearby parking lot for 50 vehicles will accommodate many visitors to the Park who are looking to explore the large level area of the Fields. This hub will get hikers onto the Core Loop Trail, which allows them to connect with many other trails in the Park. This area will also give users access to the various trails through the Fields. The parking lot will also serve visitors that want to walk along Wolf’s Hollow Drive.

Schoff Road Parking Lot
As the southern entrance parking area for the Park, this trailhead will be the destination of choice for visitors that want to hike around the Dam and floodplain area, South Loop Trail, Hill and Hollow Trail, and the Octoraro Ridge Trail. It also serves as a group picnic destination.

Orchard House
This trailhead does not have a parking lot, but represents the point of convergence for three major trails: Wolf’s Hollow Drive, the Fenceline Trail, and a connecting spur to the Octoraro Ridge Trail.

Program Areas
Group Camping
At the far northern end of the Park, on a relatively level bend in the creek, a group camping area is envisioned to allow school groups and summer camps the opportunity to stay overnight in the Park. Minimal infrastructure is required for this use, though the construction of a few tent platforms and a cleaning station would be welcome.

Event Lawn
Near the Barn Complex, a large mown lawn is proposed to accommodate outdoor festivals and markets. This use depends on the improved comfort facilities and parking of the Barn Complex to function effectively.

Sliding Hill
An ideal location for sledding, this continuously sloping grade has a long runout and variations in pitch. Preparations can be made before snowfall, by mowing down the field to eliminate obstacles and create a surface that doesn’t require much cover.

Picnic Shelters
Two sizes of shelters have been proposed for the Park, in the locations shown in the adjacent diagram. It is not necessary to build them all at once, but rather test the areas for use and occupancy, to determine their functionality and size requirements.

Amphitheater
Near the pond is a bowl-shaped valley that could be used for small performances. The terrain could be sculpted to create natural benches around a simple platform, with the pond as a backdrop. Attendees would park at the Barn Complex and walk down a mown path to the venue. An ADA accessible route would be provided via the adjacent Wolf’s Hollow Drive.

Butterfly Meadow
An existing test meadow is located near the Schoff Road parking lot, and the Master Plan seeks to expand this garden to take on a larger programmatic role in the Park. An area is designated further away from the parking lot but still out of the woods.

Future Programs
While not envisioned as part of this Master Plan, a disc golf course and high ropes course were discussed as potential uses that could one day find a home in the Park. These programs seem to fit best in the northern area of the Park, near the road down to the Day Lodge, where a mixture of open fields and lightly wooded zones come together. The creation of a dog park was also discussed for a future phase.
Primary Trail Routes

Wolf’s Hollow Drive
Beginning at the Schoff Road Parking Lot, the paved trail extends north, paralleling the road past the Dam and floodplain, and up the hill to the Manor House. From here, the trail slopes downhill to the Orchard House, before going back up again between farm fields and through the maple tree allee. Here the trail levels out and straightens, before beginning the steep downhill toward the northern end of the Park.

Core Loop Trail
To this primary spine of Wolf’s Hollow Drive, the Master Plan calls for the addition of the Core Loop Trail, a 2 mile, level, hard-surfaced path that brings visitors to many different points of interest around the fields of the barn complex. It links to many other trails in the Park, and will provide a primary route for visitors looking for an easy outing. Its figure eight pattern lets visitors choose the length they will walk, as each one mile passes each time they reach the barn complex.

Octoraro Ridge Trail
Currently one of the most popular trails in the Park, this route also starts at the Schoff Road Parking Lot, quickly entering the Manor House Woods and following a contour along the stream, before rising up on the ridge and offering connecting trails toward other parts of the Park. The trail also passes each of the viewpoints in the Park, offering visitors a chance to rest and admire the view through the woods. The trail ends in the North Woods, emerging out into the Fields.

Hill and Hollow Trail
The proposed realignment of this trail takes into consideration the potential sale of the River House parcel. Beginning at the Schoff Road Parking Lot, this looping route begins along the Sycamore Run, following it closely downstream towards its confluence with Octoraro Creek. It then switchbacks uphill, taking visitors back to the parking area by way of the South Woods.

Fenceline Trail
This trail winds along the edge of the Fields, walking the line between agricultural land and the various edge conditions with the Forest. It is accessed from either Wolf’s Hollow Drive, the Core Loop Trail or the Octoraro Ridge Trail. On the east side of Wolf’s Hollow Drive, the trail heads south, along the border of the Park and adjacent fields, and then into the woods before joining the South Loop Trail.

Creekside Trail
Running from the Day Lodge Trailhead, west along the Octoraro Creek, this trail passes the stone wall runs and house foundations found in this part of the Park. Previously the trail turned south to steeply climb through the North Woods, but it has since been re-routed by Chester County to follow a more gradual slope towards its connection with the Octoraro Ridge Trail.

South Loop Trail
Accessed from the Schoff Road Parking Lot or the Fenceline Trail, this short loop follows the outer edge of the South Field, Schoff Road, and Wolf’s Hollow Drive. Views north show the undulating terrain of Wolf’s Hollow.

North Loop Trail
The short North Loop Trail is accessible from the Day Lodge Trailhead, Creekside Trail, and Wolf’s Hollow Drive. It takes visitors down to a horseshoe bend in the Octoraro Creek, through successional forest habitat.

Improved Safety
In terms of trail removal, two sections should be addressed to increase visitor safety and decrease maintenance spending. The Waterfall Trail in the northern section of the Park has already been decommissioned due to erosion, with a new trail segment relinking the portion of the trail along the creek with the Octoraro Ridge Trail. Following on this precedent, the Master Plan proposes to eliminate the portions of the Octoraro Ridge Trail and Shortcut Trail that run along the north bank of the tributary stream. This trail is constantly under repair from persistent flooding and erosion by the stream. As a trail exists on the southern bank, slightly higher than the floodplain, the north bank duplicate route could be considered for removal. A new trail would be cut higher on the hillside, out of reach of the inevitable washouts. This recommendation has to consider the benefits of potential stormwater management improvements that are proposed directly upstream, which could potentially lessen the likelihood of severe erosion in the stream valley.

Trail Surfaces
Four types of trail surface material are proposed, ranging in durability and function to meet the needs of each trail. Those trails that will handle the most visitors or require a smooth surface are paved with asphalt. Steep sections of trails, or areas that need reinforcement to prevent erosion, may also use asphalt.

Some trails will use a gravel/soil mix known as 2RC, commonly used by Chester County as a trail surface treatment. This material will be found on the Octoraro Ridge Trail, Hill and Hollow Trail, and the Creekside Trail. It will enable these wooded trails to retain their width without causing or encouraging erosion. It is also a durable surface, capable to handling the higher numbers of visitors anticipated on these trails.

Goals:

Preserve existing trails that do not cause maintenance problems.

Enhance trail network with surface upgrades, signage, and erosion control.

Grow recreation opportunities by providing ease of access and connection.
ACCESS AND CONNECTION (INFRASTRUCTURE)

Circulation Pattern
Three options exist for the road circulation pattern through Wolf’s Hollow, and they depend primarily upon the implementation of the new entrance on Glen Run Road, which currently serves as a private county maintenance vehicle entrance. The road would need to be widened and improved to County standards, and new signage would be needed at the intersection of Glen Run Road and Bailey Crossroads Road, and where Glen Run Road meets the Park. The Master Plan is intended to be flexible enough to allow these options to be further explored.

Preferred Option
If this entrance is created, Glen Run Road would become the entrance to reach the northern half of the Park, including the Barn Complex and Day Lodge parking areas when permitted.

Wolf’s Hollow Drive would also be widened, to allow vehicles to drive from the Schoff Road entrance and parking lot to the Manor House parking lot. A paved trail would run parallel to the widened road. Beyond the Manor House, Wolf’s Hollow Drive remains open only to maintenance and emergency vehicles. Gates would control access between the Manor House and the Glen Run Road entrance.

This would allow cars to enter the Park at two points, to reach their preferred parking area. The northern section of Wolf’s Hollow Drive, beyond the Glen Run Road entrance, will be gated to only allow group access, for those using the group camping area or utilizing the Day Lodge.

The preferred option will require West Fallowfield Township approval as a modification to the original conditions defined in the Special Exception Agreement.

Alternate Option A
A variation of the Preferred Option, this circulation pattern would allow two way traffic the full length of Wolf’s Hollow Drive between both entrances. This lets visitors get to any parking lot they choose, entering the Park through either gateway. Pullouts along Wolf’s Hollow Drive would facilitate passing for wider vehicles and provide areas for maintenance trucks to stop if needed.

Alternate Option B
This option seeks to open up the northern part of the Park without the addition of the Glen Run Road entrance, by allowing two-way traffic on Wolf’s Hollow Drive from the Schoff Road entrance to the Barn Complex. Again, vehicular pullouts would accommodate passing without the need to widen the road to county standards.

Wolf’s Hollow Drive is currently used as a trail and that allowing two-way traffic in Option A and B will require the construction of a new off-road multi use path to accommodate continued trail use.

Gates
Gates along the Park roads provide a quick and easy way of controlling vehicular access. Whether it is for visitor safety, from flooding or a downed tree, or for restricting access to an event, gates positioned at key points along Wolf’s Hollow Drive will help management protect the Park and its visitors. Gates should be placed at intersections and near parking areas, as shown in the adjacent diagram.

Parking
Additional parking will allow visitors to access more of the Park and cope with weekend parking issues. The Master Plan calls for both expanding the capacity of existing lots and creating new areas. The existing lot near the Schoff Road entrance could be doubled to accommodate an additional 20 vehicle spaces. The new picnic pavilion proposed at the Manor House will need a parking area for approximately 50 vehicles, and another 50 spaces are envisioned for the Barn Complex. Finally, a small parking area of 10 spaces with a bus drop-off area and turnaround is proposed at the Visionary Center. This will bring total park capacity up from 20 vehicle spaces to 150.

Events
It is expected that Wolf’s Hollow Park will be able to host events at the Manor House picnic pavilion and at the Barn Complex. Overflow parking areas should be positioned next to paved lots, to accommodate those times when there are more vehicles than parking spaces. Since these events are not imagined to be more than a few times a year, the overflow areas can be kept as mowed lawn or grassland areas during normal park operations. Gates will be helpful in guiding guests to their event and keeping heavy impacts on the Park to a minimum.

Goals:

Preserve and maintain existing access and facilities.

Enhance access options and park circulation.

Grow capacity with new parking, road widening, and gateway features.
Preferred Option

Alternative A

Alternative B
FOCUS AREA: The Fields

This area of the Park can do much more to contribute to the visitor experience at Wolf’s Hollow. Through implementation strategies that address the five themes of the Master Plan, the Fields will become the core area of the Park and will attract the most visitors. Focused on habitat creation and management, the Fields are intended to showcase a variety of conditions that are desirable to many different types of plants and animals. By working to manipulate the existing edge of the woods and farm fields, in such a way as to multiply the habitat benefits and increase visitor interest, this zone will address many of the plan’s goals for education and interpretation, and visitor enjoyment. The Core Loop Trail creates a safe, level path for all types of users, and the creation of the new gateway on Glen Run Road allows the Barn Complex to become a primary setting off point for a visit to the Park.

Other amenities including the Event Lawn, Sledding Hill, and Pond Amphitheater add value to this part of the Park for different times of year and different types of experiences. The Barn itself could become a popular venue for many kinds of events, set in the beautiful rolling hills of the Park. This zone will truly become a focal point for Wolf’s Hollow.

The Fields zone is defined by a large level area, crisscrossed by the 650’ contour and defined by the edge of the forest. Following the topography, a new trail can be created that maintains a grade less than 5%, making it accessible to all users, and becomes a defining element of the Fields zone.

The new trail presents an opportunity to manipulate the existing forest edge and create new habitat zones to enhance the ecological value of the Fields zone.
This view shows the potential future layout of the Fields. The edge condition is varied between fields and woods, with areas of meadow, successional forest, and selective thinning. The Barn Complex is shown as the focal point for visitors in this part of the Park, and the adjacent parking lot is nested into the Complex to not encroach on the surrounding fields. Also shown is the new entry from Glen Run Road, the Event Lawn, Amphitheater, and the majority of Core Loop Trail, which forms a meandering figure eight around the fields.

1. Forest Management
2. Amphitheater
3. Core Loop Trail
4. Managed Meadow
5. Modified Hayfield
6. Stormwater Management
7. Event Space / Restrooms
8. Parking Area
9. Event Lawn
10. Successional Forest
11. Mature Forest
12. New Gateway
FOCUS AREA: The Dam

With an emphasis on environmental education and stormwater management, this part of the Park will become an excellent place for a school field trip or summer camp excursion. The re-stabilizing of the Dam into a safe structure for visitors enables the creation of the wet meadow behind it, which in turn enables the construction of a boardwalk that allows visitors to get out in the riparian habitat and understand how it functions. The experience here is multifold, as it has elements of education, showcases a cultural amenity, and gives visitors a new perspective on a specific type of landscape not easily found in Chester County.

A widened Wolf's Hollow Drive will allow visitors to use the road to access the Manor House and Barn Complex, while a new trail alongside will maintain the existing popular walking and running route around the floodplain and up the hill. Expanding the existing Schoff Road parking lot will help accommodate more visitors, and the managed meadow immediately west of the parking lot is envisioned as an expanded Butterfly Habitat Zone. The creation of picnic pavilions and shelters will create places for visitors to have lunch, get together, and relax. In addition, new restroom facilities are proposed at the parking lot and Manor House. The Manor House is served by well water and electricity, and could have a more substantial restroom building, while the Schoff Road parking lot could utilize primitive composting toilets.

The Dam area will be considered a must-see for anyone coming to Wolf's Hollow, as it represents the single most impressive and interesting relic of its former existence, and serves as an excellent introduction to the Park. The Master Plan recommends a conditions assessment report be conducted to ensure the Dam is stable, and with proper modifications could provide a safe environment for visitors without risk to the County.
The proposed condition for the Dam area.
This view depicts the other core focus area of the Park, the Dam and floodplain. The proposed boardwalk is shown, stretching out into the floodplain to give visitors an up close experience. New pavilions provide shelter for picnics and gatherings, and the parking lot has been expanded and improved with new restrooms and stormwater management features.

The Dam itself has been stabilized, with a boardwalk crossing the top to give visitors a new view from its prospect. Surrounding landscape zones are managed to maintain the mature forest, meadows, and riparian planting areas are found along the stream to help manage the flow of runoff down towards Octoraro Creek. The enlarged Butterfly Meadow is off the page to the left of the parking area. Additional stormwater management potential exists with the Dam, as outflow could be controlled in times of heavy rain.

1 Parking Area
2 Restrooms
3 Pavilion
4 Riparian Planting
5 Mature Forest
6 Stabilized Dam
7 Pavilion
8 Wet Meadow / Floodplain
9 Managed Meadow
10 Paved Trail
11 Boardwalk
12 widened Wolf’s Hollow Drive
13 Modified Hayfield