

Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update - 2018



Jefferson County Planning Commission

Recreation and Tourism Strategy

Adopted July 2018



RESOLUTION 2018-01
Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

A resolution adopting the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update dated July 2018, as prepared by the Jefferson County Planning Commission and facilitated by The EADS Group, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires that County comprehensive plans be updated every ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the MPC outlines content and procedural requirements associated with the preparation, review and approval of County comprehensive plans that have been followed in this County Plan Update process; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Planning Commission coordinated the preparation of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update that has been published in four (4) documents, entitled *Existing Conditions and Recommendations*; *Public Participation Overview*; *Recreation and Tourism Strategy*; and *Community Infrastructure Strategy*, all dated July 2018 and comprised of maps, charts, textual matter and narratives, and other matters that form the whole of the County Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Planning Commission conducted a robust and inclusive public participation and engagement process, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update was submitted to contiguous counties and school districts within and contiguous to Jefferson County, and was otherwise made publically available for municipal and citizen review and comment; and


WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Planning Commission adhered to the Public Meeting, Public Hearing and Public Review period requirements of the MPC in finalizing the County Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Planning Commission duly noted and considered all public comments received in finalizing the County Plan Update; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Commissioners of Jefferson County hereby adopt the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update that has been published in four (4) documents, entitled *Existing Conditions and Recommendations*; *Public Participation Overview*; *Recreation and Tourism Strategy*; and *Community Infrastructure Strategy*, all dated July 2018 and comprised of maps, charts, textual matter and narratives, and other matters that form the whole of the County Plan Update; and fulfills the County's responsibilities under the MPC.

Dated this the 11th day of July 2018.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER



John D. Matson, Chairman



Herbert L. Bullers, Jr.



Jeffrey E. Pisarcik

Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update RECREATION AND TOURISM STRATEGY

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Acknowledgments

The *Jefferson County Plan update* consists of this *Recreation and Tourism Infrastructure Strategy*, a *Community Infrastructure Strategy* and a *Public Participation Overview* prepared by The EADS Group and other Plan sections prepared by Jefferson County. Funding for the preparation of these documents, including the narratives, tables and maps contained within, was provided by a Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and from Jefferson County. These documents represent the culmination of planning efforts spearheaded by the Jefferson County Planning Commission. The current membership of the Jefferson County Planning Commission is as follows:

- Brad Lashinsky
- Mark Adams
- Tom Kundrich
- Ron King
- Larry Bowers
- Jill Martin-Rend

Brad Lashinsky, M.P.S, Jefferson County Director of Economic Development & Planning and Bill Setree, Jefferson County Director of Community Development/Project Manager, guided the planning process and provided steady guidance and leadership. They also brought a local perspective to the planning process.

The *Jefferson County Plan Update* reflects an assets-based and issues-oriented approach to planning which is encouraged by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The *Strategies* address the link between outdoor recreation and heritage and tourism resources and community infrastructure and economic development. These focus areas are also critical for the quality of life of Jefferson County residents. Information gathered for the *Strategies* utilized a considerable quantity of secondary source data augmented by original research, mapping and field investigations. The planning approach also included a proactive public engagement process to obtain input and feedback on key issues and opportunities.



The planning process also included a critical review and synthesis of information in an efficient manner by members of *Working Groups* convened to support development of the *Strategies*. Guidance provided by the *Working Groups* was vital in producing *Strategies* that are implementation- and issues-oriented, user-friendly for the non-planner universe and instructive for local and county officials and other agencies that will be involved with implementation. Members of the *Working Groups* consisted of representatives of agencies and organizations, local officials and other local stakeholders. Members of the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* included the following:

- Brad Lashinsky, Jefferson County
- Bill Setree, Jefferson County
- Ken Burkett, Executive Director, Jefferson County History Center
- Laura Lynn Yohe, The Jeffersonian Democrat
- Marlene Lellock, Executive Director, Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center.
- Ron King, Jefferson County Planning Commission
- Tom Kundrich, Sykesville Borough
- Jill Martin-Rend, Jefferson County Planning Commission and Butler County Community College
- John Straitiff, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau.
- Dana Schreckengost, Brookville Borough
- Jake Ferko, Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce
- Sal Cassano, National Fuel Gas

Recreation and Tourism Strategy

Jefferson County was created on March 26, 1804, from part of Lycoming County and named for President Thomas Jefferson. It was attached to Westmoreland County until 1806 and then to Indiana County until 1830, when it was formally organized. Brookville, the county seat, was reportedly named for the numerous brooks and streams in the vicinity.

Jefferson County is located in west central Pennsylvania, centrally located approximately 85 miles south of the New York State line, approximately 75 miles east of the Ohio State line, approximately 70 miles northeast of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan area, approximately 125 miles southeast of Erie and approximately 75 west of State College. The County is linked by a modern network of transportation systems including the DuBois Regional Airport directly accessible from Interstate 80 and the Punxsutawney Municipal Airport. U.S. Interstate 80 crosses the middle of Jefferson County for 36 miles from west to east with six (6) interchanges providing access to the County. Other principal regional highways passing through the County include US Routes 119, 219 and 322, as well as State Routes 28 and 36.

The land area of the County is 655 square miles or approximately 419,200 acres. There are twenty-three (23) townships and eleven (11) boroughs in Jefferson County; the latter includes Brookville, the County Seat, and Punxsutawney, the most populous community. The contiguous counties are Armstrong, Clearfield, Indiana, Clarion, Forest and Elk. The relative approximate distances between Brookville and the County seats of these contiguous counties are as follows:

- ❑ Ridgway (Elk County) 35 miles
- ❑ Clearfield (Clearfield County) 40 miles
- ❑ Indiana (Indiana County) 47 miles
- ❑ Kittanning (Armstrong County) 40 miles
- ❑ Clarion (Clarion County) 20 miles
- ❑ Tionesta (Forest County) 38 miles

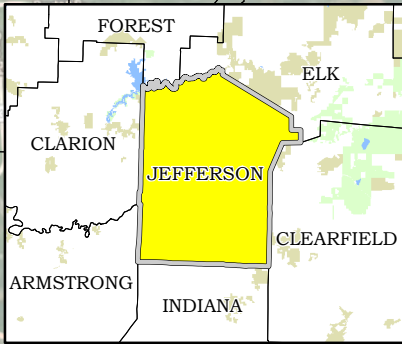
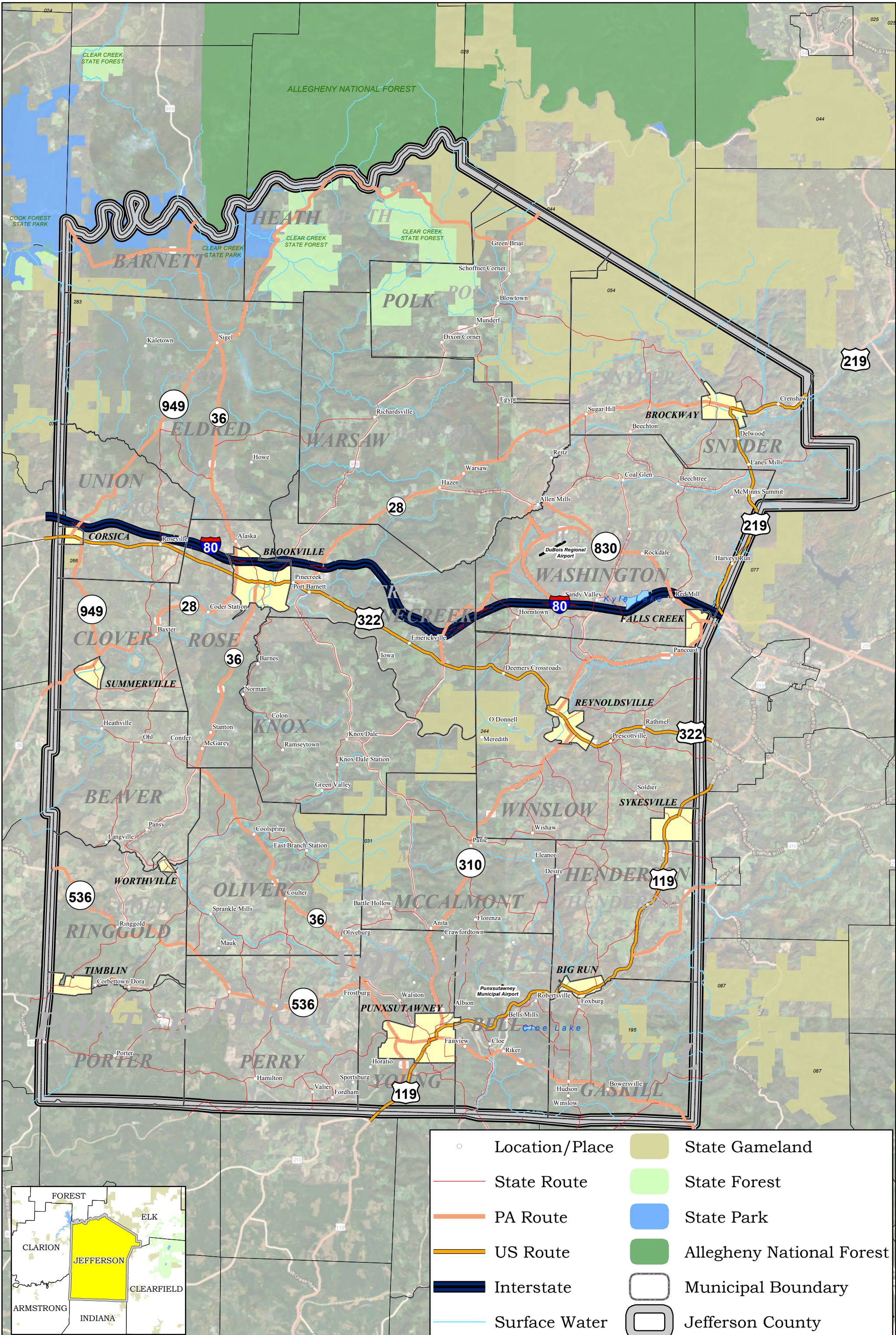
A number of past tourism planning and development activities in Jefferson County have focused on the nature- and cultural-tourism resources of a large multi-county region, in recognition of the increasing role that tourism has on the economy of Jefferson County and adjacent counties. This *Recreation and Tourism Strategy* updates information on outdoor and nature based recreation resources, heritage resources and related tourism resources determined to be critical to Jefferson County. The focal point of this *Strategy* are recommendations and actions centered on enhancing the outdoor recreation and heritage tourism features opportunities that define and create unique experiences in Jefferson County.

The *Strategy* inventories and profiles these assets and identifies opportunities that reflect changes in nature-tourism, where boating, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking have

eclipsed the conventional staples of hunting and fishing. This requires understanding market forces, connecting critical recreation and tourism resources, filling any gaps that impede success in tourism and meeting the leisure time needs of present and future residents and determining what more can be done to market the *experiences* offered by the County to assure maximum economic benefits.

The *Recreation and Tourism Strategy* enhances Jefferson County as a recreation, nature and heritage tourism destination without negatively affecting the quality of life and community characteristics that make it a great place to reside. In essence then, this entire process is an attempt to address recreation and tourism in a context-sensitive manner. This *Strategy* aggregates and synthesizes input and guidance provided by the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* convened to oversee development of this *Strategy* and takes into account public input received at Community Workshops and from a Community Survey. This *Strategy* also involves original and secondary research gathered by The EADS Group. The *Strategy* is organized as follows:

- Background Analysis – providing a Tourism and Heritage profile of Jefferson County.
- Synthesis of Information – includes an overview of related input received from the Community Workshops, Community Survey and the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group*.
- Recommendations/Implementation – an action oriented strategic plan arranged by recommendations and actions keyed to the priority recreation and tourism issues and opportunities identified by the planning process.



	Location/Place		State Gameland
	State Route		State Forest
	PA Route		State Park
	US Route		Allegheny National Forest
	Interstate		Municipal Boundary
	Surface Water		Jefferson County

TOURISM PROFILE

Tourism has long been an important component of the Jefferson County economy, especially in terms of nature-tourism. The value of Jefferson County's recreation, heritage and natural resources as a tourism draw, contributor to the economic base and source of outdoor recreation was recognized and discussed on several occasion during the planning process. Participants in Community Workshops held during the planning process acknowledged that the County's recreation, heritage and natural features are a major draw for local residents and regional visitors alike.

Tourism Areas

Jefferson County is located within two (2) recognized tourism areas, including the *Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania* and the *Pennsylvania Wilds Landscape Conservation area*. These areas are multi-county, asset based, economic development programs rooted in natural, cultural, and industrial history.

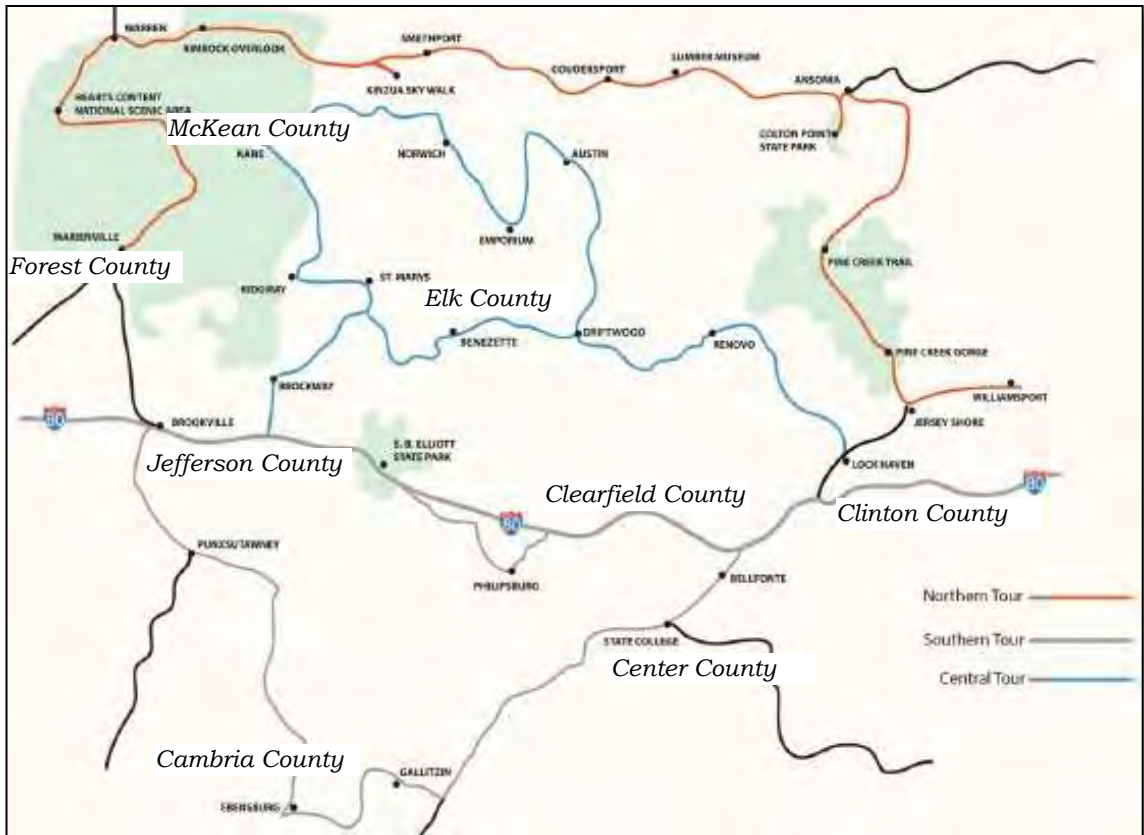
□ Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania –

The Lumber Heritage Region comprises fifteen (15) counties as graphically depicted in the insert photo to the right. The Region celebrates the History, Heritage and Future of Pennsylvania's Forest. It is an internationally recognized forest community with a sense of pride in its people, the quality of life, and the traditions of its rural heritage.



The Region is a destination that continues to provide unique opportunities for forest products manufacturing, education, research, and recreation. Linking forests, parks, historic resources, and communities allows residents and visitors to explore local cultures and contribute to local economies.

The Lumber Heritage Region has developed three (3) driving tours through the Region that offer a variety of themes and give visitors an assortment of attractions associated with lumber history. As shown on the insert map below, both the Central Tour and Southern Tour routes are aligned through Jefferson County. In addition to Brockway, other points of interests along the Central Tour include Lock Haven, Renovo, Austin, Sterling Run/Emporium, Norwich, Kane, Ridgway and St. Mary's. The Southern Tour features Brookville and Punxsutawney along with Ebensburg, Gallitzin, State College, Bellefonte, Philipsburg and S.B. Elliot State Park.



□ PA Wilds Conservation Landscape

The PA Wilds is a 12 ½ -county area that offers tremendous outdoor experiences including 29 state parks, 50 state game lands, 8 state forests, abundant wildlife and hundreds of miles of land and water trails. The more than 2 million acres of public land in the region is comparable to Yellowstone Park. The region is home to the largest elk herd in the northeast, some of the darkest skies in the country. Nature draws many to the region, but visitors also come to experience the area's rich oil and lumber heritage and authentic small towns. The PA Wilds Conservation Landscape program aligns closely with the geographic boundaries of the Lumber Heritage Region. The PA Wilds covers 12½ counties of the 15-county Lumber Heritage Region area. The primary goals of the PA Wilds include:

- Ensure stewardship of the public lands and character of the region's communities;
- Support and grow private businesses such as accommodations, services, and locally made products;
- Promote the renewal of the region's communities and appropriate community planning; and,
- Invest in public infrastructure to enhance the visitor experience.

The PA Wilds identifies several themed Landscape Regions, each with their own character and unique, place-specific experiences.

The landscape areas are woven together by unifying characteristics, but each has its own remarkable assets and identity.

Jefferson County lies within the *Cook Forest and the Ancients* and the *I-80 Frontier Landscape* regions.



The Cook Forest and the Ancients Landscape - is promoted as the land of giants because of the *Forest Cathedral* of ancient pines and hemlocks located in Cook Forest State Park. Key points of interest in the Jefferson County area promoted in this Landscape Region include:

- Cook Forest State Park
- Cook Forest State Parks' Forest Cathedral
- Seneca Rock Overlook
- Clarion River
- Clear Creek State Park
- Sawmill Center for the Arts
- Laurel Fields in Clear Creek State Forest
- Beartown Rocks in Clear Creek State Forest
- Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

The I-80 Frontier Landscape - is promoted as the quintessential welcome mat to the Pennsylvania Wilds. It is said that with its proximity to Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Cleveland and New York City, any given exit off the Interstate 80 will give visitors access to the natural and hidden wonders of the Region. Key points of interest in the Jefferson County identified/promoted by the PA Wilds in this Landscape Region include:

- Punxsutawney, Gobblers Knob, Groundhog Day and related activities
- The Punxsutawney Weather Discover Center
- Red Bank Valley Trail
- Beartown Rocks in Clear Creek State Forest
- Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

Target Audience

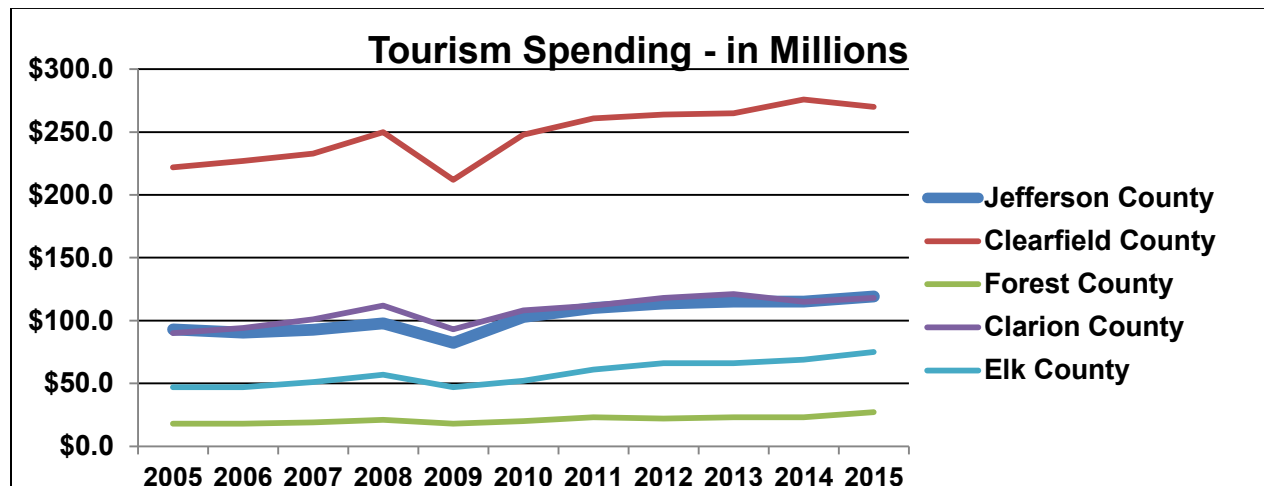
Econometrics is a field always showing sophistication and even localization. One approach in understanding target audiences is the Nielsen Claritas PRIZM segmentation system that brings together household and geographic level data. PRIZM attempts to capture demographic and lifestyle data to provide a “snapshot” view, perhaps oversimplified, of how areas (i.e. Zip Code level) may be profiled. The most common PRIZM segments and larger *social groups* identified for the Brookville (15825), Brockway (15824) and Punxsutawney (15767) zip code areas are provided below. They describe the likely audience who would be attracted to the types of recreation, nature and heritage tourism resources offered in Jefferson County.

- ❑ *Big Sky Families* (Upper-Mid, Younger w/ Kids) – These residents enjoy all types of music and all types of team sports and outdoor activities, especially hunting. To entertain their families, they buy virtually every piece of sporting equipment on the market.
- ❑ *Country Strong* (Lower Mid, Middle Age Family Mix) - They are focused on their families and prefer hunting and listening to music to keeping up with the latest technology.
- ❑ *Campers and Camo* (Downscale, Middle Age, Family Mix) - Primarily found in more rural areas, Campers and Camo families enjoy the outdoors. A top segment for ownership of an RV, they also enjoy hunting and fishing.
- ❑ *Simple Pleasures* (Lower Mid, Mature w/o Kids) - Simple Pleasures is mostly a retirement lifestyle. Many are high school-educated seniors who held blue-collar jobs before their retirement.
- ❑ *Back Country Folks* (Downscale, Older, Mostly w/o Kids) - These residents have below average incomes and live in older, modest-sized homes and manufactured housing. Typically, life in this segment is a throwback to an earlier era when farming dominated the American landscape.
- ❑ *Red, White and Blue* (Low Income, Middle Age, Family Mix) – These folks are transitioning from blue-collar jobs to the service industry. In their spare time, they are active members of their local community organizations.
- ❑ *Crossroad Villagers* (Downscale, Mature, w/o Kids) - With a population of retired seniors, Crossroads Villagers is a classic small town lifestyle. Residents are high school-educated, with downscale incomes and modest housing. They enjoy the occasional dinner out and are frequent cruise vacationers.

The above segments and social groups may be an oversimplification, but they provide evidence that residents in Jefferson County are attracted to the outdoor recreation activities and natural resources which is consistent with the general outcomes of this Recreation and Tourism Strategy.

Tourism Spending

The most recently published annual *Economic Impact of Pennsylvania's Travel and Tourism Industry report* (2015) provides state, regional, and county level estimates that demonstrate the vital importance of the travel industry to Pennsylvania's economy. The report provides estimates of visitor spending, employment and earnings derived from traveler spending, the contribution of the travel industry to the Pennsylvania's gross state product, and tax receipts derived from traveler spending. The graphic below presents total tourism spending in Jefferson County during 2005-2015. Tourism spending increased by nearly 28% in Jefferson County, from approximately \$93 million in 2005 to \$119 million in 2015. In comparison to surrounding counties, the percentage increase in tourism dollars in Jefferson County was higher than Clearfield County (21%) and fairly consistent with Clarion County (31%), but lagged behind that for the Counties of Forest (48%) and Elk (56%) during the 2005-2015 period.



Source: *The Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania – 2015: Tourism Economics*

In terms of actual total tourism dollars spent in 2015, Jefferson County (\$119) was higher than the total spent in Forest (\$27 million) and Elk (\$75 million) Counties and was consistent with Clarion County (\$118 million), but was well below the \$270 million spent in Clearfield County.

Table 1 below profiles tourism spending by major category for Jefferson County in 2015, and in relation to and in comparison with that for the *Pennsylvania Wilds* region as a whole, with respective percentages shown for statewide spending.

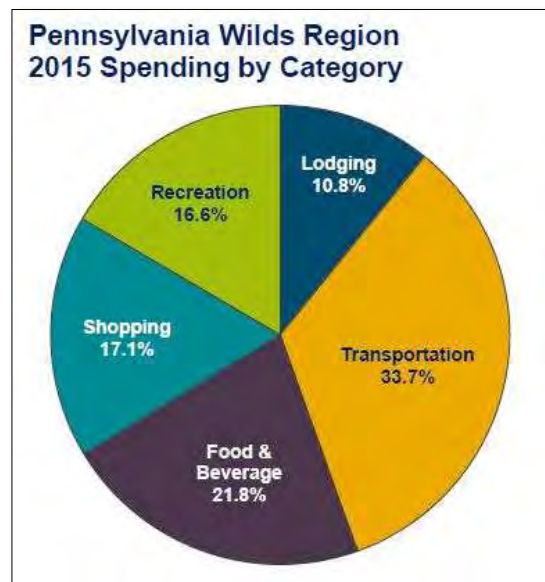
**Table 1
Tourism Spending by Major Category - 2015**

Category	PA (%)	PA Wilds		Jefferson County		
		Dollar Amount (in millions)	% of Total	Dollar Amount (in millions)	% of Total	% of PA Wilds
Lodging	13.5%	\$188.0	10.8%	\$9.2	7.7%	4.9%
Food & Beverage	20.6%	\$378.1	21.8%	\$21.9	18.4%	5.8%
Retail	15.9%	\$297.3	17.1%	\$17.1	14.4%	5.8%
Recreation	16.9%	\$287.3	16.6%	\$21.7	18.2%	7.6%
Transportation	33.1%	\$585.1	33.7%	\$49.3	41.4%	8.4%
TOTAL	100%	\$1,735.7	100%	\$119.1	100%	6.9%

Source: *The Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania – 2015: Tourism Economics.*

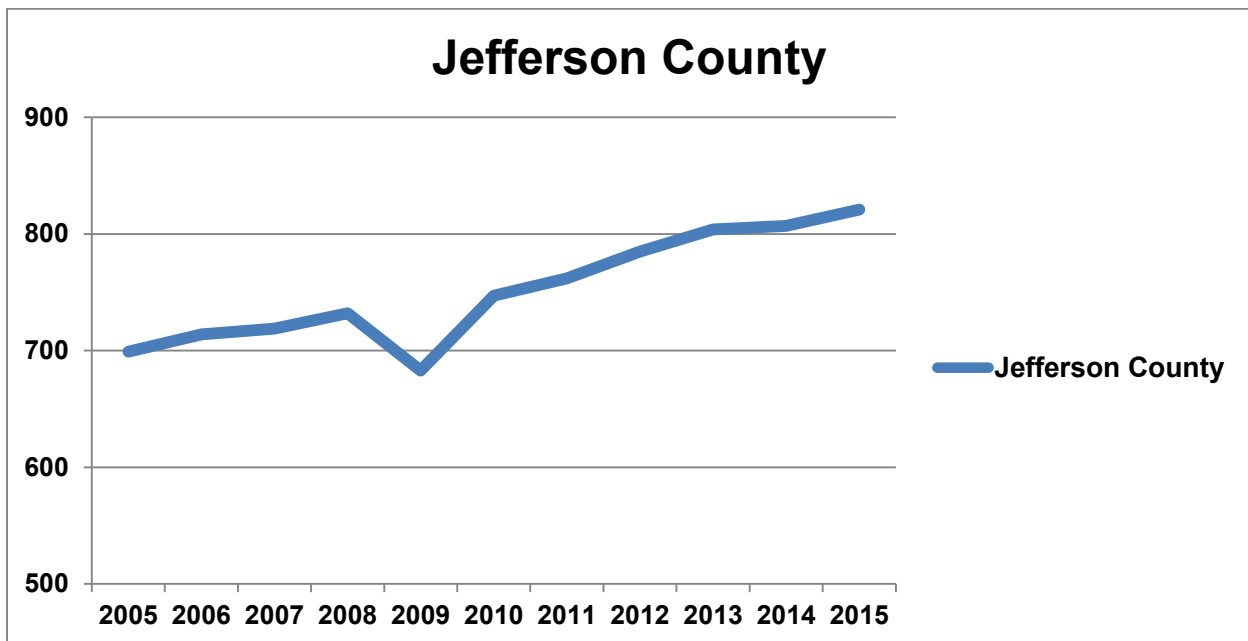
Most of the categories are fairly obvious and self-explanatory, with the exception of “transportation”, which includes purchases of gasoline, air fare, bus fare, train fare, parking, tolls and vehicle repairs. The following summarizes the profile:

- Spending on lodging in Jefferson County accounts for 7.7% of total tourism spending in the County, well below the figure for Pennsylvania and that for the *Pennsylvania Wilds* region;
- Spending on food and drink comprises just over 18% of total spending, slightly below the *Pennsylvania Wilds* figure and the statewide figure;
- Retail spending comprises 14% of total spending, which again is slightly below the *Pennsylvania Wilds* figure and the statewide figure;
- Spending on recreation accounts for over 18% of total tourism spending in the County, which is higher than the comparable figures for the *Pennsylvania Wilds* and the statewide figure; and
- Transportation spending in the County is significant and comprises just over 40% of total tourism spending in the County. This is a significantly higher percentage than the comparable figures for the *Pennsylvania Wilds* and state.
- In 2015, tourism spending in Jefferson County comprised approximately 7% of all tourism spending in the *Pennsylvania Wilds* region.



Tourism Employment

Another measure of economic relevance involves those persons directly employed in tourism-related businesses and resources. The graphic below shows growth in tourism related employment, increasing by 17% since 2005, when 699 people were employed to 821 people in 2015. This employment growth is consistent with that for the *Pennsylvania Wilds* as a whole (17%) as well as that for Clearfield County (21%), and outpaced increases for the Counties of Clarion (10%), Forest (11%) and Elk (14%) for this same period.



Source: *The Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania – 2015: Tourism Economics*

Total Economic Impacts from Tourism

When adding together the direct traveler spending figures, the incomes from those employed in the tourism industry and local, state and federal taxes generated, the total impact from tourism to Jefferson County is well over \$150 million per year.

Detailed Traveler Analysis

An allied resource to the *Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania* is the *Pennsylvania Annual Travel Profile – 2015 Travel Year* (Longwoods International), which provides a profile of the traveling public from information gained from surveys. An excerpt of this source localized to this planning effort notes the following:

- *Overnight Stays:* The importance of the *overnight traveler* on the economy has been *shown* in numerous tourism studies, typically spending up to three times per day over what the “day-tripper” may spend. The following are significant destinations in terms of attracting overnight stays in or near Jefferson County:
 - Allegheny National Forest - 11%
 - Punxsutawney/Groundhog Phil – 5%
 - Cook Forest State Park – 4%
 - Clarion River – 2%

- *Factors Affecting Visits:* When asked to identify all the factors that may affect their choice to visit the *Pennsylvania Wilds*, more than half of the respondents identified all of the following:
 - *Feeling safe at the destination (72%)*
 - *Affordable attractions/events (69%)*
 - *Convenient access via automobile (64%)*
 - *Having family/friends in region (61%)*
 - *Being within a two-to-four drive (54%)*

Economic Impacts of Heritage Regions

Research was conducted between 2014 and 2015 in five Pennsylvania Heritage Areas to analyze the economic impact of Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania. The research involved a survey of heritage-area visitors, interviews with stakeholders in the five study heritage areas (HAs), and an estimation of the economic impact of the heritage-related visitation to all twelve (12) Heritage Areas statewide. The *Economic Impact of Pennsylvania Heritage Areas* report prepared for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania found that in 2014, tourists spent an estimated 7.5 million days/nights in Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas and purchased approximately \$2 billion worth of goods and services. And that 70% of this spending was purely reliant on heritage-related attractions. It was also found that the total contribution of heritage visitor spending (direct, indirect and induced effects) to the state's economy was 25,708 jobs and \$798 million in labor income.

Economic Benefits of Land and Water Trails

The following section describes the benefits of land and water trails in terms of them being important community amenities and in terms of the direct economic impacts they can have on the tourism base and local economies. Successful communities are realizing that trails are highly desirable assets that can improve the quality of life of residents, can help spur business and economic development, can aid in business and employee recruitment efforts and can directly bring dollars into local areas. Successful counties understand that trails provide important alternative transportation options and that trail corridors, open spaces and greenways help to improve the quality of life of local residents and can help to attract potential new residents and visitors equally and that these new residents and visitors will facilitate job growth in recreation and tourism-related opportunities. Companies often choose to locate in areas that offer a range of amenities including hiking, biking and water trails and related amenities to employees as a means of attracting and retaining top-level workers. From a tourism perspective, a land and water trail network will attract new visitors to the County who will likely also want to visit and experience the Natural and Outdoor Recreation and Heritage Tourism assets and other local points of interest offered in the County.

Traditionally, water trails were thought to just provide environmental and social benefits to resident anglers and paddlers. However, more studies are being completed that broadens the awareness of their direct economic benefits. An economic impact study of Pennsylvania recreational water trails was conducted during a six-week period in 2012 to document the economic impact of Pennsylvania's water trails on the state economy. The study was conducted as part of an ongoing effort to promote, maintain, and expand the large network of designated water trails across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The *Pennsylvania Water Trails Economic Impact Study* estimated that, during the six-week sampling periods, the weighted water trail visitor contributed approximately \$593,000 towards the state's Gross State Product (GSP). The following was also reported in the study:

- Males constituted 75 percent of the visitors interviewed during the sampling period.
- Visitor ages ranged from 15–92. Nearly 60 percent of visitors were aged 33–62.
- Over 70 percent of visitors cited their reason for visiting as fishing, canoeing, kayaking, or paddling, or motor boating.
- water trails users regularly patronize lodging, dining, and outfitter businesses

Land and Water Trail projects can appropriately be viewed as community investments and productive community assets. The cost and effort associated with developing, operating and maintaining trails must be balanced against the long term positive impact that a trail can have on the Jefferson County economy. Evidence of the direct economic impact trails provide can be found from the results of Trail User Surveys conducted on various trails across Pennsylvania. A summary of economic impacts for fourteen (14) trails in Pennsylvania is provided on the following page. In addition, the Rails to Trails Conservancy recently performed a study on the Clarion/Little Toby Trail which a significant section is located in Jefferson County and concluded that it has an economic impact of almost \$900,000 annually, with most of this spending coming from out-of-area tourists.

Economic Impacts of Trails in Pennsylvania

Trail	Survey Year	User Profile	Average Daily Amount spent on Soft Goods	Estimated Annual Amount spent on Soft Goods	Estimated Total User Spending
Oil Heritage Region Trail System - Venango County	2006	73% local 27% non-local	\$32.93	-	\$4,308,229
Pine Creek Rail Trail - Tioga and Lycoming Counties	2006	31% local 69% non-local	\$30.30	\$3,601,919	\$4,813,118
Lower Trail - Blair County	2007	94% local 6% non-local	\$27.21	-	-
Perkiomen Trail - Montgomery County	2007	76% local 24% non-local	\$11.09	\$2,338,231	\$4,906,255
Ghost Town Trail - Indiana and Cambria Counties	2008	65% local 35% non-local	\$13.62	\$741,364	\$2,366,092
Schuylkill River Trail - Philadelphia and Montgomery County	2008	80% local 20% non-local	\$9.07	\$3,628,000	\$7,313,026
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail - Lackawanna County	2009	82% local 18% non- local	\$8.87	-	\$28,251,862
Armstrong Trail - Armstrong County	2010	89% local 11% non-local	\$8.35	\$740,250	\$897,442
Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail & Conewago Rec. Trail - Lebanon and Lancaster Counties	2011	85% local 15% non-local	\$12.57	\$875,320	\$1,326,117
Great Allegheny Passage - Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette and Somerset Counties	2012	72% local 28% non-local	\$17.00	-	\$50,000,000 (projected)
Heritage Rail Trail County Park - York County	2012	68%local, 32% non-local	\$13.28	\$2,320,680	\$4,488,474
D&L Trail - Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks County	2012	65% local 35% non-local	\$33.49	\$6,970,537	\$19,075,921
Erie to Pittsburgh Trail - Armstrong, Clarion, Venango and Erie County	2013	70% local 30% non-local	\$21.16	\$2,631,876	\$7,479,348
Three Rivers Heritage Trail - Allegheny County	2014	91% local 8% non-local	\$16.53	\$5,866,660	\$8,286,026

Note: Soft Goods include water, soda, candy, ice cream, lunches, and other consumable items.

Source: Adapted from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources information – updated 10/06/2015. Based on actual Trail User Surveys.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE PROFILE

This Profile is not intended to be an exhaustive history of the County, but a *historic context* for the comprehensive planning process. There are many local resources available for those wishing to know more about Jefferson County and its communities.

Early Settlers

The Native Americans residing in present-day Jefferson County were likely of the Muncy and Seneca Tribes, residing in an area of present-day northwestern Pennsylvania known as the “Cornplanting Kingdom”. Native American villages dating from the Late Woodland period reflected in arrowheads, suggest larger agricultural settlements for protection. Villages in southern Jefferson County were located in floodplains along the Redbank and Mahoning Creeks and tributaries, while in the north villages of distinct groups were high on ridge tops. Likely sites include the present-day communities of Summerville, Brookville, Punxsutawney, Big Run, Reynoldsville, Port Barnett and Warsaw.

A few sites from the early pre-historic periods have been identified, with a large number in the Late Archaic (4000 B.C. to 1700 B.C.) to Late Woodland Period (1000 A.D. to 1550 A.D.). Early settlement likely followed the establishment of deciduous forests. Chert in the present day Stanton and Coolspring areas were likely sources for this material required for stone tools. Sites may have been disturbed by strip mining. Chert chips suggesting further refining were found in areas bordering the Redbank and Mahoning Creeks. The Clarion, Redbank and Mahoning waterways were important east-west crossings between the Allegheny and Susquehanna Rivers. On the land, important early trails included The Catawba Trail (Clear Creek to Hamilton along Rt. 36), The Great Shamokin Path (follows Mahoning Creek), The Chinklacamoose Trail (DuBois to Franklin near Rt. 322) and The Punxsutawney-Venango Path (originated in Punxsutawney passing through Frostburg, Grange and Ringgold) to Clarion County where it connected with a regional trail.

European goods found their way into western Pennsylvania by the late 1500’s, likely through trade with the Susquehannocks. By the mid-1600’s disease, destruction, dispersal and absorption of the Native Americans were occurring. The refugee population often banded together in small settlements by the early 1700’s, with Punxsutawney being the only known named settlement in the County during this period, although other probably existed along streams. There were constant struggles between the Native and European cultures, with the former in an alliance with the French during the French and Indian War (1756-63) and the British during the Revolution. The alliances were generally between the Native Americans and whoever was construed as the “lesser of evils” at a point in time. At the conclusion of the Revolution, the Treaty of 1784 ceded the last tribal lands to the Americans, by which time most Native Americans moved farther west. Thus, by the time the first permanent White settlers arrived, the land in the County was largely uninhabited.

Early European Settlement

The first visitors may have been captives of the Native Americans and also the Moravians who conducted diplomatic and missionary work from their base in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Other early settlers followed what became known as Meade's Trail, a path followed by the Meade family from Sunbury to what became Meadville in northwestern Pennsylvania. The first non-Native settlement in the County was by the Barnett family in 1797. Development was rather slow and by 1810, the large County of 1,203 square miles (embracing present-day Elk, Forest and Jefferson Counties) was 162 people, reflecting the relative isolation of this part of the state. The first state road in the western part of the state was built in 1804 between Centre County and Erie, but it was inadequate. Later settlement and development largely avoided northwestern Pennsylvania even as the Pittsburgh and Erie areas grew, given the western orientation of surface waters and topography. Much of northern Jefferson County remained wilderness well into the 1800's.

Settlement was slow with much land falling into the hands of speculators and land companies after the Treaty of 1784 but attracting few settlers. The Holland Land Company owned significant quantities of land, with Charles Gaskill in charge of land sales that faced difficulties due to lack of accessibility. The development and opening of the Susquehanna and Waterford (Erie County) Turnpike began to change this lack of access when it opened in 1824. Soon taverns were developed and stagecoach service came into operation. The population increased from 561 persons in 1820 to 7,243 by 1840.

Immigration Patterns

The Scots-Irish and Germans comprised the majority of the migrants in the 1820's-30's, with these groups moving westward from Philadelphia. Most were Presbyterians and their churches mark general settlement patterns in the County, including Port Barnett, and present-day Brookville and the Townships of Rose, Washington, Union, Perry and Clover. Germans arrived in several waves of immigration, with the first ones descended from settlers of eastern Pennsylvania, including those mislabeled as "Pennsylvania Dutch". Other German migration included those who first settled in Westmoreland or Armstrong Counties. Jacob Hoover, a German-American was the first non-Native American resident of present-day Punxsutawney, and the land holdings of Timothy Pickering played a role in attracting other German settlers in the County. Knox Dale began as a German settlement in the 1840's, and German settlement generally was in the central and southern sections of the County. As is true of the Scots-Irish, the Lutheran and reformed Churches reflect the presence of German settlers.

The Irish also were settlers as early as 1831, but did not come in numbers of the Scots-Irish. The Irish were Roman Catholics, and settled in Brookville, Punxsutawney, Washington Township and Reynoldsville. Others came to the County in the later 1800's working on the railroads and in the coal mines.

Persons of English descent came to the County from New York and the New England states, with the Brockway family being among the first in the 1810-20 period. By the

1830's "Yankee" migration accelerated with migrants moving westward for economic opportunity primarily from timbering. Other early immigrants came from Belgium and northern Europe, with the former locating in Brookville and the latter in the Reynoldsville and Punxsutawney areas, and the Townships of Winslow, Snyder and Washington especially as coal mining developed. African-Americans were present in small numbers, comprised of former slaves.

The northern and western European profile of settlers prior to the 1880's began to change, and reflected the characteristics of the larger region and the nation. The advent of coal mining in the late-1800's attracted immigrants from eastern and southern Europe, who were the workforce fueling the industrialization of the country. As a reflection of this, while southern and eastern Europeans were largely non-existent among those documented by the 1880 Census, their numbers were present by 1900, especially in the coal mining areas, such as Winslow Township and the villages of Walston and Adrian.

Civic and Public Institutions

By 1870 there were numerous churches and congregations in the County, including five Baptist, eight Lutheran, eighteen Methodist, 21 Presbyterian, three Reformed German and three Roman Catholic. In the mid-1850's no fewer than 105 schools existed in the County, with each municipality considered a school district. Schools ranged from one-to eight-rooms. The Brookville High School dated from 1878, predating the high school education requirement in the Commonwealth by fifteen years. By WWI, the County was home to literally hundreds of grade schools, 13 high schools and a vocational school. Various jointures and mergers have occurred over the years and now the County is within five (5) school districts, although some decried a loss of "identity" as the small school districts disappeared due to financial and programmatic considerations. Some of the former school buildings have been recycled into use as municipal buildings, community centers and other public uses while other have been destroyed and/or demolished. There are a number of schools with religious affiliations in the County. Indiana University of Pennsylvania purchased the former West End Elementary school and began a branch campus in 1962, focusing on first-year students who then transfer to the Main Campus in Indiana.

The first hospital in the County was for mining employees in the village of Adrian, incorporated and built in 1888 by Adrian Iselin. It moved to Punxsutawney and merged with the Punxsutawney Hospital in 1932. The Brookville hospital was dedicated in 1919.

Industrial Heritage

Timbering in Jefferson County began with the Barnett family and continued for generations. Technological improvements aided timbering operations and included bracket dams, lumber camps and logging railroads. Sawmills included the Cook Sawmill and the Hopkins Big Mill. White pine and hemlock were harvested in the 19th Century. However, by the late-1800's, clear-cutting had exhausted much of the woodlands of western Pennsylvania and by 1905 many sawmill operations ended. This

led to the acquisition of abandoned forestlands by the Commonwealth for the purpose of state forests and game lands, and a reforestation program by the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) during The Depression. The second growth and improved harvesting practices resulted in a reemergence of timbering, now focusing on hardwoods such as black cherry and red oak. The timber heritage also was reflected in the tanning industry, as reflected in the proctor tannery in Falls Creek, which covered 25 acres.

Agriculture has been prevalent throughout the modern history of the County, in fact much of the early timbering was a due to clearing of land to create agricultural land. In the mid-19th Century farming in the County included crops (i.e. fruit, potatoes) and livestock. Dairy farming was critical and by the end of WWII it was said that there was one cow for every four residents of the County. However, agriculture in Jefferson County began to decline during The Depression, a trend that continues today. Agriculture has declined in recent decades as reflected by the reduction in the number of farms (i.e. from 672 in 1967 to 436 by 1997) and a 20% decline in the total number of acres in agricultural production. Even with this trend, a number of present day farmers trace their families' agricultural heritage to the early days of farming in the County in the mid-1800's.

Coal mining also has a long association with the heritage of the County, dating from the early-1800's when small operators mined and sold coal. Mineral surveys were carried out in the late-1800's and the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Coal and Iron Company shipped the first coal by rail in 1883. This company was first headquartered in Punxsutawney. As noted above, employment opportunities in mining attracted southern and eastern European immigrants. Settlements occurred in small clustered company towns, such as Kramer (Henderson Township), Conifer (Beaver Township), Adrian (Young Township) and Elenora (McCalmont Township). Allied industries also grew, such as coke operations. Of course, as is the case with many early coal mining areas, the County sustained a number of problems such as explosions and deaths in the Cascade and Kramer mines and child labor issues. Gradually, deep mining gave way to strip or surface mining especially in southern sections of the County, although present production is a fraction of those at earlier peak production years.

Small quantities of oil were discovered and drilled in the early 20th Century in Heath and Eldred Townships, but natural gas production was far more prevalent in Jefferson County. Brick and pottery production also prospered at various locations in the County, including Clayville (now part of Punxsutawney), Brockway, Punxsutawney and Summerville.

The rail industry developed primarily as a means of transporting coal, but also lumber and other goods. The Allegheny Valley Low Grade Division Railroad served the east/west through freight and passenger service. The Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway (later the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh or BR&P) began to ship coal from the Beechtree mines in 1882, and also had numerous branch lines in the Punxsutawney area. The Pennsylvania and Northwestern, later purchased by the PRR, connected Blair County and the Berwind-White mines near Punxsutawney, providing access to Punxsutawney by two railroads. This led to the rise of Punxsutawney as a regional commercial and industrial center. Related industrial facilities in Punxsutawney included

the Riker Classification Yard, and iron furnace, a 16-stall roundhouse and ancillary railroad shops. In addition to Punxsutawney, rail line converged in Brockway and Falls Creek.

Other area railroads included the Buffalo and Susquehanna (serving mines in Sykesville and Onondaga), the Reynoldsville and Falls Creek (linking area mines), and the Pittsburg & Shawmut serving mines from the northeast to Ohi, Ramsaytown and Timblin, and providing a Pittsburgh connection. Railroads delivered goods and carried passengers in the County until the advent of highway transportation.

The major component of the roadway system was Interstate 80/The Keystone Shortway that crossed the county east-to-west just north of Brookville, construction of which was dedicated in March 1959 near Corsica. The DuBois-Jefferson County Airport opened on June 1, 1960.

Manufacturing in the County served local and regional markets, the latter especially after the extension of rail service in the late-1880's. Rail service, a supply of sand and local natural gas worked together to trigger the development of glass manufacturing during this period. Glass manufacturing plants developed in Falls Creek, Brookville, Punxsutawney and of course Brockway. In the latter case, a facility that started as the Brockway Machine Bottle Company was acquired by Owens-Illinois Glass Container in 1988 and locally known as Owens-Brockway, producing sterilized glass food containers.

Brookville Locomotive Works began in 1918 by installing flanged wheels on a gasoline powered truck, and grew into a company specializing in rail equipment such as locomotives for logging and industrial use. Other local industries serving a large market area include Symmco (Sykesville), Standard Pennant Company (Big Run), Brookville Glove Company, Brockway Pressed Metals, Inc., Reynoldsville Casket Company, Allegheny Powdered metals (Falls Creek), and Acme Machine Company and Proform Powder Metals (both in Punxsutawney).

Outdoor Recreational Heritage

Hunting has a long association with Jefferson County, and grew along side of the concern for the preservation of resources. Hunting of deer, bear and small game provided a recreational outlet as well as an economic role to County residents. In the latter case, various hunting camps have operated in rural sections of the County. The effort involved in the preservation of Cook Forest is an example of the conservation efforts of the early part of the 20th Century, whereby for the first time the Commonwealth acquired land for the preservation of a natural landmark.

The County's association with weather prognosticating is of course enveloped in the celebration of Groundhog's Day, with Punxsutawney Phil's ability or lack thereof to see his shadow. Those involved in tourism promotion in the Punxsutawney area focus on the event and other related interactive experiences such as the Weather Discovery Center in the former Punxsutawney Post Office.

Historically Significant Places

This subsection outlines historically significant places having some role in the heritage of Jefferson County. A number of Jefferson County historic resources are identified on the *National Register of Historic Places*, embracing historic structures and historic and/or architecturally significant buildings. In addition, local efforts have identified other sites that appear to satisfy the eligibility requirements of the *Register* but are not presently on it. Regardless, resources listed and resources deemed to be eligible should all be viewed as being heritage resources.

The National Register of Historic Places was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as the standard for preservation efforts (Section 101). It is the “hall of fame” of places that are important to the American people. To be eligible for listing on the National Register, a property must pass a rigorous review at the state and federal level. It is not easy to list a property on the National Register, so the properties that are listed are truly worthy of preservation. The National Register recognizes several categories of resources including single objects, structures, or buildings and groups of resources within a site or district. Regardless of category, the resource must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property must also be significant, as determined by these criteria:

- ❑ It must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- ❑ It must be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- ❑ It must embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or
 - Represent the work of a master, or
 - Possess high artistic values, or
 - Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or
- ❑ It must have yielded, or be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (abstracted from 36 CFR Part 60.4).

In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) maintains an inventory of historic properties. It includes not only those that have been listed on the National Register but also those that have been determined to be eligible for listing. The PHMC records identify thirteen (13) resources that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These are summarized on Table 2 provided on the following page. In addition to these, fifteen (15) properties/sites have been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register. These are summarized in Table 3 on page 23. The map on page 24 shows the location of the selected historic properties identified as being priority sites by the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group*.

Table 2
Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places

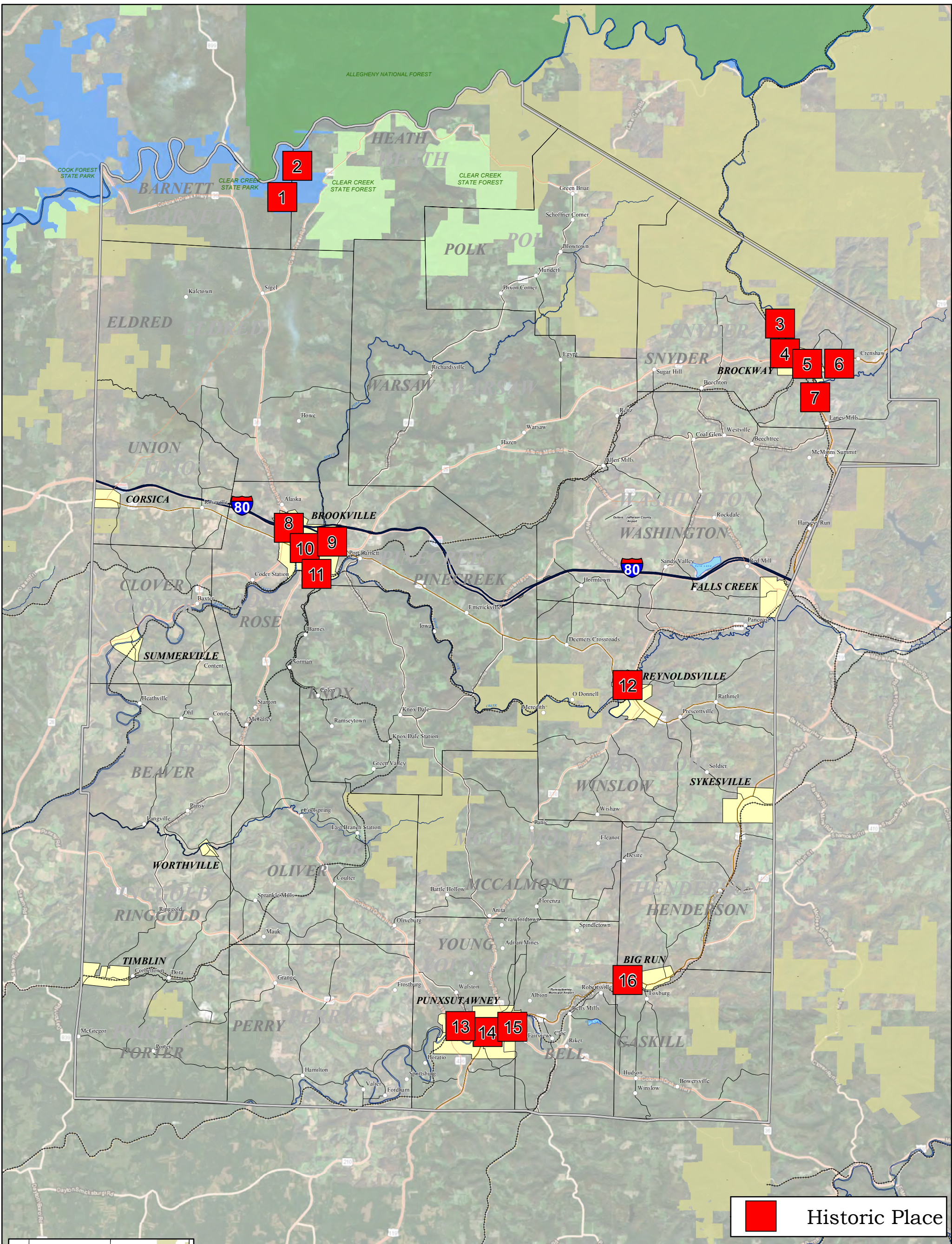
Municipality	Property	Category	Date Listed
Barnett Township	Clear Creek State Park, Day Use District	District	2/11/87
Barnett Township	Clear Creek State Park, Family Cabin Historic District	District	2/12/87
Brockway Borough	Brockwayville Passenger Depot Station	Building	5/29/03
Brookville Borough	Presbyterian Church and Manse	Building	11/26/82
Brookville Borough	Gray-Taylor House	Building	8/3/79
Brookville Borough	Joseph E. Hall House	Building	12/13/78
Brookville Borough	Philip Taylor House	Building	7/22/82
Heath Township	Clear Creek State Park, Day Use District	District	2/11/87
Punxsutawney Borough	Hon. T.M. Kurtz House	Building	7/25/88
Punxsutawney Borough	Christian Miller House	Building	1/9/95
Punxsutawney Borough	Punxsutawney U.S. Post Office	Building	11/22/00
Reynoldsville Borough	Herpel Brothers Foundry & Machine Shop	Building	8/4/04
Snyder Township	Redford Segers House	Building	5/5/00

Source: PA Historic and Museum Commission CR GIS; accessed January 29, 2018

Table 3
Properties Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

Municipality	Property	Category	Year Built
Bell Township	Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad (Cloe to Homer City and Ridge Branch Junction to Clarksburg)	District	-
Big Run Borough	Smeyres Homestead	Building	1866
Brockway Borough	Joseph Curry House	Building	c1900
Brockway Borough	McCain House	Building	c1890
Brookville Borough	Elizabeth Gernsback Property	Building	c1890
Clover Township	Joseph Knapp Hotel and Store	Building	c1870
Falls Creek Borough	Falls Creek Public School	Building	1902
Heath Township	Hays Lot Fire Lookout Tower	Structure	1921
Pine Creek Township	Humphrey Industries Office and Residence	Building	c1929
Pine Creek Township	Scripture Rocks - Port Barnett Site	District	1908;1915
Pine Creek Township	Jefferson Manor (structure no longer exists)	Building	c1901
Rose Township	Pittsburgh & Shamut Railroad: Viaduct	Structure	-
Snyder Township	Pennsylvania Game Commission Training School (structures no longer exist)	Building	c1908;1929
Snyder Township	Norman B. Lane House	Building	c1850;c1860
Washington Township	Wray Schoolhouse	Building	c1890

Source: PA Historic and Museum Commission CR GIS; accessed January 29, 2018

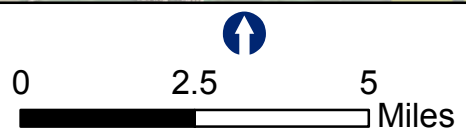


 Historic Place



MAP ID	NAME
1	Clear Creek State Park Day Use District
2	Clear Creek State Park Family Cabin District
3	PA Game Commission Training School
4	Brockwayville Passenger Station
5	McCain House
6	Redford Segers House
7	Norman B. Lane House
8	Gray-Taylor House

MAP ID	NAME
9	Presbyterian Church & Manse
10	Joseph E. Hall House
11	Philip Taylor House (Brookville Borough Complex)
12	Herpel Bros. Foundry & Machine
13	Christian Miller House
14	Punxsutawney Post Office (Weather Discovery Center)
15	Hon. T.M. Kurtz House
16	Smeyres Homestead



SELECTED HISTORIC PLACES

Historic Districts

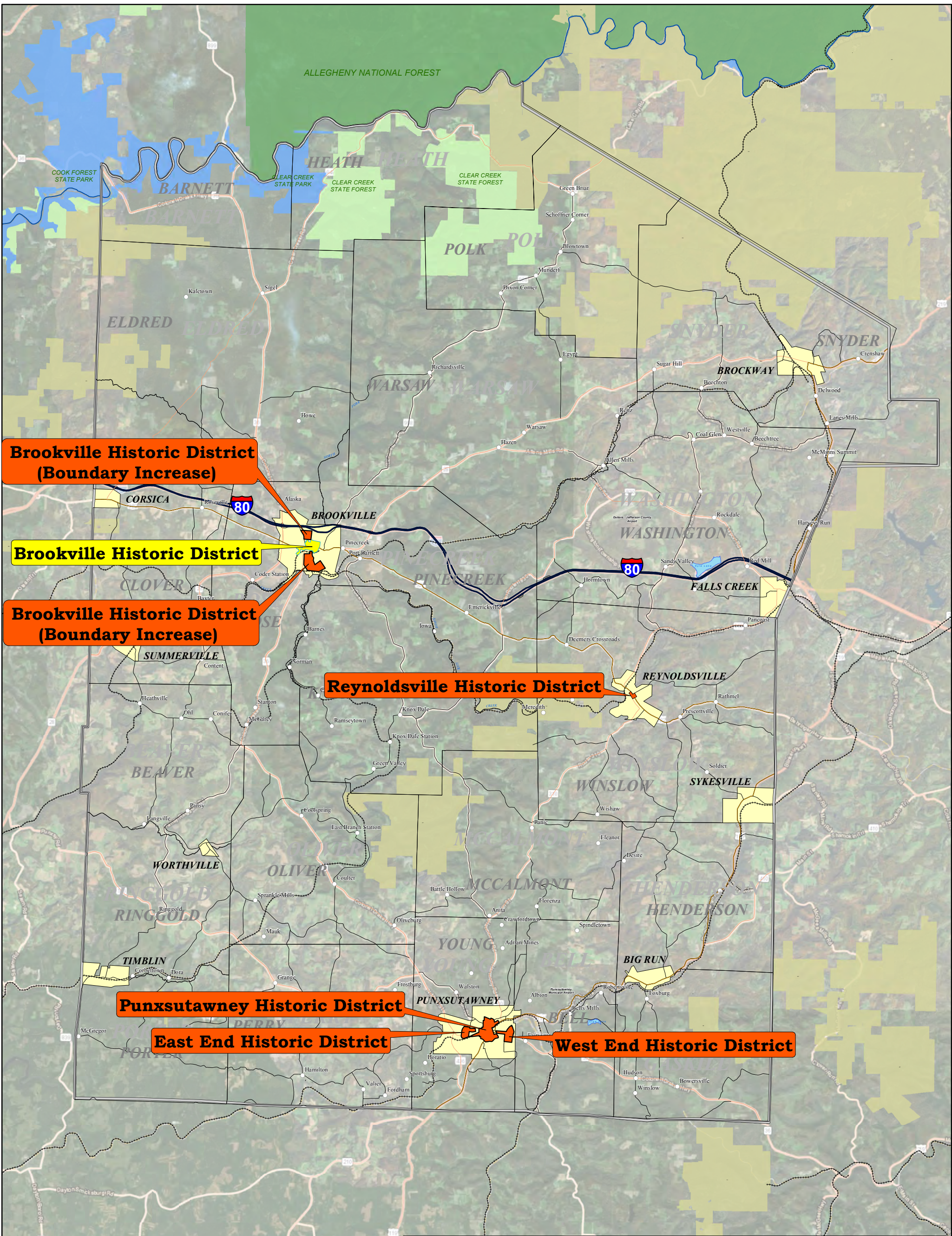
The National Register of Historic Places also maintains records of National Register Historic Districts. The National Register of Historic Places defines a historic district as a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history. The National Register recognizes six (6) Historic Districts located in traditionally developed sections of some of the County's older Boroughs. Out of these six, only the Brookville Historic District is formally listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining Districts are identified as being eligible for listing. The Historic Districts are summarized in Table 4. The map on the following page highlights the location of these Historic Districts.

Table 4
National Register Listed and Eligible Historic Districts

Municipality	Name	Status
Brookville Borough	Brookville Historic District	Listed
Brookville Borough	Brookville Historic District (Boundary Increase – two (2) areas)	Eligible
Punxsutawney Borough	Punxsutawney Historic District	Eligible
Punxsutawney Borough	Punxsutawney East End Historic District	Eligible
Punxsutawney Borough	Punxsutawney West End Historic District	Eligible
Reynoldsville Borough	Reynoldsville Historic District	Eligible

Source: PA Historic and Museum Commission CR GIS; accessed January 29, 2018

The identified resources in this subsection define those resources identified as being *listed* or *eligible* in relation to the *National Register of Historic Places* according to PHMC records. This is not an exhaustive list of all historically significant structures, districts or sites in Jefferson County. Overall, The PHMC records identify 179 additional sites within the County that were evaluated but determined to be ineligible for listing on the *Register*, and 282 additional sites identified as having 'Insufficient Information to Evaluate', meaning that more research is needed to determine their eligibility.



**Brookville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)**

Brookville Historic District

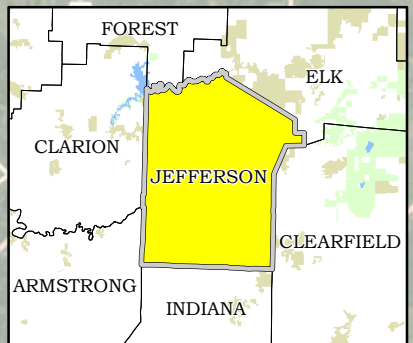
**Brookville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)**

Reynoldsville Historic District

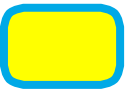

Punxsutawney Historic District

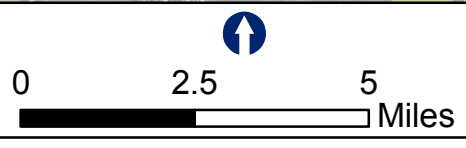
East End Historic District

West End Historic District



Historic Districts:

-  National Register Listed Historic District
-  National Register Eligible Historic District



HISTORIC DISTRICTS

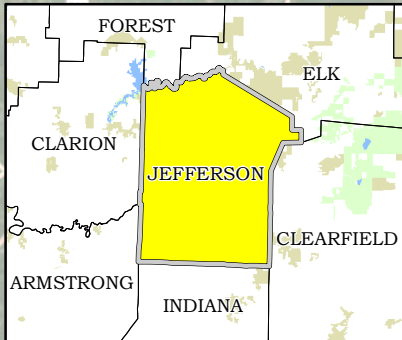
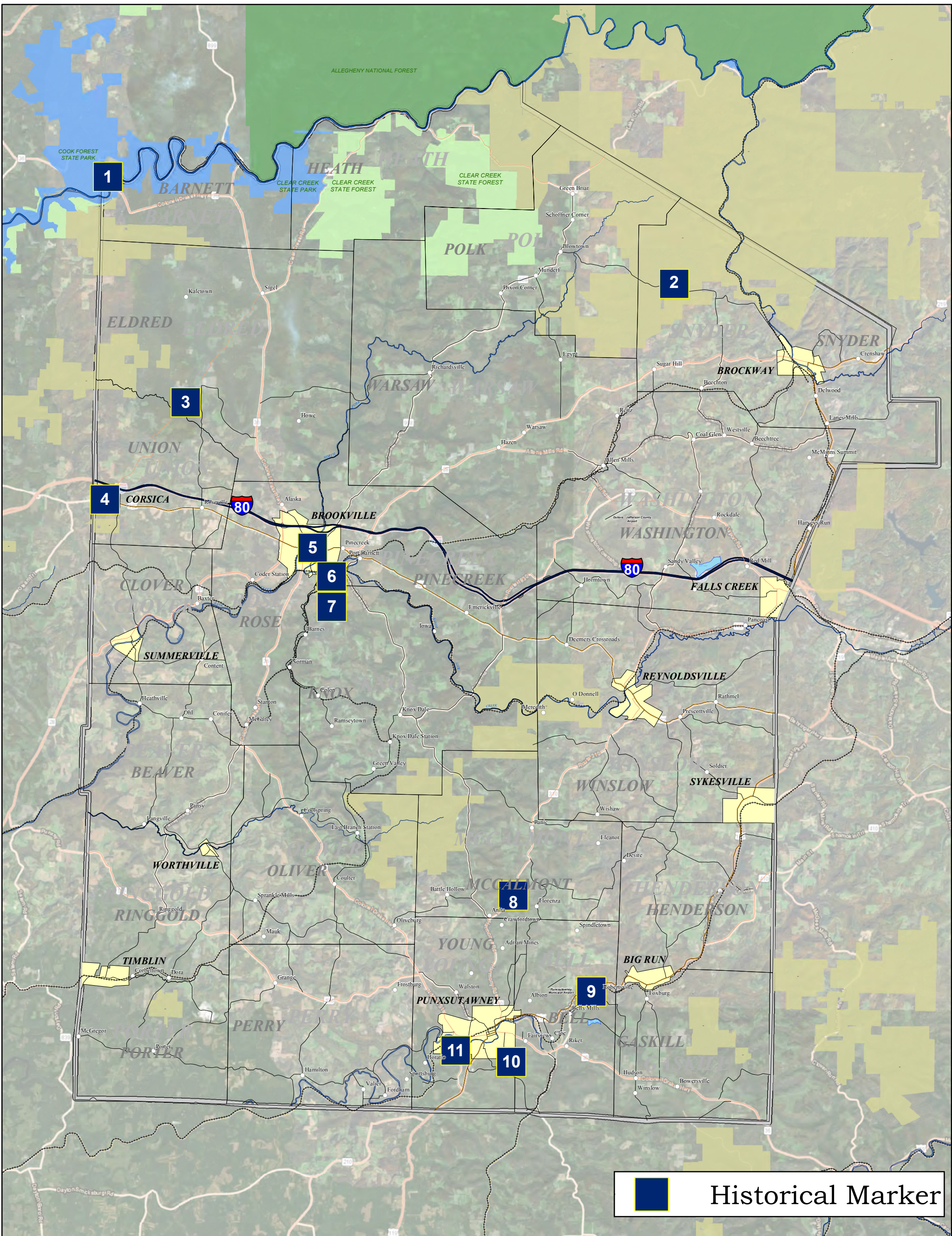
Pennsylvania Historical Markers

The iconic blue and yellow PHMC Historic Markers identify important historic sites, events and resources and are readily recognizable by heritage-tourists, residents and the casual traveler. There are eleven (11) historical markers in Jefferson County as described on the following Table. The map of the following page highlights their location in the County.

**Table 5
HISTORICAL MARKERS**

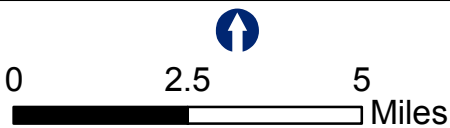
Marker	Categories	Text
Cooksburg PA 36 - near Clarion River Bridge, Corsica (Missing)	Cities & Towns, Environment	Named for John Cook who came to this section in 1826 and started lumber industry along Tom's Run. Here is Cook Forest State Park. In this park, there is one of the finest stands of large white pine-hemlock in the State.
Ross Leffler School of Conservation – Game School & Empire Ridge Rds., Brockway	Education, Environment, Government & Politics 20th Century, Professions & Vocations, Sports & Recreation	Within State Game Lands 54 is the original site of the first academy in the nation devoted entirely to the training of Game Protectors, later known as Wildlife Conservation Officers. Established in 1932, it was an important component in the professionalism of game management in Pa. It was named for Ross L. Leffler, a 30-year member of the Game Commission and Asst. Secretary of the Interior, appointed by President Eisenhower.
Iroquois "Main Road" – PA 949, 3.8 miles N of Corsica (Missing)	Native American, Paths & Trails, Roads, Transportation	The highway here follows the course of an old war path used by the Iroquois. It was their best route to the south until the Susquehanna Valley was opened to them by their victory over the Susquehannocks.
Olean Road – Main St. (US 322), near Olean Rd. (Rt. 949), Corsica	Native American, Roads, Transportation	This early road from Olean to Kittanning followed the Catawba Path, formerly used by Five Nations war parties attacking the Catawbas of South Carolina. Near here it crossed the Indian path from Venango (Franklin) to Chinklacamoose (Clearfield).
Jefferson County County Courthouse – Main St. (Rt. 28) at Pickering, Brookville	Government & Politics, Government & Politics 19th Century	Formed March 26, 1804 out of Lycoming County and named for President Thomas Jefferson. Until 1806 attached to Westmoreland County, then to Indiana County until 1830. Noted for its coal and lumber industries. Brookville, county seat, was incorporated 1834.
Elijah Heath (1796-1875) – 64 S. Pickering St., Brookville	African American, Underground Railroad	Outspoken abolitionist and judge, in 1835 Heath & others rescued two fugitive slaves, Charles Brown & William Parker. Heath, a Brookville resident, was sued by a Virginia slaveholder and fined for his actions. Undeterred, Heath continued his Underground Railroad activities.
Lewis Earle Sandt (1888-1913) – 42 S Pickering St., Brookville	Exploration, Navigation, Transportation	A pioneer aviator, Sandt was the first American to make an international flight, from Erie to Canada, in 1912. Like many early pilots, he died as a result of crash injuries a year later. His efforts helped spur popular interest in flight. He lived here for most of his brief life.
First Pennsylvania Troopers Killed in the Line of Duty – Main St. (SR 310), just S of Ash St. (T-456), McCalmont Twp.	Government & Politics 20th Century, Police and Safety	On September 2, 1906, Privates John F. Henry and Francis A. Zehringer were killed in the line of duty as they attempted to arrest fugitive murderers barricaded in a nearby house. Three other troopers were wounded. Their sacrifice symbolizes the Pa. State Police Call of Honor, which states, in part, "I must serve honestly, faithfully, and if need be, lay down my life as others have done before me, rather than swerve from the path of duty."
Great Shamokin Path – US 119, 4 miles NE of Punxsutawney	French & Indian War, Native American, Paths & Trails, Religion, Transportation	This major Indian path, connecting the Susquehanna and Allegheny rivers, paralleled the present highway at this point. Long used by Native Americans as a thoroughfare for hunting and trade, it was traveled by Delaware and Shawnee warriors during the French and Indian War. Bishop John Ettwein and 200 Indians with their cows used this portion of the route on their way west to Friedensstadt, July 1772.
Groundhog Day At Gobbler's Knob - Woodland Ave., 1.2 miles from Route 36, Punxsutawney	Ethnic & Immigration, Folklore, Religion	As early as 1886, German immigrants here observed Groundhog Day and established the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club in 1899. According to folklore, if the hibernating groundhog - known as Punxsutawney Phil - leaves its burrow on February 2 and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. The legend is based on a European custom predicting the length of winter by weather conditions on Candlemas, an ancient Christian festival.
Charles Margiotti (1891-1956) – Calvary Cemetery, 444 S Main St. (Rt. 436), Punxsutawney	Ethnic & Immigration, Government & Politics 20th Century, Professions & Vocations	Prominent lawyer, business executive, and civic and political leader, Margiotti was appointed Pennsylvania Attorney General, 1935-1938, by Governor George Earle. He was among the first Italian Americans to hold such a post in the US. He was the Republican candidate for Governor in 1934. He practiced law in Pittsburgh and donated services to defend immigrant workers. A native of Punxsutawney, Margiotti is interred here at Calvary Cemetery.

Source: PHMC website phmc.state.pa.us; accessed January 29, 2018.



MAP ID	NAME
1	Cooksburg
2	Ross Leffler School of Conservation
3	Iroquois "Main Road"
4	Olean Road
5	Jefferson County Court House
6	Elijah Heath (1796-1875)

MAP ID	NAME
7	Lewis Earle Sandt (1888-1913)
8	First Pennsylvania Troopers Killed in the Line of Duty
9	Great Shamokin Path
10	Groundhog Day
11	Charles Margiotti (1891-1956)



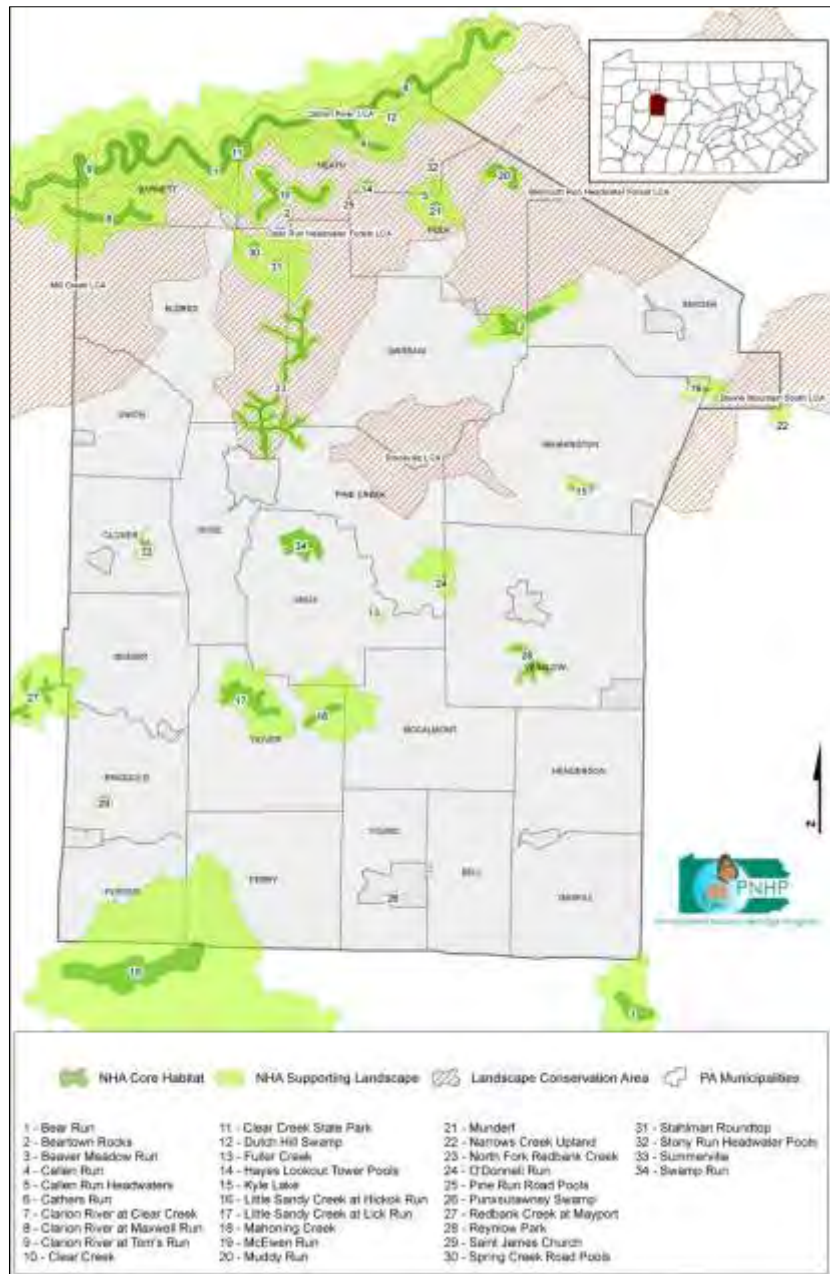
PENNSYLVANIA
HISITORICAL MARKERS

Natural Heritage Inventory

A Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) was completed for Jefferson County in 2013. NHI's serve as a way to both gather new information and to pass along new and existing information to those responsible for land use decisions, as well as to all residents who wish to know more about the natural heritage of a county. The NHI identifies areas known to have outstanding natural features (floral, faunal and geologic), natural communities (habitats) and/or are locations known to sustain animal and plant species of special concern (endangered, threatened, or rare) in Jefferson County.

The insert map to the right delineates Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) in Jefferson County. Information on each specific site identified can be found in the *Natural Areas Inventory of Jefferson County (2013)*. These areas contain plants or animals of concern, exemplary natural

communities, or exceptional native diversity. Natural Heritage Areas include both the immediate habitat and the surrounding lands important in the support of these special elements, and are mapped according to their sensitivity to human activities. Also identified are Landscape Conservation Areas (LCAs) which are large contiguous areas that are important because of their size, open space and habitats contained within. LCAs typically have not been heavily disturbed, and thus retain much of their natural character. Together, the Natural Heritage Areas can be viewed as regional assets; they improve quality of life by providing a landscape imbued with a sense of beauty and wilderness, they provide a sustainable economic base, and their high ecological integrity offers a unique capacity to support biodiversity and human health.



SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION

Information from various sources was gathered and reviewed in preparation of this *Tourism and Recreation Strategy*. The interpretation, application and use of this information is critical in this localized recreation and tourism planning effort. This chapter synthesizes the findings of the planning process, bringing together the context and perspective of the existing conditions in the County as documented and reviewed in the public participation process including from Public Meetings, a Community Survey and from *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* discussions.



Public Meeting No. 1

Representatives from the community actively participated in a meeting designed to solicit input on major positive changes and major negative changes in the County in the past 10 years and the major issues facing the County. In general, comments received focused on economic development, community infrastructure and recreation and tourism topics. The following highlights comments received related to recreation and tourism.

Positive Changes:

- Recent completion of the 41-mile Redbank Valley Trail into Brookville was identified as a notable accomplishment. The trail now connects Brookville to the Allegheny River and to the Armstrong Trail.
- Attendees mentioned that there are a high number of tourism opportunities in the County including local festivals and events in the County.

Major Recreation and Tourism Opportunities:

- Connecting the Redbank Valley Trail to the Five Bridges Trail and into Brockway Borough is a high priority. Crossing I-80 is a major impediment.
- A priority is to construct a local use trail from the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park into Brookville.
- Complete an inventory of all tourism and recreation resources in the County and prepare a Visitor brochure/guide highlighting those resources.
- Increase the number of information/wayfinding signs just off of the I-80 intersections promoting County attractions and Historic Districts.
- There is a need to inventory all festivals, events, tourism and recreation sites in the County and for coordinators/operators to better communicate and coordinate amongst themselves to identify cross- promotion opportunities and to develop multiple-destination trip promotion opportunities.

Public Meeting No. 2

Public Meeting No. 2 was held to review the results of Public Meeting No. 1 and the Community Survey, and the initial findings of the *Recreation and Tourism Strategy*. Opportunity for public engagement and feedback was also provided. The following highlights the key comments, input and guidance related to recreation and tourism provided by attendees.

- It was also suggested that the Recreation and Tourism Strategy include a description of other ways (other than dollars spent/generated by users) a regional trail system and new trail development can spur economic development. It was suggested that business and employee recruitment and quality of life benefits be emphasized.
- A concern was raised on how private property owner rights are often overlooked when it comes to trail development. A specific way to address this would be under the Tourism and Recreation Strategy to note that private property owner rights and concerns should be considered when developing a trail. Also, the alignment of new trails should consider public right of ways and/or lands in public ownership.
- Guidance was given that the Tourism and Recreation Strategy should note that hunting/fishing is associated with the outdoor heritage of the County and it should emphasize the value of the state game lands in the County.

MPC Public Meeting

The MPC required Public Meeting was held to review the *Recreation and Tourism Infrastructure Strategy* recommendations. The following highlights the key comments, input and guidance related to recreation and tourism provided by attendees.

- Commissioner Jack Matson asked how he could best promote and implement plan. The EADS Group planners suggested preparing a concise executive summary that he and the other Commissioners and others could use to promote the Plan recommendations. The planners further noted that through adoption of the Plan, the Commissioners would then have the ability to assert oversight onto the implementation process and could direct County resources to assist the Planning Commission and local organizations resolve impediments and to otherwise work together to implement the recommendations.
- Commissioner Jack Matson asked how various organizations could be engaged and brought together to collectively work on implementation. Brad Lashinsky responded saying that the County Planning Commission would take on the role of being the implementation committee and would invite different groups and organizations to attend the Planning Commission meetings and that the meetings could take on a workshop style. Mr.

Lashinsky also noted that taking on this role would provide the Planning Commission with a more missioned focus role within the County.

- Brad Lashinsky added that information from the Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation Inventory and Map and the Destination Heritage Resources Inventory and Map will be incorporated into Economic development and other recruitment modules produced by Localintel.
- An attendee suggested that reference to the North Central Greenways Plan be made in the plan as appropriate.

Community Survey

A questionnaire was prepared in coordination with the Jefferson County Planning Commission as a means of eliciting input and perceptions of Jefferson County residents during the spring/summer of 2017. Overall, a total of 238 responses were received. The following highlights those responses related to recreation and tourism:

- There is an overwhelming perception that the history and heritage of the County, the general sense that there is good public safety and the availability of safe drinking water are County Strengths that add to the quality of life in the County.
- Promoting the historic qualities and outdoor recreation opportunities will benefit the County.
- Outdoor Recreation was identified as a key asset that residents liked about the County.
- The History and Heritage in the County was identified as a key quality of life asset in the County

Working Group Meeting No. 1

A meeting was held on May 31, 2017 with the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* to review the background and context for the overall planning effort and to discuss the expectations of the Recreation and Tourism Strategy. The Working Group was also asked to review several map depicting the location of trails, water access points and historic resources in the County. The following identifies the actions items identified by the Working Group.

- A number of revisions were made to the list of Historic Resources identified on the Map. A majority of these revisions were made to reflect resources that no longer exist.
- Add the location of the Tobeco Trail, Little Toby Creek Water Trail, add additional water access points and add approved trout waters to the mapping.
- An identified gap in the information provided in the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Guide is a map that highlights Nature Tourism resources in the County: Land Trails, Water Trails, Water Access Points, Boating opportunities (canoe/kayak), fishing opportunities. An inventory of these resources along with a corresponding map highlighting their locations will be created as a product of the Plan. Recommendations for incorporating

this information into local and regional marketing efforts through the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors will be made.

- Recommendations will also be made for enhancing these resources – identify future trail segments, water access points, amenities for trail heads, etc.
- An identified gap in the information provided in the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Guide is a map that highlights tourist destination Heritage resources in the County (these are places where visitors can interact, experience and do something). In addition, there is a need to designate driving tours that connect these resources. An inventory of these resources along with a corresponding map highlighting their locations will be created as a product of the Plan. Recommendations for incorporating this information into local and regional marketing efforts through the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors will be made.
- Trail Development – The Plan will make recommendations for enhancing/expanding the land trail network in the County. These recommendations will be consistent with the goals of the TriCounty Rails to Trails Association, Redbank Valley Trail Association, Mahoning Shadow Trail Association and others.
- Reynlow Park – the need for enhancements, in general, at the Park was identified. In particular, it was noted that there is potential to create an ATV park/facilities within. The Plan will make recommendations regarding enhancements including adding ATV facilities.

Working Group Meeting No. 2

A second meeting with the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* was held on September 13, 2017. The goals of this meeting were to review revised maps and to continue work on developing inventories of Natural and Outdoor Recreation Assets and Destination Heritage Resources and on identifying future water access points and water trails, and land trail recommendations.

Working Group Meeting No. 3

The third meeting with the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* was held on January 24, 2018. This meeting was used to review input from Community Workshop #2 as related to the Recreation and Tourism Strategy and to review key recommendations and various aspects related to implementing the Strategy. The following highlights the input and guidance provided by the Working Group:

- The following Vision Statement was approved:
Jefferson County encourages maintaining, enhancing and better promoting existing Natural and Heritage Tourism and Outdoor Recreation resources and the quality of life long associated with it, and encourages that opportunities be provided to allow residents and visitors to experience these important destination resources.

- John Straitiff from PA Great Outdoors noted that there is increased interest in Water Trails in Jefferson County and surrounding areas.
- The inventory information and map prepared of Nature and Outdoor Recreation resources will be provided to PA Great Outdoors in hard copy and .pdf formats. PA Great Outdoors will consider the information provided and may incorporate the information at their discretion into promotional materials.
- The inventory information and map prepared of Nature and Outdoor Recreation resources will be provided to the Jefferson County Department of Development for inclusion into interactive web based modules they are developing for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.
- The inventory information and map prepared of Heritage Tourism resources and information prepared depicting recommended driving tour spurs that build on the Groundhog Loop will be provided to PA Great Outdoors in hard copy and .pdf formats. PA Great Outdoors will consider the information provided and may incorporate the information at their discretion into promotional materials.
- The inventory information and map prepared of Heritage Tourism resources will be provided to the Jefferson County Department of Development for inclusion into interactive web based modules they are developing for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.
- Upon completion of the interactive web based recruitment/relocation assistance modules, Jefferson County and the PA Great Outdoors are encouraged to mutually share and post their web-site links in order to cross promote related information.
- Recommendations to complete Master Site Development Plans for recreation enhancements at Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake will include reference to previously prepared recreation development plans for these areas.
- The Jefferson County Planning Commission will take on the role of being the Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee after the County Plan update is adopted. the Working Group suggested an early action item would be for the Planning Commission to host a Jefferson County trail group forum to facilitate peer to peer technical assistance and capacity building amongst the groups.

Issues and Opportunities Statement

The matrix below summarizes discussion items encountered during the Recreation and Tourism Strategy planning process. Based on the inventories, the review of various sources of input and discussions amongst Working Group members, a succinct statement of issues (i.e. challenges) and opportunities (i.e. strengths to build on) was prepared. The following summarizes these:

Issues	Opportunities
Lack of an inventory of Land Trails, Water Trails, Water Access Points, Boating and Fishing Opportunities	Information on these resources are available from various sources, inventory and mapping can be included as a product in the Strategy
Gaps in promotion publications focused on Land Trails, Water Trails, Water Access Points, Boating and Fishing Opportunities	Inventory and mapping from this <i>Strategy</i> can be provided to the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau for their use
Lack of an inventory of experienced based tourist destination Heritage resources in the County	Information on these resources provided by the Working Group - inventory and mapping can be included as a product in the Strategy
Gaps in promotion publications focused on Land Trails, Water Trails, Water Access Points, Boating and Fishing Opportunities	Inventory and mapping can be provided to the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau for their use
Connections between existing Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau, PA Lumber Heritage Region driving routes and designated tourist destination Heritage resources are lacking	These resources are known and can be mapped – driving connections can be identified and also mapped for various uses.
There is a non-connected Trail System in the County	A number of trails existing in the County. Trail organizations have provided input on methods to connect existing trails and where future expansions are proposed
There is a need for local trail segment gaps and connections	Recent municipal planning in the County and input received for this Strategy identified local connections
Additional recreation planning is needed to identified appropriate enhancements at Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake.	A number of improvements suggested including creating an ATV Park. Completing a Master Site Development Plan can identify desired and feasible enhancements

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The planning process and input from the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified a number of priority goals and asset-based and implementable recommendations aimed at enhancing Jefferson County as a better outdoor recreation and heritage tourism destination. The planning process also revealed that the more subjective term of *quality of life* is intrinsically linked with the availability of outdoor recreation and heritage tourism opportunities within the County and all are part and parcel of place-making, which is recognized as an essential part of *real-world planning*.

The following section includes a detailed description of the context and recommendations within each issue area, as well as a summary Implementation Matrix of the recommendations, action items, suggested partnerships, priorities and the page reference for each recommendation/action item. Priorities and timetables are difficult to categorize, and priorities may change over time. Still, priorities and timetables are noted in the following manner:

- Immediate (on-going);
- Short-Term (1-3 years),
- Mid-Term (4-6 years); and
- Long Term (7+ years)

These are not hard and fast but are shown as a means of categorizing actions in relation to the level of importance and immediacy perceived as a result of input and discussion during the planning process.

Recreation and Tourism Vision

The following Vision statement was developed by the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* to capture their approach towards enhancing and promoting Jefferson County as a Heritage, Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation Tourism destination:

Jefferson County encourages maintaining, enhancing and better promoting existing Natural and Heritage Tourism and Outdoor Recreation resources and the quality of life long associated with it, and encourages that opportunities be provided to allow residents and visitors to experience these important destination resources.

Priority Goal – Address the identified gap in the Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation information published by the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau and others by preparing an inventory and map that highlights Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation resources in the County.

Background

Jefferson County contains a number of outdoor recreation resources that are a draw for local residents and regional visitors alike. There is a considerable diversity of public recreation lands in or in close proximity to Jefferson County including a State Forest, State Parks and twelve (12) tracts of State Game Lands. Many of these resources extend beyond the County boundary and further connect the Jefferson County to surrounding counties. Although not located within the County, the Allegheny National Forest borders a large portion of the County's northern border and also can be considered in the discussion of recreation resources. It is also acknowledged that the number of local and regional trails and waterways in the County including the Clarion and Little Toby Creek and Redbank Valley Trails significantly contribute the nature based and outdoor recreation draw of the County. There are also a number of larger public recreation areas located in the County that draw users in from surrounding areas.

Recommendation

Prepare a comprehensive inventory and map that highlights Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation resources in the County including land trails, water trails, water access points and boating, fishing, golfing and hunting opportunities.

- **ACTION:** Guidance from the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* facilitated preparation of the Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation Inventory, an associated *Land and Water Trail Map* and an overall *Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map* as part of this Strategy. The inventory and maps are provided on the following pages.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* will provide the *Inventory and Maps* to the *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* in hard copy and .pdf formats. *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors* will consider the information provided and may incorporate the information at their discretion into promotional materials.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can also engage representatives from the *Lumber Heritage Region* and the *Pennsylvania Wilds initiative* to incorporate the nature-based and outdoor recreation resources identified in this Strategy into their marketing and promotional efforts.
- **ACTION:** The *Natural and Outdoor Inventory* and the *Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map* will be used by the Jefferson County Department of Development and incorporated into economic development and other recruitment modules produced by Localintel for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.

Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation Inventory

The following Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation Inventory summarizes and describes the resources identified by the *Tourism and Recreation Working Group* narratively and graphically in a succinct manner. The Inventory was reviewed with the Working Group for comments, guidance in interpreting the information, and in refining or adding other localized information to the Inventory.

Public Lands

The following describes the public lands available in or within close proximity to Jefferson County:

- Clear Creek State Forest: comprises a total of 16,229 acres with approximately 9,908-acres being located in northern Jefferson County. Other tracts of the Forest are located in Clarion, Venango, Forest and Mercer Counties. Many of its acres hug the Clarion and Allegheny rivers. The Clear Creek State Forest was founded on September 1, 1920. The two largest tracts of the forest are located in Heath Township. Logging was a major industry in this region in the early 1800's. The first sawmill in Heath Township was built along the Clarion River in 1833. The early mills were generally located on streams and cut mostly white pine. Most of the timbers and boards were then made into rafts and floated down the Clarion River to Pittsburgh. In the spring of 1864, the firm of Wright and Pier began hauling logs by rail. The railroad was built of cribbing and stringers having wooden rails and wooden pins. The line ran from an area in southeastern Heath Township along Johns Run to the firm's sawmill at the mouth of Callen Run on the Clarion River near the present day Heath Pump Station, a distance of four miles. Records show that at least two other logging railroads operated on what is now the Clear Creek State Forest. By 1905, nearly all the virgin forest had been cut.
- Cook Forest State Park: totals 8,500-acres with approximately 1,500 acres of that being located in Jefferson County. Known for its stands of old growth forest, the park's Forest Cathedral of towering white pines and hemlocks is a National Natural Landmark. A scenic 13-mile stretch of the Clarion River flows through Cook Forest State Park and is popular for canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. Amenities include restrooms with showers; rustic cabins sites; picnicking area/tables along the Clarion River; access points to the Clarion River and several private canoe rentals. 29 mile of hiking trails including part of the 140-mile Baker Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail that pass-through Cook Forest. Winter activities including 12 miles of snowmobile trails, a lighted ice skating pond along River Road, three acres of sledding slopes and three designated cross-country ski trails; and environmental education and interpretation programs. During established seasons, the Cook Forest State Park is open to hunting trapping and training of dogs.

- Clear Creek State Park: This park encompasses 1,901 acres in northern Jefferson County, occupying a scenic portion of the Clear Creek Valley between PA 949 and the Clarion River approximately 12 miles northwest of Brookville and the Brookville Exit on I-80. Recreational facilities and opportunities include cabins and yurts with two nearby shower houses; tent and trailer campsites with non-flush toilets and a sanitary dump station and a 9-hole disc golf course and a basketball court nearby; canoeing on the Clarion River especially during the spring and fall, hunting and trapping on 1,200 acres; swimming on a protected 180-foot sand beach is open from late-May to mid-September; hiking on 25 miles of trails; picnicking on more than 300 picnic tables with fireplaces and restrooms for picnickers as well as 5 picnic pavilions available by reservation; fishing for stocked and native brook trout in Clear Creek and small mouth bass and many species of panfish and trout on The Clarion River; winter activities including cross-country skiing, sledding and tobogganing; and environmental education and interpretation during the summer months.

- State Game Lands: The Pennsylvania Game Commission owns and manages nearly 1.5 million acres of Game Lands throughout the Commonwealth. The primary purpose of these lands is the management of habitat for wildlife and to provide opportunities for lawful hunting and trapping. Secondary recreational uses are permitted in accordance with the Game Commission's regulations.



The Commission has eight (8) Game Lands located in the southeastern, southwestern, central, northwestern and northeastern sections of Jefferson County, specifically Game Lands #31, #54, #74, #195, #244, #266, #283 and #320. These areas total just over 34,000 acres of land in the County. There are also four (4) additional Game Lands immediately adjacent to the County. In total there are approximately 97,000 acres of State Game Lands in or within close proximity to Jefferson County.

- Allegheny National Forest: Although not in Jefferson County, the Allegheny National Forest borders the Clarion River along a portion of the County's northern border and extends across a multi-county area including Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren Counties. The Allegheny National Forest is comprised of approximately 513,000 acres and includes various national scenic areas, national recreation areas and trails, the Allegheny reservoir, numerous recreational facilities (i.e. boating, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, etc.), wilderness areas and a National Wild and Scenic River.

Land Trails

The following describes the land trails available in or within close proximity to Jefferson County:

- Mahoning Shadow Trail - The trail runs for approximately 15.5 miles paralleling the Mahoning Creek for several of those before winding through the town of Punxsutawney. In Punxsutawney the trail is on-road for about half a mile to a skateboard park and baseball fields. The Mahoning Shadow Trail has a flat surface that is easy for bike riding, running and walking.
- Redbank Valley Trail - The Redbank Valley Trail system includes 51 miles of scenic rails to trails between Brookville and the Allegheny River. There are many sites of historical interest and many former natural resource-based industries along the route that the rail corridor once served including in Summerville. The trail ultimately connects to the Armstrong Trail near the Allegheny River.
- North Country Trail - The North Country National Scenic Trail is a premier footpath that one day will stretch more than 4,000 miles linking communities and wilderness areas across seven northern states. A portion of the Trail is aligned through the northwest corner of the County.
- Tobacco Trail - is a Tobacco Trail is an eight (8) mile hiking trail that links Cook Forest and Clear Creek State Parks. This scenic hiking trail starts at Route 36 on the western end and goes east along the Clarion River to Route 899 and into Clear Creek State Park. Portions of the trail follow the Clarion River while other portions take hikers up and over some of the ridges above the Clarion River
- Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail - is an 18-mile trail that runs along the Clarion River and Little Toby Creek on the former Ridgway and Clearfield branch of the Pennsylvania Rail Road (PRR) between Brockway and Ridgway. The local terminus of the Trail is located in Brockway near the Taylor Memorial Park.
- Five Bridges Trail - an approximate 8-mile segment, known as the Brockway-Allens Mills segment, is located on a portion of the former Shawmut and Pittsburgh Railroad corridor between Allens Mills and an on-trail terminus point approximately 1-mile west of the former Arch rail bridge just outside of Brockway Borough.
- Wolf Run Trail - is 4.2 miles in length and connects the north side of DuBois with a trail head located near McMinn's Summit in Snyder Township approximately 3 miles south of Brockway. It mainly uses another section of the same PRR Ridgway-Clearfield branch right of way that the Clarion/Little Toby Trail uses. The Headwaters Charitable Trust holds ownership of this trail's right-of-way.
- Brockway Trail Town Route - The Brockway Borough Trail Town Route was developed out of a local initiative to define how the Clarion/Little Toby Trail, the Five Bridges Trail and Wolf Run Trail would be connected to each other through Brockway. The Route currently extends from the Clarion/Little Toby Trailhead along 7th Avenue to Main Street and along 5th Avenue, Broad Street and Arch Street to reach the anticipated completion

point of the Five Bridges trail also along 5th Avenue and Broad Street to US Rt. 219 to reach the anticipated completion point of the Wolf Run Trail extension.

- Beaver Meadow Trail - stretches for approximately 1.5 miles from near the DuBois Mall to Liberty Blvd. in DuBois, PA. The Beaver Meadow Trail travels through the historic “Big Beaver Meadow” and Sandy Lick Creek Recreational Area in DuBois.

- Clear Creek State Park Trails – 35 miles of trails are located throughout the Jefferson County portions of Clear Creek State Forest, including:
 - Little Clear Creek Trail
 - Silvis Trail
 - Trap Run Trail
 - Beartown Rocks Trail
 - North Country Trail
 - Baker Trail

- Cook Forest Trails - There are more than 47 miles of hiking trails and 4.3 miles of multi-use trails within Cook Forest State Park. Two long-distance trails, the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) and the Baker Trail, also pass through the Forest:
 - BLACK BEAR TRAIL - 1.1 miles, this flat loop trail begins and ends at the Sawmill Center for the Arts.
 - BROWNS RUN TRAIL - 2.0 miles, this trail parallels Browns Run from Toms Run Road to Forest Road. Due to its low usage, it is a wonderful trail for wilderness hiking, hunting, and birding.
 - CAMP TRAIL - 2.0 miles, the most traveled section of this steep trail links the Ridge Campground to Breezemont Drive near the Log Cabin Environmental Learning Classroom (ELC).
 - COOK TRAIL - 2.0 miles, this lightly used loop trail winds through a magnificent stand of old growth timber. Keep watch for tall white pines, large hemlocks, oaks, black gums, relict American chestnut snags from the early 1920s, and a 1930s dynamite shack built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.
 - CORDUROY TRAIL - 1.2 miles, this trail connects the Ridge Campground and the Liggett Trail along Toms Run. This pleasant hike crosses over Breezemont Drive, passing large American beech and Eastern hemlock. Pay attention at intersections as this trail connects with the Camp Trail.
 - DEER MEADOW TRAIL - 1.5 miles, this trail unites the Browns Run Trail with the multi-use Hefren Run Trail. Sections of this trail go through old growth oak hemlock forest and prime wildlife areas.
 - DEER PARK TRAIL - 1.1 miles, this trail segment connects PA 36 and the Seneca Trail, also linking with the Mohawk Trail. Hikers pass through the heart of the 1976 tornado damaged area.

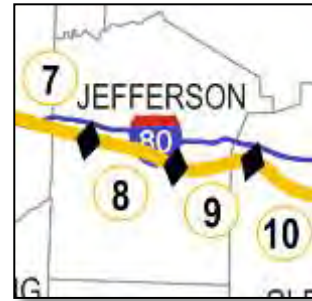
- HEMLOCK TRAIL - 0.3 mile, this short trail connector joins the Longfellow Trail near Forest Road with the Deer Park Trail at PA 36. One of the finest old growth hemlock forests in the Eastern U.S. is located along this trail. Some hemlocks surpass 140 feet tall; many are more than 300 years old!
- LIGGETT TRAIL - 1.5 miles, this trail begins at Breezemont Road across from the Log Cabin ELC and travels a portion of the NCT/Baker Trail along Toms Run, terminating on Toms Run Rd. The trail passes through a wonderful stand of hemlocks, some of which is an old growth forested wetland.
- MOHAWK TRAIL - 1.4 miles, this trail runs from the PA 36/Forest Road intersection near the Inn at Cook Forest, and ends at the exit of Fire Tower Road. This trail winds through magnificent old growth hemlock forest along the hilltop within the Fire Tower Road loop and the steep hillside overlooking the Clarion River. On this trail, you will walk amongst some of the tallest, largest, and oldest hemlocks found in the park. Many hemlock, white oak, and chestnut oak surpass 300 years old here.
- PAVED TRAIL - 0.2 mile, this paved, ADA-accessible trail loop winds through a mature hardwood forest. It can be reached via the water tower access road near the entrance of the Sawmill Center for the Arts.
- RIDGE TRAIL - 0.7 mile, this steep trail connects the Ridge Campground near Site 32 to Forest Road by Shelter #1. Large oaks and black cherry trees are found near this path. Several black cherries reach three feet across and 140 feet high, some of the tallest known in the entire Eastern U.S.
- RIVER TRAIL - 1.2 miles, this steep segment runs along the NCT/Baker Trail by the Clarion River from the fire tower to Fire Tower Road. To continue on the NCT/Baker Trail, stay straight along the Clarion River; the River Trail works its way back uphill to connect to Fire Tower Road
- SENECA TRAIL - 0.9 mile, this trail climbs from PA 36 to the junction with the Deer Park Trail, where a left turn will continue to the Fire Tower-Seneca Point Area. It offers an excellent view of the Clarion River
- Clear Creek State Park Trails - There are 25 miles of trails within the Clear Creek State Park. The trails begin in the scenic Clear Creek Valley and follow the Clear Creek, wandering across the surrounding hillsides to several scenic overlooks and along the Clarion River.
 - BIG COON TRAIL - 0.17 mile, this old logging trail connects Big Coon Picnic Area to Clear Creek Trail.
 - BIG SPRING TRAIL - 0.32 mile, this trail named for an old spring has large rocks and many spruce plantings.
 - BOUNDARY TRAIL - 0.4 mile This short trail connects Hunters and Irish Rock trails, partially following the state park boundary.
 - CLEAR CREEK TRAIL - 1.44 miles, this trail traverses the length of the park and is one of the longest and most popular.
 - FRAZIER TRAIL - 0.75 miles, Large red oak trees abound along this steep trail that climbs to the top of the hill that towers over Clear Creek.

- HUNTER TRAIL - 1.9 miles, this trail travels through a hardwood forest with mountain laurel and is very popular in the fall and winter.
- KORB TRAIL - 0.4 mile, created by anglers walking along Clear Creek, this trail is an easy walk.
- NORTH RIDGE TRAIL - 0.32 mile, this old logging trail travels uphill from the trailhead, crossing Pipeline Trail and intersecting Hunter Trail.
- OX SHOE TRAIL - 0.43 mile, learn about the logging history of Clear Creek by using the self-guided trail brochure available at the park office and at the nature museum.
- PHYLLIS RUN TRAIL - 1.19 miles, the trail starts on Clear Creek Road, goes through Phyllis Run Picnic Area, and climbs a steep grade before leveling off.
- PHYLLIS RUN LOOP TRAIL - 1.3 miles, this trail follows along both sides of Phyllis Run. Watch for running water on the rock fields.
- PIPELINE TRAIL - 0.91 mile, Named for the system of springs which piped water to Camp S-53, this wide access trail has a very gentle grade.
- RADCLIFFE TRAIL - 0.68 mile, Winding through a hardwood and evergreen forest, this trail is named after the first park manager who directed the planting of the spruce tree plantation along the trail.
- RIDGE TRAIL - 1.66 miles, the trail passes through a hardwood forest and follows Truby Stream through an evergreen and hardwood forest.
- RIVER TRAIL AND IRISH ROCK TRAIL (SPUR) - 0.72 mile, River Trail is a loop with a spur trail called Irish Rock Trail. The trail follows the Clarion River through hardwood, evergreen, and rhododendron forests.
- SAW MILL TRAIL - 0.52 mile, this old logging trail along Truby Stream has a moderate grade for a short distance.
- TADLER RUN TRAIL - 3.34 miles, Traversing through northern hardwoods and mountain laurel, this trail offers two seasonal, scenic overlooks in the fall and spring when the trees are bare.
- TRUBY TRAIL - 0.88 mile, this wide trail gently traverses three-quarters of the way up the side of a steep hill.
- ZERBY TRAIL - 0.79 mile, the trail passes through a northern hardwood forest until it intersections with Ridge Trail and a large area of rhododendron.

BicyclePA Route

PennDOT has established a network of cross-state bicycle routes including one (1) through Jefferson County. The routes use existing public roads and are intended for long distance bicycle touring.

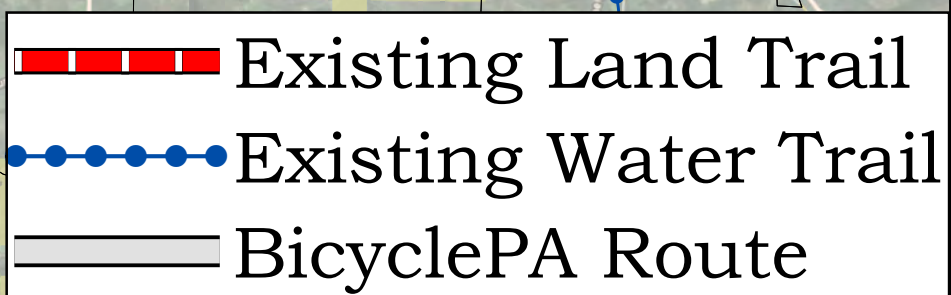
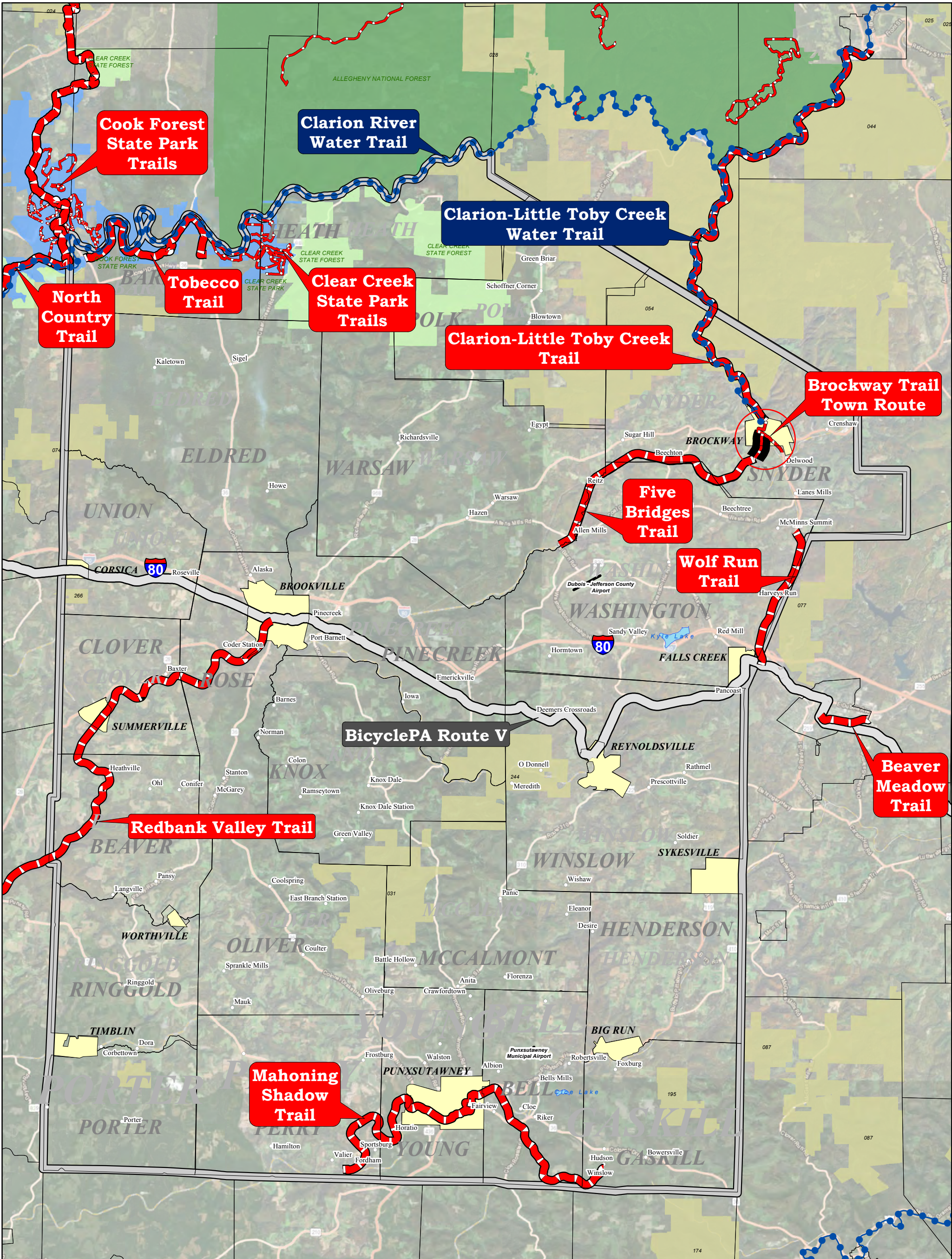
- Route V - Route V traverses US Rt. 322 through the County and offers the most direct route across the state for those heading to the New York City metropolitan area. At 360 miles in length, it is also the shortest east-west crossing. The route passes close to the towns of New Castle, Grove City, Brookville, Dubois, Clearfield, Bellefonte, Lewisburg, Hazleton, and East Stroudsburg.



Water Trails

Water trails are recreational corridors suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft between specific locations. They provide safe access to Pennsylvania's waterways and connections to local history and heritage resources, ecology and geology and wildlife. In addition, water trails offer several incredible benefits to local communities, including encouraging tourism and providing economic benefits, increasing easy access to waterways and encouraging restoration and conservation. The following highlights the two existing (2) water trails in Jefferson County.

- Clarion River Water Trail - The Clarion River Water Trail begins north of Ridgway Township in Elk County in the headwaters of the East and West branches of the Clarion River. From their confluence in Johnsonburg, the water trail extends downstream on the main stem for nearly 100 miles. The Trail provides paddlers and operators of small motor boats with spectacular views of wildlife, geology and forests. River access points along the water trail located in Jefferson County include:
 - *River Mile 67* - Heath Canoe Launch - Located along PA 949 across from the Heath Trout Nursery,
 - *River Mile 61* - Clear Creek Canoe Launch - Located in Clear Creek State Park
 - *River Mile 50* - Cooksburg Canoe Launch - Located just upstream of the PA 36 bridge over the Clarion River
- Clarion-Little Toby Creek Water Trail - this scenic trail water meanders along on the Little Toby Creek between the Clarion River and Brockway. There are access points along the water trail including in the Brockway area.



Fishing Opportunities

A number of streams in Jefferson County collectively described as *Fishing Opportunities* are shown on the *Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map*. These streams are all designated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and include:

- Approved Trout Waters and Trout Stocked Streams – streams that are stocked with trout.
- Wilderness Trout Streams – provides a fishing experience in a remote, natural and unspoiled environment.
- Natural Reproduction Streams – support naturally reproducing populations of trout.
- Class A Streams – are streams that support a population of wild (natural reproduction) trout of sufficient size and abundance to support a long-term and rewarding sport fishery.

Destination Recreation Facilities

The *Recreation and Tourism Infrastructure Working Group* identified six (6) larger public parks and recreation areas in Jefferson County that create a draw for local residents and regional visitors. Together, these resources serve county residents and provide destination recreation resources that attract visitors in from surrounding counties.

- Taylor Memorial Park - The Taylor Memorial Park on Brockway is recognized as a major outdoor recreation and community asset that attracts users from DuBois, Falls Creek and other communities in the larger surrounding region. Facilities at the Park include a community swimming pool, an extensive modern playground, three baseball fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, a deck hockey rink and skate park, several large and small pavilions and a large amphitheater. In addition, the Park is situated next to a trailhead for the Clarion/Little Toby Trail.
- Jefferson County Fairgrounds – located just north of Brookville on PA Rt. 28, the Fairgrounds is home to the annual Jefferson County Fair held in July that features games, rides, live entertainment, livestock, demolition derby and food vendors.
- Walter Dick Memorial Park – located just north of Brookville on Water Plant rd. The 20-acre family friendly Park is located below the east and west bound lanes of I-80 along the banks of North Fork Creek. The Park contains picnic shelters, walking and bicycling areas, and a fly fishing area and features swimming and a beach area along North Fork Creek.
- Scripture Rock Heritage Park - Operated by the Jefferson County History Center, the Park features the collection of over 60 carved rocks containing Biblical scriptures made by local preacher and eccentric, Douglas Stahlman. The Park features 1.5 miles of walking paths that take visitors past the inscribed rocks. A series of six brightly colored trails lead visitors around the property and provide viewing to the Scripture. Trail side panels also help to tell both the story of Stahlman and highlight other natural aspects of the area.

- Reynlow Park – Jefferson County’s Reynlow Park is located just south of Reynoldsville on PA Rt. 310. The Park offers a small fishing pond and quiet fishing lake along with picnic sites, pavilions, gazebo, outdoor stage area, campground with 12 electric sites, play areas.
- George C. Brown Community Pool – located in Punxsutawney, the community pool features a large swimming pool and sunning area along with a smaller kids pool with splash features.
- Cloe Lake – features an existing boat launch and fishing opportunities at the 27-acre lake. Ice Fishing is also available during winter months.

Water and Lake Access Points

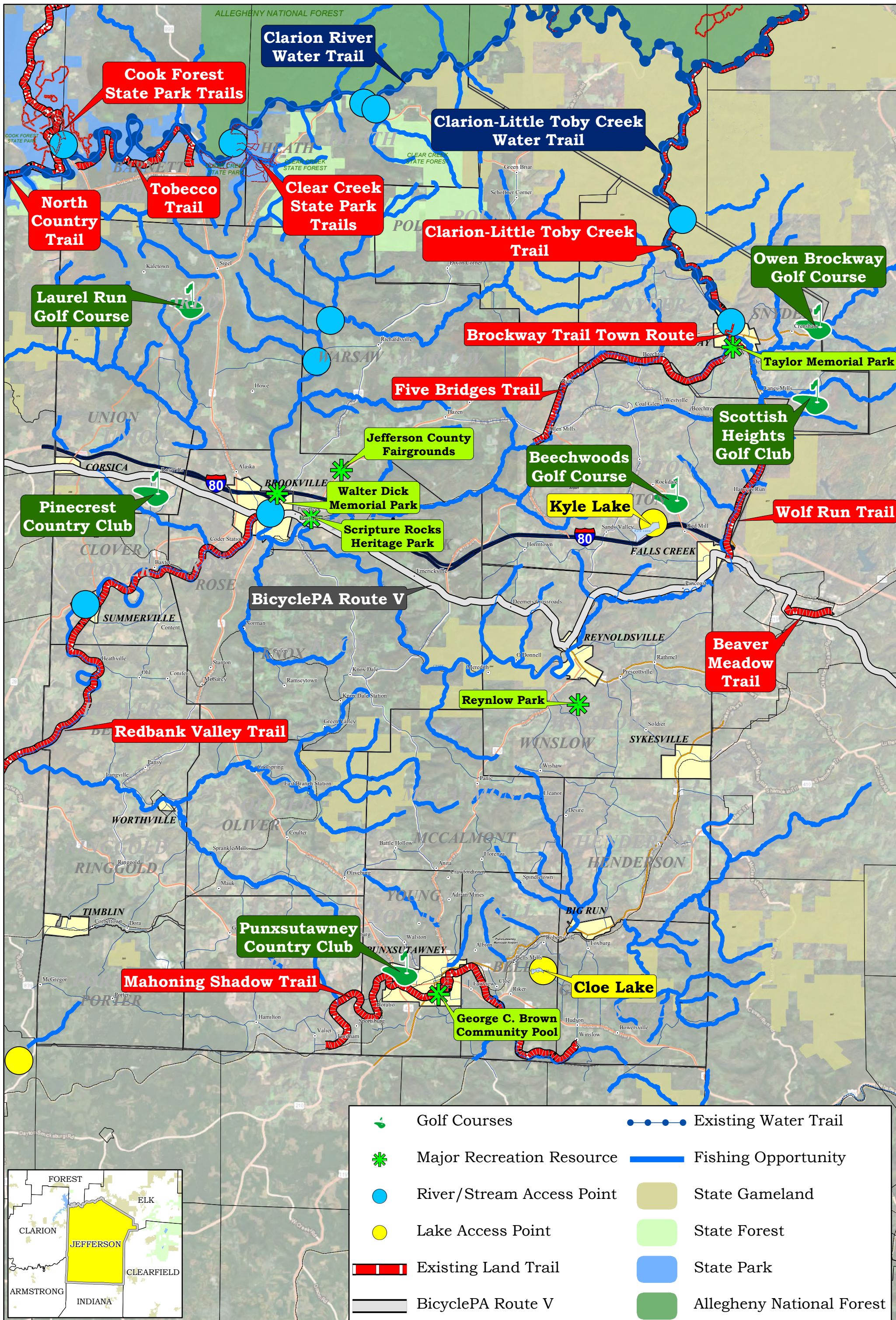
The PA Fish and Boat Commission maintains a list of verified fishing and boating access points that are in public or semi-public areas. Access points to water trails are also included. The following water access points are identified in Jefferson County.

Water Body	Municipality
Clarion River	Heath Township
Clarion River	Heath Township
Clarion River	Barnett Township
Clarion River	Barnett Township
Little Toby Creek (water trail)	Brockway Borough
Little Toby Creek (water trail)	Snyder Township
North Fork Redbank Creek	Warsaw Township
North Fork Redbank Creek	Warsaw Township
Red Bank Creek	Brookville Borough
Red Bank Creek	Summerville Borough
Cloe Lake	Bell Township
Kyle Lake	Washington Township

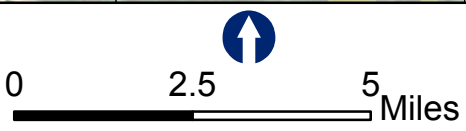
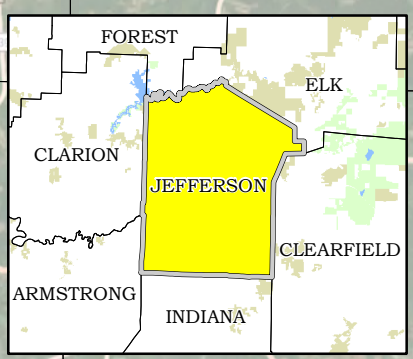
Golf Courses

The Recreation and Tourism Working Group identified a number of golf courses in Jefferson County that are a draw to local residents and visitors from the surrounding region. These courses include the following:

- Beechwoods Golf Course
- Scottish Heights Golf Club
- Owen Brockway Golf Course
- Laurel Run Golf Course
- Pinecrest Country Club
- Punxsutawney Country Club



	Golf Courses		Existing Water Trail
	Major Recreation Resource		Fishing Opportunity
	River/Stream Access Point		State Gameland
	Lake Access Point		State Forest
	Existing Land Trail		State Park
	BicyclePA Route V		Allegheny National Forest



NATURAL AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

Priority Goal – Address the gaps in the Jefferson County Trail system by identifying new land and water trail projects including extensions, local connections and enhancement projects needed to realize a more connected trail network in the County.

Background

The Nature and Outdoor Recreation Inventory included previously in this Strategy identified a number of existing land and water trails in the County. The existing trail network is also shown on the *Nature and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map* provided previously. The planning process identified significant trail segment gaps on many of the existing trails in the County including on the Five Bridges trail into Brookville and into Brockway and on the Wolf Run Trail into Brockway and into the Dubois area. In addition, the Mahoning Shadow trail is an out and back style trail that is not connected to any other trail in the County. These gaps stand in the way of having a true Regional Trail Network connected through Jefferson County. Local connection routes that would connect local assets were also identified in Brookville and Brockway Boroughs. The planning process also revealed considerable interest in establishing additional Water Trails and water access points that together would create an inter-connected land and water trail network in the County. Jefferson County has the potential to attract bikers and hikers from the northeastern quarter of the United State by creating a connected trail network within the County that will ultimately connect the County a larger regional trail network.

Recommendations

The following set of recommendations gives guidance on how to achieve a better land and water trail network within the County. The achievable outcomes will increase a user's experience with and on these resources, which will lead to a better Jefferson County experience. Completing the following land and water trail project recommendations are a priority for Jefferson County. Together these projects enhance trail connectivity among the various existing trail segments, nature-tourism and sporting resources and County communities. The land and water trail recommendations are all shown on the *Land and Water Trail Recommendations Map* provided on page 62. Maps highlighting Local Trail Recommendations are provided on pages 63 and 64.

Existing Trail Connections Recommendations

The following provides the recommended approaches for addressing major trail gaps in Jefferson County. Completion of these projects will create an inter-connected trail system in the County.

- Wolf Run Trail Gap into Brockway – The Wolf Run Trail gap in the vicinity of Brockway is significant. A realistic linkage needs to be created along or near US Rt. 219 that would extend the Trail from its current terminus near McMinns Summit into the Borough. Several options for creating this Wolf Run linkage were identified in the Brockway Borough/Snyder Township Joint Comprehensive Plan. A leading suggestion involved widening an approximate 3-mile section of

US Rt. 219 and designating a bike lane within its expanded right of way. The Tricounty Rails to Trails Association has evaluated this and several other options for connecting the Wolf Run Trail into Brockway. The Association is recommending that a bike pedestrian lane be designated along US Rt. 219 from Broad Street in Brockway to Harvey's Run Road in McMinns Summit in Snyder Township. The Tricounty Rails to Trails Association notes that this stretch of highway is scheduled to be resurfaced by PennDOT in 2022-2023. The association further notes that expanding this bike/pedestrian lane recommendation to include a larger section of US Rt. 219 into Elk County and through Jefferson County will accommodate a safe bicycle/pedestrian route from the Ridgway area in Elk County all the way to the Falls Creek area.

- Wolf Run Trail Gap into Dubois – Though not in Jefferson County, there is a timely opportunity to link the southern terminus of the Wolf Run Trail to the existing Beaver Meadow trail in Dubois. A proposed water project of the DuBois water system will install a new water line between DuBois and Fall Creek. The Tricounty Rails to Trails Association is recommending that a bike/pedestrian lane or other trail way be installed during construction of this water line.
- Five Bridges Trail Gap into Brookville – Connecting the Five Bridges trail into Brookville is a high priority of this Strategy. Connecting the trail into Brookville will allow users to easily access the existing Redbank Valley Trail in Brookville. Once on the Redbank Valley Trail, users can then continue all the way to the Allegheny River near Pittsburgh via the Armstrong trail. Several options for extending the Five Bridges Trail southward into Brookville have been evaluated by the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association including constructing a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 80. This option was determined not to be feasible. The Tricounty Rails to Trails Association is recommending that a bike pedestrian land be established on PA Route 28 between Brockway and Brookville. The Association notes that PennDOT is planning a major paving project on Route 28 from Eagles Nest Rd to Brookville in its Twelve Year Plan. Connecting the Five Bridges Trail along Route 28 will also connect users to the Scripture Rock Heritage Park located just outside Brookville.
- Five Bridges Trail Gap into Brockway – The primary issue associated with the Five Bridges Trail gap is the lack of a useable access way at the former railroad arch bridge between Arch road and the Trail terminus that does not impede on the surrounding property owner's land. A significant elevation change in this area complicates installing a useable connection. In addition, improvements along Arch Road are also necessary to create a safe on-road section into the Borough. The distance between the former Arch area and Broad Street is approximately 4,400-lf. An alternative off-road alignment between the former



Arch area and Broad Street has not been identified although there may be an opportunity to work with representatives from Curry Creek Girl Scout Camp to jointly consider the potential for routing portions of an off road alignment through the camp area.

- Rehabilitation of the Clarion/Little Toby Trail – Although this will not result in construction of a new segment of trail, rehabilitation and resurfacing of the Clarion/Little Toby Trail between Brockway and Ridgway in Elk County will extend the life of this heavily used trail and will allow it to continue to serve as an important regional connecting trail.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association to identify and resolve impediments to the completing the recommended trail gap projects.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association to identify other actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of the trail projects.

Local Connections Recommendations

The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified a number of local connection trails within Brockway Borough and Brookville Borough that will also aid in creating a more connected trail network. The following summarizes recommendations for establishing local connection trails in these communities.

- Brockway Borough - Brockway Borough and its Brockway Trail Town Route is uniquely positioned at the intersection of three (3) existing trails, the Five Bridges Trail, the Wolf Run Trail and the Clarion/Little Toby Trail. The following further describes the approaches for locally connecting to these trail assets.
 - Enhancements to the Brockway Trail Town Route - this Strategy recommends that enhancements to the Brockway Trail Town Route be completed. Enhancements can take the form of enlarging the existing Brockway Trail signs and placing them at additional locations along the route. Although the signs are well constructed and are visually attractive, they are relatively small and sometimes unnoticeable and are spaced at intervals that can reduce their effectiveness as a wayfinding system. Enhancements to the signage are needed to make them better function as a wayfinding tool and to make the Route itself more user friendly and effective. The emphasis here is to also attract users of the Clarion/Little Toby Trail to explore the Brockway Area. Preparing a brochure or map of the Route can also be part of the enhancements. Also, as noted previously, improvements to the Trail Town Route along Arch Road are also necessary to create a safe on-road section into the Borough. The distance between the former Arch area and Broad Street is approximately 4,400-lf. And a useable access way that overcomes a

significant elevation change between Arch road and the Five Bridges Trail at the former railroad arch is needed.

- Evergreen Street Connector – This local connection would be approximately 0.8 miles in length and would be aligned near the Brockway Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT). It would terminate at the dead end on Evergreen Street near Little Toby Creek. A pedestrian crossing across US Rt. 219 would be



required to complete the trail connector to Little Toby Creek. This local trail connector link would be a natural extension of the Clarion/Little Toby Trail through the Borough. In fact, it generally would follow the same former PRR branch the Clarion/Little Toby Trail is currently aligned on. A mix of on and off road routing would be used.

- Foot Bridge Connector – This connection would formally establish a walkway that would connect the Industrial Park Area, the existing canoe/boat launch area on Little Toby Creek, residential areas along Pershing Avenue and the Brockway Business District with the Clarion/Little Toby Trailhead. The connector would be



aligned behind Varischetti Stadium and would use the existing wooden bridge to cross Little Toby Creek to get near the Industrial Park. A mix of on and off road routing would be used. In total, the proposed Foot Bridge Connector would be approximately 0.5 miles in length.

- Brookville Borough - Brookville Borough is positioned to connect three (3) major recreation assets including the existing Redbank Valley Trail, the Walter Dick Memorial Park and the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park. The following further describes the approaches for connecting these three (3) recreation assets.

- Brookville River Walk - The northern terminus of the Redbank Valley Trail is at the Depot Street trailhead in Brookville. The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified that efforts are underway to develop a riverwalk style trail that would extend from the terminus point along Red Bank Creek and then northward along the banks of North Fork Creek to the Walter Dick Memorial Park. The trail would need to cross US Rt. 322 and under the east bound lanes of I-80 before accessing the Park. The total length of the Brookville Riverwalk trail is approximately 1.27 miles.

- Scripture Rocks Heritage Park Connection – The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified developing a connecting trail between Brookville and the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park as a high priority. Unlike the Brookville River Walk where a proposed alignment is generally known, the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park Connection is more of a concept. A proposed alignment route was not identified in this planning process. The Working Group did note that there are rail lines in the area that potentially could be used. A trail feasibility study will need completed to advance this trail concept.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with representatives from Brockway Borough, Brookville Borough and the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park to identify and resolve impediments to the completing the recommended local connection projects.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with representatives from Brockway Borough, Brookville Borough and the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park to identify other actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of the local trail connection projects.
- **ACTION:** A Trail Feasibility Study will need to be completed to identify a feasible route for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park connection.

Trail Connection Concept Recommendations

The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified three (3) longer range trail connection concepts. The following further describes the trail connection concept recommendations.

- Five Bridges Trail – Allen Mills Connection – The current southern terminus of the Five Bridges Trail is located near Allens Mills Road in Allen Mills. The approach here would be to develop a connecting trail along Allens Mills Road that would extend the Five Bridges Trail to near Hazen on PA Rt. 28. Users would then access the proposed PA Route 28 bike/pedestrian lane to continue on towards Brookville. An exact route alignment was not identified during this planning process. Completion of the PA Route 28 bike/pedestrian lane would occur first before this connection could be considered. A Trail Feasibility Study will need to be completed to identify a feasible route.
- Mahoning Shadow Trail – Redbank Valley Trail Connection – Representatives of Punxsutawney and the Mahoning Shadow Trail on the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified a long-range goal of connecting the Mahoning Shadow Trail westward to connect with the Redbank Valley Trail. This is just a concept and no exact alignments have been evaluated. A Trail Feasibility Study will need to be completed to identify a feasible route.

- Mahoning Shadow Trail – David S. Ammerman Trail Connection – Representatives of Punxsutawney and the Mahoning Shadow Trail on the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified a long-range goal of connecting the Mahoning Shadow Trail eastward to connect with the David S. Ammerman Trail. Once known as the Clearfield and Grampian Trail, in 2011, the name was changed to the David S. Ammerman Trail in memory of the man who championed turning the abandoned rail corridor into a recreational trail. The David S. Ammerman Trail extends for approximately 10.57 Miles between Grampian to near Clearfield. The Grampian trail head would be the closest connection point to the Mahoning Shadow Trail. This is just a concept and no exact alignments have been evaluated. A Trail Feasibility Study will need to be completed to identify a feasible route.
- **ACTION:** Trail Feasibility Studies will need to be completed to identify feasible routes for each of the recommended Trail Connection Concepts.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with representatives from the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association and the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association to identify actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of the Trail Connection Concepts.

Piney Branch Motorized Trail Recommendation

A proposed Motorized Trail project was identified during the planning process. The Piney Branch Motorized Trail will extend approximately 24 miles from near the Piney Dam in Clarion County to Brookville in Jefferson County. The trail corridor will connect two counties and pass through Monroe and Limestone Townships in Clarion County, Clover and Rose Townships and Brookville Borough in Jefferson County.

- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can actively coordinate with the sponsors of the Piney Branch Motorized Trail to identify actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of this motorized trail project.

Water Trails and Access Points Recommendations

As noted previously, the Clarion River Water Trail and the Clarion-Little Toby Creek Water Trail are located in Jefferson County. And it was reported by Mr. John Straitiff, Executive Director of the PA Great Outdoors Visitor Bureau and member of the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* that he is seeing an increased amount of interest from residents and potential visitors in Water Trails in Jefferson County and surrounding areas. Based off of this growing outdoor recreation interest area, the Working Group proposed that three (3) new water trails be designated in Jefferson County. These include the Redbank Creek Water Trail, the Sandy Lick Creek Water Trail and the Mahoning Creek Water Trail. The following further describes these proposed water Trails and the initial steps for designating a water trail.

- Redbank Creek Water Trail – this water trail would begin just above Brookville and would extend southward along Redbank Creek passing through Summerville Borough and the villages of Coder Station, Baxter and Heathville in Jefferson County before entering Armstrong County. The Working Group identified that potential access points could be located in Brookville, near Summerville Borough and in Heathville.
- Sandy Lick Creek Water Trail - this water trail would begin to the northeast of Reynoldsville and would extend westward along the Creek into Brookville. The water trail would pass through Reynoldsville Borough and the villages of O'Donnell, Meredith Iowa before entering Brookville. The Working Group identified that potential access points could be located in Reynoldsville, near the bridge on Fuller Road and in Brookville. This water trail would be able to connect with the Redbank Creek Water Trail described above in Brookville.
- Mahoning Creek Water Trail - this water trail would begin to the northeast of Punxsutawney in Big Run and would extend westward along the Creek passing through Big Run and Punxsutawney Boroughs and several villages before entering Armstrong County. The Working Group identified that potential access points could be located in Big Run, Punxsutawney and between the villages of Valier and Hamilton.

The following are steps are published by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and describe how to being pursuing official water trail designations:

- Identify a local organization interested in managing a water trail
- Learn more about the benefits and responsibilities of water trail management
- Organize other community stakeholders and potential partners
- Contact the Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership for assistance
- Consider a water trail feasibility study
- See the [PA Water Trails Handbook \(PDF\)](#) for more information.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can initiate discussions with the Redbank Valley Trail Association, the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association and the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association to encourage them to expand their focus areas to take on working towards formally designating the recommended water trails and on installing the public water access points. If these organizations are not able, the *Jefferson County Planning Commission* will need to identify and work with other local organizations that are willing to take on the water trail designation process.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can work with the Redbank Valley Trail Association, the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association and the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association and other appropriate organizations to develop identification and directional signage, advertising and web posting of the

land and water trail network that connects existing population centers, State Parks/Forests/Gamelands and other nature tourism/sporting resources identified in this Strategy.

- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can work with the *PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* to prepare a Jefferson County Paddling Guide that documents public access point and the paddling experience on the Clarion River, Little Toby Creek, Redbank Creek, Sandy Lick Creek and Mahoning Creek.
- **ACTION:** Along with efforts to designate the water trails, opportunities for conservation easements, agricultural best management practices, stream improvements, fishing access and opportunities for water quality and stream bank stabilization improvement projects be evaluate along Redbank Creek, Sandy Lick and Mahoning Creek.

Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition Recommendations

The Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC) is collaborating to complete and connect a system of 1,500+ miles of shared use trails. The IHTC envisions a network of trails that stretch from the shores of Lake Erie to the confluence of Three Rivers in Pittsburgh and on to the Ohio River in the Appalachian foothills of West Virginia. The goal is to connect the trail network so that local and visiting trail users can walk and bike from trail to trail, city to city, and town to town. The connected off-road trail system will allow locals and visitors to explore the small towns, major cities, historic sites, rivers and mountains that characterize America's first frontier.



The IHTC has initiated a PA Wilds Loop Concept that incorporates existing trails and corridors in Jefferson and surrounding Counties. This Strategy recommends completing the land and water trail projects identified in this section in support of the IHTC concept

- **ACTION:** The Jefferson County Planning Commission can initiate discussions with the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC) coordinators to identify ways Jefferson County can assist in connecting its trail network to the growing IHTC regional trail network.



Project Funding Sources

The following identifies potential funding options for the trail connection and related projects described in this section. Specific consideration should be given to the maximum level of funding available from each source. Some are best considered as supplemental funding options while others can be the single source of funding. Due to ever changing grant funding requirements, availability and funding levels, it is difficult to predict with certainty or to describe an exact funding path for each project. The following provides guidance on the most applicable sources of State level grant funding for trails and recreation type projects.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnership Program (DCNR - C2P2)
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/c2p2programguidance/index.htm>

The C2P2 provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail and conservation projects. Examples of projects include: planning, land acquisition and construction for trails, recreation facilities, conservation projects, parks and open spaces/greenways. Priority trail projects include projects that close trail gaps as well as projects that rehabilitate or upgrade existing trails.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require a 50% match which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) – Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (DCNR - PRT)
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/c2p2programguidance/index.htm>

The Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA provides funds to state agencies, local governments, non-profit and for-profit organizations to assist with the construction, renovation and maintenance of trails and related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use, the purchase and lease of equipment for trail maintenance and construction and the development of educational materials and programs.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require a 20% match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.

- Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (CFA - GTRP)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp>

Administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) provides funding for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of recreational trails, greenways, open space, parks and beautification projects. The program awards up to \$250,000 per project to eligible applicants.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 15% cash match.

- Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund (CFA - MTF)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/>

Administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Multimodal Fund provides funding for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more. Grants shall not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 30% cash match

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) - Transportation Alternatives Program (PennDOT - TAP)
<http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation-Alternatives-Program.aspx>

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized under Section 1122 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) for community-based projects including the construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. As administered by PennDOT, TAP funds can only be used for construction.

Local Match Requirement: The local applicant is responsible for all Pre-Construction activities including engineering/design and permitting

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) – Multimodal Transportation Fund (PennDOT - MTF)
<http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram/Pages/default.aspx#.Vfwm17HD-Uk>

The Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) was created under Act 89 of 2013 which provides funding for the development, rehabilitation, and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 30% cash

DCNR, CFA, and PennDOT and GRANT SUMMARY

Criteria	DCNR – C2P2	DCNR - PRT
Grant Award Amounts	Over \$100,000	Up to \$100,000
Local Match Requirement	50%	20%
Submission Deadline	Annually - Spring	Annually - Spring

Criteria	CFA - GTRP	CFA - MTF
Grant Award Amounts	Up to \$250,000	\$100,000 - \$3,000,000
Local Match Requirement	15%	30%
Submission Deadline	Annually - between February 1st and May 31st	Annually - Summer

Criteria	PennDOT - TAP	PennDOT - MTF
Grant Award Amounts	\$50,000 – \$1,000,000	\$100,000 - \$3,000,000
Local Match Requirement	All Pre-Construction Activities	30%
Submission Deadline	Bi-Annual September 2017	Annually – Spring

Local Funding

Implementing the land and water trails projects recommended in this Strategy likely will not all be accomplished through grant sources. Local organizations and groups must be prepared to contribute financially to the projects. Local cash contributions and/or in-kind service matches will be needed to complete projects independently or as a match contribution to grant awards. Local funding can also be used to continue to installing elements of a larger project. The following are creative ways for attracting local donations and funding.

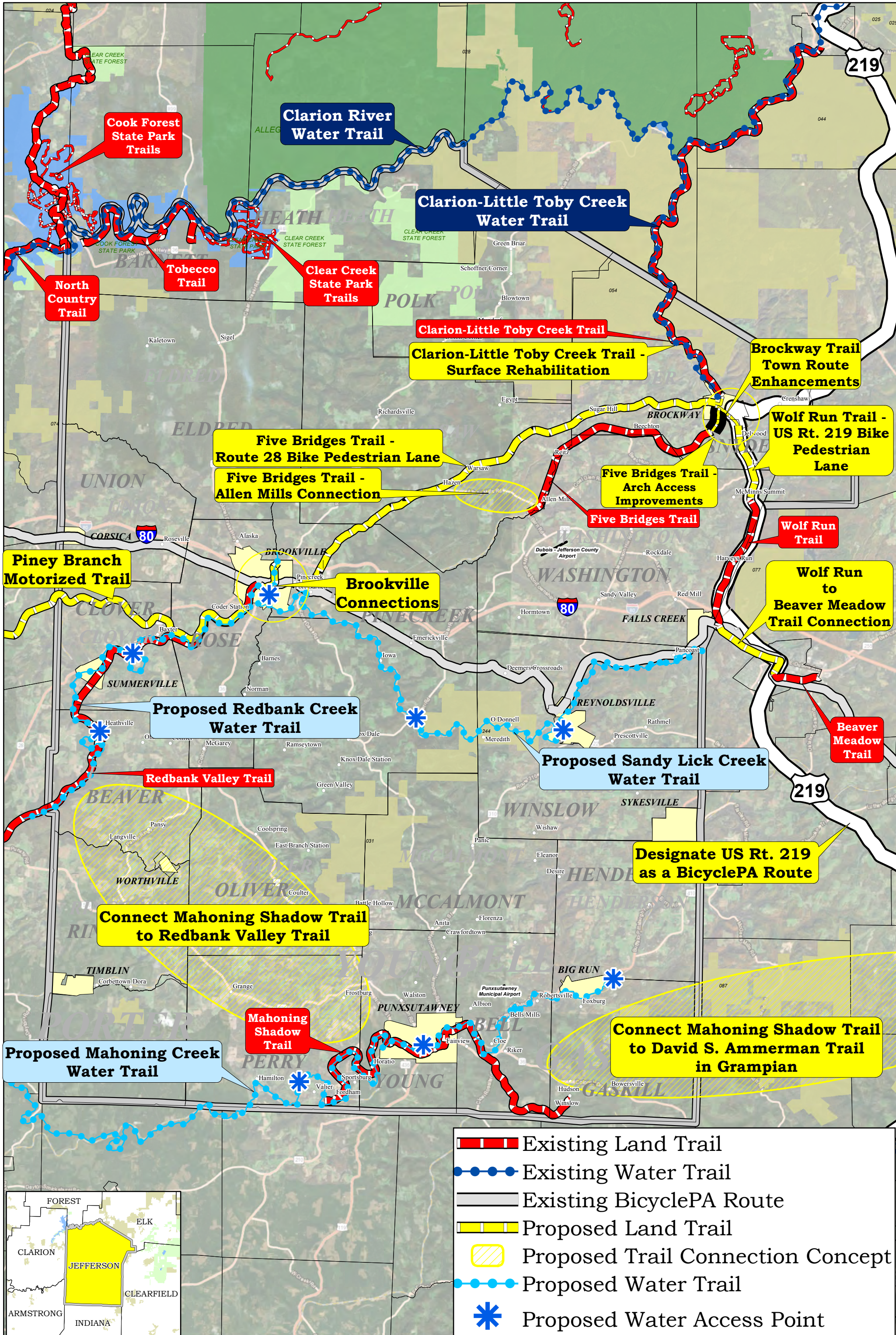
- Adopt-a-Project – Similar to PennDot’s Adopt-a-Highway Program, businesses, civic organizations, families and groups/clubs can formally adopt a Project to provide funding or volunteer efforts for maintaining that specific Project. This type of program will be focused on building community pride by connecting residents and organizations to the long term sustainability of a trail or trail related project. Recognition of the adopter can be through the placement of a plaque or placing the adopters name on a sign.
- Sponsorship Program – A Sponsorship Program allows annual donations to be received from individuals, organizations and businesses and provides a sense of ownership to the sponsor. Sponsorships for a portion of a Project including signage, benches, picnic tables and trail section development can be obtained. As an example, selling of ‘in-memory’ benches along the Trail and/or picnic tables along the River Walk can be used as fund raiser and, again, as a way to

connect residents to the Park. Recognition of the sponsor would be required and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, placing the sponsor's name(s) on the sign or panel, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Sponsorships other than cash including donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies can also be considered.

- Walking Trail Development Fund – Establishing a Walking Trail Development Fund allows smaller donations to be accepted and pooled together to be used in developing or maintaining a land or water trail segment. Jefferson County residents, students, organizations and businesses could also individually contribute to the development of a land and water trail project. Different suggested donation levels could be established for students, Individuals, Businesses and other Organizations. Various funding levels could range from \$25 to \$500 but would allow donors to contribute any amount. A local trail organization or even the County could maintain and administer the Trail Fund.
- Crowdfunding - This is a grass roots fundraising approach that creatively raises community support and funds. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or initiative by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people usually through the internet. The key to this type of approach is to identify an outcome and funding goal that are realistic and achievable. Projects under \$10,000 are good candidates from this type of funding approach. Projects should be specific and something the community will be able to get behind. The value of this type of approach is that it goes beyond simply asking individuals/groups for money by including them in achieving an outcome. It is suggested that projects be started within six months of the close of the crowdfunding campaign so that timely results can be seen by contributors. Any necessary project expenses beyond those raised through this type of fundraising should be available to ensure the project gets completed. In other words, a reliable secondary source of funding should be identified prior to starting a campaign. It will be necessary to have a social media competent person(s) involved to set up the crowdfunding page and to create information for the crowdfunding project (storyline and video/photo) and collecting and organizing contacts for a community outreach (social media, emails, traditional media, etc.) campaign launch. Someone(s) will also need to be responsible to correspond directly with donors and to field questions asked by potential donors.

County Support

It is important to note that Jefferson County could consider supporting grant applications prepared by local trail, recreation and heritage organizations by providing the matching funds required for many grant programs. In lieu of direct funding, Jefferson County could also consider providing in-kind services to satisfy the match requirement.



Cook Forest State Park Trails

Clarion River Water Trail

Clarion-Little Toby Creek Water Trail

North Country Trail

Tobacco Trail

Clear Creek State Park Trails

Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail

Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail - Surface Rehabilitation

Brockway Trail Town Route Enhancements

Wolf Run Trail - US Rt. 219 Bike Pedestrian Lane

Five Bridges Trail - Route 28 Bike Pedestrian Lane

Five Bridges Trail - Allen Mills Connection

Five Bridges Trail - Arch Access Improvements

Five Bridges Trail

Wolf Run Trail

Piney Branch Motorized Trail

Brookville Connections

Wolf Run to Beaver Meadow Trail Connection

Proposed Redbank Creek Water Trail

Redbank Valley Trail

Proposed Sandy Lick Creek Water Trail

Beaver Meadow Trail





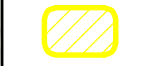


Designate US Rt. 219 as a BicyclePA Route

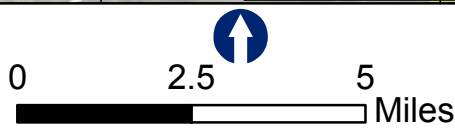
Connect Mahoning Shadow Trail to Redbank Valley Trail

Mahoning Shadow Trail

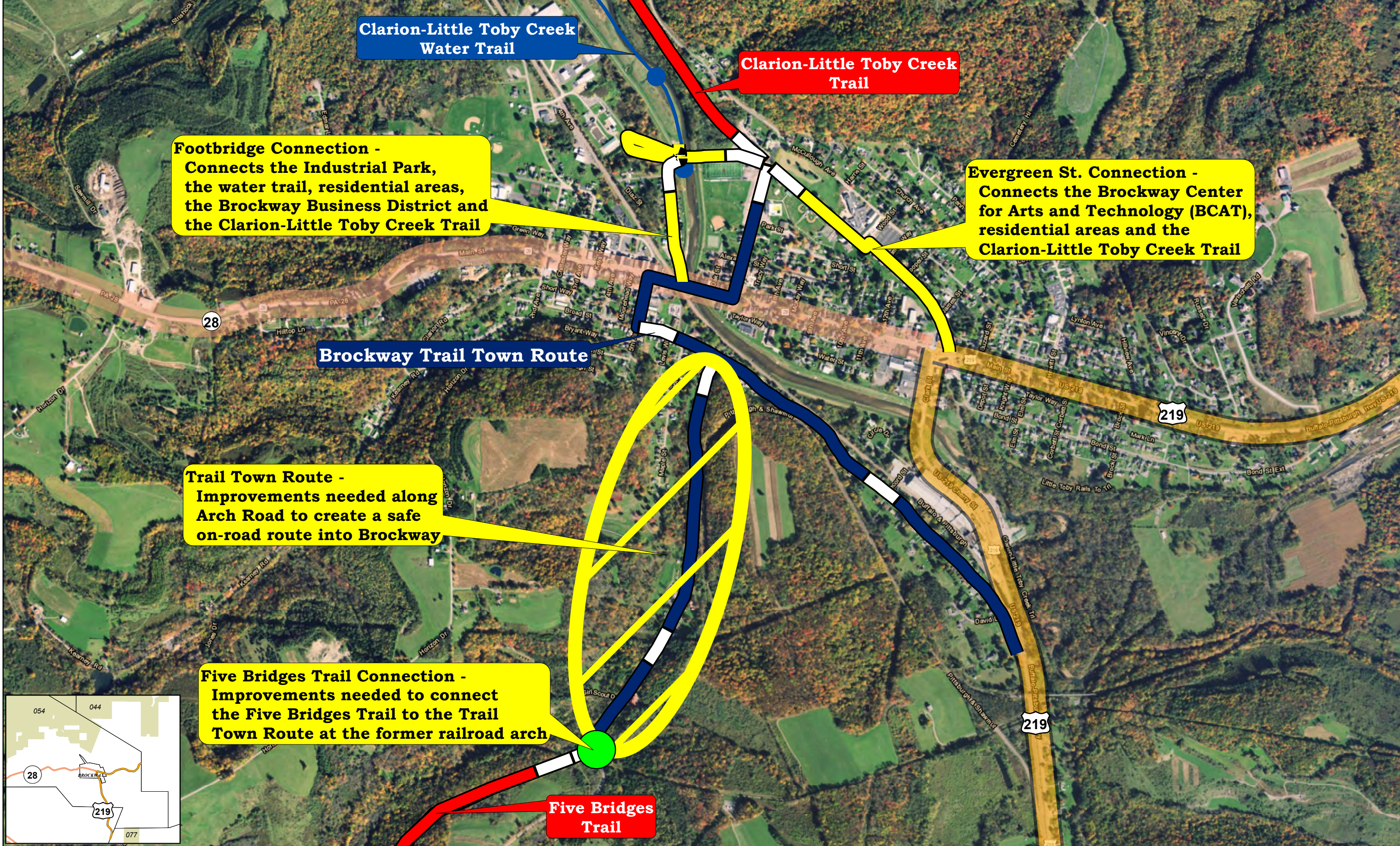
Connect Mahoning Shadow Trail to David S. Ammerman Trail in Grampian

Proposed Mahoning Creek Water Trail

-  Existing Land Trail
-  Existing Water Trail
-  Existing BicyclePA Route
-  Proposed Land Trail
-  Proposed Trail Connection Concept
-  Proposed Water Trail
-  Proposed Water Access Point



LAND AND WATER TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS



Clarion-Little Toby Creek Water Trail

Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail

Footbridge Connection -
Connects the Industrial Park,
the water trail, residential areas,
the Brockway Business District and
the Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail

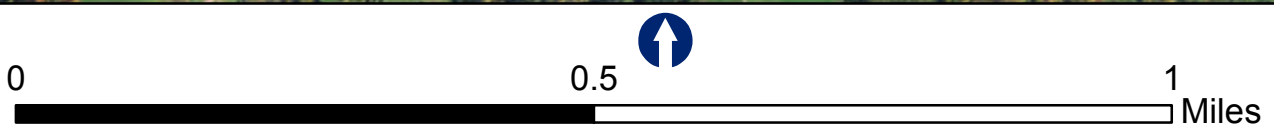
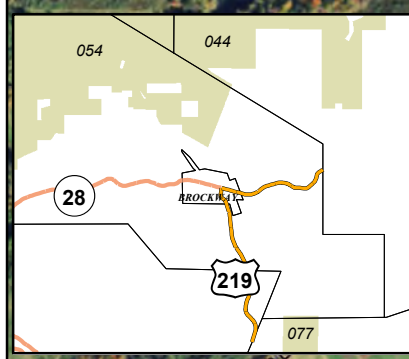
Evergreen St. Connection -
Connects the Brockway Center
for Arts and Technology (BCAT),
residential areas and the
Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail

Brockway Trail Town Route

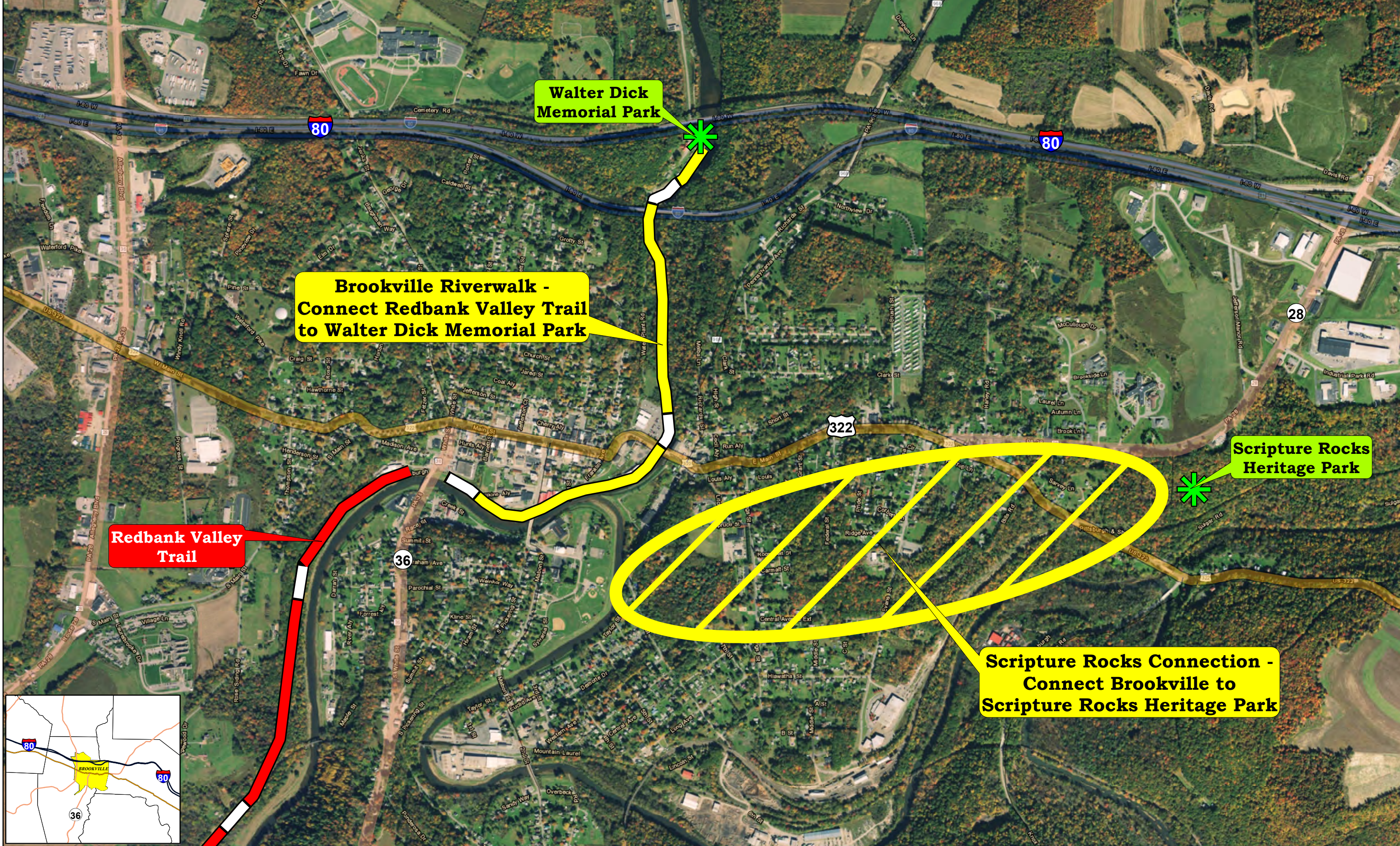
Trail Town Route -
Improvements needed along
Arch Road to create a safe
on-road route into Brockway

Five Bridges Trail Connection -
Improvements needed to connect
the Five Bridges Trail to the Trail
Town Route at the former railroad arch

Five Bridges Trail



BROCKWAY LOCAL CONNECTIONS



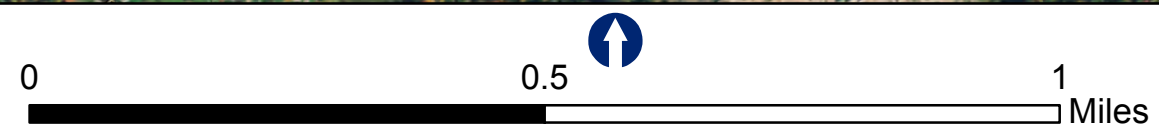
Walter Dick Memorial Park

Brookville Riverwalk - Connect Redbank Valley Trail to Walter Dick Memorial Park

Redbank Valley Trail

Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

Scripture Rocks Connection - Connect Brookville to Scripture Rocks Heritage Park



BROOKVILLE LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Priority Goal – Address the identified gap in the Heritage Tourism information published by the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau and others by preparing an inventory and map that highlights Destination Heritage Tourism Resources in the County

Background

The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* reviewed and evaluated a number of sources of information related to historic sites and heritage resources in the County, many of which were identified previously in this Strategy. The goal of the Working Group was to identify and inventory *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources* in the County. The Working Group defined *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources* as a place, facility or area that is open to the public and that can provide an interactive and experienced based opportunity that helps to explain the history, people, achievements and culture of the area and its achievements.

Recommendation



Prepare a comprehensive inventory and map that highlights *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources* in the County including those resources that provide interactive and experienced based opportunities.

- **ACTION:** Input from the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* facilitated preparation of a *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Inventory* and an associated *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Map* as part of this Strategy. The inventory and map are provided on the following pages.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* can provide the *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Inventory* and the *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Map* to the *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* in hard copy and .pdf formats. *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors* will consider the information and may incorporate it at their discretion into promotional materials.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* engages representatives from the *Lumber Heritage Region* and the *Pennsylvania Wilds initiative* to incorporate the *Destination Heritage Tourism resources* identified in this Strategy into their marketing and promotional efforts.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* engages with the *Lumber Heritage Region* to implement recommendations of their *Management Action Plan* within the County.
- **ACTION:** The *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Inventory* and the *Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Map* will be used by the *Jefferson County Department of Development* and incorporated into economic development and other recruitment modules produced by *Localintel* for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.

Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Inventory

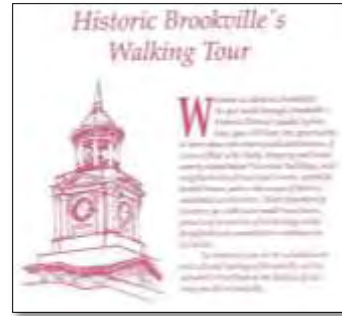
The following Destination Heritage Tourism Resources Inventory summarizes and describes the resources identified by the *Tourism and Recreation Working Group* narratively and graphically in a succinct manner. The Inventory was reviewed with the Working Group for comments, guidance in interpreting the information, and in refining or adding other localized information to the Inventory.

Brockway Area Resources:

- The Taylor Memorial Museum – Many of the remaining physical artifacts of the glass making heritage including images, actual glass bottles, and machinery are maintained for viewing at the exceptional Taylor Memorial Museum. The Museum houses a vast display of glass products from the local industry, plus many interesting artifacts from the lumbering, mining, and farming communities in the surrounding area. The Museum is an important local resource that provides a connection to the Brockway Area's industrial history.
- Brockway Borough Trail Town Route - The Brockway Area sits at the center of a developing Regional Trail Network. The Brockway Borough Trail Town Route was developed out of a local initiative to define how the Clarion/Little Toby Trail, the Five Bridges Trail and Wolf Run Trail would be connected to each other through Brockway. The Working Group recognizes that the Trail Town Route provides an extraordinary opportunity to attract users to venture off the trail system to enjoy the local scenery, services and heritage of the Brockway community.

Brookville Area:

- Historic Brookville Walking Tour - Self-guided walking tour directs users through the historic district and introduces visitors to the architectural and cultural heritage of Brookville. The tour comprises 27 points of interest through the historic district.
- The Jefferson County History Center – The Center is located on Main Street in Brookville and contains 8 galleries totaling 9,000 square feet of exhibit space, a research library, gift shop and staff offices. The Center is operated by the Jefferson County Historical Society, Inc. in the restored N. G. Edelblute Building in Brookville's Historic District. The mission of the History Center is to engage people of all ages in the history of Jefferson County.



- Scripture Rocks Heritage Park - Operated by the Jefferson County History Center, the Park features the collection of dedicated and carved rocks made by local preacher and eccentric, Douglas Stahlman, in the early 20th century verses of Biblical scripture. The Heritage Park features over 60 of these inscribed rocks, along with the area that contained Stahlman's cabin and chapel. Scripture Rocks Heritage Park was opened to the public in June 2016. The park features 1.5 miles of walking paths that take visitors past the inscribed rocks. A series of six brightly colored trails lead visitors around the property and provide viewing to the Scripture. Trail side panels also help to tell both the story of Stahlman and highlight other natural aspects of this area including local history, lumber heritage, wildlife, geology and a small prehistoric archaeological site located within the park.



Punxsutawney Area:

- Punxsutawney Area Historical & Genealogical Society Museum - Housed in a structure constructed in 1903 by renowned American architect Stanford White, it contains seven (7) museum rooms and a genealogy room. The Museum is full of historical artifacts from the surrounding area including exhibits of the coal mining and railroad industries and the history of Groundhog Day.

- Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center – The Discovery Center is located in a former 1914 Federal Building and Post Office. It focuses on the science of Weather and offers hands-on exhibits and video presentations that teach weather concepts through technology.
- Barclay Square Memorial Park – is dedicated to the founding of Punxsutawney by Rev. David Barclay in 1821. It also serves as a memorial to veterans of all wars. Recognition is made through stone markers and placement of two large cannons in the Park.
- Gobbler's Knob – This is the site where Punxsutawney Phil makes his annual prediction surrounded by members of the Inner Circle, media and thousands of onlookers. The area is open to the public and also features a 1.5 mile educational and informational trail that includes signage that gives the history of Groundhog Day, the Inner Circle, Punxsutawney Phil and groundhog facts, and more. These signs include smart phone technology to enhance the visitors' experience.
- Groundhog Zoo - A natural habitat featured in the Punxsutawney Memorial Library on the east side of Barclay Square in downtown Punxsutawney. There is a window giving visual access to Punxsutawney Phil.
- Groundhog Club Headquarters – located at 200 West Mahoning Street in downtown Punxsutawney, the headquarters displays historical and rare Groundhog Club and Punxsutawney Phil items. The Club also hosts many events throughout the year that attract visitors to the Punxsutawney community.

Summerville Borough Historic Walking Tour – The tour will be modeled after the Historic Brookville Walking Tour. This self-guided walking tour will introduce and educate users on the history and heritage of Summerville Borough.

Coolspring Power Museum - The Coolspring Power Museum is located south of Brookville and presents an illuminating history of the evolution of internal combustion engine technology that put an end to the steam powered era. The museum's collection includes over 275 stationary engines housed in more than 35 buildings and outdoor displays. The Museum provides the foremost collection of early internal combustion technology presented in an educational and visitor-oriented manner.

BWP Bats Factory and Tours – Located just off the I-80 Reynoldsville exit, the BWP factory produces over 40,000 baseball bats each year. The Factory itself displays posters, letters, and game used bats from major league



baseball plays and others who use bats produced at this facility. Tours of the factory are guided and introduce visitors to the bat making process and allows visitors to experience the ins and outs of how major league caliber baseball bats are made.

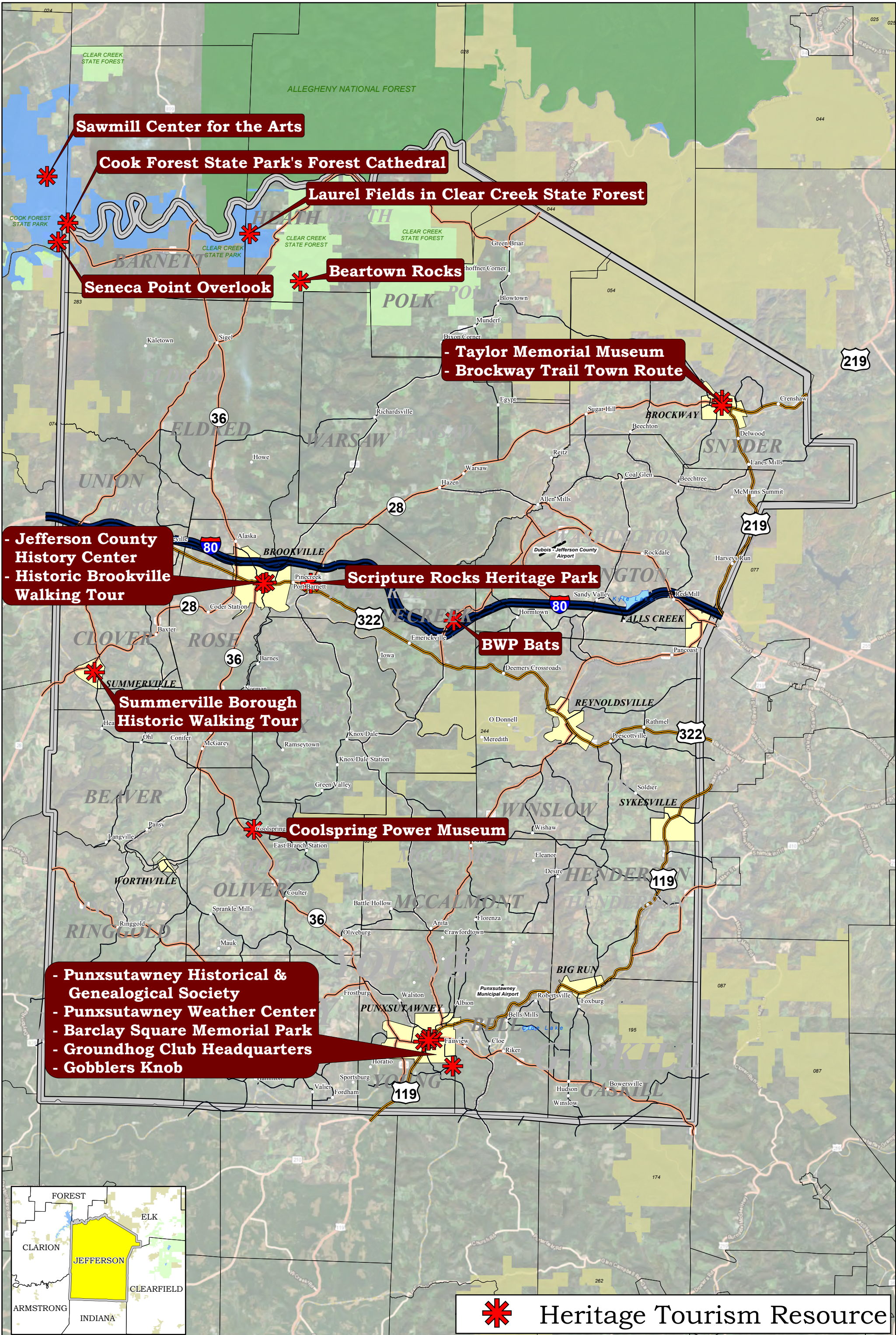
Beartown Rocks – Located in the Clear Creek State Forest, Beartown Rocks provides visitors with opportunities to experience massive boulders and rock formations. The formations guide visitors to dramatic overlooks of the Clarion River Valley.

Seneca Point Overlook – The Overlook is located approximately 1.5 miles from PA Rt. 36 in Cook Forest State Park. The Overlook allows visitors to experience dramatic views of the Clarion River Valley.

Laurel Fields in Clear Creek State Forest - Pennsylvania's state flower, the Mountain Laurel, grows in abundance in the beautiful Laurel Fields in Clear Creek State Forest, just north of Brookville.

Forest Cathedral in Cook Forest State Park – the Park's Forest Cathedral contains finest stand of tall (some approaching 200-ft) white pine and hemlock in the entire Northeastern U.S. The Forest Cathedral is a designated National Natural Landmark.

Sawmill Center for the Arts – Although located just outside of Jefferson County, the Sawmill Center is an important destination for those visiting the County and the Cook Forest State Park. Visitors are attracted to the Sawmill Center for live theater performances at the Verna Leith Theater, classes, unique festivals including the annual Herb & Fiber Arts Festival, and a bountiful craft market. The Center also offers various art and crafting classes.



Sawmill Center for the Arts

Cook Forest State Park's Forest Cathedral

Laurel Fields in Clear Creek State Forest

Seneca Point Overlook

Beartown Rocks

**- Taylor Memorial Museum
- Brockway Trail Town Route**

**- Jefferson County
History Center
- Historic Brookville
Walking Tour**

Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

BWP Bats

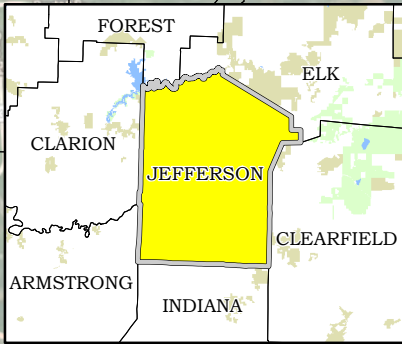
**Summerville Borough
Historic Walking Tour**

Coolspring Power Museum

**- Punxsutawney Historical &
Genealogical Society
- Punxsutawney Weather Center
- Barclay Square Memorial Park
- Groundhog Club Headquarters
- Gobblers Knob**



Heritage Tourism Resource



Priority Goal – Create opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the Destination Heritage Resources in the County and surrounding areas by connecting these Resources with existing driving tour routes.

Background

Three (3) existing driving tours are designated through Jefferson County. These include the 107-mile Groundhog Loop developed by the PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau and routes designated by the Lumber Heritage Region. The Groundhog Loop drive features the towns of Punxsutawney, Brookville, Brockway, Big Run and Sykesville in Jefferson County as well as Ridgway and Dubois. The Loop also takes drivers past the *Wild & Scenic* Clarion River and through some of the more rural part of the County. The Lumber Heritage Region has created a series of driving tours (North, Central and South) that each features sites with a sampling of primary interpretive themes, but that are geographically sequenced in a manner that is relatively viable for travelers within the region. Portions of both the Central and Southern Tours are located in Jefferson County feature Brockway, Brookville, Punxsutawney and Falls Creek in Jefferson County as well as Ridgway and St. Marys.

Recommendations

The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* recognizes the value of incorporating the existing Groundhog Loop and the Lumber Heritage driving tours into a set of recommendations that designates resource connection routes that would lead drivers off the driving tours to the Destination Heritage Resources. The alignment of the Groundhog Loop, and the Central and Southern Tour Routes, the recommended Resource Connection Routes and the location of the Designation Heritage Resources are highlighted on the *Heritage Tourism Recommendations map* on page 74. The following actions are suggested to further enhance the existing driving tours and the recommended connection routes and to increase public awareness of the heritage tourism resources in the County.

- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* coordinates with the *Lumber Heritage Region* to improve the wayfinding of the Central and Southern Tours within Jefferson County. *The Lumber Heritage Region* suggests installing a system of wayfinding signage, providing information on the Lumber Heritage website and preparing a driving tour brochure to highlight key sites and tour routes and creating a web based application.
- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* initiates discussions with the *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* to jointly identify ways to identify, mark and promote the Groundhog Loop.
- **ACTION:** The *Heritage Tourism Recommendations map* will be provided to *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* and *Lumber Heritage Region* in hard copy and .pdf formats. These entities can be engaged and encouraged to consider the information provided and how they can incorporate the information at their discretion into their promotional materials.

- **ACTION:** The *Jefferson County Planning Commission* initiates discussions with the *Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* and the *Lumber Heritage Region* to identify mutually beneficial ways the recommended Resource Connection Routes may be physically marked at critical locations, and plotted out on printed materials and preferably on websites and/or Facebook pages.
- **ACTION:** The following are suggested as ways to increase public awareness of the heritage tourism resources in the County.
 - Promote and encourage communities within the Jefferson County to incorporate the *PA Wilds Design Guide* into their local regulations and community revitalization efforts.
 - Encourage and work with regional and local historic and heritage development organizations to further document and catalog important sites, districts and themes related to the history and heritage of Jefferson County.
 - Complete the identification of local historic and architecturally significant structures/sites within Jefferson County with the assistance of the Jefferson County History Center and prepare tour routes or other publications that will allow visitors to locate these areas in the County. The local historic structures/sites can also be incorporated into the Resource Connecting Routes recommended in this Strategy.
 - Encourage the County History Center to work with local communities, business organizations and individuals to develop local-level heritage tourism development plans and programs.
 - Facilitate the development of identification and wayfinding signage that assists residents and visitors locate and visit these heritage sites.
 - Encourage continued coordinated regional promotion of tourism sites in Jefferson County and the cross-promotion of such sites and community events via *The Pennsylvania Wilds*, *The Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau* and the *Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region*.
 - Encourage the Boroughs of Brookville, Punxsutawney, Brockway, Reynoldsville, Sykesville, Summerville and Falls Creek to incorporate or continue to incorporate heritage tourism in the plans for their respective commercial districts.

Resource Connecting Route Recommendations

There are six (6) main Resource Connecting Routes recommended. These Routes are graphically depicted on the following *Heritage Tourism Recommendations map* and include the following:



PA Route 36:

- Two short spurs are recommended off the Groundhog Loop near Clear Creek State Forest and Clear Creek State Park that will take visitors to the Laurel Fields and Beartown Rocks resources.
- A longer spur to the northwest is recommended off the Groundhog Loop near Sigel that will take visitors to the Seneca Point Overlook, Sawmill Center for the Arts and the Forest Cathedral.
- A connection route is proposed along PA Rt. 28 that will lead visitors from the Groundhog Loop and the Southern Tour near PA Rt. 36 and the Brookville area resources to the Summerville Borough Historic Walking Tour. The proposed route would then extend from Summerville Borough back onto the Ground Loop and Southern Tour along PA Rt. 36 south of Brookville.
- The Coolspring Power Museum is located just a quarter mile off the Ground Loop and Southern Tour.

PA Route 28:

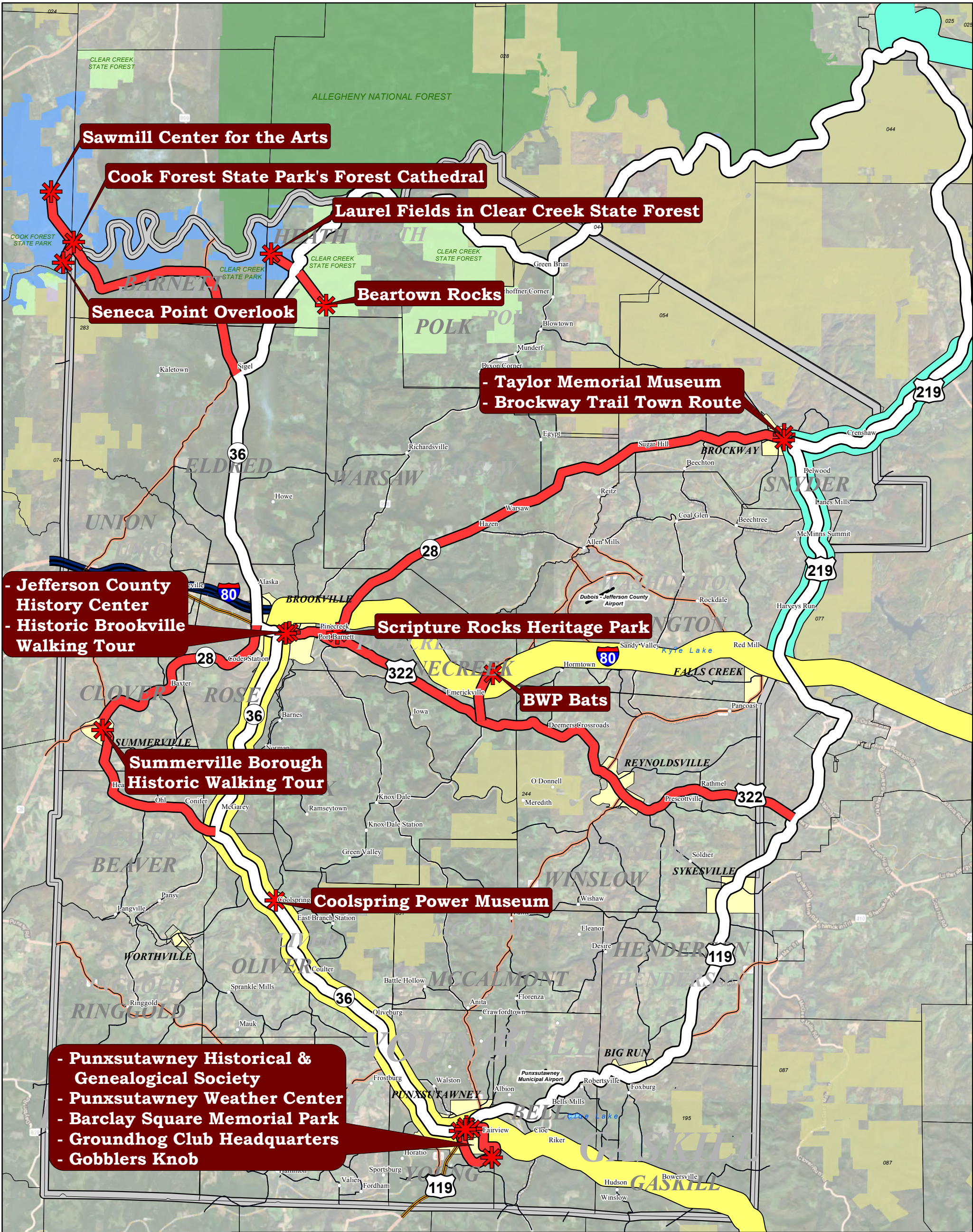
- A connection route is recommended along the entire length of PA Rt. 28 between the Southern Tour in Brookville and the Groundhog Loop and Central Tour in Brockway. This route connects visitors to the Brookville and Brockway area resources.

US Route 322:

- A longer connection is recommended along the entire length of US Rt. 322 between the Groundhog Loop and the Southern Tour in Brookville and the Groundhog Loop along US Rt. 119 east of Reynoldsville. This route connects visitors to the Brookville area resources and the BWP Bats facility while reconnecting visitors to the Groundhog loop on the eastern edge of the County.

Punxsutawney Area

- A looped route is recommended in Punxsutawney that will extend off of the Groundhog Loop and the Southern Tour to connect visitors to the many Punxsutawney resources.



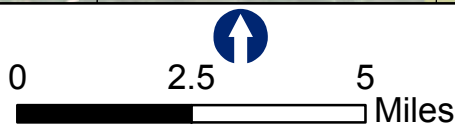
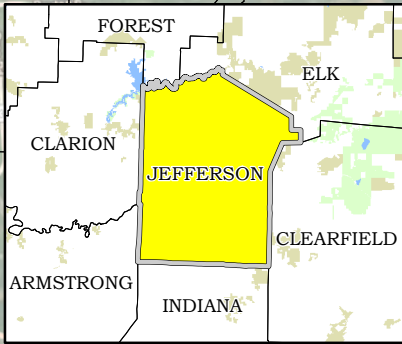
*** Heritage Tourism Resource**

— Groundhog Loop (PA Great Outdoors)

— Southern Tour (Lumber Heritage Region)

— Central Tour (Lumber Heritage Region)

— Resource Connection Route



HERITAGE TOURISM RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority Goal – Complete recreation planning and design for recreation enhancements at Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake.

Background

The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* identified the potential to enhance the recreation experience, facilities and amenities offered at Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake. Input received during the planning process suggested that Reynlow Park would be an ideal location to add motorized ATV trails or similar type of opportunities. It was also suggested that existing facilities could be upgraded and additional amenities could be added. Input received also suggested that the existing boat launch, swimming and fishing opportunities at Cloe Lake could be built upon to develop a regionally significant recreation area surrounding the Lake property. The *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* would like see recreation planning completed for each area that would identify local recreation facility and programming needs and the capacity of each area to sustain recommended improvements that would come out of the recreation planning process. Members of the *Recreation and Tourism Working Group* noted that recreation planning for these facilities should start with a review of previously prepared plans for each area. Members of the Working Group were not able to identify the exact date of the existing plans or the plan sponsors.

Recommendations

This Strategy recommends that the *Jefferson County Planning Commission* moves forward with completing a Master Site Development Plan (MSDP) for recreation enhancements for Reynlow Park and with updating a previously prepared recreation Plan for Cloe Lake. These types planning efforts would include research, public input and an analysis process that will determine and describe appropriate types of recreation improvements that would meet local wants and needs. The Master Site Development Plans would include enough detail including costs estimates to ensure that implementation of the recommended improvements could be completed.

Project Funding Sources

The following identifies potential funding options for the type of recreation planning recommended and for the completion of recreation improvement projects. Specific consideration should be given to the maximum level of funding available from each source. Some are best considered as supplemental funding options while others can be the single source of funding. Due to ever changing grant funding requirements, availability and funding levels, it is difficult to predict with certainty or to describe an exact funding path for each project.

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnership Program (DCNR - C2P2)
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/c2p2programguidance/index.htm>

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) routinely sponsors funding applications under the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Community Recreation and Conservation

Planning Funding for Master Site Development Plans (MSDPs). The C2P2 provides funding to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail and conservation projects. Examples of projects include: Master Site Development Plans, land acquisition and construction for trails, recreation facilities, conservation projects, parks and open spaces/greenways. Priority trail projects include projects that close trail gaps as well as projects that rehabilitate or upgrade existing trails.

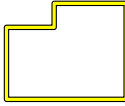
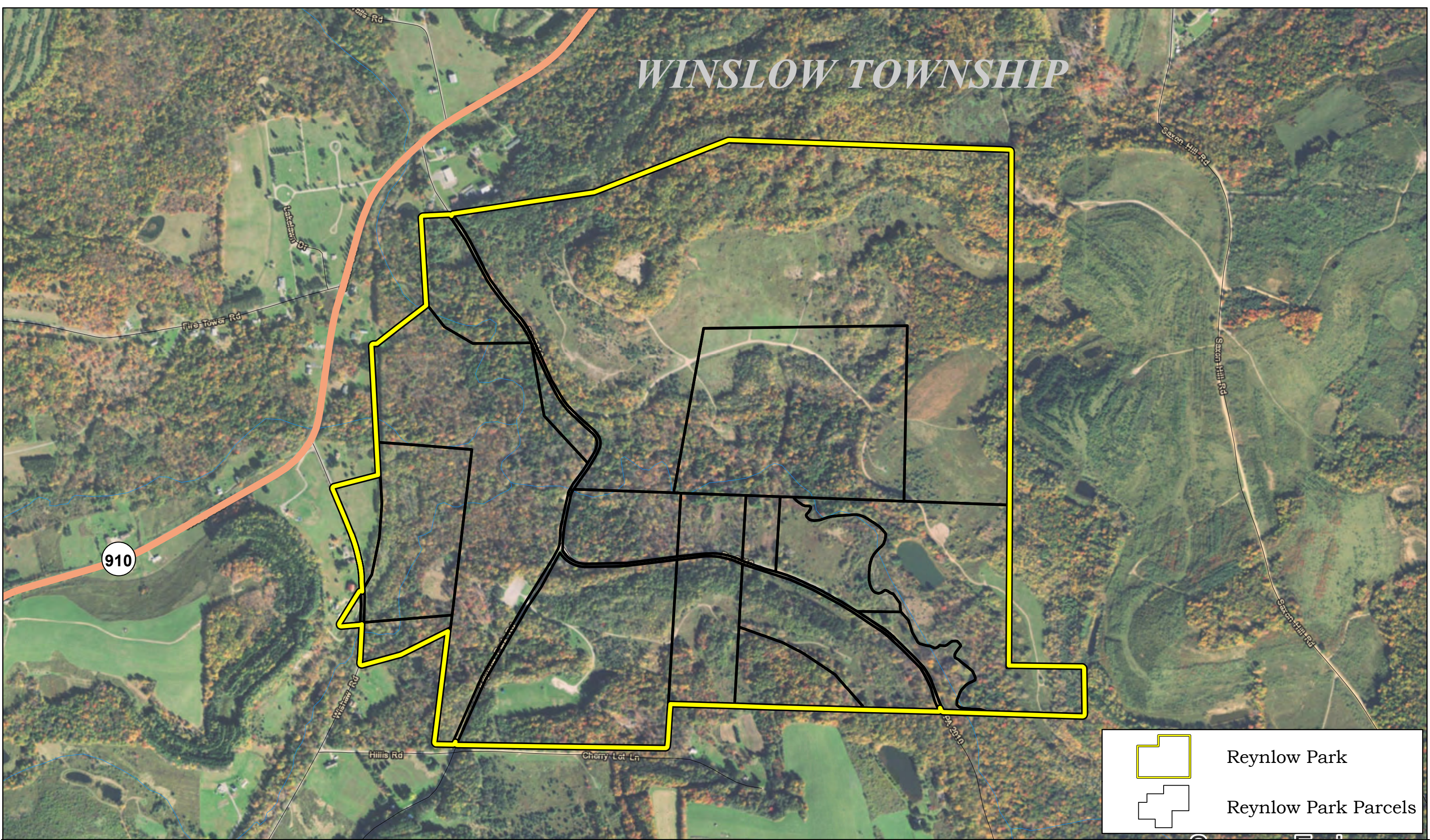
Local Match Requirement: Projects require a 50% match which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values.

- Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) - Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (CFA - GTRP)
<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp>

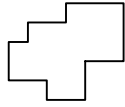
Administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) provides funding for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of recreational trails, greenways, open space, parks and beautification projects. The program awards up to \$250,000 per project to eligible applicants.

Local Match Requirement: Projects require 15% cash match

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP



Reynlow Park



Reynlow Park Parcels



**Recreation and Tourism Strategy
Implementation Matrix**

Priority Goal – Address the identified gap in the Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation information published by the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau and others by preparing an inventory and map that highlights Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation resources in the County				
Recommendations	Actions	Implementation		
		Priority	Suggested Partnerships	Page Reference
Prepare a comprehensive inventory and map that highlights Nature Based and Outdoor Recreation resources in the County including land trails, water trails, water access points and boating, fishing, golfing and hunting opportunities.	Guidance from the Recreation and Tourism Working Group facilitated preparation of the Natural and Outdoor Inventory and an associated <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> as part of the development of this Strategy.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission	37
	The Natural and Outdoor Inventory and the <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> will be provided to Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau in hard copy and .pdf formats. The <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> will consider the information provided and may incorporate the information at their discretion into promotional materials.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau	37
	Engage representatives from the <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> and the <i>Pennsylvania Wilds initiative</i> to incorporate the nature-based and outdoor recreation resources identified in this Strategy into their marketing and promotional efforts.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Lumber Heritage Region PA Wilds	37
	The Natural and Outdoor Inventory and the <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> will be used by the Jefferson County Department of Development and incorporated into economic development and other recruitment modules produced by Localintel for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau	37

Priority Goal – Address the gaps in the Jefferson County Trail system by identifying new land and water trail projects including extensions, local connections and enhancement projects needed to realize a more connected trail network in the County.

Recommendation	Actions	Implementation		
		Priority	Suggested Partnerships	Page Reference
Identify new land and water trail development, extensions, connections and enhancement projects needed to realize a connected trail network in the County. These include Existing Trail Connections, Local Connections, Connection Concepts, a Motorized Trail and Water Trails and Access Points Recommendations.	Input from the <i>Recreation and Tourism Working Group</i> facilitated preparation of set of trail recommendations and an associated <i>Trail Recommendations Map</i> as part of the this Strategy.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission	49
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can actively coordinate with the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association to identify and resolve impediments and to identify other actions Jefferson County can take to assist in completing the recommended trail projects that will address existing trail gaps.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission	51
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can actively coordinate with representatives from Brockway Borough, Brookville Borough and the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park to identify and resolve impediments and to identify other actions Jefferson County can take to assist in completing the recommended local trail connection projects.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission Brockway Borough Brookville Borough Jefferson County History Center	53
	Complete a Trail Feasibility Study for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park connection.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Local sponsors	53
	Complete Trail Feasibility Studies to identify feasible routes for each of the recommended Connection Concepts.	Mid-Term		54
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can actively coordinate with representatives from the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association and the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association to identify actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of the recommended Trail Connection Concepts.	Long-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Trail Associations	54
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can actively coordinate with the sponsors of the Piney Branch Motorized Trail to identify actions Jefferson County can take to assist in the completion of the motorized trail project.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission Piney Branch Trail	54
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> initiates discussions with the Redbank Valley Trail Association, the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association and the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association to encourage them to work towards formally designating the recommended water trails and on installing the public water access points.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Trail Associations	55
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can work with the Redbank Valley Trail Association, the Mahoning Shadow Trail Association and the Tricounty Rails to Trails Association and other appropriate organizations to develop identification and directional signage, advertising and web posting for the existing land and water trail network.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Trail Associations	55
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can work with the <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> to prepare a Jefferson County Paddling Guide that documents public access point and the paddling experience on the Clarion River, Little Toby Creek, Redbank Creek, Sandy Lick Creek and Mahoning Creek.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau	56
The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> initiates discussions with the <i>Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC)</i> coordinators to identify ways Jefferson County can assist in connecting its trail network to the growing IHTC regional trail network.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC)	57	

Priority Goal – Address the identified gap in the Heritage Tourism information published by the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau and others by preparing an inventory and map that highlights Destination Heritage Tourism Resources in the County.

Recommendation	Actions	Implementation		
		Priority	Suggested Partnerships	Page Reference
Prepare a comprehensive inventory and map that highlights Destination Heritage Tourism Resources in the County including those resources that provide interactive and experienced based opportunities.	Guidance from the <i>Recreation and Tourism Working Group</i> facilitated preparation of the Natural and Outdoor Inventory and an associated <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> as part of the development of this Strategy.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission	65
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> will provide the Natural and Outdoor Inventory and the <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> to <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> in hard copy and .pdf formats. The <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> will consider the information provided and may incorporate the information at their discretion into promotional materials.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau	65
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> can also engage representatives from the <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> and the <i>Pennsylvania Wilds initiative</i> to incorporate the Destination Heritage Tourism resources identified in this Strategy into their marketing and promotional efforts.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Lumber Heritage Region PA Wilds	65
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> engages with the <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> to implement recommendations of their Management Action Plan within the County.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Lumber Heritage Region	65
	The Natural and Outdoor Inventory and the <i>Natural and Outdoor Recreation Inventory Map</i> will be used by the <i>Jefferson County Department of Development</i> and incorporated into economic development and other recruitment modules produced by Localintel for new resident and business/industry and/or new hire recruitment and relocation assistance purposes.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Department of Development	65

Priority Goal – Create opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the Destination Heritage Resources in the County and surrounding areas by connecting these Resources with existing driving tour routes.

Recommendation	Actions	Implementation		
		Priority	Suggested Partnerships	Page Reference
Identify a set of Resource Connection Routes that will connect Destination Heritage Resources with existing Driving Routes in the County	The <i>Heritage Tourism Recommendations map</i> will be provided to <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> and <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> in hard copy and .pdf formats. These entities can consider the information provided and how they can incorporate the information at their discretion into their promotional materials.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission Lumber Heritage Region	71
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> initiates discussions with the <i>Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> to jointly identify ways to identify, mark and promote the Groundhog Loop.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau	71
	The <i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> coordinates with the <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> to improve the wayfinding of the Central and Southern Tours within Jefferson County. The <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> suggests installing a system of wayfinding signage, providing information on the Lumber Heritage website and preparing a driving tour brochure to highlight key sites and tour routes and creating a web based application.	Immediate	Jefferson County Planning Commission Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau Lumber Heritage Region	71
	Engage the <i>Lumber Heritage Region</i> to identify mutually beneficial ways the recommended Resource Connection Routes may be physically marked at critical locations, and plotted out on printed materials and preferably on websites and/or Facebook pages.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Lumber Heritage Region	71
	The following are suggested as ways to increase public awareness of the heritage tourism resources in the County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Promote and encourage communities within the Jefferson County to incorporate the <i>PA Wilds Design Guide</i> into their local regulations and community revitalization efforts. ❑ Encourage and work with regional and local historic and heritage development organizations to further document and catalog important sites, districts and themes related to the history and Heritage of Jefferson County. ❑ Complete the identification of local historic and architecturally significant structures/sites within Jefferson County with the assistance of the Jefferson County History Center and prepare tour routes or other publications that will allow visitors to locate these areas in the County. The local historic structures/sites can also be incorporated into the Resource Connecting Routes recommended in this Strategy. ❑ Encourage the County History Center to work with local communities, business organizations and individuals to develop local-level heritage tourism development plans and programs. ❑ Facilitate the development of identification and wayfinding signage that assists residents and visitors locate and visit these heritage sites. ❑ Encourage continued coordinated regional promotion of tourism sites in Jefferson County and the cross-promotion of such sites and community events via <i>The Pennsylvania Wilds</i>, <i>The Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau</i> and <i>the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region</i>. ❑ Encourage the Boroughs of Brookville, Punxsutawney, Brockway, Reynoldsville, Sykesville, Summerville and Falls Creek to incorporate or continue to incorporate heritage tourism in the plans for their respective commercial districts. 	Long-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau Lumber Heritage Region PA Wilds	72

Priority Goal – Complete recreation planning and design for recreation enhancements at Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake.				
Recommendation	Actions	Implementation		
		Priority	Suggested Partnerships	Page Reference
The potential to enhance the recreation experience, facilities and amenities offered at Reynlow Park was identified during the planning process. The potential to enhance the recreation experience, facilities and amenities offered at Cloe Lake was identified during the planning process.	<i>Jefferson County Planning Commission</i> sponsors the develop of Park Master Plans for Reynlow Park and Cloe Lake to identify issues and opportunities, community needs, project recommendations and implementation steps.	Short-Term	Jefferson County Planning Commission Reynoldsville Borough Bell Township	75