

4. RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are many efforts to expand their system of parks and recreation underway in Greene County. The Greene County Department of Recreation, Department of Economic Development, and the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) have been working in conjunction to obtain both land and state grants to improve upon their recreation base.

Opportunities for new recreation sites and facilities exist and this chapter focuses on discussing each potential site and/or opportunity for the development of recreational facilities.

Figure 4-1: Recreation Opportunities depicts the location of each site that is discussed in this Chapter as a potential recreation opportunity.

Reclaimed Mine Sites

A portion of this project was dedicated to investigating the opportunity to reclaim abandoned mine sites in Greene County and convert them into recreation areas. Originally, two former mine sites were identified by Greene County staff as having the highest and best potential for redevelopment as recreation land uses: Crucible Mine Site and Dilworth Mine Site. The sites are contiguous and located in Cumberland Township along the Monongahela River near the town of Crucible. As a result, a field visit was conducted of the two mine sites in order to:

- Observe the current conditions of the two sites,
- Identify which structures would be demolished and which would be left standing for potential re-use by the County,
- View the interior of remaining structures for possible re-use alternatives,
- Assess methods of vehicular and pedestrian access to

the sites, and

- Attempt to develop preliminary recommendations for future redevelopment as a recreation facility in Greene County.
- Determine the feasibility of extending the Greene River Trail through these sites.

A topographical map on the following page illustrates the location of the two contiguous sites along the river.

Brief History of Mining in Greene County

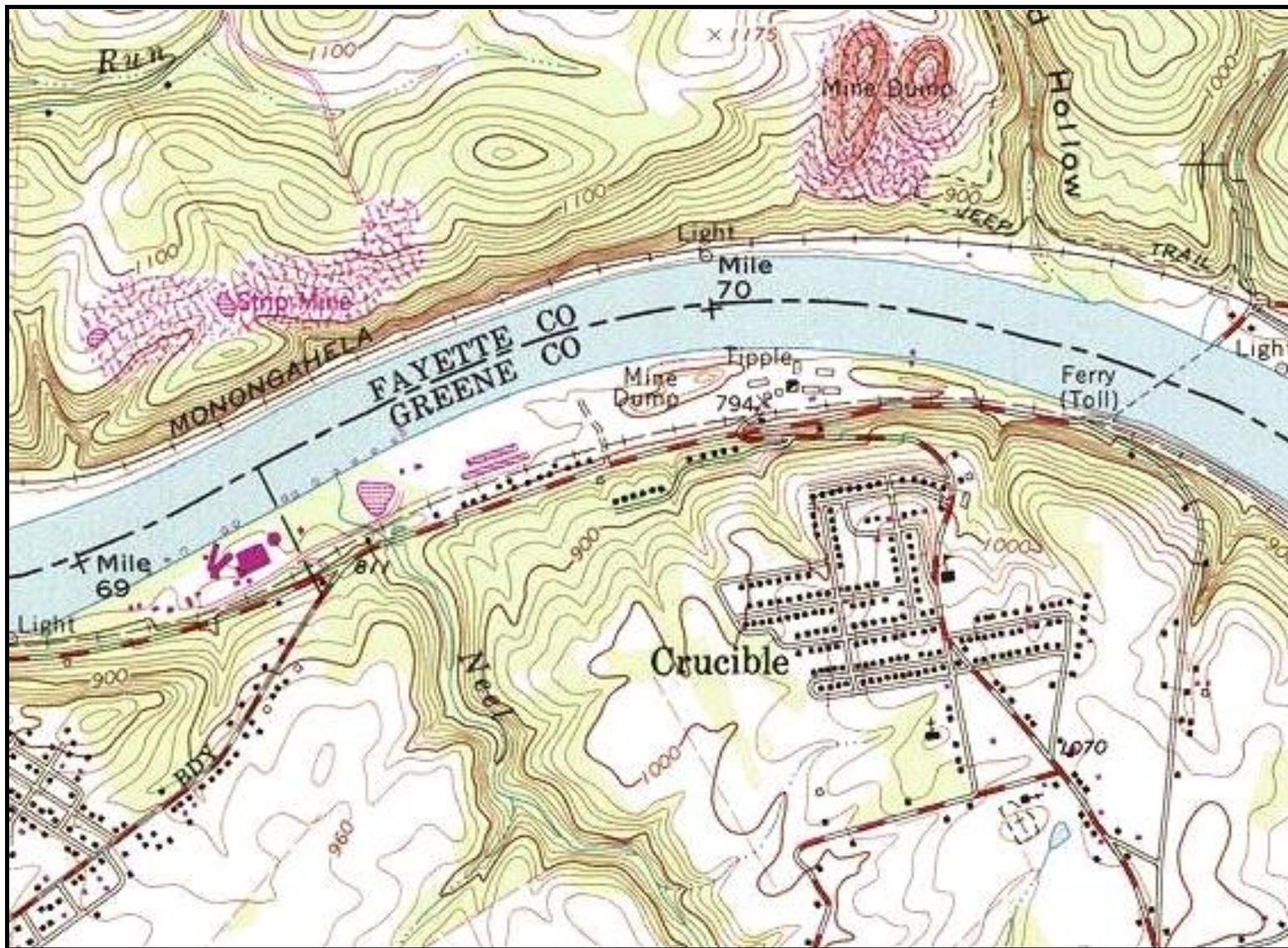
According to the *History of Greene County, Pennsylvania* authored by G. Wayne Smith, the Dilworth Mine located at Rices Landing was the first mine to open in Greene County in 1901. This was followed by the Crucible Mine in 1911 in a new town named after the mine, and the Poland Mine in Monongahela Township in 1912. By 1913, these three mines employed over 400 men and produced over 220,000 tons of coal.

The Dilworth Coal Company Mine at Rices Landing began shipping coal to market in 1902. Following bank foreclosure in 1910, the mine re-opened in 1913 as the newly formed Rices Landing Coal and Coke Company.

The Crucible Mine opened in 1911 with company plans to construct 150 steel barges to ship the coal to market, and a “model mining town” with a company store and 100 homes equipped with electric lights for employed miners. By 1915, there were 40 single and 40 double houses in Crucible.

Since that time, scores of mining operations were initiated, contributing to the rich history of Greene County as a productive mining region.

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Benefits of Mine Reclamation

Mine reclamation refers to the process of removing environmental pollutants and safety hazards associated with a site and returning the land to a productive condition. According to the Pennsylvania DEP, mine reclamation eliminates hazards to the health, safety and general welfare of citizens living and working near these sites. Many of these abandoned mines are located in or near residential areas, schools and hospitals and have become dangerous attractions for children and dumping grounds for garbage.

The environmental benefits realized from mine reclamation are numerous and significant, including restoring land for future use and improving water quality. Restoration of the land can result in increased pastureland and recreational areas. Wildlife habitat also is enhanced.

The economic benefits of reclamation also are very important. It is estimated that for every one million dollars spent for mine reclamation construction contracts in Pennsylvania, about 27 people are employed directly or indirectly. In addition, nearly every such contract is with a Pennsylvania company employing Pennsylvania labor.

Crucible Mine Site

In 2003, Consol donated the Crucible site to Greene County. Based on recent information received from the Department of Recreation, it is not feasible to acquire the Dilworth site and so will not be pursued at this time (personal communication, April 2006). The County is in the process of clearing brush and trees from the site in order to continue the construction of the Greene River Trail along the Monongahela River.

Location and Size

The Crucible site is approximately 29 acres and the Dilworth site is approximately 55 acres, for a combined size of 84 acres. The sites are contiguous and situated on the western bank of the Monongahela River with approximately 1.2 miles of river frontage. The sites are located one mile southeast of Rices



Crucible Mine Site (Mackin, 2003)

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Landing in Cumberland Township and have access from State Route 1017 / River Hill Road. While a field view was conducted on both sites, the Crucible Site will be the focus of the Department of Recreation.

Topography

The Crucible Dilworth Site is relatively flat, but slopes steeply along the southern boundary from the access road to the abandoned rail line where the topography flattens to a 2-3 percent slope in the flood plain of the river to the top of bank where it again slopes steeply to the river. There are several structures slated for demolition, including two concrete tipples and the remnants of two brick structures. Small pockets of woodlands can be found along the rail bed. There are approximately 3,000 feet of river frontage.

Environmentally-Sensitive Areas

Most of the Dilworth portion of the site is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone AE on the FEMA FIRM), which means there is a 1 percent chance that the site will experience significant flooding in any year. The Crucible portion is less susceptible to flooding because it is located in the 500-year flood plain (Zone X). As a result, any new earth disturbance on the sites will most likely require a Section 105 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The refuse piles were removed during 2004, allowing for full visibility of the riverfront for the length of the Crucible Site.

Soils Analysis

Research conducted with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) revealed that the mining company is responsible for treating any discharge or drainage from the mine sites. Higher-than-normal ground and water levels of iron and aluminum are generally the greatest concerns. Plans to re-establish vegetation on the two sites may require the application of agricultural limestone to neutralize the soil's acid content. This will become an important element in any redevelopment plan for the site as restoration of significant ground cover will be necessary to create a safe and attractive recreation area.

Future owners of any former mining site have a continuing obligation to control water run-off from the site. The DEP strongly recommends that future owners work cooperatively with the local conservation district, which must approve all sedimentation and soil erosion prevention plans prior to any new development or redevelopment activities.

The DEP also recommended that the debris created from the demolition of any on-site structures be evaluated for re-use as a base for parking lots, if future plans call for such lots to be constructed on the property.

Access

Vehicular access for both sites is available from SR1017, a primary road with light traffic. Access roads were designed for heavy mining vehicular traffic and provide safe and easy access to the sites for all types of vehicles, including possibly tour busses and large recreational vehicles (RVs).

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The Greene River Trail ends at the property line of the Dilworth mine. Demolition has been completed on the Crucible site in preparation for Phase III of the Greene River Trail extension project. The County plans to extend the trail to Muddy Creek for an additional 3.2 miles of trail. Long-term plans include extending the trail another four miles to Nemaocolin (refer to *Chapter 3: Trails & Greenways* for more information).

Infrastructure

Public water service is available from existing lines along SR1017. An existing wastewater treatment plant at the Crucible site can serve both sites adequately, having been initially constructed to serve up to 600 employees. Electric service is available from existing aerial lines along SR1017 as well as from an on-site transformer station. All infrastructure elements will remain but should be screened from public view and secured from public access.

Existing water lime treatment lagoons also will remain on-site and may be utilized by the mining company in the future, if necessary. These areas also would need to be secured and screened from public access and view.

Existing Structures

The Dilworth site includes two buildings, which could be easily adapted to recreational use. The main building is 140' x 120' with additional attached office space, restrooms, showers and shop. This structure could be adapted to a gymnasium with indoor basketball, volleyball, badminton, aerobics, indoor soccer, and many other indoor recreation programs with space for showers and locker rooms, weight

training and exercise rooms, meeting rooms, etc.

The other building measures 50' x 100' and is situated only fifty feet from the river's edge, making it an excellent picnic pavilion simply by removing the existing metal siding. There are no buildings present on the Crucible site.

Potential Liabilities

Mine waste areas may have high levels of iron and aluminum. The existing refuse piles covering a large portion of the Crucible site are being removed. The underlying soils are unknown at this time. It is possible that there will be residual high levels of iron and aluminum, which have leached into the subsoils, and special treatment with lime may be required to raise the pH to suitable levels to support vegetation.

The river is also a liability posing a drowning hazard and opportunity for accidents as the public has access to its banks. Swimming in the Monongahela River is not recommended at this location due to depths and strong currents.

Assets

The single greatest asset of the site is the uninterrupted, expansive river frontage. The Crucible Site has tremendous potential and is suitable for a certain forms of water-based recreation including marina and docks, boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. As stated above, swimming is not recommended. In addition to water recreation, numerous land-based recreation activities are suitable including picnicking, camping, trails, multi-purpose fields, ice skating and hockey, cross country skiing, bicycling, hiking and jogging. The size of the site is also sufficient to accommodate passive recreation

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opportunities where landscaped areas are made available for people to simply sit and enjoy the open space.

The level topography of the sites will afford greater opportunities for large facilities such as athletic fields and the provision of adequate parking. Most importantly, the flat land will easily accommodate physically disabled visitors who wish to access any part of the site. Redevelopment plans should include handicapped accessibility in all aspects of the park's design and development (parking, maneuverability, building access, etc.).

The existing river moorings will be left intact by the mining company for its possible future use, and also for future use by the county for designated boating areas.

The overall size (82 acres with 1.2 miles of uninterrupted river frontage) is well suited for redevelopment as a regional park marketed as a recreation destination. The size of the site also lends itself well to developing a year-round calendar of activities and facilities, including an outdoor skating rink during the winter that could be transformed into a roller skating rink in more temperate weather with minimal modification to the same facility. The more diverse the recreation opportunities, the more attractive the site would be to people who live beyond a 30-minute drive from the park.

The rich coal mining history of Greene County, and the Crucible mining town in particular, offer creative opportunities to tell the history of Greene County to visitors. Restoration and preservation of the former superintendent's house on the Crucible site can provide a theme for the park with the potential for a history museum, convention and visitors bureau office, and community meeting place as well

as the placement of educational placards and interpretive trail guides throughout the park.

Mather Site

During the development of the Recreation, Parks, and Trails / Greenways Plan, a third site was identified as having potential to become a recreational site. The Mather Site, located in Morgan Township next to the town of Mather, is currently being reclaimed and is now owned by the Greene County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). Morgan Township has the opportunity to buy the property for \$2 once reclamation is complete, however it is likely that the County will assume ownership of the site.



Mather Site (Mackin, 2004)

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Reclamation was completed in 2005. Since then, the gob piles have been removed, leaving approximately 67 acres of flat land on the top of the reclaimed gob pile. Additionally, the IDA also owns the former Carbon Resources property, 25 acres of non-residential property, and another ten acres in Morgan Township.

A Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessment has been completed on the site and the County is prepared to undergo a Master Plan for the site through a grant from DCNR. Additional remediation work has been completed, although railroad ties need to be disposed from the site. A Growing Greener Grant was applied for to complete the project.

Potential Development Opportunities

A master site plan is required to illustrate a long-term community vision for the three reclaimed mining sites. While there are seemingly limitless opportunities for recreation, potential funding sources will require a redevelopment plan that includes construction and start-up costs as well as long-term maintenance costs. The master site plan will need to be site-specific for the diverse activities and programs proposed and demonstrate how year-round activities will be accommodated and how incompatible features of adjacent uses will be mitigated.

A master site plan should include development of the park in planned phases. It is recommended that a facility such as an athletic field be included in the first phase. This is a relatively easy project to design, finance and construct, and would provide the County with an early success to gain support from the public and future financing entities.

Public forums should be incorporated into the development process of the master plan to solicit citizens' comments for park uses and facilities. In particular, elementary and high school students in the County should be afforded a separate opportunity to offer their input on design features.

The master site plan should be sufficiently detailed to include engineering and financial feasibility studies of the existing structures and their potential for redevelopment. Cost estimates should be completed in order to provide the County with all the data and drawings necessary to request funding from a variety of sources, both public and private.

The potential for any future development on the mine sites is limited only by funding. Many characteristics of these former mine sites contribute to its appeal for funding from the following resources:

- Abandoned Mine Land Program
- Growing Greener Program
- Heritage tourism programs
- Communities of Opportunity Program
- Community Revitalization Program
- Community Recreation Grant Program
- River Conservation Grant Program
- Heritage Parks Grant Program
- Recreational Trail Program
- Rails to Trails PA Program
- Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program.

Additional financing could be realized by assessing user fees on certain activities (such as ice skating) or facilities (such as picnic shelters). Concession permits required for concessionaires could generate revenue as well.

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In terms of activities and facilities to be considered, space will be the primary limiting factor. Not all of the ideas mentioned by County residents or approved by County officials may be practically located on the site, and the size and topography of the overall site will limit the final design, type and number of activities and facilities. However, during the master planning process, it is recommended that the entire spectrum of possibilities be considered, including but not limited to the following activities:

- Waterfront activities associated with the river—boating, fishing, skiing, a marina
- Outdoor activities—athletic fields, cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, horseback riding
- Tourist destination activities—recreational vehicles, camping, picnic shelters
- Indoor activities—skating / hockey rink, community center, recreation center, senior center, ball courts
- Passive recreation opportunities—green spaces and park furniture strategically located to take advantage of scenic vistas
- Handicapped accessible features—permitting access to all facilities and use of as many as possible
- Rental facilities—canoes, boats, bicycles, livery stables, picnic shelters, skating equipment, camp sites, athletic fields, concessions

Other Recreation Opportunities

United Mine Workers Coal Heritage Park

The United Mine Workers of America applied and received a grant in 2006 that focuses on the feasibility of a coal heritage project and ways to secure funds for the project if it is found to be feasible. According to the Coal Heritage Attraction's concept statement, the attraction will be a presentation of "the people who worked in the coal industry and community, the economics of a coal town, and the migration and blending of diverse heritage traditions". This will be co-located with the proposed United Mine Workers Career Training Center in Ruff Creek, Pennsylvania (Greene County).

The feasibility study being prepared by Economics Research Associates (ERA) noted that this project would be a key attraction not only to the region, but quite possibly the country, potentially attracting 150,000 annually. At this point in time, the study is focused on identifying means to fund this attraction.

The Greene County Coal Heritage Attraction will be housed in a building that is 44,000 square feet. Of this total square footage, 24,000 square feet will be devoted to exhibits and the theater experience. A preliminary cost estimated generated by Gallagher and Associates totals \$23.9 million.

The conceptual site plan drafted by ERA includes the main facility that will house an exhibit hall, administration area, temporary exhibit hall, museum shop, café, lobby, a regional visitor's center, memorial, multiuse space, classrooms, genealogy center and research library/archives. The training

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center will be located in a separate facility on this campus. Other historic structures and interpretive sites will also dot the landscape of the grounds.

This comprehensive and interactive site will allow visitors the opportunity to experience the following:

- experience an actual mine site (smells, feels, machinery, and techniques)
- emotionally connect with first person testimonies
- an opportunity to see real mining artifacts
- experience first-hand the environment of immigrants who ventured here for work (Ellis Island)
- re-live coal mining towns and communities
- a collection of writing and first hand accounts in the research library

Ryerson Station State Park

An evaluation of the dam and spillway failure was recently concluded in 2007, and it is noted that the dam was damaged not due to “natural causes” but by other means. Recently, DCNR reported its commitment to constructing a new earthen dam, and ultimately the lake. In November of 2007, DCNR reported that a new structure could take at least 18 months to design and another 18 months of construction of the dam.

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said in a 2007 press release, “we’ve learned a lot since the dam was originally built in 1960 across the Dunkard Fork of the Wheeling Creek and we know we can not only restore the dam, but actually improve the recreational opportunities at the park through this process”. Many local officials have committed to advance the dam reconstruction and to provide new opportunities for all residents. Examples of these new opportunities are

ecological, educational, recreational, sporting, and wildlife opportunities. The goal will be to not only “restore” but to “improve” the Park and Lake for future use.

The Task Force has also defined two goals as they continue to meet on the project. One statement focuses on the short-term goals of the park and the second focuses on the long-term goals.

Short term: Keep reconstruction of the dam and Duke Lake in the forefront and provide increased recreational opportunities in the park and County.

Long term: Reconstruction of the dam which allows Duke Lake to provide an aquatic recreational resource for Ryerson Station State Park and Greene County.

Other amenities at the Park include a camping area that can hold up to 80 people, five picnic pavilions, fire rings, 11 miles of hiking/cross country skiing trails, 900 acres of hunting (species include deer, grouse, squirrel, and turkey), over 275 picnic tables, a swimming pool, a playground, and numerous opportunities for other lodging.

Wisecarver Reservoir & Dam

The Wisecarver Reservoir was constructed in 1931 as part of the Waynesburg Water System, which was a subsidiary of American Waterworks. At the time of construction, the reservoir covered 17.5 acres and had a holdback of 80 million gallons of water. In 1966, drought conditions threatened the reliability of the water supply from Wisecarver, creating concerns that there would not be adequate water to supply the community.

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The Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Authority (SPWA) acquired the reservoir site in 1967, when they purchased the Waynesburg Water System and assumed responsibility for provision of service to Waynesburg. The purchase took place because the Southwestern System had a more reliable water source, the Monongahela River. The site totals 341 acres and is owned by the SPWA and is headquartered in Greene County.

Since the devastating loss of Duke Lake, the Ryerson Task Force, Friends of Ryerson, as well as local elected officials (county, local, and state officials) have researched alternative sites to provide additional recreational activities for the citizens of Greene County and Western Pennsylvania including Lake Wilma in Blacksville and Wisecarver in Franklin Township (near West Waynesburg). Lake Wilma is already being used for this purpose. The belief is that the Wisecarver Reservoir property could be a potential location for enhanced recreational activity while waiting for Ryerson to be rebuilt.

In early February of 2008, elected officials joined representatives from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), SPWA, the County of Greene, Franklin Township, Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc., PA Fish and Boat Commission (FCB), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and the PA Department of Environmental Protection, due to an interest in pursuing the recreational opportunities at Wisecarver Reservoir. In accordance with this goal, SPWA is applying to the DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Community Conservation Partnership Program (C3P2) in Spring 2008 for a grant to enable them to move forward with a feasibility

study and site master plan.

At the present time there are two additional challenges that may influence the project. The PA DEP, Bureau of Waterways Engineering, Dam Safety Program has identified the Wisecarver Dam as unsafe because a portion of the gabion basket system has begun to separate from the spillway's downstream slope. The dam is structurally sound, but the potential for a high water event to cause spillway failure exists. Elected officials are aggressively pursuing a funding source as SPWA officials are also attempting to secure private funds. Secondly, there is an agreement between the SPWA and Foundation Coal that allows the coal company to draw down from the reservoir when they need the water. FBC has expressed concern that may limit the range of opportunity for fishing at Wisecarver. The feasibility of recreational enhancements at Wisecarver is being actively coordinated by SPWA.

Rustic Retreat Facility

Combinations of factors over the past four years have inscribed a need in Greene County to explore avenues associated with a rustic retreat facility somewhere within the county border. Those factors are as follows:

- The loss of a Duke Lake, a major recreational facility at Ryerson Station State Park.
- Recent inquiries for a retreat facility or large meeting facility.
- Greene County's prime location- 45 minutes from Pittsburgh and 15 minutes from Morgantown.
- Greene County's pristine landscape and geographic features.

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- The facility could be converted into a hunting lodge during peak hunting seasons.

Although County and State officials have been exploring the possibility of a rustic retreat facility for some time, they need to be cognizant of the fact that there will be some issues associated with the idea. For instance, the ability to connect to water and sewer lines may be a large factor in selecting a site for the facility. Also, the rugged landscape, although perfect for the environment associated with the facility, is a hindrance to development.

Tourism Signage

The Greene County Department of Economic Development in collaboration with the Greene County Tourism Promotion Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Offices of State Senator Barry Stout and State Representative H. William DeWeese has begun the task of working on signage in Greene County.

The Tourist Oriented Directional Sign program (or TODS), which is funded primarily by the state, focuses on placing tourism-related signs along major transportation corridors/routes in order to enhance tourism in the County. Areas that were originally noted as prime areas for the include the four interchanges along I-79. Identified attractions include the Greene County Historical Society, Greene County Airport, Greene County Aquatic Center, Ryerson Station State Park, local golf courses, and many of the historical locations within the county. The signage process could take three to six months to complete.

This collaborative effort will also focus on a few other areas. First, US Route 19 has been identified as scenic alternative to I-79 from the Ruff Creek to Waynesburg. Secondly, the group has identified a need for logo signs (such as hospital, gas station, and technology park signs) that will also aid travelers find places in Greene County. Lastly, the group is working with the PennDOT and their Archeology Department to validate the claim that Greene County is a part of the “Native American History of Pennsylvania Listing”.

After the signage is in place, the second step of the process will be to identify areas for beautification. The beautification effort will also involve the DCNR and will hopefully completed within the next two or three years.

Another local tourism group, Pittsburgh and its Countryside, has also been working on this issue at the regional level. Their focus is to update the signs in Southwestern Pennsylvania so that they are all alike in color and overall appearance. Currently this group is working with the Greene County Tourism Promotion Agency to develop a Board or Committee that will tackle this issue head-on.

This collaborative effort will focus on bringing tourism into the County and provide a safe and efficient way for travelers to find their destinations. A feasibility study is estimated to cost \$20,000 to complete, with another \$50,000 toward engineering costs and \$200,000 in sign and installation cost. Overall, this could cost upwards of \$300,000 to implement.

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Agritourism

The Greene County Office of Tourism hosted an Agritourism meeting on July 19, 2007 at the 4H Building at the Greene County fairgrounds. The meeting was designed to inform local agencies and local agricultural producers of the notion of Agritourism and its possible coordination in Greene County. Agencies in attendance were PA Preferred (PA Department of Agriculture), Greene County Economic Development, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Greene County Farm Bureau, Food Service Rentals, Greene County Bureau of Forestry, Representative H. William DeWeese, Senator Barry Stout, Greene County Conservation District, and Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission. Those who participated were receptive to the idea and look forward to the program being implemented in the near future.

Since the program was such a big success, the Office of Tourism has begun to seek revenue sources for the program and has identified a few possible sources to fund the program such as Pittsburgh 250 and the set aside grant. The Greene County Office of Tourism has also been in contact with Washington County Tourism and the two may collaborate on the initiative through an interactive website.

Monongahela River Communities Development

Initiated by the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (BARC), which is a 501 (c) 3 as a Community Development Corporation, this project is focused on attracting regional economic investment along the Mon River in Greene, Fayette and Washington Counties. The planning committee is pursuing a coordinated outreach and investment in river trails, inter-county festivals, housing and environmental education.

In Greene County, Greensboro Borough has conducted two annual 'Art Blast on the Mon' festivals to promote economic activity and the arts and access to the arts for everyone. The ARTS Festival focuses on hands-on interactive art activities for the entire family, heritage arts demonstrations with apprentices, arts and crafts vendors, food, and music. The event is held over the Labor Day weekend.

The annual 'Art Blast on the Mon' also consists of a Creative Communities Conference. Both events make art available to underserved rural communities, support a wide variety of art activities, engage local decision makers and increase their advocacy for the arts, and increases assistance, at least to access the arts, to a broad constituency.

In West Virginia, adjacent to Greene County, the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce Vision 2020, Monongahela River Recreational Commerce Committee, is focused on identifying opportunities for development.

Greene County Economic Development and Tourism Promotion Agency are committed to bringing communities and resources together to successfully coordinate these endeavors to assure a balanced approach to commerce, recreation, and conservation.

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Sports Complex

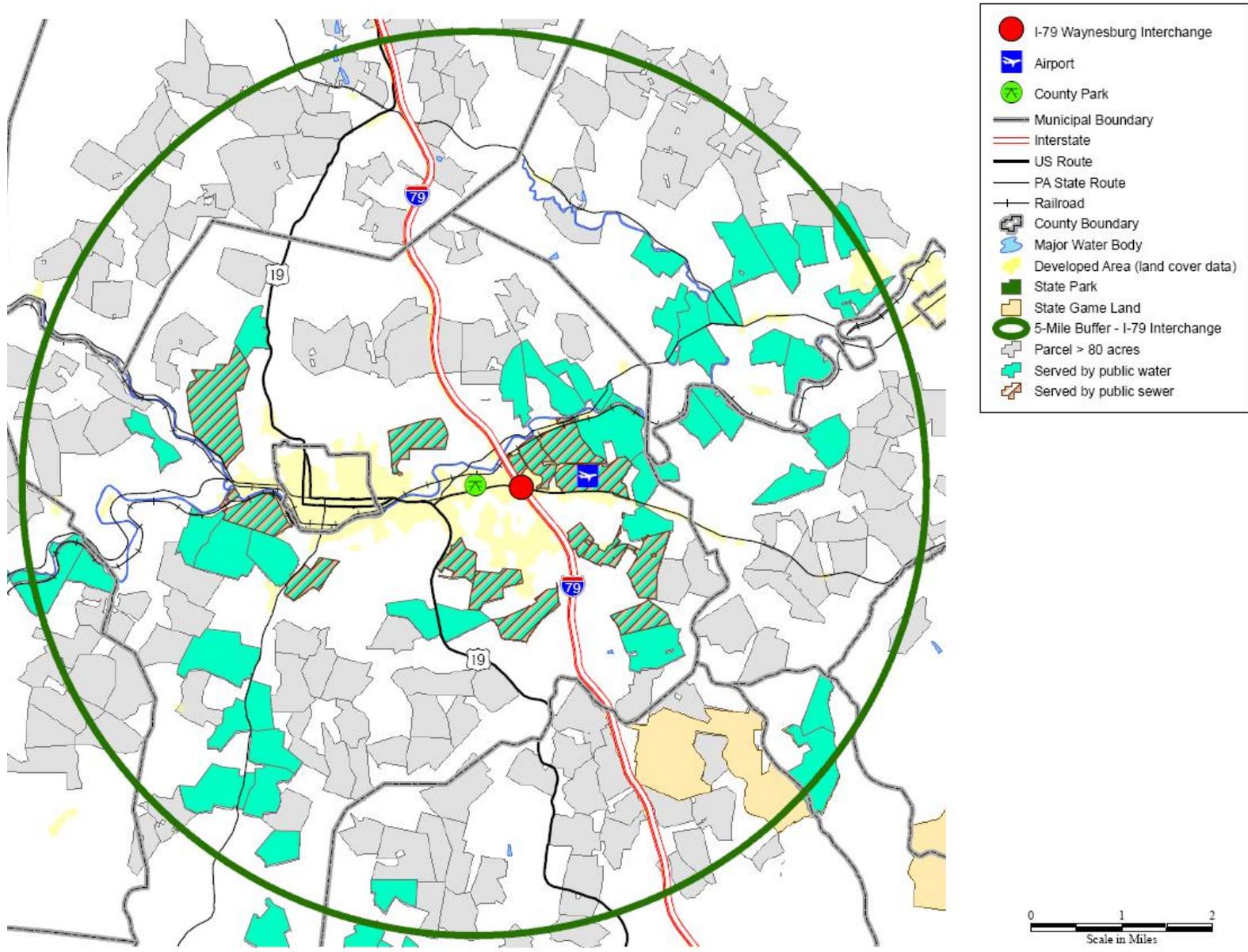
One identified need that was derived from the public participation efforts is for a state of the art facility to conduct tournament sports such as baseball, soccer, and softball. Many of the local athletes do not have adequate playing facilities and a few of the local traveling teams go as far as Virginia, New York, and Florida to compete. A tournament facility would enhance the local sports scene and create another form of economic development during the peak tournament season. Traveling teams spend money on hotels, meals, and participate in local activities- and all of these things increase revenue that is being brought into the county.

Mountain biking, ATV riding, motor cross, and skateboarding are popular activities across the country. Greene County currently is lacking in available lands for these activities and should think about ways to create opportunities for the youth of the County in a safe and monitored environment. There could be potential to create one large sports complex to satisfy both of these needs.

Figure 4-1: Sports Complex Suitability Analysis (page 4-14) identifies parcels over 80 acres in size (along with sites served by public water and/or public sewerage) located within a five-mile radius of the Waynesburg Interchange on I-79 that may be suitable for the development of such a complex.

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Figure 4-1: Sports Complex Suitability Analysis



All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

As the popularity of ATVs has grown, so has their use. ATVs are now used as hunting and fishing vehicles to access remote areas and carry equipment and game. ATVs are used as work vehicles and they are often used as emergency vehicles to reach injured people in remote areas. Each of these uses, including recreational use, has a significant place in the lives of many people, therefore, their use should not be disregarded.

As stated in *Chapter 3: Trails and Greenways*, there are no public ATV trails or facilities located in Greene County. However, the county has been identified as having the potential to host such a facility through the Greene County ATV Feasibility Study (Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., 2004). Greene County residents and officials have expressed varying levels of interest in a public recreational facility that would accommodate off-road motorized vehicles. The following section discusses the benefits and suitability of developing such a site in Greene County.

Statewide Regulations

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has legislated that all ATVs must be registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as per the 2001 amendment to Chapter 77 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. ATVs used exclusively as a farm or business vehicle are exempt from this requirement, but all others must be titled and registered with the Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section of DCNR. No license is required to operate an ATV in Pennsylvania although a Safety Certificate is mandatory for

riders between ages 10 and 15.

The locations where ATVs may be ridden are limited to the following areas (DCNR, 2005): private property only with permission of the landowner; on state-owned property marked and designated as an ATV approved trail; on highways and streets when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert; on highways and streets during periods of emergency when so declared by a governmental agency having jurisdiction; on highways and streets for special events under permit from the governing body having jurisdiction; and on streets and highways designated as ATV or Snowmobile Roads.

The locations where ATVs may NOT be ridden include private property when consent is not given by the property owner, on state forest trails not specifically designated for ATVs, on State Forest roads, State Game Lands, State Parks, or on local or state owned roads not designated for use by ATVs. Persons who fail to obey laws governing the registration or use of ATVs are subject to fines that may range from \$50 to \$300.

Regional ATV Trails

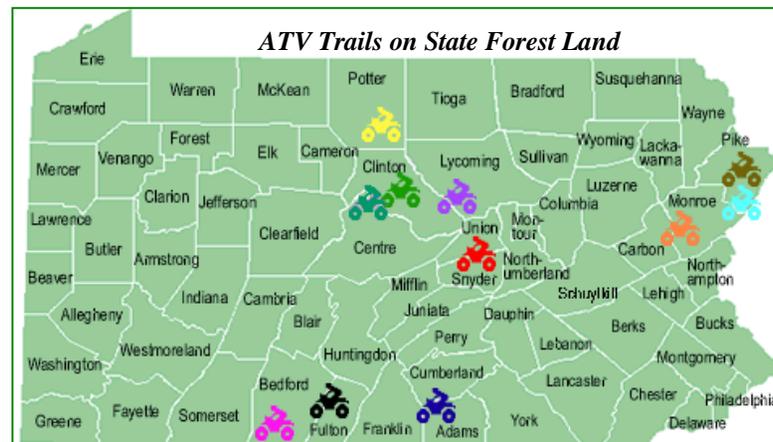
Public ATV recreational opportunities in Pennsylvania are available in both National and State Forests. The federally-managed Allegheny National Forest, located in Warren, McKean, Forest and Elk Counties in northwestern Pennsylvania, charges an annual fee of \$35 for access privileges to over 100 miles of ATV trails. The majority of the trails are available year-round, as shown in *Table 4-1: ATV Trails and Seasons in Pennsylvania*.

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Table 4-1: ATV Trails and Seasons in Pennsylvania (www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/atv/placestotide.aspx)

	Season	Trails
STATE FOREST (summer only)	SUMMER SEASON Friday before Memorial day to last full weekend in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Hill, Bedford County • Sideling Hill, Fulton County • Lyman Run-Denton Hill State Parks, Potter County • Bald Eagle State Forest, Snyder and Union Counties • Dixon R. Miller Recreation Area, Monroe County • Maple Run Tract, Pike County
STATE FOREST (summer-winter)	SUMMER SEASON Friday before Memorial day to last full weekend in September WINTER SEASON Day after last day of antlerless deer season to April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt Mills, Pike County • Big Flat-Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Adams and Cumberland Counties • Kettle Creek State Park, Clinton County • Bloody Skillet, Centre County • Button Road/CCC Camp, Lycoming County
STATE GAME LANDS	<i>ATVs are not permitted on State Game Lands, except when used by disabled hunters.</i>	
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST	SUMMER SEASON Friday before Memorial Day through the last Sunday in September WINTER SEASON December 20-April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marienville ATV/Bike Trail, east of Marienville • Timberline ATV Trail, north of Ridgway • Rocky Gap ATV Trail, southeast of Warren • Willow Creek ATV Trail, eastern side of Allegheny Reservoir (CLOSED during winter season)

State Forests that allow ATV use are primarily located in the central portion of the state with three sites in the east as depicted on the map to the right, *ATV Trails on State Forest Land*. The State Forest ATV trails are divided into Summer Only use and Summer-Winter use as shown above in *Table 4-1: ATV Trails and Seasons in Pennsylvania*.



(http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/atv/atvindex.aspx, 2005)

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Hatfield-McCoy Trails

The Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority owns and manages a premier ATV facility located in southern West Virginia. The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System was started in 1990 and currently includes over 500 miles of trails on private lands. The trails are located in an area known as the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area, comprised of eight counties. The Authority has plans to expand and develop new trail systems throughout the remaining counties in the project area. The system is a well-known nationally recognized system of ATV trails. The trail system is one of 16 in the country designated as a National Millennium Trail.

The Authority is currently developing new multi-use trail systems and community connectors in all eight counties of the project area. The trail network offers a variety of riding opportunities for skill levels. The facility hosts world class trail events and is working on the development of a full size 4x4 trail system.

The Authority is a public corporation established by the West Virginia legislature that is charged with the development, construction, monitoring / policing, and maintenance of the trail system. Riders must obtain user fee permits to access the year-round trail system, sign liability waivers, and adhere to a strict set of trail rules. User-permits can be obtained online or through the mail and prices are as follows (as of 2004):

Annual Permits

- ◆ West Virginia riders: \$25.00
- ◆ Out-of-State riders: \$100.00

7-Day Permits

- ◆ \$35.00

1-Day Permits

- ◆ \$15.00

Out-of-State riders pay more to use the trail system as taxpayer money has helped fund the development of the trail system. More information on the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System can be obtained online at www.TrailsHeaven.com.

Four Seasons Resort and Campground

Four Seasons Resort and Campground is a privately owned and operated facility in Washington County, just across the border from Greene near the Enlow Fork area. The resort and campground offers camping areas, fishing areas, and a system of ATV trails.

ATV Recreational Needs and Benefits

The recreational needs of ATV riders in Pennsylvania were documented in the 2004 study commissioned by DCNR titled *Pennsylvania's ATV Riders and their Needs* (Pennsylvania State University, 2004). The study documented that riders of ATVs are not satisfied with the availability of recreational opportunities afforded to them. Specific problems noted were the lack of public riding opportunities, which contributes to trespassing and conflicts with private property owners. The report also noted the increasing popularity of ATV riding and

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rise in ATV ownership. In 2003, Pennsylvania ranked third nationally for ATVs sold. *Figure 4-2: Active ATV Vehicles in PA* depicts the number of licensed ATVs for each county in Pennsylvania as well as by percentage of total population. There are 765 licensed ATVs in Greene County, which while falling in the lowest category by number, actually represents between one and two percent of the total County population. In addition, the counties surrounding Greene all have a higher number of ATVs, particularly Allegheny and Westmoreland.

Parsons, Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc documented the market needs and benefits of a recreational facility for off-road motorized vehicles in the Greene County ATV Feasibility Study (2004). The study presupposed that a suitable market area would be based upon an average travel time of three hours, which would generally include Columbus, OH; Cleveland, OH; Erie, PA; Altoona, PA; Charleston, WV; and all areas in between. The market area determinate was predicated upon a review of surveys distributed to persons who owned an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). The Greene County ATV Feasibility Study showed that Greene County would have a geographic advantage in attracting a high level of interest from ATV owners as over 30 percent of ATV users in Pennsylvania live within a two hour drive of Greensboro, Greene County.

The Pennsylvania's *ATV Riders and their Needs* report (2004) identified the top reason for ATV operators being unsatisfied with ATV riding was the lack of public trails. The Greene ATV Feasibility Study confirmed the lack of facilities in Southwestern Pennsylvania noting only two private ATV facilities were within a three-hour drive from Greene County — the Four Seasons Resort and Campground in West Finley Township, Washington County and the Mason Dixon Riders

Association Park in South central Greene County as shown on *Figure 4-2: ATV Suitability Analysis*.

The Pennsylvania's *ATV Riders and their Needs* report surveyed ATV users for desired improvements. The findings show that new trail development and maintenance ranks the highest among users in the Laurel Highlands Region. Recreational ATV facility trail requirements suggest that minimum trail lengths should be 20 to 30 miles with survey results supporting the development of medium to longer trail lengths, especially in the Laurel Highlands/Pittsburgh Region.

Economic benefits to the host community include increased gasoline sales, food sales, and lodging. ATV users report gasoline purchases for transport to the recreational facility as well as additional purchases of fuel for the ATV. The *ATV Riders and their Needs* report documented the average expenditure incurred by ATV users per trip was over \$200 (p. 28). Annually, ATV users are estimated to spend \$2,500 (DCNR, p. 28, 2004). This figure does not account for costs borne by the user on the vehicle itself or for new purchases of an ATV.

Survey results published by DCNR indicate that riders would be willing to pay for access to ATV facilities. The *ATV Riders and their Needs* report documented that riders were willing to spend around \$60 for a seasonal pass or around \$12 for a weekly pass (p. 30).

The site needs associated with an ATV recreational facility include sufficient acreage to accommodate a variety of trail choices, varying topography to create diversity in riding experiences, minimal environmental constraints, and public acceptance. Identifying locations that will be physically

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appropriate for ATV users include several factors that involve detailed on-site investigations of the particular geographic location. However, the project will be doomed if a location meets all physical and environmental criteria but is not acceptable to the local community. Public support should be investigated prior to conducting an in-depth site assessment.

Greene County ATV Suitability Analysis

For the purposes of the Greenways Plan, a rudimentary analysis was completed to identify locations that meet initial criteria for minimal environmental impacts. It should be noted that this in no way will determine actual suitability but serves only to identify general areas where ATV sites do not pose environmental impacts and as a guide for future action by Greene County Officials. Detailed, site-specific studies will need to be conducted to determine feasibility of a particular geographic location for an ATV Recreational Facility identifying criteria such as wetlands, slopes greater than 75 percent, acreage, public acceptance, etc.

Future development and planning for an ATV recreational facility should follow the standards established by DCNR in their publication *Pennsylvania Trail Design Manual for Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles* (2004). This manual outlines specific steps that should be followed when determining feasibility of a particular site and when designing the ATV facility. Standards for motorized trail design can also be found in the *Off-highway Motorcycle & ATV Trails Guidelines for Design, Construction, Maintenance and User Satisfaction* (Wernex, 1994).

To avoid confusion, the following terms used in this analysis are defined as:

- **Watershed:** 10-digit, national standard Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC).
- **Subwatershed:** 12-digit, national standard HUC, which is a subset of a watershed.
- **Area:** Area refers to a large block of land created by excluding environmental criteria and often following watershed boundaries.
- **Site:** Refers to a parcel or parcels of land, relating directly to political boundaries and property ownership.

Sites were initially identified by excluding the following criteria:

- Biodiversity areas, landscape conservation areas, important bird areas, critical habitat, or other locations identified by the Natural Heritage Inventory for Greene County;
- High-quality watersheds, and watersheds that drained to high-quality streams, reservoirs, or cold water fisheries;
- State game lands, existing greenways and state and local parks.

Environmentally sensitive areas by watershed are shown in *Table 4-2 (on page 4-17)*. Strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for each watershed are shown in *Table 4-3 (on page 4-18)*.

To further refine the potential areas, subwatersheds containing population centers were excluded to provide a buffer from excessive noise and traffic for local residents and to increase the likelihood of public acceptance. To further qualify the potential ATV facility locations, sites with evidence of mineral extraction or industrial activity were added to show where considerable environmental damage may have already

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Table 4-2: Greene County Environmentally Sensitive Areas by Watershed

Watershed	Areas Excluded for Environmental Protection
1. Dunkard Fork of Wheeling Creek	Many core and surrounding habitat BDAs of High and Notable significance Enlow Valley IBA County significance Forest Block LCAs; Watershed LCA of Notable significance Subwatersheds draining into Ryerson Station Reservoir and trout stocked fisheries SGL 179, Ryerson Station State Park, Dreamer Memorial Park Area abutting north of Warrior Trail
2. Pennsylvania Fork of Fish Creek	2 core habitat BDAs of notable significance Area abutting south of Warrior Trail Steep slopes
3. Ten Mile Creek	South Fork Ten Mile Creek and Upper South Fork Ten Mile Creek Watershed LCAs of Exceptional and High significance respectively; 2 of 6 County significance Forest Block LCAs Many core and supporting BDAs of Exceptional, High and Notable significance High-quality subwatersheds (Browns Creek, Lightner Run, Pursley Creek, South Fork Ten Mile Creek, South Fork Ten Mile) and subwatersheds draining into high-quality warm water fisheries (Browns Creek, Pursley Creek, Clear Run, Lightner Run, part of Ten Mile Creek) and West Waynesburg Reservoir SGL 179 Area abutting north of Warrior Trail
4. Pumpkin Run, Muddy Creek and Little Whiteley Creek	Core and surrounding BDAs of Exceptional, Notable and County significance 1 of 6 County significance Forest Block LCAs SGL 223
5. Whiteley Creek	Core and surrounding BDAs of Exceptional, High and Notable significance Access to Kirby Interchange (interchange 7 on I-79) – county wants this Interchange to have environmental focus (wetlands, state game lands, etc.) Subwatersheds draining into trout stocked fishery SGL 223 Area abutting north of Warrior Trail
6. Dunkard Creek	Many core and supporting BDAs of Exceptional and Notable significance Upper Dunkard Creek Watershed LCAs of Exceptional significance High Quality Subwatershed (Rush Run); subwatersheds draining into only cold water fishery in Greene County Lower end of Dunkard Creek classified as AMD fishery SGL 179, SGL 223, Mason – Dixon Historical Park Area abutting south of Warrior Trail

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Table 4-3: Greene County ATV Suitability Analysis by Watershed

Watershed	Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations
1. Dunkard Fork of Wheeling Creek	Closest proximity to Wheeling, WV; close proximity to Washington, PA	Many important environmental features Poor road access to I-79	Restrict ATV development in this watershed to area in northeast corner
2. Pennsylvania Fork of Fish Creek	Few conflicts with development and environment	Poor road access to I-79 Cluster of steep slopes (>40%) Poor proximity to major population centers	Almost entire watershed is suitable for ATV development Likely not an option in near future because of poor road infrastructure
3. Ten Mile Creek	Close proximity to Washington, PA; Pittsburgh, PA Access to I-79 via interchanges 14 and 19 Better road infrastructure than other areas	Includes developed areas (Waynesburg, Jefferson and Clarksville Boroughs; Franklin, Jefferson and Morgan Townships) and growth areas (Airport, Route 21, Route 188) Important environmental features along Ten Mile Creek	Restrict ATV development in this watershed to area in north surrounding I-79
4. Pumpkin Run, Muddy Creek and Little Whiteley Creek	Few conflicts with environmental features	Includes developed areas (Carmichaels Borough, Cumberland Township, Monongahela River towns) Poor access to I-79	Do not allow ATV development in this watershed
5. Whiteley Creek	Access to I-79 via Interchanges 7 and 14 Few conflicts with development and environment In center of County	Important environmental features along Whiteley Creek	Restrict ATV development in this watershed to area surrounding I-79
6. Dunkard Creek	Access to I-79 via interchanges 1 and 7 Close access to Morgantown, WV Contains Mason-Dixon ATV Park, High Point Race Track, and site already proposed for ATV development Few conflicts with development	Poor road access Includes developed areas (Greensboro Borough and Monongahela River communities) Important environmental features along Dunkard Creek	Restrict ATV development in this watershed to area approximately stretching from PA-218 to I-79

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occurred. Ridge lines for watersheds were identified to define suitability areas and to visually display barrier opportunities to reduce concerns of excessive noise. Finally the road network was compared to the pre-qualified locations so as to identify access opportunities or concerns. The results of following these criteria are shown in *Figure 4-3: ATV Suitability Analysis* and *Table 4-4: Areas Suitable for ATV Trail Development*.

Table 4-4: Areas Suitable for ATV Trail Development

Potential ATV Areas	Area (mi ²)	Proximity to Interstates	Mining / Industrial Facilities	Nearest Major Markets
Location 1	21.3	Excellent	No	Washington, PA; Pittsburgh, PA
Location 2	9.5	Excellent	Yes	Washington, PA; Morgantown, WV
Location 3	30.9	Excellent to Good	Yes	Morgantown, WV
Location 4	36.4	Poor	No	Waynesburg, PA

See Figure 3-4: ATV Suitability Analysis for geographic locations.

As shown on *Figure 4-3: ATV Suitability Analysis*, there are four locations in Greene County that meet the criteria established herein the Greene County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Trails/Greenways Plan. Three of these sites are located along Interstate 79, which ranked high in terms of accessibility. Location 1 is closest to Washington, PA, Pittsburgh, PA and I-70. However, this location was deemed to be “not viable,” due to the high value of land around the I-79 Ruff Creek Interchange.

The other three location—2, 3, and 4—were determined to be viable, with location 3 having the most potential, due to local interest in developing such a facility.

Location 2 is more central to the county and provides similar access along I-79 as Locations 1 and 3. Location 3 is closest to Morgantown, WV, although road improvements are needed to make the I-79 Interchange more accessible. This location also encompasses the Consolidated Coal Company property in Wayne Township, discussed on page 4-20, and is shown to the west of I-79 in the southern portion of the County. This location ranks highest in terms of the presence of land developed for mining purposes. Location 4 is in the southwest corner of Greene County and borders West Virginia. The limited roadway network in the western portion of the County and abundance of slopes over 50 percent grade make developing in this area a long-term challenge.

A pod concept could be developed for the regional ATV facilities, where Wayne Township would partner with businesses and organizations to promote the use of their facilities and riding areas. The first pod could be the Four Seasons Resort and Campground in Washington County, which is located just across the northwestern border of Greene County. They have several miles of trails that vary in difficulty, great camping facilities and numerous amenities. A second pod would consist of the Mason Dixon Riders property in south central Greene County. Their trails and facilities would provide ATV users another area to experience their sport. By working with these distinct entities and encouraging them to work together in promoting their facilities to ATV riders, Greene County would actually be promoting another form of tourism.

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The selection criteria and subsequent results do not include an investigation into public acceptance of an ATV site. However, in 2004 Wayne Township Supervisors made contact with representatives from Greene County Department of Economic Development to express their interest in developing property owned by Consolidated Coal Company as an ATV recreational facility, which corresponds to Location 3 on *Figure 4-3: ATV Suitability Analysis*. This analysis serves *only* to direct future investigative efforts and does *not* serve as a final recommendation as to the feasibility of a geographic location for use as an ATV recreational facility. Before determining a location, the County would need to further investigate the community desire for such a facility.

One potential site that deems further investigation is Consolidated Coal property in Wayne Township.

Wayne Township Potential ATV Site

Location: Wayne Township – East of SR 218 and North of Blacksville at the PA state line.

Name of Facility: Consolidated Coal (Consol) Property

Operational Organization: Owned by Consol; lake is currently managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Facility Description: A site visit to this location was conducted on December 3, 2004 by representatives of Mackin Engineering Company, Greene County, and Wayne Township. The site visit was completed upon the request of Tim Chapman, Wayne Township Supervisor who expressed

interest in developing the site for recreational use. The property consists of 1,066 acres located in the southeastern corner of Wayne Township. The southern end of the property is bordered by the town of Blacksville, railroad tracks and Dunkard Creek. Several gravel roads traverse the site, traveling through the valleys, up to the ridge tops and along the ridge tops. These roads provide access to a large portion of the property. The property is primarily narrow flat valley bottoms with gentle to steep slopes reaching to large open field ridge tops. Most of the valleys and slopes appear to have been previously timbered and currently have secondary growth timber with many areas containing thick grapevine tangles. Some of the valleys are very deep with benches along the hillsides. The open field ridge tops provide many beautiful views and the potential to develop some fantastic recreational facilities. A large power line crosses the property providing access to electric service. An air shaft and detention pond is located at one site along one of the ridge tops and an abandoned barn is located adjacent to one of the roads. Located at the southern entrance to the property and along the right side of the road is a manmade lake that is approximately 40 acres in size. At the same location but on the left side of the road is a marshy wetlands area that is about five acres in size.

Comments/Recommendations: Wayne Township is primarily a bedroom community and due to its location is not projected to see any industry, business or major home developments for many years. This could create financial problems for the township in the future. Once Consol has completed its mining operations on the site, it will need to determine what they want to do with the property. One option

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is to turn it over to the PA Game Commission, who is currently overseeing the lake on the property, to use as a new game lands area. This would provide \$1,280 per year that would be divided between the county, the school district and the township, whereby the Township would receive a couple hundred dollars in tax revenues annually.

If the township were to assume ownership of the property and develop it into a recreational site, they would have the opportunity to receive income from several sources, including grants, tax revenues and user fees. Given the financial condition of the community, the potential to develop new jobs, new financial resources for the community and specific recreational facilities (ATV Trails) on the site would meet criteria needed to obtain grant monies for the development of the property.

Some possible ideas for development of the property include: a variety of ATV trails including a training area that would serve all skill levels of ATV enthusiasts from the beginner to advanced; campgrounds with rental cabins and amenities such as swimming pools to provide recreational activities for entire families; hiking, mountain bike, equestrian, cross country skiing and snow mobile trails to provide year around use of the site; hunting opportunities and development of the lake for fishing and non-motorized boating.

These facilities, along with many programs that could be developed around these facilities, would be user-fee based providing income for the community. If the township does not want to operate all of the potential facilities and programs, they could lease them out to a concessionaire who would pay the township a percentage of the gross

revenues each year. This site has the potential to be another great “outdoor destination” in Greene County and provide Wayne Township with additional revenue sources.