

# **Stewardship Plan**

for the

# **St. Xavier Nature Preserve**

106 Saint Xavier Road Latrobe, PA 15650



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# Introduction

In January 2021 the Westmoreland Land Trust was honored to enter into an agreement with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, Inc. for conservation acquisition of the Sisters' property along Route 30 and St. Xavier Road in Unity Township, just west of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport.

The approximately 247-acre property has an exceptionally rich heritage. St. Xavier Academy was established there in 1847; establishment of the St. Xavier convent soon followed; and the institutions grew until a fire destroyed the buildings in 1868. The Sisters rebuilt with the help of local benefactors, and the new buildings of the Academy and Convent operated continuously until the buildings were again destroyed by fire in 1972.

Since that time, much of the St. Xavier land was actively farmed. In July 2018 WLT began to discuss possibilities for the property's conservation with the Sisters, who are deeply committed to the environment, community, and stewardship of the property. From mid-2018 WLT undertook several visits to the property, research, study of the land, and development and collaborative refinement of a vision for the land's conservation.

A DCNR grant was awarded and the property was acquired in 2022. A nature preserve has now been established, open for low-impact public visitation and enjoyment. Plans for the property include accessible trails through the former campus and convent areas, walking trails through the fields and woodlands, phased additions of visitor amenities along with interpretive signage and materials explaining the history of the property, and a farmer's market with parking area and amenities along Route 30. Portions of the property have also been enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. Short and long-term management plans include improving the quality of wildlife habitat in the former farm fields and woodlands; restoration of wetlands; and strengthening of the buffer areas flanking Monastery Run and its tributaries.

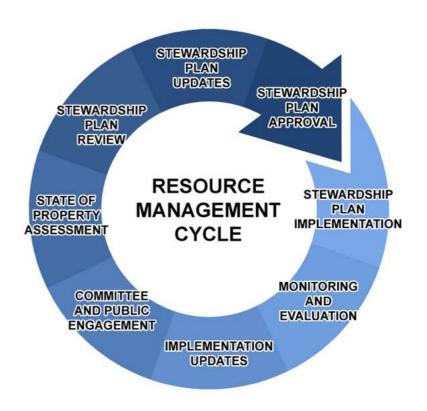
- Westmoreland Land Trust Annual Report 2021 (with additions)



# **Adaptive Management**

This plan is intended to serve as a guide for resource managers and as a framework for additions and revisions, as changing needs and conditions may warrant. Management planning and implementation is a continuous cycle of engagement, decision-making, evaluating and reporting. This plan is intended to be a working document and should be revisited based on future property assessment and evaluation, public feedback, Municipal & local organization's strategic priorities and other factors.

Adaptive management is a process whereby evaluation of monitoring results are compared to the goals or defined "measures of success" so that management practices can be changed or modified as needed. Because we can't know everything about managing natural areas, adaptive management has become a widely accepted method of conducting research on the effect of land management practices on an ecosystem. In this scheme, the land manager constructs a model of how he or she believes the system works, implements a practice that attempts to move the system toward the desired condition, monitors the results of that practice and assesses its success. This practice can range from casual observation to systematic research on the effectiveness of management activities, but in each case the land manager attempts to learn from the experience. For example, if the manager believes that the most effective way to remove an invasive species is mechanical removal followed by herbicide treatment of the stump, then that practice can be applied and the mortality rate assessed. The practice could be compared to other treatments (cutting only or herbicide only) or a single treatment can be monitored for its efficacy. If the practice works as intended, it can be repeated in the future. If not, another practice can be tested and implemented.



-Caring for Land Trust Properties 2008

# **Goals & Objectives**

The purpose of this Stewardship Plan is twofold; to create an archive of all property related resources and information, from the rich history of the property to an inventory of the natural resources. And in doing so, to also develop a guide that will aid the Westmoreland Land Trust members and the board in stewardship and best management practices, to make sound decisions about where to invest financial and human resources.

General policies and procedures are as follows;

- Comply with current laws and regulations
- Prevent impairment of the properties resources and value
- Consult & cooperate with local entities and authorities
- Support pursuit of the best management practices
- Reflect a commitment to civic engagement and coorperation
- Pass on to future generations an improved natural, cultural, and physical resource

The St. Xavier Nature Preserve is owned and operated by the Westmoreland Land Trust. Therefore, the property should accomplish the WLT's goals while respecting, preserving, and honoring the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy's presence on the property. The Westmoreland Land Trust's Mission, Vision & Values are as follows:

**Mission**: To conserve and steward land in Westmoreland County of special ecological, cultural, or recreational value, for public benefit.

**Vision**: Throughout Westmoreland County open space and recreational land abounds, water resources are protected, and wildlife flourishes. Westmoreland County is known to families, businesses, and visitors for its high quality of life.

Values: The Westmoreland Land Trust values the following:

- Conservation of diverse real property that is in, or in close proximity to, Westmoreland County; and culturally, historically, ecologically, recreationally, or scenically valuable.
- Restoration, protection, and maintenance of conserved property as appropriate for its best long-term stewardship.
- Partnership with public or private entities where beneficial to encourage collective effort.
- Research and planning in support of conservation efforts.
- Promotion and education of conservation opportunities and benefits.
- Conformance with the Land Trust Standards and Practices published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004, or as amended.

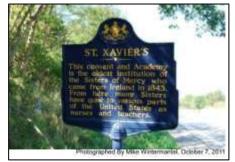


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PA Share Results (Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission)	

# **St. Xavier Property**

# **Agreement for Conservation Acquisition**

In January 2021 WLT was honored to enter into an agreement with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, Inc. for s conservation acquisition of the Sisters' property along Route 30 and St. Xavier Road in Unity Township, just west of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport.



The approximately 247-acre property has a exceptionally rich heritage. St. Xavier Academy was established there in 1847; establishment of the St. Xavier convent soon followed; and the institutions grew until a fire destroyed the buildings in 1868. The Sisters rebuilt with the help of local benefactors, and the new buildings of the Academy and

Photo from PA Historical Marker Database Convent operated continuously until the buildings were again destroyed by fire in 1972.

Since that time, much of the St. Xavier land was actively farmed. In July 2018 WLT began to discuss possibilities for the property's conservation with the Sisters, who are deeply committed to the environment, community, and stewardship of the property. From mid-2018 WLT undertook several visits to the property, research, study of the land, and development and collaborative refinement of a vision for the land's conservation.

Preliminary plans include enrollment of the former farm fields in the United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (USDA CREP) with establishment of meadows of indigenous grasses and wildflowers, and improvement of riparian buffer areas with plantings of native trees and shrubs.

Photo from St. Xavier Academy Alumni Facebook page, courtesy of Susan Baur Scherff



# **DCNR Grant Award**

During late winter and spring 2021, WLT completed work supporting a spring 2021 grant application to Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for funding for conservation acquisition of this property. On December 30, 2021 WLT received the good news of a DCNR grant award of \$1,100,000 for the acquisition.

Postcard image of the former St. Xavier Academy



# **Forthcoming Effort**

WLT continues to work with the Sisters of Mercy to complete the efforts required for the conservation acquisition of this important and historic property. Completion of the acquisition will be a focus of the WLT during 2022.

Planning will follow, based on the future establishment of a nature preserve open for low-impact public visitation and enjoyment. Detailed plans will be developed to include accessible trails through the former campus and convent areas, walking trails through the fields and woodlands, and phased addition of visitor amenities along with interpretive signage and materials explaining the history of the property.

Short and long-term management plans will include improving the quality of wildlife habitat in the former farm fields and woodlands; restoration of wetland lands; and strengthening of buffer areas flanking Monastery Run and its tributaries.

There is considerable interest in collection and organization of historical and anecdotal information about the property, which will support the future development of interpretive materials about the history of the site.



Postcard images of the former St. Xavier Academy







# OPEN HOUSE ST. XAVIER NATURE PRESERVE

106 St. Xavier Road\* Latrobe, PA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 10 AM to 4 PM



\*Along U.S. Route 30 and St. Xavier Road Just west of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport

# ST. XAVIER OPEN HOUSE

# SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 10 AM - 4 PM

# IN THE MAIN TENT

11 AM CELEBRATION OF CONSERVATION OF THE LAND 12 NOON RECOGNITION OF KAREN JURKOVIC, JOHN LOHR & LOREE SPEEDY

# IN THE GUESTHOUSE "BELLBROOK"

TOURS OF BELLBROOK CELTIC HARP MUSIC SARAH MCINTOSH (10 AM TO 1 PM) SARAH MIDDLEMISS (1 PM TO 4 PM) REFRESHMENTS IN THE DINING ROOM DISPLAYS ABOUT THE ACADEMY & CONVENT

# ACTIVITIES ON THE BACK PORCH AND IN THE BACK YARD

NATURE JOURNALS GYOTAKU (JAPANESE FISH PRINTING) T-SHIRT TIE-DYING

## **THROUGHOUT THE GROUNDS**

GOLF CART TOURS WILL LEAVE FROM FRONT YARD WALK TO THE CAMPUS AREA AND ST. XAVIER CEMETERY EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN (SEE MAP ON BACK COVER)

# A SPECIAL WELCOME TO SISTERS OF MERCY & ST. XAVIER ALUMNI



# **ST. XAVIER OPEN HOUSE**

### THE BOARD OF THE WESTMORELAND LAND TRUST EXTENDS MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

#### **PLATINUM** (\$1,000)

PATRICK AND LYNN GURRENTZ ANN & LAURA LOFTUS, IN LOVING MEMORY OF SR. ELEANOR LOFTUS, RSM, AND HER BROTHER EDWARD W. LOFTUS

#### **GOLD** (\$500)

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC. CLARK-HUNTER FOUNDATION UNITY MEMORIALS (BRIAN AND SHARON SCHMUCKER) WESTMORELAND COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

#### SILVER (\$250)

Commissioner Doug Chew Fahringer McCarty Grey, Inc. Green Solar Systems LLC Bill and Kathy Mihalco Thomas J. & Janice Mikan Pittsburgh Pirates

#### **BRONZE** (\$100)

FRED BONONI **CAROLYN FALCON** TED HARHAI DR. MARY ANN HVIZDOS, IN MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER MARY K. PEVARNIK GREATER LATROBE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION LARRY LAUDE AND MARIANNE KASICA LAUREL NURSERY / GARDEN CENTER **CAROL AND JOHN LOHR** LOWES OF LATROBE NICKOS CHIMNEY COMPANY DEBORAH PAVETTI, ST. XAVIER ACADEMY CLASS OF 1972 PITTSBURGH STEELERS PATRICK ROBERTS SECOND HALF WEALTH MANAGEMENT Ken Skovenski **TROUT UNLIMITED** 

### AND ALL WHO HAVE HELPED WITH PREPARATIONS AND THE OPEN HOUSE

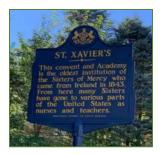


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# **ST. XAVIER NATURE PRESERVE**

## WELCOME TO THE ST. XAVIER NATURE

**PRESERVE!** IN AUGUST 2022 THE SISTERS OF MERCY CONVEYED THE 248-ACRE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY TO THE WESTMORELAND LAND TRUST (WLT) TO BE CONSERVED AS A NATURE PRESERVE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



DISCUSSION OF THE PROPERTY'S CONSERVATION STARTED IN JULY 2018. FROM THAT TIME WLT WORKED IN COLLABORATION WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE PITTSBURGH SISTERS OF MERCY TO DEVELOP A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE LAND. MEMBERS OF THE SISTERS' COMMITTEE WERE SHEILA CARNEY, BONNIE HEH, MARY JOY HAYWOOD, KATHLEEN SWEENEY, JEANNE SNYDER, SUSAN WELSH AND PAT WHALEN.

> Principles Governing Stewardship of St Xavier's Adopted January, 1993

- We respect the sacredness of the land at Saint Xavier Cemetery, and, as such, we will maintain, make the necessary repairs, and provide room for future burials by pre-excavating the area where the old grotto used to be, and/or, the old markers were placed, or extend the cemetery to the east.
- We value the opportunities Bellbrook provides for retreats and recreation. As such, we will maintain Bellbrook, make needed repairs, and add additions if/when necessary and when financially feasible.
- 3. We value the land at Saint Xavier for its beauty, for the ecological diversity it provides for many plants and animals, and for the fertility contained therein, and as such, we will continue to lease 115 acres to Mr. Firestone providing proper farming techniques, such as contour farming, crop rotation, fertilizing, etc. are employed. To guarantee that the above procedures are maintained, supervision may be necessary. As such, the Department of Agriculture's guidelines need be followed and recommendations for good maintenance be supervised by said Department.

We will abide by the Wetland Preservation Act and protect the wetland area. This action, will not only provide suitable habitat for organisms that inhabit the area, but will also help to purify the ground water and air.

We will continue to explore our relationship with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and/or other groups who may be interested in purchasing the grove or other areas to help us protect the land and enable revitalization of the grove.

We will consider reclaiming the orchards and planting new trees.

- 4. We value the Mercy ministry possibilities for the land, and, as such will actively pursue ministries related to the service of the poor such as the Food Bank, etc., provided these organizations meet our guidelines as stated in #3.
- We will continue to dialogue with the Latrobe community authorities and other interested parties and cooperate in any further development provided the guidelines stated in #3 are fulfilled and the cemetery and Bellbrook are protected.
- 6. We will consider selling that acreage that is outside our present and/or anticipated use due to the poor quality and location of the land provided that the sale is consistent in our own use of the land as described above.

TOM GUELCHER (THE PROPERTY MANAGER FOR THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS, NY, PA. AND PACIFIC WEST COMMUNITY) COORDINATED THIS FEFORT. MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS ALONG WITH THE SISTERS' 1993 "PRINCIPLES GOVERNING STEWARDSHIP OF ST. XAVIER'S" PROVIDED GUIDANCE.

THROUGHOUT 2020 PLANNING THE PROPERTY'S CONSERVATION CONTINUED, AND ON JANUARY 28, 2021, WLT AND THE INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY AT THAT TIME (SISTER PATRICIA MCDERMOTT, PRESIDENT AND SISTERS PATRICIA FLYNN, JUDITH FRIKKER, AINE O'CONNOR AND ANNE MARIE MILLER) ENTERED INTO AGREEMENTS FOR CONSERVATION OF THE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY.

IN DECEMBER 2021, PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AWARDED A GRANT OF \$1,100,000 TO WLT TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY. ON AUGUST 26, 2022 THE SISTERS OF MERCY CONVEYED THE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY TO THE WLT AND ALSO MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPERTY. THE KATHERINE MABIS MCKENNA FOUNDATION PROVIDED FUNDING FOR INITIAL CONSERVATION WORK ON THE PROPERTY.

WLT HAS BEEN HONORED TO ASSIST THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN SECURING CONSERVATION OF THIS LAND AS A PROFOUND LEGACY OF THE SISTERS, AND IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OR ASSISTED WITH THIS ACQUISITION.



In recognition of the extraordinary gift of the St. Xavier projectly for conservation as a nature preserve in perpetuity. This land will be a home for wildlife, a sanctuary for visitors, and a manifistation of the Fisters commitment to the community and to Earth, out Common Flome.

The Westmoreland Land Must is. honored and profoundly grateful to be entrusted with this legacy of the Histers. Kel. 2022.

From "The Saint Xavier Land Book of Walking Tours, First used on June 4, 1988":

"We invite you to enjoy and reverence this beautiful land."

The Sisters of Mercy of Pittsburgh

Calligraphy presented to the Sisters by WLT

# HISTORY OF ST. XAVIER ACADEMY AND CONVENT



THE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY HAS A RICH HERITAGE AS THE SITE OF THE SISTERS' OF MERCY FORMER ST. XAVIER ACADEMY AND CONVENT.

THE CONGREGATION OF

SISTERS OF MERCY STARTED IN DUBLIN, IRELAND IN THE 1820S WHEN CATHERINE MCAULEY MADE USE OF AN INHERITANCE TO BUILD A HOUSE AS A SHELTER AND SCHOOL FOR POOR GIRLS AND WOMEN. IN 1828, THE NAME "SISTERS OF MERCY" WAS CHOSEN FOR THE WOMEN ASSISTING WITH THE SHELTER, AND IN 1829 THE SISTERS OF MERCY UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT THE GROUP WOULD BECOME A RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION. IN 1831, CATHERINE MCAULEY, MARY ANN DOYLE, AND MARY ELIZABETH HARLEY PROFESSED THEIR VOWS, THEREBY FOUNDING THE RELIGIOUS ORDER.

THROUGHOUT THE 1830S AND EARLY 1840S THE ORDER ESTABLISHED 11 ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND THAT OFFERED SHELTER TO POOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PROVIDED NURSING ASSISTANCE DURING OUTBREAKS

of cholera. The first Convent of Mercy was established in 1839 in London. Sisters established a congregation in Newfoundland in 1842, in Pittsburgh in 1843, in Australia in 1846, and in New Zealand in 1850.

INVITED BY BISHOP MICHAEL O'CONNOR OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE IN PITTSBURGH, SEVEN SISTERS TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM CARLOW, IRELAND IN 1843: FRANCES WARDE, JOSEPHINE CULLEN, VERONICA MCDARBY, ELIZABETH STRANGE, ALOYSIA STRANGE, PHILOMENA REID AND MARGARET (AGATHA) O'BRIEN. THE SISTERS SETTLED IN A BUILDING ON PENN AVENUE IN PITTSBURGH, WHERE THEY ORGANIZED A CONVENT AND GRADE SCHOOL.

WLT thanks Sr. Sheila Carney for kindly furnishing much historical information, including a collection of written recollections and articles. and books: Memoirs of the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy, 1843-1917 (1918) compiled from various sources and On The Wing, The Story of the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy / 1843-1968 by Sister M. Jerome McHale. WLT also thanks Sr. Katherine Sweeney, Sr. Patricia McCann, and Mary Ann Calabrase (Class of '72) for their kind provision of lists of alumni of St. Xavier Academy.

IN 1844, HENRY KUHN OFFERED A 108-ACRE FARM NEAR LATROBE TO THE SISTERS, AND IN 1845 FRANCES WARDE OPENED MOUNT ST. VINCENT ACADEMY FOR YOUNG LADIES AT THIS LOCATION.

WHEN THE BENEDICTINE MONKS CAME TO THE ST. VINCENT PROPERTY, THE SISTERS CONSTRUCTED A NEW BUILDING AND IN 1847 THE ACADEMY "...for the first time in my life I rubbed shoulders with girls from homes that were different from my own low-middle-class, Italian American family. Why, there were girls who were wealthy! And there were girls who lived in the big city (Pittsburgh)! And there were girls who were not even Catholic!"

From Marianne E. Felice

MOVED TO THE NEW BUILDING, NAMED ST. XAVIER ACADEMY TO HONOR SISTER FRANCES XAVIER WARDE. PITTSBURGH SISTERS ALSO WENT ON TO TEACH AT ST. PAUL'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN OAKLAND, ESTABLISH MERCY HOSPITAL IN PITTSBURGH, AND TRAVEL TO BUILD CONVENTS, SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS IN MANY LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND BEYOND.

"The evenings held a special interest for me because the entire Saint Xavier Community gathered on the Academy porch for recreation. The senior sisters told the most delightful stories about the courageous sisters who pioneered the way for us. These were the heroic women who conquered fear and nature: they built, organized, taught, nursed, and set in motion the great religious order of the Sisters of Mercy in America. Each night we participated in games, songfests; we enjoyed cookies and refreshments, walked in the grove, and relaxed on the benches and lawn swings."

From "My Personal Connectedness to Saint Xavier" by Sister Wilfrid Darby

ST. XAVIER ACADEMY AND CONVENT GREW UNTIL A FIRE DESTROYED THE BUILDINGS IN 1868. AFTER THAT FIRE, THE SISTERS REBUILT WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL BENEFACTORS. THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE ACADEMY AND CONVENT OPERATED CONTINUOUSLY AS A WELL-RESPECTED AND WELL-LOVED INSTITUTION UNTIL THE THE BUILDINGS WERE AGAIN DESTROYED BY FIRE ON MARCH 16, 1972.

## FEATURES OF THE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY TODAY

From "The St. Xavier Land Book of Walking Tours, First Used on June 4, 1988":

"As we walk this land, we remember the first Sisters of Mercy who walked it, dreaming and planning for what they might build here. Today we ask the land to teach us, to show us how best to respond to it. We ... look with fresh eyes at what the land offers, and how we can be good stewards."



".... In 1861, Mother Rose Hostetter, one of the most progressive Mother Superiors, built a trim brick guest house on a corner lot bordering the Pike and the little country road. It still stands, a sturdy monument to the architecture of those days."

From "The Guest House (Bellbrook)" THE GUESTHOUSE **BELLBROOK** WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE FIRE OF **1972**, AND REMAINS ON THE PROPERTY TODAY. IT IS VISIBLE TO THE RIGHT AS SOON AS ONE TURNS ONTO ST. XAVIER ROAD FROM ROUTE **30**. BUILT IN **1862**, BELLBROOK WAS NAMED FOR THE ESTATE SOUTHWEST OF DUBLIN THAT WAS THE BIRTHPLACE AND CHILDHOOD HOME OF SISTER FRANCES WARDE.

THE GRACIOUS PROPORTIONS OF BELLBROOK'S ROOMS AND ITS ELEGANT ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS ARE EVOCATIVE OF ITS ERA AND ITS HISTORICAL USE BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY.



"It was a prized privilege for students to accompany their parents at the guest house at First Communion, Confirmation, Graduation or dramatic entertainment that kept parents overnight. Although it was exactly the same food as that served in the students' dining room, it always tasted different under the capable hands of Miss Annie Feeley, the hostess."

From "The Guest House (Bellbrook)"

TODAY'S WOODED **GROVE** ALONGSIDE ST. XAVIER ROAD HOLDS WALKWAYS, BENCHES, AND REMNANTS OF THE OLD TENNIS COURT AND SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS AMIDST MANY MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN TREES.



"As we approached the Academy, the beauty of the Grove startled me. Sisters were enjoying swings under the trees or just walking around different sections of the Grove."

From "Faint Memories of Saint Xavier's" by Sister M. Jerome McHale

TODAY THE ST. XAVIER NATURE PRESERVE OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORATION, OBSERVATION OF FLORA AND FAUNA, AND DISCOVERY OF ARCHITECTURAL "The Grove contained many varieties and species of plants. One was the pecan tree which stood near the grassy area in front of the Academy. Another was a beautiful white birch. There were also many buckeye, oak, and maple, as well as ironwood, tulip and evergreen trees. I had brought the tulip tree from Chestnut Ridge and planted it near the shuffleboard court which Mr. Laboon had donated in honor of Sisters de Lellis, Rosemary, and Joan Laboon. Shrubs and perennials surrounded the two statues in the Grove."

From Memories of Saint Xavier's 1964 - 1968 by Sister Mary Joy Haywood

REMNANTS FROM THE FORMER ACADEMY AND CONVENT. SEVERAL FARM ROADS AND WOODLAND TRAILS PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE FIELDS AND FORESTS.

# WESTMORELAND LAND TRUST WORK AT ST. XAVIER

OVER 80 ACRES OF THE 248-ACRE ST. XAVIER NATURE PRESERVE HAVE BEEN ENROLLED IN THE UNITED STATED DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) WHICH - ALONG WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE KATHERINE MABIS MCKENNA FOUNDATION - PROVIDED FOR FALL 2022 PLANTING OF 2380 TREE SAPLINGS AND 612 SHRUBS TO STRENGTHEN RIPARIAN BUFFERS AND SPRING 2023 PLANTING OF ABOUT 70 ACRES OF MEADOWS OF NATIVE WARM SEASON GRASSES AND WILDFLOWERS.





IN SPRING 2023 GREATER LATROBE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ASSISTED WLT VOLUNTEERS TO CARE FOR THE TREE TUBES AND NETS PROTECTING THE TREE AND SHRUB SAPLINGS.

WITH INITIAL CREP CONSERVATION PLANTINGS COMPLETED, ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF THE CREP AREAS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE 15-YEAR DURATION OF THE CREP AGREEMENTS INCLUDING MOWING, CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS, MAINTAINING TREE TUBES AND CAGES, AND PROTECTING AND NURTURING THE YOUNG TREES AND SHRUBS.

Over the winter of 2022/2023, WLT contracted for work to rejuvenate the beautiful grove of large trees along St. Xavier Road. In addition, WLT volunteers worked extensively to remove downed trees, mow, and reopen farm roads and woodland trails. During winter 2022/2023, WLT also worked to repair damage to the interior of the guesthouse "Bellbrook" after a malfunction of the heating system led to the rupture of water lines. WLT also replaced three stained glass windows with double-glazed windows, retaining the stained glass panels for reuse in interior light boxes.

DURING SPRING 2023 WLT SECURED INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR ARRAY IN THE FIELD BEHIND BELLBROOK AND REMOVED DEAD TREES AND BRANCHES FROM BELLBROOK'S YARD AREA AND THE **GROVE** ALONG ST. XAVIER ROAD.

WOOD WAS SALVAGED FROM TWO DOWNED WALNUT TREES TO YIELD MUCH OF THE FIRST FLOOR FLOORING FOR BELLBROOK (THIS WOOD WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL DONATED AND PURCHASED WALNUT LUMBER). BELLBROOK WILL BECOME THE BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE PARK, WITH AMPLE CAPACITY FOR OTHER COMPLEMENTARY USES.

In Spring 2023, St. Vincent College offered a Public History Practicum led by Dr. Karen Kehoe that focused on St. Xavier Academy and Convent. Study of St. Xavier will continue in other history classes. WLT is also exploring the possibility of collecting oral histories about St. Xavier Academy and Convent.



IN JUNE 2023 BILL POWERS OF PIXCAMS AND DR. JIM Kellam, Professor of Biology at St. Vincent College placed bird nest boxes with live nestcams at St. Xavier, which allowed observation of 3 families through fledging of nestlings. WLT looks

> FORWARD TO EXPANDING THIS PARTNERSHIP FOR FURTHER STUDY OF BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE ON THE PROPERTY.

DURING SEVERAL WORK DAYS, WLT VOLUNTEERS HAVE PICKED UP LITTER AND TRASH, REMOVED DOWNED TREES AND BRANCHES, CLEANED AND REPAIRED OUTDOOR FURNITURE, TENDED THE TREE AND SHRUB PLANTINGS, AND COMPLETED MANY OTHER MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.

WLT IS NOW WORKING WITH CONSULTING FIRM



FAHRINGER MCCARTY GREY INC. FOR PREPARATION OF A STEWARDSHIP PLAN FOR THE ST. XAVIER LAND. IN FALL 2023 WLT WILL SEEK PROPOSALS FOR PREPARATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE NATURE PRESERVE/PARK.

This project has involved generous funding support from many, including: the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, and Pacific West Community; the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation; and generous in-kind donations from Ben Sampson and Skelly and Loy, a TerraCon company. The project has also benefitted from the skilled effort of many individuals and contractors.

# ST. XAVIER CEMETERY

THE SISTERS OF MERCY HAVE RETAINED OWNERSHIP AND CARE OF THE ST. XAVIER CEMETERY. SEVERAL MAGNIFICENT TREES CONTRIBUTE TO THE BEAUTY AND SERENITY OF THE CEMETERY.

From "The St. Xavier Land Book of Walking Tours, First used on June 4, 1988":



"As you enter this cemetery, I am sure that many memories come to you. This is the holy spot, the peaceful spot. You may have come here—some of you often—for the funeral of a friend, a member of your crowd, a relative. How was this spot chosen? Why here instead of closer to the convent? Who knows?

MANY OF THE FIRST SISTERS WERE NOT BURIED HERE ORIGINALLY. SISTER PHILOMENA REID DIED WHILE THE SISTERS WERE STILL OVER AT ST. VINCENT'S AND WAS BURIED THERE. THERE WAS A SMALL CEMETERY ADJOINING MERCY HOSPITAL ON STEVENSON STREET AND UNTIL ST. XAVIER'S CEMETERY WAS FORMALLY CONSECRATED, THE SISTERS WHO DIED IN PITTSBURGH WERE BURIED THERE. LATER, POSSIBLY NEAR THE DATE OF

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CEMETERY IN 1866, THEY WERE ALL BROUGHT HERE. FIVE OF THE FIRST SEVEN SISTERS WHO CAME FROM IRELAND IN 1843 ARE BURIED HERE (MOTHER FRANCES WARDE'S GRAVE IS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MOTHER AGATHA (MARGARET) O'BRIEN'S IS IN CHICAGO).



SEVERAL OF THE GRAVES HAVE FRESH FLAGS YEARLY, A TRIBUTE FROM THE LATROBE AMERICAN LEGION. THE SISTERS BURIED IN THOSE GRAVES SERVED AS NURSES DURING THE CIVIL WAR, SOME IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SOME IN PITTSBURGH AND ONE, SISTER STEPHANA WARD, BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.



"DO YOU REMEMBER THE OLD ARCHED ENTRANCE, THE IRON RAILING, THE CROSS IN THE CENTER, THE OLD WHITE IRON CROSSES WHICH HAD TO BE REPAINTED EVERY YEAR JUST BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY? THE PEACE, THE QUIET, THE COWS WHICH CAME TO THE FENCE TO WATCH THE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AND THE FUNERALS, ADDING THEIR OWN MOOING COMMENTS—JUST AT THE

MOST SOLEMN MOMENTS, THE SCHOOL GIRLS IN THEIR BEST UNIFORMS, THE SISTERS. SO MUCH OF ST. XAVIER'S SEEMED TO SETTLE AROUND THE CEMETERY....

.... ANNA, THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF DR. MCCAFFREY, WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW HER THREE OLDER SISTERS AS SISTERS OF MERCY. ALL FOUR (BESSIE, MARY, ALICE, AND ANNA) HAD MET CATHERINE MCAULEY IN IRELAND AND WERE ATTRACTED TO HER WAY OF LIFE. AS ANNA WAS MAKING PREPARATIONS TO ENTER, SHE BECAME VERY ILL AND DIED. AT HER PARENTS' REQUEST—AND CERTAINLY HER WISH—SHE WAS BURIED IN THE SISTERS' CEMETERY.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE ENLARGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CEMETERY. YOU HAVE COME HERE IN GROUPS AND ALONE. JUST STAND QUIETLY AND LISTEN, HEAR THEIR MESSAGES, THINK, WONDER WHAT THEY MIGHT BE TELLING US TO DO."



# THE WESTMORELAND LAND TRUST (WLT) WAS FORMED BY THE

Westmoreland County Commissioners in December 2007, and made its first property acquisitions in 2008. These included land along the Great Allegheny Passage; land on Cabin Hill in Greensburg; the Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve in North Huntingdon Township; and land that became the Peter and Victoria Skena Nature Reserve in Murrysville.

WLT has continued to conserve land, often in partnership with some other organization or a government entity. October 2015 brought completion of an ambitious project to enlarge Murrysville's Duff Park and connect it to Pleasant Valley Park. This entailed conservation of four properties comprising 96.5 acres, and transfer of their ownership to the Municipality of Murrysville.

IN 2016 WLT PARTNERED WITH WESTMORELAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION TO CONSERVE LAND TO EXPAND CEDAR CREEK PARK AND BUFFER CEDAR CREEK GORGE. IN 2017 WLT ACQUIRED LAND TO ADD TO MAMMOTH PARK, AND IN 2018 WLT HELPED TO ACQUIRE LAND TO EXPAND TWIN LAKES PARK. IN MARCH 2021 WLT ACQUIRED THE SCHWARZ FARM NORTH OF GREENSBURG, AND IN AUGUST 2022 WLT ACQUIRED THE 248-ACRE ST. XAVIER PROPERTY NEAR LATROBE.

WLT IS AN AUTONOMOUS NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT BRINGS DIRECTION, EXTENSIVE AND DIVERSE EXPERIENCE, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ORGANIZATION.

PLEASE EMAIL WESTMORELANDLANDTRUST@GMAIL.COM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK OR WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED.



218 DONOHOE ROAD I GREENSBURG, PA 15601 (724) 325-3031 • westmoreland-landtrust.org

Thank you for your interest in the St. Xavier Nature Preserve

Be sure to sign the Visitor Log and add your name to the Mailing List

LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER





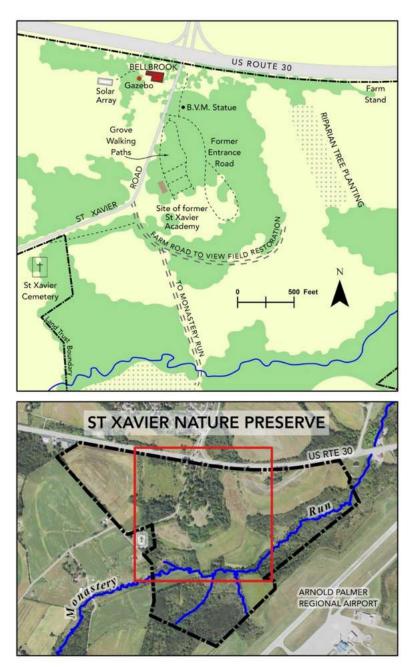
PREVIOUS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS REVEAL THE ACADEMY AND CONVENT CAMPUS, BARN, ORCHARDS, GROVE, ROADS AND WALKWAYS.

Aerial Photo of Saint Xavier Campus and surrounding fields taken in 1962. Route 30 is shown at the top. This view is most likely taken in fall or winter.



AERIAL PHOTO OF SAINT XAIVER CAMPUS TAKEN IN 1967. THIS VIEW IS MOST LIKELY TAKEN IN SUMMER.

# MAP OF ST XAVIER NATURE PRESERVE



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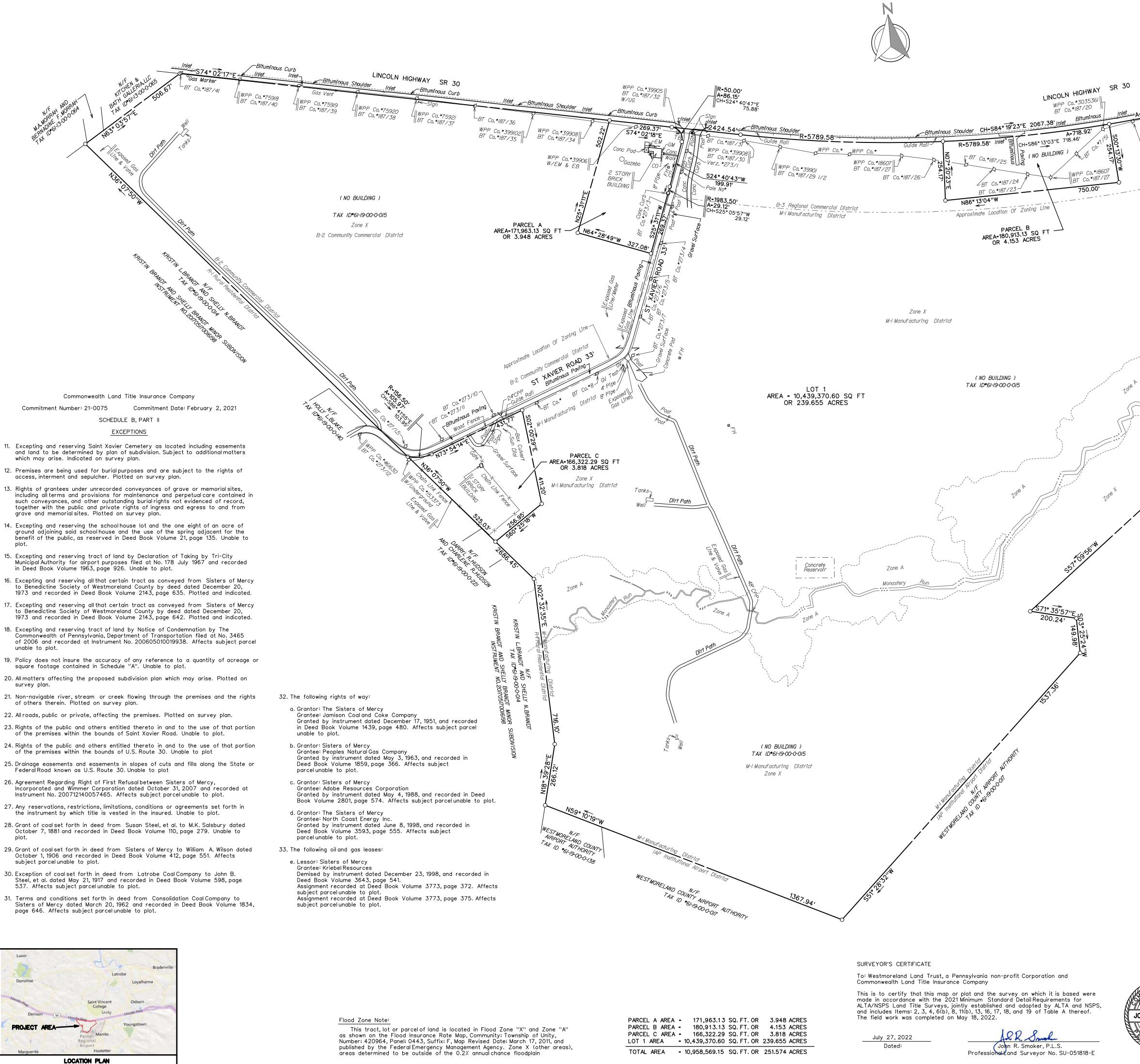
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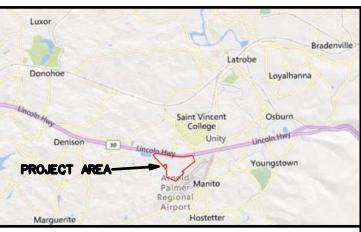
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7. Where can further information be obtained?
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Inventory of Project Lands	
ALTA Survey	L5466004
Title Commitment	
Existing Conditions Plan	S-1.0
Existing Conditions Plan with Aerial	S-2.0
Slope Map	S-3.0
Soil Map	S-4.0
Soil Types	S-5.0
Drainage Features Map	S-6.0
Preliminary Roads, Paths & Trails	S-7.0
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US EPA – How's my Waterway Information	93
eMapPA Information	95
FEMA Map Panels	







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<ul> <li>BEGINNING at a point, corner of lands of Sisters of Mercy; thence by lands of Sisters of Mercy, North 73° 24' East, 691.60 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 72° 24' 20"</li> <li>West, 603.19 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 72° 24' 20"</li> <li>West, 603.19 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 09° 49' 20" West 748.53 feet to a point on line of lands now or formerly of Samuel Miller; thence by lands now or formerly of Miller, North 73° 05' 40" East, 1366.13 feet to a stone; corner of lands of sters of the Benedictine Society; thence by lands of the Benedictine Society, South 39° 57' 50"</li> <li>East 1897.03 feet: thence by lands of same, South 59° 10' 40" East 328.35 feet; thence by lands of same, South 28° 46' East 423.33 feet; thence by lands of same and by lands of Sarch and Margaret Ferguson, South 52° 01' West 228.90 feet to a stone; corner of lands of Sisters of Mercy; thence by lands of same, North 37° 05' 50" West, 1600.33 feet; thence by lands of same, North 37° 05' 50" West, 1600.33 feet; thence by lands of same, North 24° 55' West 256.16 feet to the place of beginning.</li> <li>Containing 172.031 acres.</li> <li>Excepting and reserving Saint Xavier Cemetery as located including easements and land to be determined by plan of subdivision. Subject to additional matters which may arise.</li> <li>Excepting and reserving the school house lot and the one eight of an acre of ground adjoining said school house and the use of the spring adjacent for the benefit of the public, as reserved in Deed Book Volume 21, page 135.</li> <li>Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 635.</li> <li>Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 635.</li> </ul>	P 	SCALE: 1"= 200' 0 200 40 PROJECT NO. 5466004 DATE: JUNE 30, 2022 DRAWN BY: CAP PROJECT MANAGER: JRS NOTE: The Location Of The Underground Facilities Are Indicated In Accordance With Information Obtained From The Various Utilities. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG IN PENNSYLVANIA A Three Business Day Notice Is the Lowf 8-1-1 OR 1-800-242-177				ion G !	
recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 642. Excepting and reserving tract of land by Notice of Condemnation by The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation filed at No. 3465 of 2006 and recorded at Instrument No. 200605010019938. BEING Tax Map Nos. 61-19-00-0-015 and 61-19-00-0-015-59-001		Dig Safely DRAWING NO. L5466004 LT					

PROFESSIONAL JOHN R. SMOKER LAND SURVEYOR VSYLYA



# Transaction Identification Data for reference only:

Issuing Agent:LAWYERS ABSTRACT CO OF WESTMORELAND COUNTYIssuing Office:35 West Otterman Street, Greensburg PA 15601ALTA Universal ID:1103713Loan ID Number:21-0075Commitment Number:21-0075Issuing Office File Number:21-0075Property Address:106 St. Xavier Road, Latrobe, PA 15650Revision Number:106

## SCHEDULE A

- 1. Commitment Date: February 2, 2021
- 2. Policy to be issued:
  - (a) ALTA<sup>©</sup> Owner's Policy (06-17-06), as modified by TIRBOP
     Proposed Insured: Westmoreland Land Trust, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation

Proposed Policy Amount: \$1.00

(b)

Proposed Insured:

Proposed Policy Amount: \$

- 3. The estate or interest in the Land described or referred to in this Commitment is Fee Simple.
- 4. Title to the fee simple estate or interest in the Land is at the Commitment Date vested in:

### Sisters of Mercy

PARCEL I: BEING part of the same premises which Michael O'Connor, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, et al., by Deed dated April 25, 1849, and recorded October 11, 1852, in Deed Book Volume 34, Page 493, granted and conveyed unto Sisters of Mercy, in fee.

PARCEL II: BEING part of the same premises which Right Reverend M. O'Conner, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, by Deed dated August 14, 1857, and recorded October 23, 1857, in Deed Book Volume 41, Page 144, granted and conveyed unto Sisters of Mercy, in fee.

PARCEL III: BEING part of the same premises which Patrick McCaffrey, by Deed dated January 24, 1890, and recorded January 28, 1890, in Deed Book Volume 177, Page 306, granted and conveyed unto Sisters of Mercy, in fee.

Countersigned:

LAWYERS ABSTRACT CO OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Authorized Signatory

This page is only a part of a 2016 ALTA® Commitment for Title Insurance issued by Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company. This Commitment is not valid without the Notice; the Commitment to Issue Policy; the Commitment Conditions; Schedule A; Schedule B, Part I—Requirements; and Schedule B, Part II—Exceptions; and a counter-signature by the Company or its issuing agent that may be in electronic form. 81C165B

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# SCHEDULE A (Continued)

PARCEL IV: BEING part of the same premises which Barclay Westmoreland Trust Company and Joseph W. Steel, Testamentary Guardians of the Estate of William Steel, and Joseph W. Steel and Laura McClure Steel, his wife, by Deed dated February 19, 1927, and recorded March 4, 1927, in Deed Book Volume 864, Page 43, granted and conveyed unto Sisters of Mercy, Incorporated, in fee.

5. The Land is described as follows:

For informational purposes only: 106 St. Xavier Road, Latrobe, PA 15650 Unity Township County of Westmoreland

See continuation of Schedule A

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#### SCHEDULE A (Continued)

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PARCEL I:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in Unity Township, Westmoreland County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a white oak; thence by lands now or formerly of John Geiger, South 38° East 108.5 perches to a post; thence by land now or formerly of William Smith South 77° East, 31.3 perches to a white oak; thence South 32° West 99 perches to a post; thence by land now or formerly of Robert McGregans heirs, North 65 ½° West 116.5 perches to a post; thence by land now or formerly of George Brindle North 14° East 15 perches to a dogwood; thence North 4° West 44 perches to a white oak; thence North 43° West 45 perches to a white oak; and thence by land now or formerly of John Geiger North 68° East 98.5 perches to the place of beginning.

Containing 108 acres, 45 perches, more or less.

PARCEL II:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in Unity Township, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a hickory; thence by land of John Steel, South 9° East, 45 perches to stones; thence South 71° East, 36.2 perches to a post; thence South 16  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° East, 83.4 perches to a post; thence South 74  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° West, 45.4 perches to a post; thence South 36° East, 5 perches to a white oak; thence by land on which this St. Xavier Seminary is erected, South 70° West, 48 perches to a post; thence by land of widow Geiger, North 9° West, 31.8 perches to a post; thence South 75° West, 70  $\frac{1}{2}$  perches to a post; thence by land of George Brindler heirs, North 40  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° West, 76 perches to a white oak fell; thence by land of James Rogers, North 58  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° East, 86 perches to a post; thence by land of Samuel Miller, North 45° East, 65 perches to a post; thence North 73  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° East, 26 perches to the place of beginning.

Containing 118 acres, 30 perches, more or less.

PARCEL III:

ALL that certain parcel of land situate in the Township of Unity, Westmoreland County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a stone; thence by land of St. Xavier Academy, South 70° West 50.7 perches to a white oak tree; thence by land of the heirs of John Steel deceased, North 41° West 40 ½ perches to a stone; thence by land of St. Xavier Academy, North 75 ¼° East, 71.3 perches to a stone; thence along the same land South 9° East 32 perches to the place of beginning.

Containing 13 acres, 17 perches, more or less.

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#### SCHEDULE A (Continued)

#### PARCEL IV:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in the Township of Unity, County of Westmoreland and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point, corner of lands of Sisters of Mercy; thence by lands of Sisters of Mercy, North 73° 24' East, 691.60 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 72° 24' 20" West, 603.19 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 72° 24' 20" West, 603.19 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 72° 24' 20" West, 603.19 feet to a stone; thence by lands of same, North 09° 49' 20" West 748.53 feet to a point on line of lands now or formerly of Samuel Miller; thence by lands now or formerly of Miller, North 73° 05' 40" East, 1366.13 feet to a stone; corner of lands of the Benedictine Society; thence by lands of the Benedictine Society, South 39° 57' 50" East 1897.03 feet; thence by lands of same, South 59° 10' 40" East 328.35 feet; thence by lands of same, South 36° 40' East 694.99 feet to corner of lands of Catherine Kerr; thence by lands of Catherine Kerr, South 13° 25' West, 396.89 feet; thence by lands of same, South 28° 46' East 423.33 feet; thence by lands of same and by lands of Sarah and Margaret Ferguson, South 52° 01' West 2298.90 feet to a stone, corner of lands of Sisters of Mercy; thence by lands of same, North 37° 05' 50" West, 1600.33 feet; thence by lands of same, North 24° 55' West 256.16 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 172.031 acres.

Excepting and reserving Saint Xavier Cemetery as located including easements and land to be determined by plan of subdivision. Subject to additional matters which may arise.

Excepting and reserving the school house lot and the one eight of an acre of ground adjoining said school house and the use of the spring adjacent for the benefit of the public, as reserved in Deed Book Volume 21, page 135.

Excepting and reserving tract of land by Declaration of Taking by Tri-City Municipal Authority for airport purposes filed at No. 178 July 1967 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 1963, page 926.

Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 635.

Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 642.

Excepting and reserving tract of land by Notice of Condemnation by The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation filed at No. 3465 of 2006 and recorded at Instrument No. 200605010019938.

BEING Tax Map Nos. 61-19-00-0-015 and 61-19-00-0-015-59-001.

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File No. 21-0075

#### SCHEDULE B, PART I

#### Requirements

All of the following Requirements must be met:

- 1. The Proposed Insured must notify the Company in writing of the name of any party not referred to in this Commitment who will obtain an interest in the Land or who will make a loan on the Land. The Company may then make additional Requirements or Exceptions.
- 2. Pay the agreed amount for the estate or interest to be insured.
- 3. Pay the premiums, fees, and charges for the Policy to the Company.
- 4. Documents satisfactory to the Company that convey the Title or create the Mortgage to be insured, or both, must be properly authorized, executed, delivered, and recorded in the Public Records.
  - a. Deed from Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, Inc. to Westmoreland Land Trust, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation conveying the subject property set forth under Schedule A.
- 5. Payment of all taxes, water, sewer rents and assessments, if any, levied and assessed against the subject premises, which are due and payable.
- 6. Proof of identity, legal age, competency and marital status of all parties to this transaction.
- 7. The website of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, requires that a Social Security Number be provided in order to identify possible child support arrearages. Social Security Numbers of individual sellers and borrowers must be provided for searching in advance of closing. If support arrearages are found, Certificate for Domestic Relations to be obtained.
- 8. Town, County and School Taxes and Water and Sewer Rent receipts for the years 2019 through 2021, inclusive, to be produced and filed with the Company. All assessments and taxes for the current year and all subsequent years.

#### Parcel No: 61-19-00-0-015 & 61-19-00-0-015-59-001

- 9. Satisfactory evidence must be furnished or certificates produced from Municipal authorities to the effect that there are no street, sidewalk, sewer or water line improvements made or under way for which liens have not yet been placed of record.
- 10. If any improvements have been made in the past six (6) months, all unfiled claims of mechanics and materialmen will be excepted.
- 11. Proof of payment of any Homeowners' Association/Condominium Association common charges or special assessments.
- 12. Proof to be submitted that there are no support judgments or support arrearages entered against Seller(s) or Mortgagor(s) in any jurisdiction.
- Names of all relevant parties to the within real estate transaction to be searched prior to closing to verify that they are not Specially Designated Nationals subject to the provisions of President's Executive Order Targeting Terrorist Assets.
- 14. The Company may make other requirements or exceptions upon its review of the proposed documents creating the estate or interests to be insured or otherwise ascertaining details of the transaction.

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#### SCHEDULE B, PART I (Continued)

- 15. NOTICE: Please be aware that due to the conflict between federal and state laws concerning the cultivation, distribution, manufacture or sale of marijuana, the Company is not able to close or insure any transaction involving Land that is associated with these activities.
- 16. This Commitment for Title Insurance does NOT constitute a report of title and is not to be relied upon by the proposed insured(s) or any other party as a title report or representation of the status of title. Any title search and examination conducted by or for the Company in connection with the issuance of this Commitment for Title Insurance, if any, is solely for the benefit of the Company. The sole liability of the Company and/or its issuing agent hereunder shall be as set forth in the Conditions and Stipulations of this Commitment for Title Insurance. Neither the Company nor its issuing agent shall be liable to the proposed insured(s) or any other party for any claim of alleged negligence, negligent representation, or any other cause of action in tort in connection with this Commitment for Title Insurance.
- 17. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Insurance requires that we sent the following notice to you, our applicant, prior to closing. They further require that you, the applicant forward this notice to the consumer in advance of the day of closing: your title insurance fee covers the cost of closing on the insured real estate property if it takes place during regular office hours and at the office of the title insurance agent or underwriter. If your closing takes place at a location or time of your choosing, or that of your lender or realtor, the title insurance agent or underwriter may impose an additional charge for this special service. You may determine the amount of this additional charge, if any, by contacting the party listed on the bottom of Schedule A.
- 18. MORTGAGES: None
- 19. JUDGMENTS: None
- 20. Description in this Commitment was prepared by us from the record in the absence of a survey.
- 21. Good standing certificate of the grantor corporation must be submitted.
- 22. Certified copy of resolution of Board of Directors of Grantor Corporation authorizing execution and delivery of deed, must be furnished.
- 23. Articles of merger and consolidation of Sisters of Mercy and change of name to Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, Inc.

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#### SCHEDULE B, PART I (Continued)

- 24. As to Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the following must be furnished:
  - a) An Incumbency Certificate.
- 25. Release of Right of First Refusal from Wimmer Corporation pertaining to the Agreement recorded at Instrument No. 200712140057465.
- 26. Saint Xavier Cemetery as located including easements and land to be determined by plan of subdivision. Subject to additional matters which may arise.
- 27. The Company may make other requirements or exceptions upon its review of the proposed documents creating the estate or interest to be insured or otherwise ascertaining details of the transaction.

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File No. 21-0075

#### SCHEDULE B – PART II

#### Exceptions

THIS COMMITMENT DOES NOT REPUBLISH ANY COVENANT, CONDITION, RESTRICTION, OR LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ANY DOCUMENT REFERRED TO IN THIS COMMITMENT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SPECIFIC COVENANT, CONDITION, RESTRICTION, OR LIMITATION VIOLATES STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BASED ON RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, HANDICAP, FAMILIAL STATUS, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

The Policy will not insure against loss or damage resulting from the terms and provisions of any lease or easement identified in Schedule A, and will include the following Exceptions unless cleared to the satisfaction of the Company:

- 1. Any defect, lien, encumbrance, adverse claim, or other matter that appears for the first time in the Public Records or is created, attaches, or is disclosed between the Commitment Date and the date on which all of the Schedule B, Part I—Requirements are met.
- 2. Rights or claims of parties in possession of the land not shown by the public records.
- 3. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor or material heretofore or hereafter furnished, imposed by law and not shown by the public records.
- 4. Taxes, levies or special assessments which are not shown by the public records.
- 5. Subject to possible tax increase based on additional assessment heretofore or hereafter made by reason of new construction or for any major improvements to premises pursuant to Acts of Assembly relating thereto.
- 6. Easements, encroachments, overlaps, boundary line disputes and other matters affecting title which a survey would disclose, and which are not show by the public record. (For an additional charge and upon submission of an acceptable survey, this exception will be deleted by endorsement and the policy will set forth those matters, if any, affecting title.)
- 7. Coal and coal bed methane gas and mining rights and all rights incident to the extraction or development of coal or coal bed methane gas heretofore conveyed, excepted and reserved by instruments of record; the right of surface, lateral or subjacent support or any surface subsidence.
- 8. Oil and gas and minerals and all rights incident to the extraction or development of oil and gas or minerals heretofore conveyed, leased, excepted or reserved by instruments of record.
- 9. The Owner's Policy issued pursuant hereto will contain under Schedule B the mortgages, if any, noted under Item 3 of Schedule B-Section I.
- 10. Taxes for the year 2021 and subsequent years, a lien not yet due and payable.
- 11. Excepting and reserving Saint Xavier Cemetery as located including easements and land to be determined by plan of subdivision. Subject to additional matters which may arise.
- 12. Premises are being used for burial purposes and are subject to the rights of access, interment and sepulcher.

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#### SCHEDULE B – PART II (Continued)

- 13. Rights of grantees under unrecorded conveyances of grave or memorial sites, including all terms and provisions for maintenance and perpetual care contained in such conveyances, and other outstanding burial rights not evidenced of record, together with the public and private rights of ingress and egress to and from grave and memorial sites.
- 14. Excepting and reserving the school house lot and the one eight of an acre of ground adjoining said school house and the use of the spring adjacent for the benefit of the public, as reserved in Deed Book Volume 21, page 135.
- 15. Excepting and reserving tract of land by Declaration of Taking by Tri-City Municipal Authority for airport purposes filed at No. 178 July 1967 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 1963, page 926.
- 16. Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 635.
- Excepting and reserving all that certain tract as conveyed from Sisters of Mercy to Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County by deed dated December 20, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2143, page 642.
- 18. Excepting and reserving tract of land by Notice of Condemnation by The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation filed at No. 3465 of 2006 and recorded at Instrument No. 200605010019938.
- 19. Policy does not insure the accuracy of any reference to a quantity of acreage or square footage contained in Schedule "A".
- 20. All matters affecting the proposed subdivision plan which may arise.
- 21. Non-navigable river, stream or creek flowing through the premises and the rights of others therein.
- 22. All roads, public or private, affecting the premises.
- 23. Rights of the public and others entitled thereto in and to the use of that portion of the premises within the bounds of Saint Xavier Road.
- 24. Rights of the public and others entitled thereto in and to the use of that portion of the premises within the bounds of U.S. Route 30.

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#### SCHEDULE B – PART II (Continued)

- 25. Drainage easements and easements in slopes of cuts and fills along the State or Federal road known as U.S. Route 30.
- 26. Agreement Regarding Right of First Refusal between Sisters of Mercy, Incorporated and Wimmer Corporation dated October 31, 2007 and recorded at Instrument No. 200712140057465.
- 27. Any reservations, restrictions, limitations, conditions or agreements set forth in the instrument by which title is vested in the insured.
- 28. Grant of coal set forth in deed from Susan Steel, et al. to M.K. Salsbury dated October 7, 1881 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 110, page 279.
- 29. Grant of coal set forth in deed from Sisters of Mercy to William A. Wilson dated October 1, 1906 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 412, page 551.
- 30. Exception of coal set forth in deed from Latrobe Coal Company to John B. Steel, et al. dated May 21, 1917 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 598, page 537.
- 31. Terms and conditions set forth in deed from Consolidation Coal Company to Sisters of Mercy dated March 20, 1962 and recorded in Deed Book Volume 1834, page 646.
- 32. The following rights of way:
  - Grantor: The Sisters of Mercy Grantee: Jamison Coal and Coke Company Granted by instrument dated December 17, 1951, and recorded in Deed Book Volume 1439, page 480.
  - b. Grantor: Sisters of Mercy Grantee: Peoples Natural Gas Company Granted by instrument dated May 3, 1963, and recorded in Deed Book Volume 1859, page 366.
  - c. Grantor: Sisters of Mercy Grantee: Adobe Resources Corporation Granted by instrument dated May 4, 1988, and recorded in Deed Book Volume 2801, page 574.

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#### SCHEDULE B – PART II (Continued)

- Grantor: Sisters of Mercy Grantee: North Coast Energy Inc. Granted by instrument dated June 8, 1998, and recorded in Deed Book Volume 3593, page 555.
- 33. The following oil and gas leases:
  - Lessor: Sisters of Mercy Lessee: Kriebel Resources demised by instrument dated December 23, 1998, and recorded in Deed Book Volume 3643, page 541.
     Assignment recorded at Deed Book Volume 3773, page 372.
     Assignment recorded at Deed Book Volume 3773, page 375.

THE INCLUSION OF THIS NOTICE DOES NOT ENLARGE, RESTRICT OR MODIFY ANY LEGAL RIGHTS OR ESTATES OTHERWISE CREATED, TRANSFERRED, EXCEPTED OR RESERVED BY THIS INSTRUMENT.

NOTICE—THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT / DOES NOT SELL, CONVEY, TRANSFER, INCLUDE OR INSURE THE TITLE TO THE COAL AND RIGHT OF SUPPORT UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE LAND DESCRIBED OR REFERRED TO HEREIN, AND THE OWNER OR OWNERS OF SUCH COAL MAY HAVE / HAVE THE COMPLETE LEGAL RIGHT TO REMOVE ALL OF SUCH COAL AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, DAMAGES MAY RESULT TO THE SURFACE OF THE LAND AND ANY HOUSE, BUILDING OR OTHER STRUCTURE ON OR IN SUCH LAND.

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#### COMMITMENT FOR TITLE INSURANCE ISSUED BY COMMONWEALTH LAND TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY

#### NOTICE

**IMPORTANT—READ CAREFULLY:** THIS COMMITMENT IS AN OFFER TO ISSUE ONE OR MORE TITLE INSURANCE POLICIES. ALL CLAIMS OR REMEDIES SOUGHT AGAINST THE COMPANY INVOLVING THE CONTENT OF THIS COMMITMENT OR THE POLICY MUST BE BASED SOLELY IN CONTRACT.

THIS COMMITMENT IS NOT AN ABSTRACT OF TITLE, REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF TITLE, LEGAL OPINION, OPINION OF TITLE, OR OTHER REPRESENTATION OF THE STATUS OF TITLE. THE PROCEDURES USED BY THE COMPANY TO DETERMINE INSURABILITY OF THE TITLE, INCLUDING ANY SEARCH AND EXAMINATION, ARE PROPRIETARY TO THE COMPANY, WERE PERFORMED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMPANY, AND CREATE NO EXTRACONTRACTUAL LIABILITY TO ANY PERSON, INCLUDING A PROPOSED INSURED.

THE COMPANY'S OBLIGATION UNDER THIS COMMITMENT IS TO ISSUE A POLICY TO A PROPOSED INSURED IDENTIFIED IN SCHEDULE A IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THIS COMMITMENT. THE COMPANY HAS NO LIABILITY OR OBLIGATION INVOLVING THE CONTENT OF THIS COMMITMENT TO ANY OTHER PERSON.

#### COMMITMENT TO ISSUE POLICY

Subject to the Notice; Schedule B, Part I—Requirements; Schedule B, Part II—Exceptions; and the Commitment Conditions, Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company, a Florida Corporation (the "Company"), commits to issue the Policy according to the terms and provisions of this Commitment. This Commitment is effective as of the Commitment Date shown in Schedule A for each Policy described in Schedule A, only when the Company has entered in Schedule A both the specified dollar amount as the Proposed Policy Amount and the name of the Proposed Insured.

If all of the Schedule B, Part I—Requirements have not been met within 180 Days after the Commitment Date, this Commitment terminates and the Company's liability and obligation end.

Agency Office

LAWYERS ABSTRACT CO OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY 35 West Otterman Street Greensburg PA 15601

By: ROO 200 N Authorized Countersignature Order #21-0075

#### COMMONWEALTH LAND TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY

By. President ATTEST Secretary

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#### COMMITMENT CONDITIONS

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Knowledge" or "Known": Actual or imputed knowledge, but not constructive notice imparted by the Public Records.
- (b) "Land": The land described in Schedule A and affixed improvements that by law constitute real property. The term "Land" does not include any property beyond the lines of the area described in Schedule A, nor any right, title, interest, estate, or easement in abutting streets, roads, avenues, alleys, lanes, ways, or waterways, but this does not modify or limit the extent that a right of access to and from the Land is to be insured by the Policy.
- (c) "Mortgage": A mortgage, deed of trust, or other security instrument, including one evidenced by electronic means authorized by law.
- (d) "Policy": Each contract of title insurance, in a form adopted by the American Land Title Association, issued or to be issued by the Company pursuant to this Commitment.
- (e) "Proposed Insured": Each person identified in Schedule A as the Proposed Insured of each Policy to be issued pursuant to this Commitment.
- (f) "Proposed Policy Amount": Each dollar amount specified in Schedule A as the Proposed Policy Amount of each Policy to be issued pursuant to this Commitment.
- (g) "Public Records": Records established under state statutes at the Commitment Date for the purpose of imparting constructive notice of matters relating to real property to purchasers for value and without Knowledge.
- (h) "Title": The estate or interest described in Schedule A.
- 2. If all of the Schedule B, Part I—Requirements have not been met within the time period specified in the Commitment to Issue Policy, this Commitment terminates and the Company's liability and obligation end.
- 3. The Company's liability and obligation is limited by and this Commitment is not valid without:
  - (a) the Notice;
  - (b) the Commitment to Issue Policy;
  - (c) the Commitment Conditions;
  - (d) Schedule A;
  - (e) Schedule B, Part I-Requirements; and
  - (f) Schedule B, Part II—Exceptions; and
  - (g) a counter-signature by the Company or its issuing agent that may be in electronic form.

#### 4. COMPANY'S RIGHT TO AMEND

The Company may amend this Commitment at any time. If the Company amends this Commitment to add a defect, lien, encumbrance, adverse claim, or other matter recorded in the Public Records prior to the Commitment Date, any liability of the Company is limited by Commitment Condition 5. The Company shall not be liable for any other amendment to this Commitment.

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#### 5. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

- (a) The Company's liability under Commitment Condition 4 is limited to the Proposed Insured's actual expense incurred in the interval between the Company's delivery to the Proposed Insured of the Commitment and the delivery of the amended Commitment, resulting from the Proposed Insured's good faith reliance to:
  - (i) comply with the Schedule B, Part I-Requirements;
  - (ii) eliminate, with the Company's written consent, any Schedule B, Part II-Exceptions; or
  - (iii) acquire the Title or create the Mortgage covered by this Commitment.
- (b) The Company shall not be liable under Commitment Condition 5(a) if the Proposed Insured requested the amendment or had Knowledge of the matter and did not notify the Company about it in writing.
- (c) The Company will only have liability under Commitment Condition 4 if the Proposed Insured would not have incurred the expense had the Commitment included the added matter when the Commitment was first delivered to the Proposed Insured.
- (d) The Company's liability shall not exceed the lesser of the Proposed Insured's actual expense incurred in good faith and described in Commitment Conditions 5(a)(i) through 5(a)(iii) or the Proposed Policy Amount.
- (e) The Company shall not be liable for the content of the Transaction Identification Data, if any.
- (f) In no event shall the Company be obligated to issue the Policy referred to in this Commitment unless all of the Schedule B, Part I—Requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the Company.
- (g) In any event, the Company's liability is limited by the terms and provisions of the Policy.

#### 6. LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY MUST BE BASED ON THIS COMMITMENT

- (a) Only a Proposed Insured identified in Schedule A, and no other person, may make a claim under this Commitment.
- (b) Any claim must be based in contract and must be restricted solely to the terms and provisions of this Commitment.
- (c) Until the Policy is issued, this Commitment, as last revised, is the exclusive and entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Commitment and supersedes all prior commitment negotiations, representations, and proposals of any kind, whether written or oral, express or implied, relating to the subject matter of this Commitment.
- (d) The deletion or modification of any Schedule B, Part II—Exception does not constitute an agreement or obligation to provide coverage beyond the terms and provisions of this Commitment or the Policy.
- (e) Any amendment or endorsement to this Commitment must be in writing and authenticated by a person authorized by the Company.
- (f) When the Policy is issued, all liability and obligation under this Commitment will end and the Company's only liability will be under the Policy.

#### 7. IF THIS COMMITMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY AN ISSUING AGENT

The issuing agent is the Company's agent only for the limited purpose of issuing title insurance commitments and policies. The issuing agent is not the Company's agent for the purpose of providing closing or settlement services.

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#### 8. PRO-FORMA POLICY

The Company may provide, at the request of a Proposed Insured, a pro-forma policy illustrating the coverage that the Company may provide. A pro-forma policy neither reflects the status of Title at the time that the pro-forma policy is delivered to a Proposed Insured, nor is it a commitment to insure.

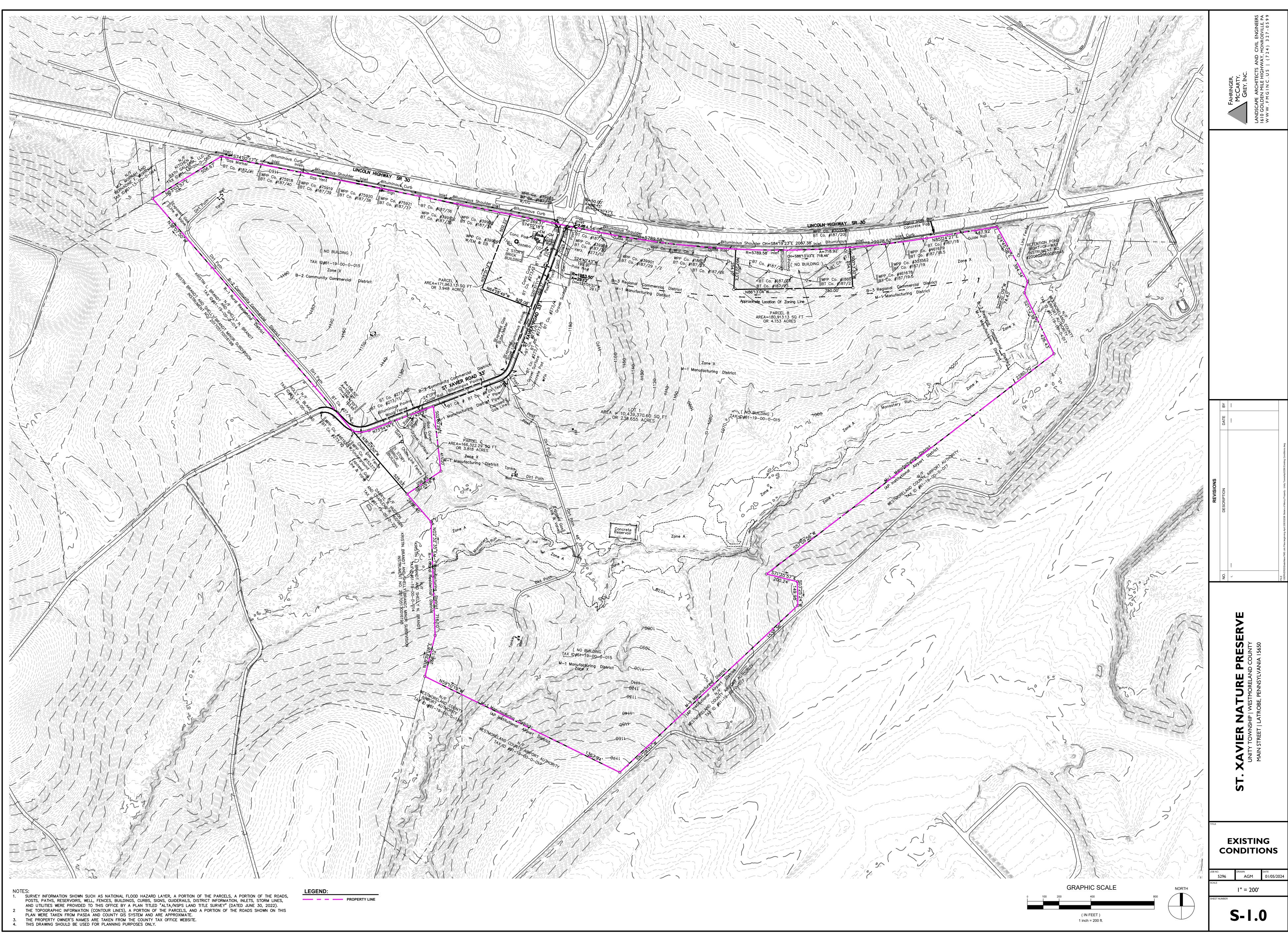
#### 9. ARBITRATION

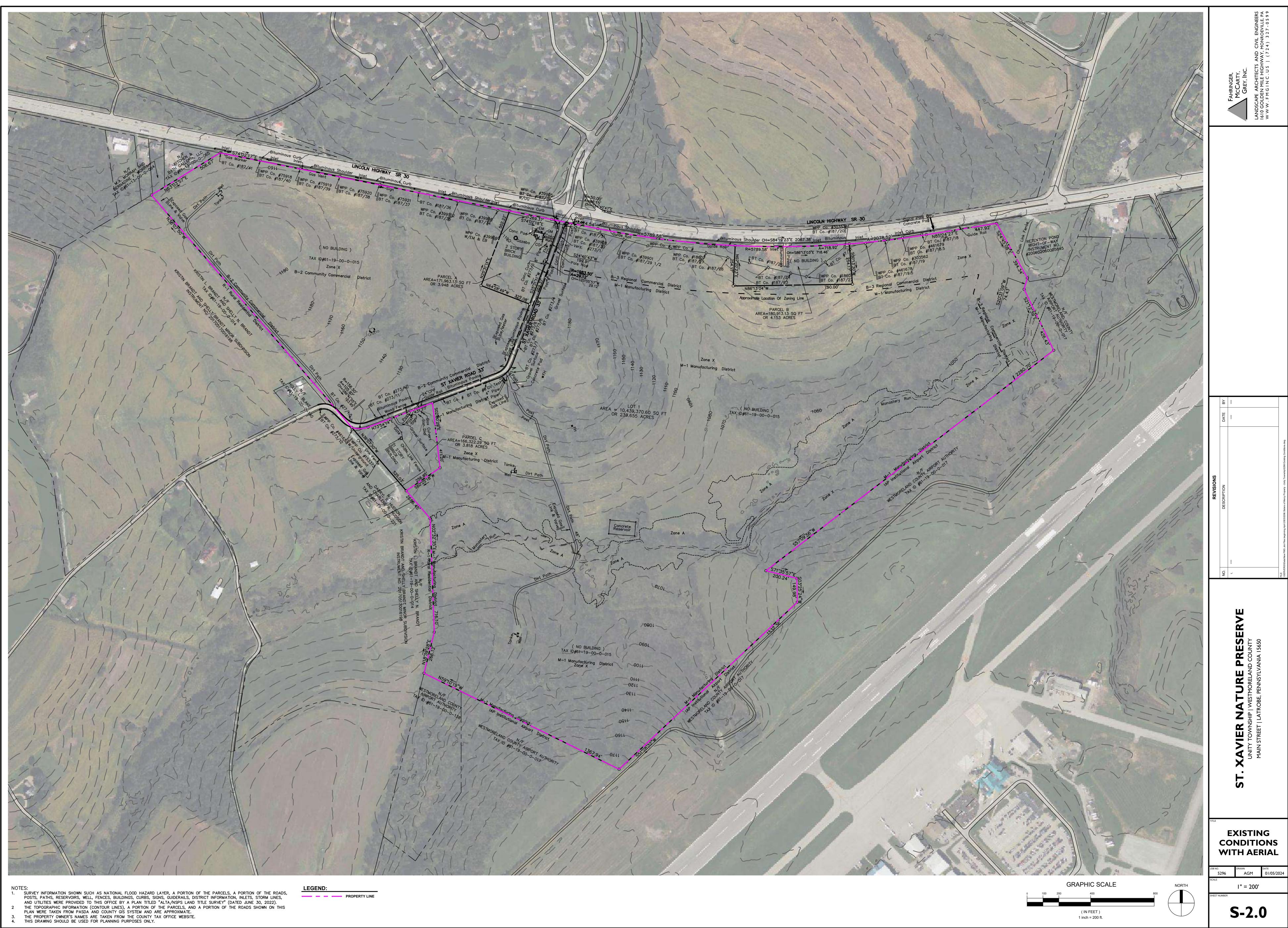
The Policy contains an arbitration clause. All arbitrable matters when the Proposed Policy Amount is \$2,000,000 or less shall be arbitrated at the option of either the Company or the Proposed Insured as the exclusive remedy of the parties. A Proposed Insured may review a copy of the arbitration rules at <<u>http://www.alta.org/arbitration</u>>.

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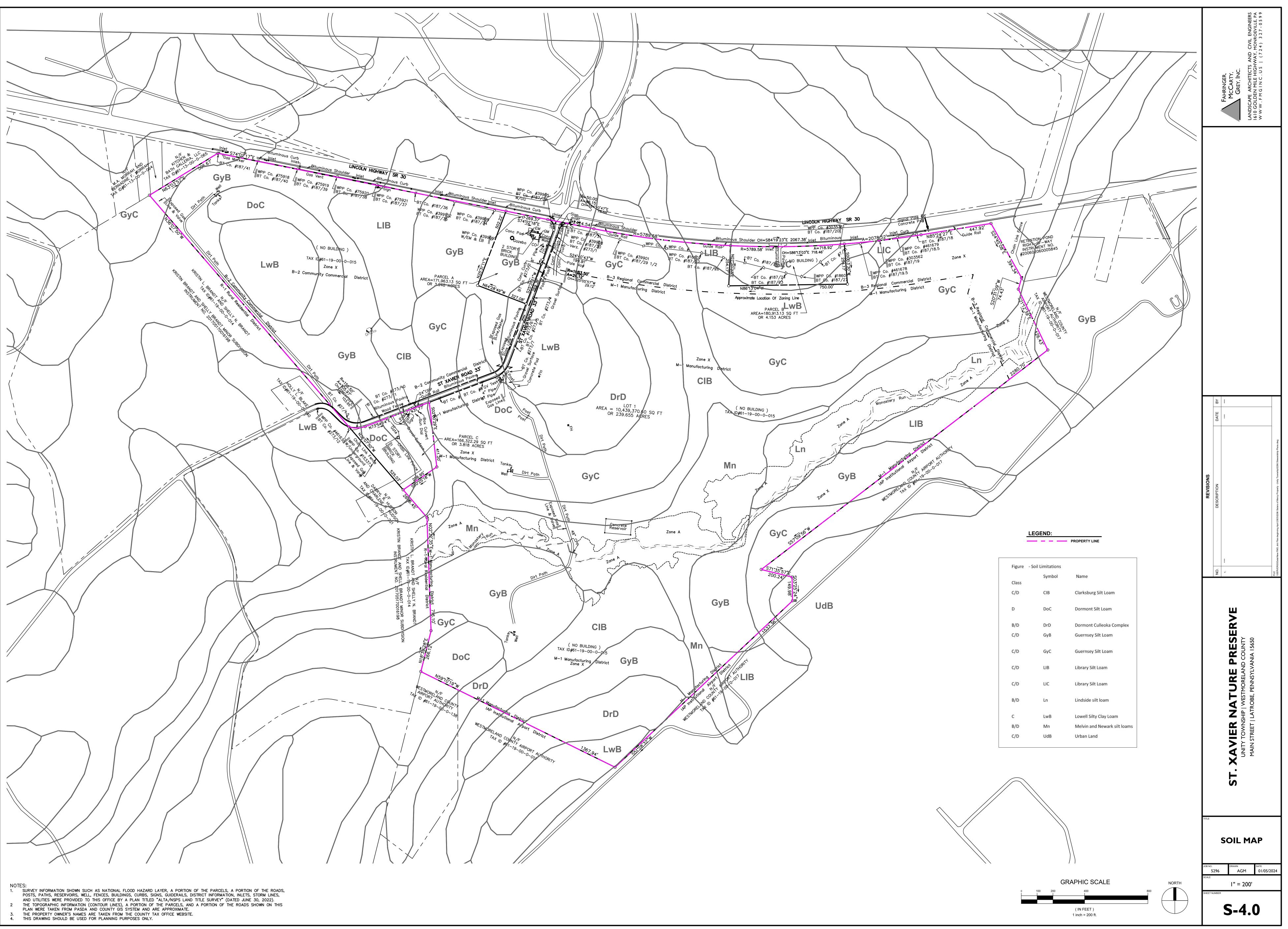
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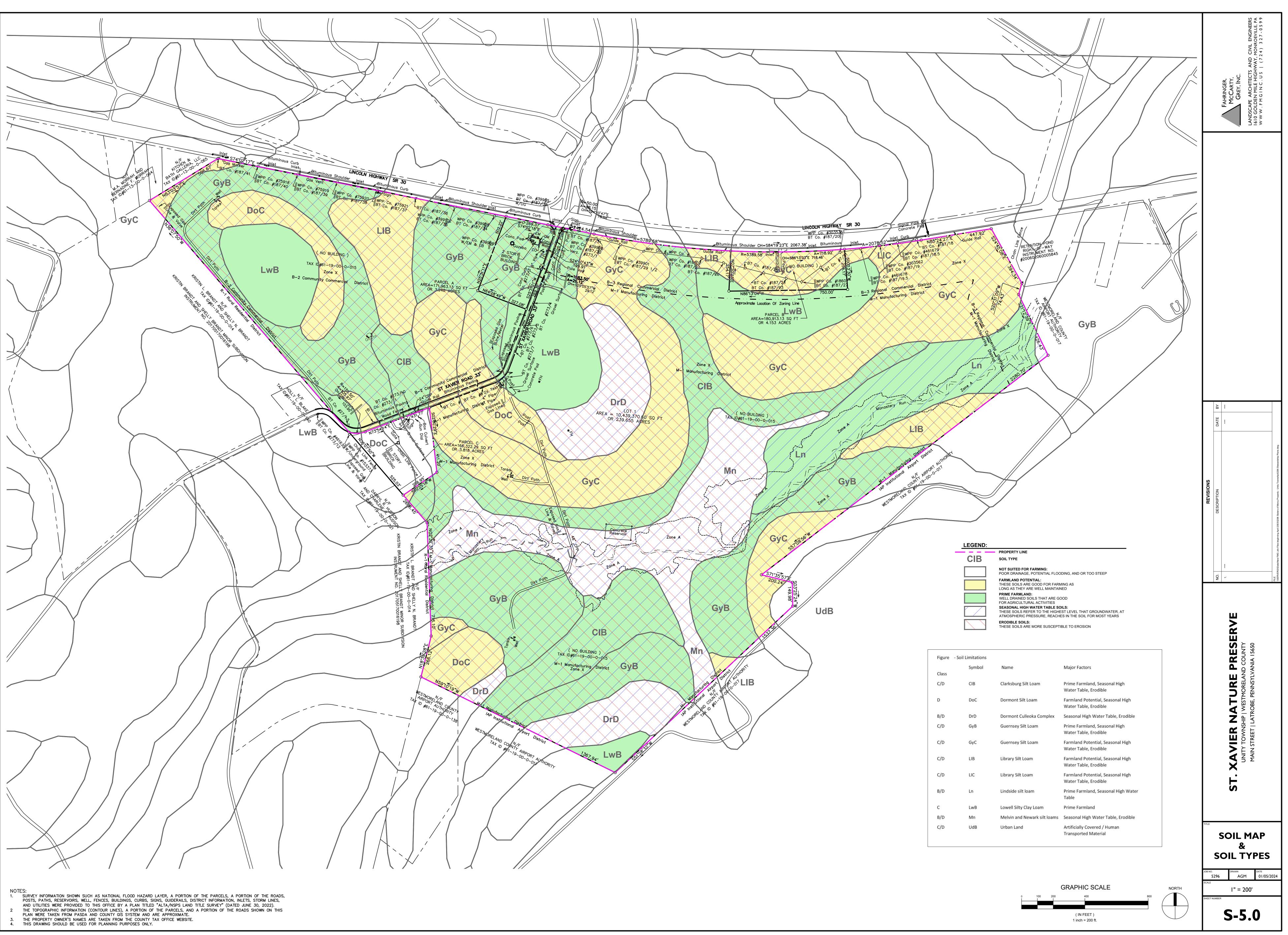


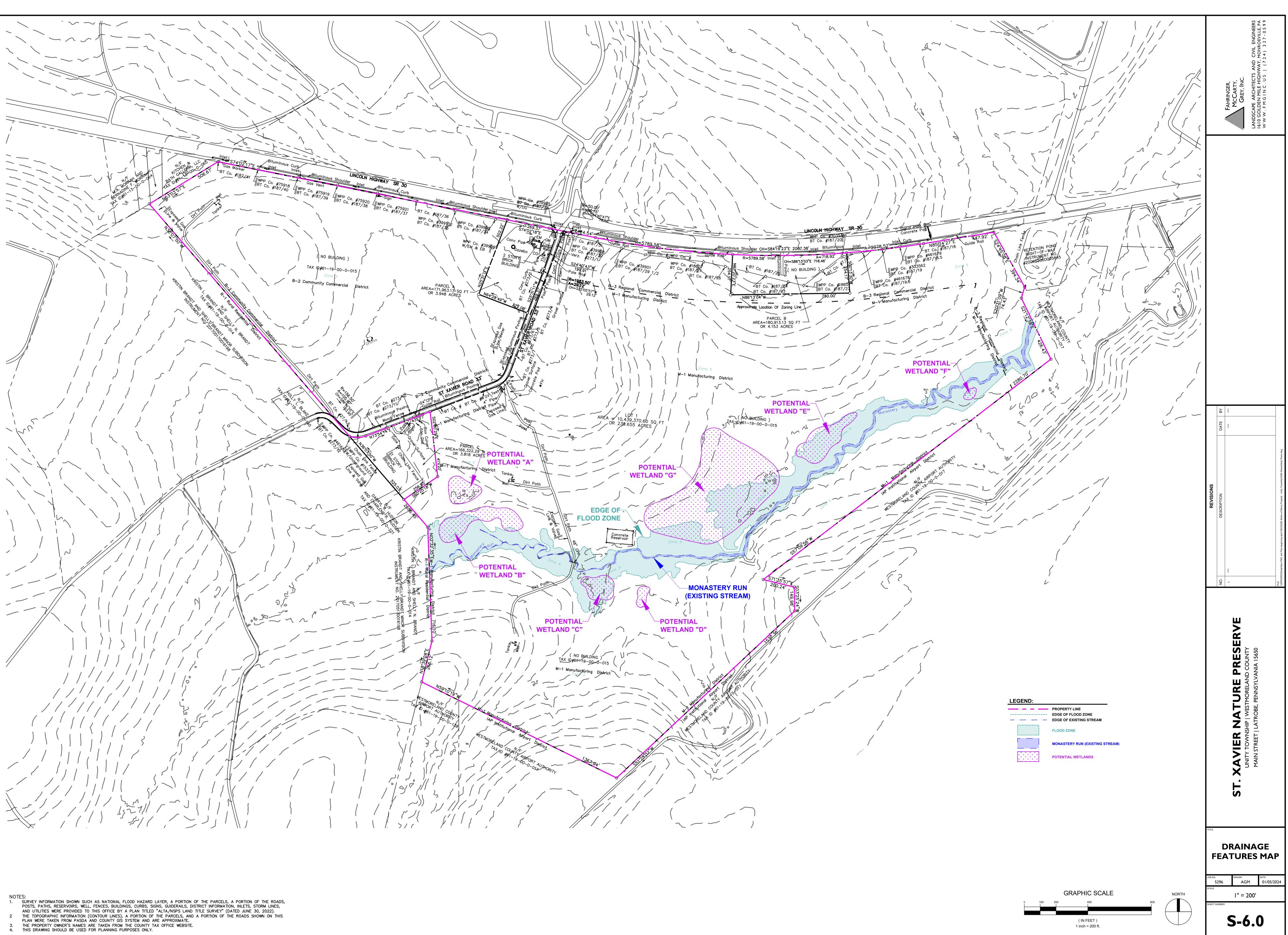


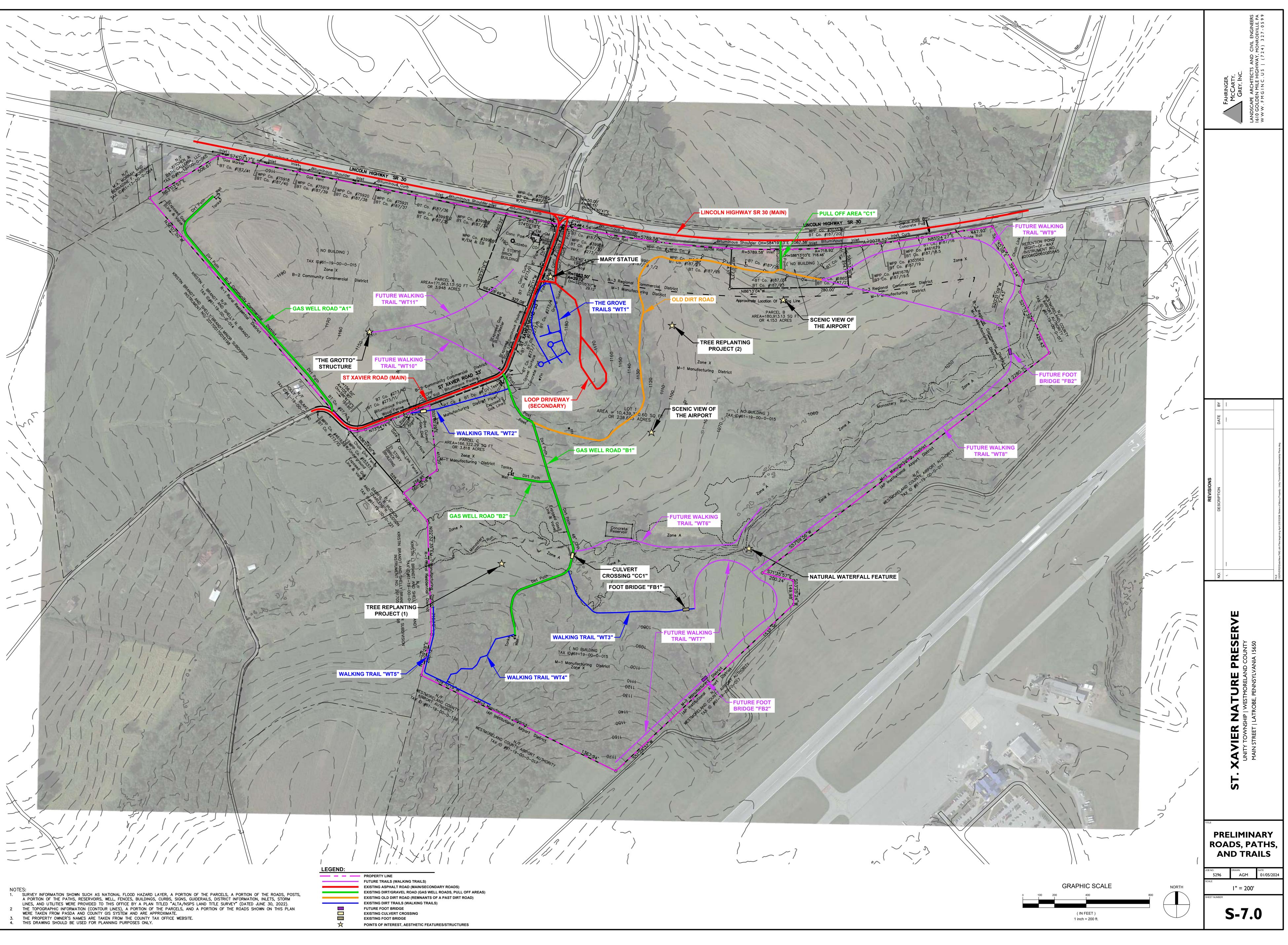




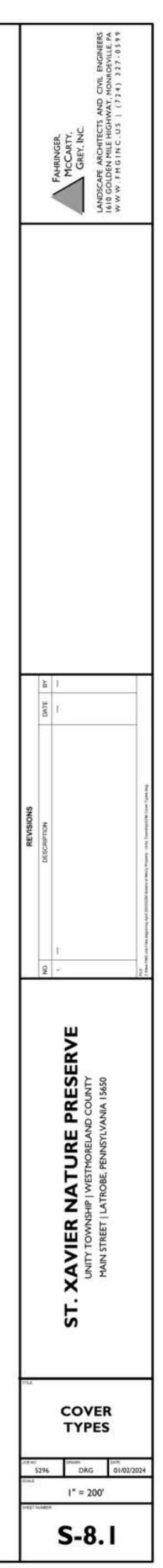




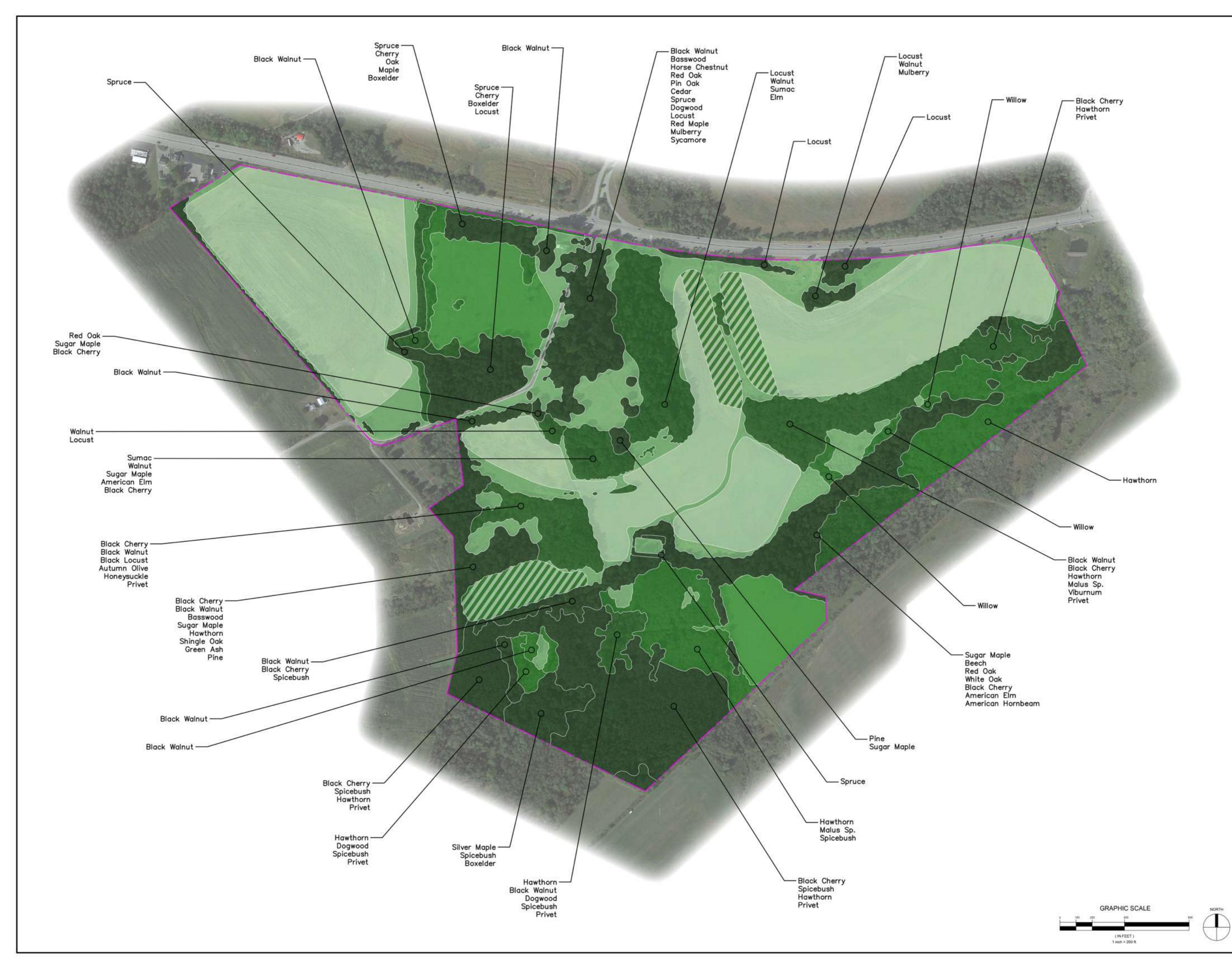


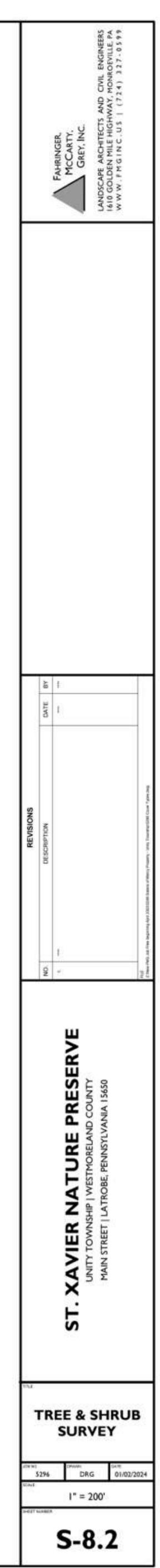


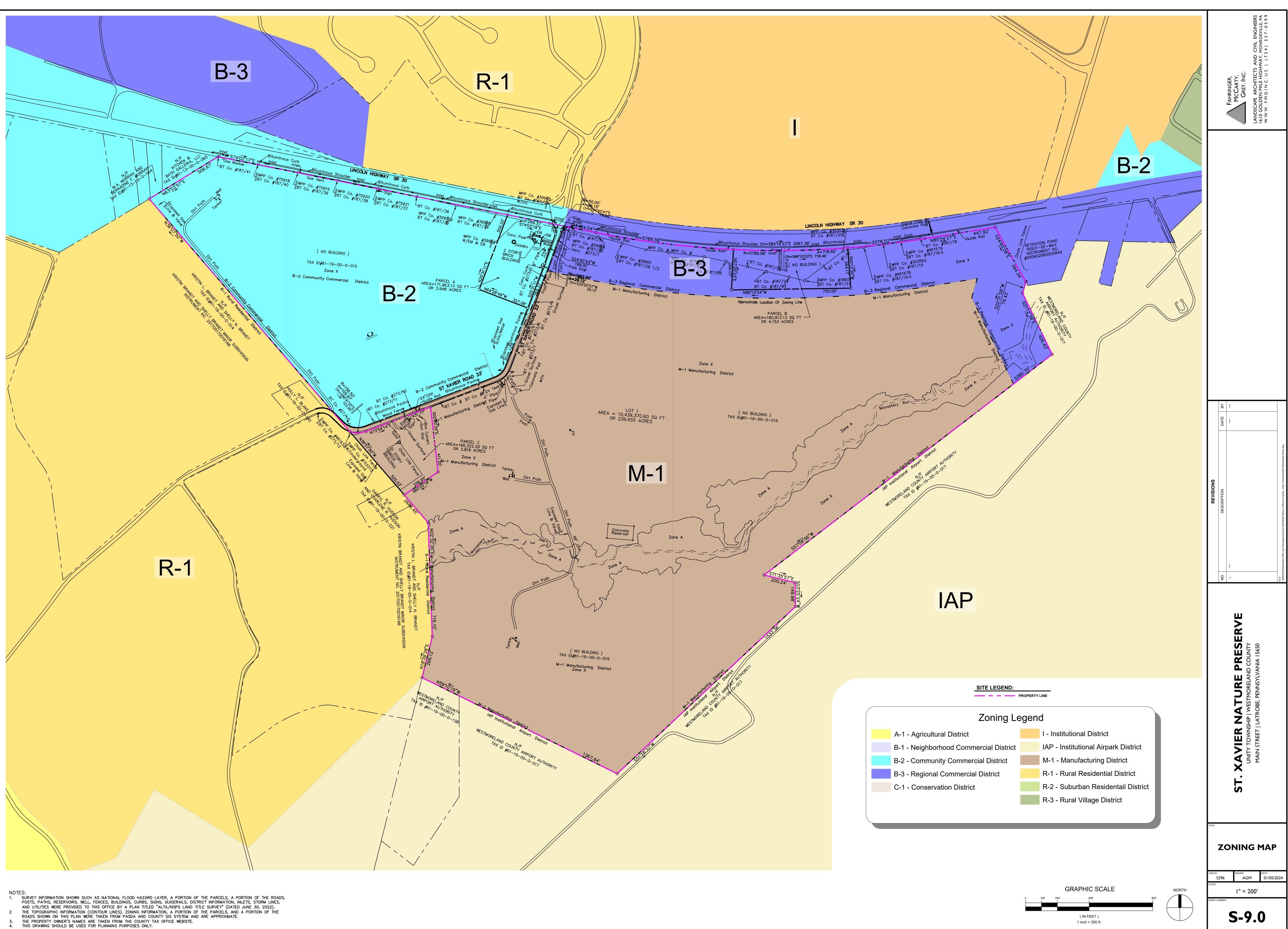




NORTH







DEPARTMENT OF ENVIR	ONMENTAL PROTECTION
DISTRICT MINI	NG OPERATIONS
25 Technology Drive, California Tec	hnology Park, Coal Center, PA 15423
(724) 769-1100	www.dep.pa.gov/mining

#### **COAL STATUS REPORT – BITUMINOUS COAL REGION**

NAME: Alex Markovic	SITE ADDRESS / LOCATION:				
ADDRESS: Fahringer, McCarty, Grey, Inc.					
1610 Golden Mile Highway					
Monroeville, PA 15146	Latitude:40° 16' 45.5"N Longitude:79° 24' 53.3"W				
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	MUNICIPALITY: Unity				
	COUNTY: Westmoreland				
$\square MSI \qquad \square O \& G \qquad \boxtimes OTHER$	USGS QUADRANGLE: Latrobe				
COAL SEAM RESEARCHED: Pittsburgh	SURFACE ELEVATION: 1,160 FEET +/-				
MINE NAME: Hostetter Mine	COAL SEAM ELEVATION: 800 FEET +/-				
OPERATOR: H.C. Frick Coke Company	COVER* (OVERBURDEN): 360 FEET +/-				
LAST MINING DATE: 6-27-1918					
MINING UNDER OR NEAR THIS SITE: Xes No	🗌 Future Possibility 🔲 Unknown 🔲 Coal Seam Non-Existent				
REMARKS:					
Detailed mine mapping suggests block of coal left intact underneath of this site but shows documented abandoned mine workings exist 230 feet to the northeast of this site. See detailed mine map.					
REFERENCE SOURCES CHECKED					
WPA MAPPING	OSM MICROFILM				
CDO MINE MAP INDEX	<b>BITUMINOUS COAL FIELDS OF PA PART II (SISLER)</b>				
DETAILED MINE MAP	US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOLIOS				
COAL RESOURCES OF Westmoreland County	MINERAL RESOURCE REPORT 68 – Coal Distribution & Thickness				
OTHER					
REPORT INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM:       Detailed Mine Map (RGGS_UMM_100_012_Hostetter)					

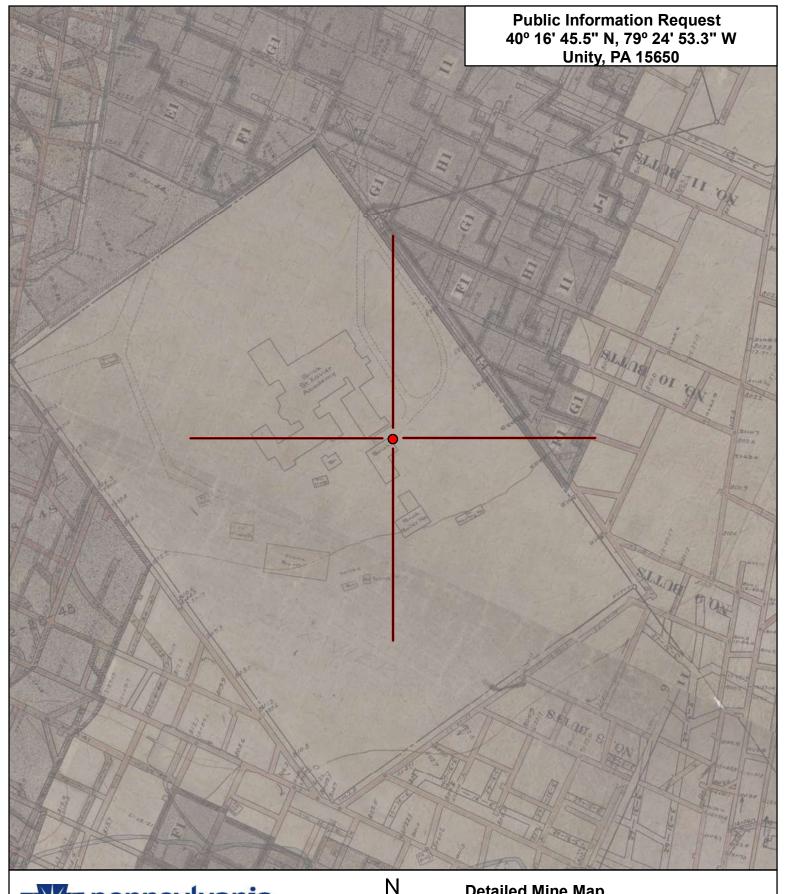
#### BY: Joseph Stepusin

#### DATE: 2/1/2023

#### \*COVER = Vertical distance between the ground surface and the coal seam.

Please note: This report is for informational purposes only and should not be considered an evaluation or assessment of environmental risks, liabilities, and/or concerns at the site. The information in this Coal Status Report is for the indicated point location only. Coal Status Reports are for underground coal mining information only. Information pertaining to surface coal mines and/or industrial mineral (non-coal) surface and underground mines is available from the applicable DEP District Mining Office for your site. Please visit www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Land/Mining/BureauofDistrictMining for further information.

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contained in the report.



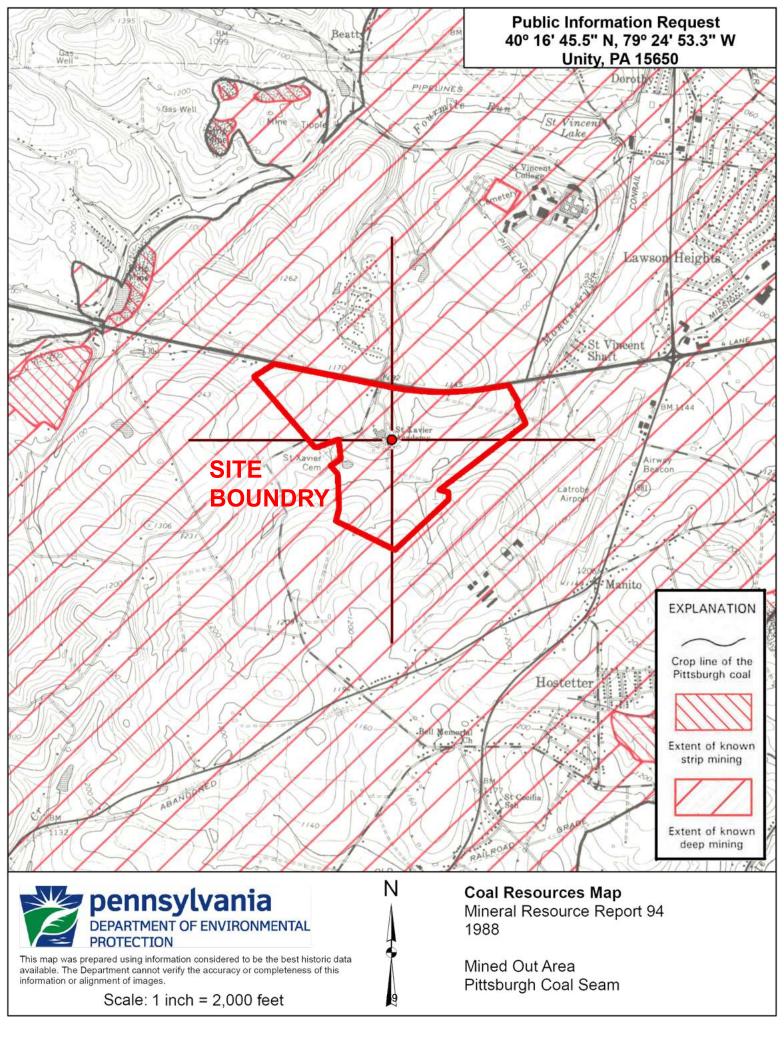


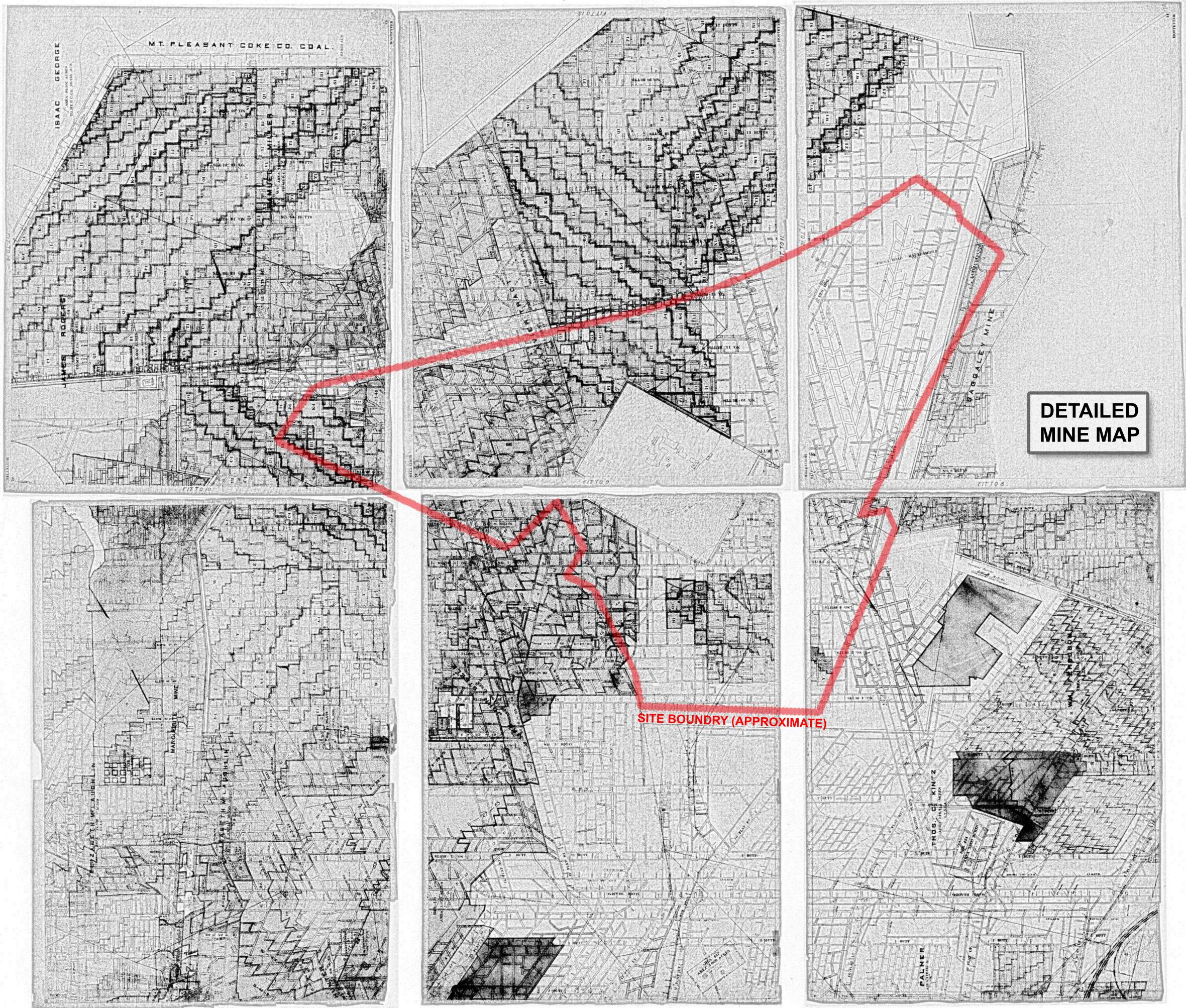
This map was prepared using information considered to be the best historic data available. The Department cannot verify the accuracy or completeness of this information or alignment of images.

Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet

**Detailed Mine Map** CDO File 0757 Sheet 2

Hostetter Mine H.C. Frick Coke Company Pittsburgh Coal Seam





ST XAVIER 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD Latrobe, PA 15650

Inquiry Number: 7263075.2 February 24, 2023

## **Certified Sanborn® Map Report**



6 Armstrong Road, 4th floor Shelton, CT 06484 Toll Free: 800.352.0050 www.edrnet.com

# 02/24/23 Site Name: Client Name: ST XAVIER Ecotune 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD 215 Executive Drive Latrobe, PA 15650 Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 EDR Inquiry # 7263075.2 Contact: BRIAN J. ALMETER

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The Sanborn Library is continually enhanced with newly identified map archives. This report accesses all maps in the collection as of the day this report was generated.

# Certified Sanborn Results: Certification # 7ABA-4626-AB69 PO # FMG JOB NO 5296 Project ST XAVIER

#### **UNMAPPED PROPERTY**

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Library of	Congress
------------	----------

- University Publications of America
- EDR Private Collection

The Sanborn Library LLC Since 1866™

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#### **ST XAVIER**

106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD Latrobe, PA 15650

Inquiry Number: 7263075.4 February 27, 2023

### **The EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package**



6 Armstrong Road, 4th floor Shelton, CT 06484 Toll Free: 800.352.0050 www.edrnet.com

#### EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package

#### Site Name:

#### Client Name:

02/27/23

ST XAVIER 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD Latrobe, PA 15650 EDR Inquiry # 7263075.4 Ecotune 215 Executive Drive Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 Contact: BRIAN J. ALMETER



Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) Aerial Photo Decade Package is a screening tool designed to assist environmental professionals in evaluating potential liability on a target property resulting from past activities. EDR's professional researchers provide digitally reproduced historical aerial photographs, and when available, provide one photo per decade.

#### Search Results:

oouron	needner			
Year	Scale	Details	Source	
2019	1"=625'	Flight Year: 2019	USDA/NAIP	
2015	1"=625'	Flight Year: 2015	USDA/NAIP	
2010	1"=625'	Flight Year: 2010	USDA/NAIP	
2006	1"=625'	Flight Year: 2006	USDA/NAIP	
2002	1"=625'	Flight Date: April 10, 2002	USGS	
1995	1"=625'	Acquisition Date: March 14, 1995	USGS/DOQQ	
1988	1"=625'	Flight Date: June 06, 1988	USGS	
1982	1"=625'	Flight Date: April 15, 1982	USDA	
1973	1"=625'	Flight Date: January 01, 1973	USGS	
1967	1"=625'	Flight Date: June 03, 1967	USDA	
1962	1"=625'	Flight Date: April 21, 1962	USGS	
1957	1"=625'	Flight Date: May 08, 1957	USDA	
1955	1"=625'	Flight Date: May 02, 1955	USGS	
1939	1"=625'	Flight Date: June 06, 1939	USDA	

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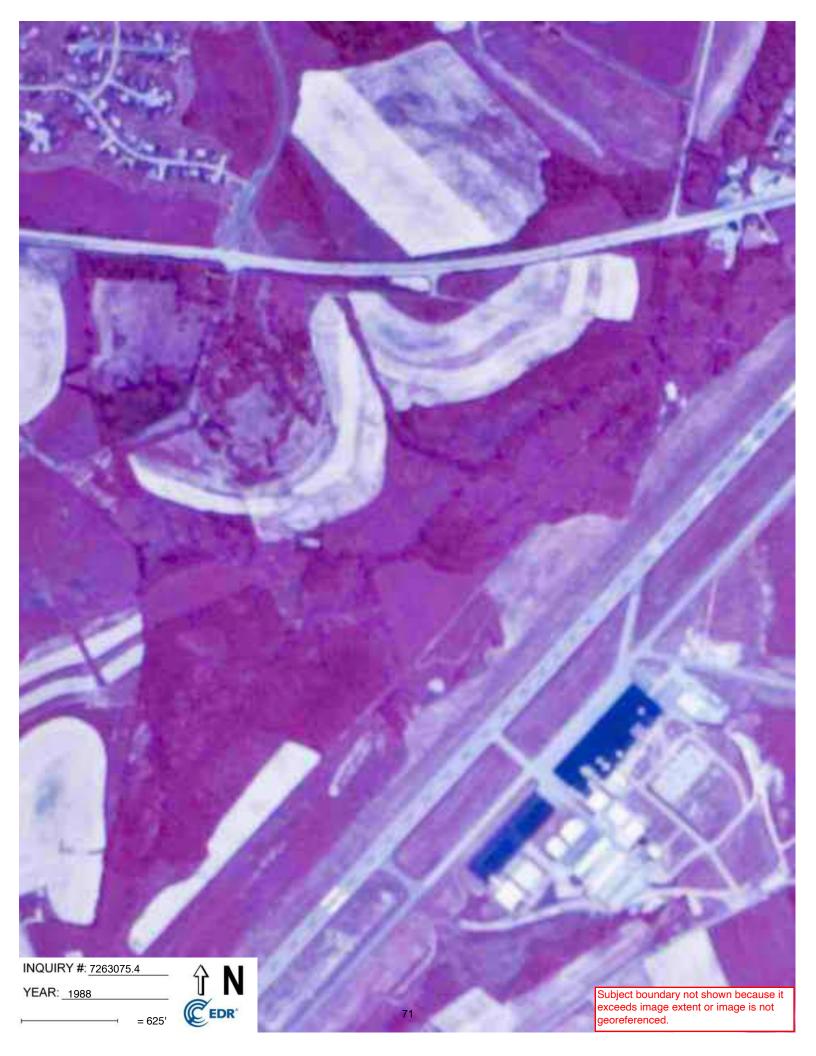
INQUIRY #: 7263075.4

-1

YEAR: 2002



















ST XAVIER 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD Latrobe, PA 15650

Inquiry Number: 7263075.1 February 24, 2023

# EDR Historical Topo Map Report with QuadMatch™



6 Armstrong Road, 4th floor Shelton, CT 06484 Toll Free: 800.352.0050 www.edrnet.com

## EDR Historical Topo Map Report

## Site Name: ST XAVIER

**106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD** 

EDR Inquiry # 7263075.1

Latrobe, PA 15650

#### **Client Name:**

Ecotune 215 Executive Drive Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 Contact: BRIAN J. ALMETER



02/24/23

EDR Topographic Map Library has been searched by EDR and maps covering the target property location as provided by Ecotune were identified for the years listed below. EDR's Historical Topo Map Report is designed to assist professionals in evaluating potential liability on a target property resulting from past activities. EDRs Historical Topo Map Report includes a search of a collection of public and private color historical topographic maps, dating back to the late 1800s.

Search Results:		Coordinates:	Coordinates:	
P.O.#	FMG JOB NO 5296	Latitude:	40.278678 40° 16' 43" North	
Project:	ST XAVIER	Longitude:	-79.414244 -79° 24' 51" West	
-		UTM Zone:	Zone 17 North	
		UTM X Meters:	634810.65	
		UTM Y Meters:	4459894.76	
		Elevation:	1140.29' above sea level	
Maps Provid	led:			
2019	1902			
2016	1900			
2013				
1993				
1979				
1973				
1964				
1903				

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### **Topo Sheet Key**

This EDR Topo Map Report is based upon the following USGS topographic map sheets.

#### **2019 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 2019 7.5-minute, 24000

#### 2016 Source Sheets



Latrobe 2016 7.5-minute, 24000

#### 2013 Source Sheets



Latrobe 2013 7.5-minute, 24000

#### **1993 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 1993 7.5-minute, 24000 Aerial Photo Revised 1988

### **Topo Sheet Key**

This EDR Topo Map Report is based upon the following USGS topographic map sheets.

#### **1979 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 1979 7.5-minute, 24000 Aerial Photo Revised 1977

#### **1973 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 1973 7.5-minute, 24000 Aerial Photo Revised 1973

#### **1964 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 1964 7.5-minute, 24000 Aerial Photo Revised 1962

#### **1903 Source Sheets**



Latrobe 1903 15-minute, 62500

## Topo Sheet Key

This EDR Topo Map Report is based upon the following USGS topographic map sheets.

#### **1902 Source Sheets**

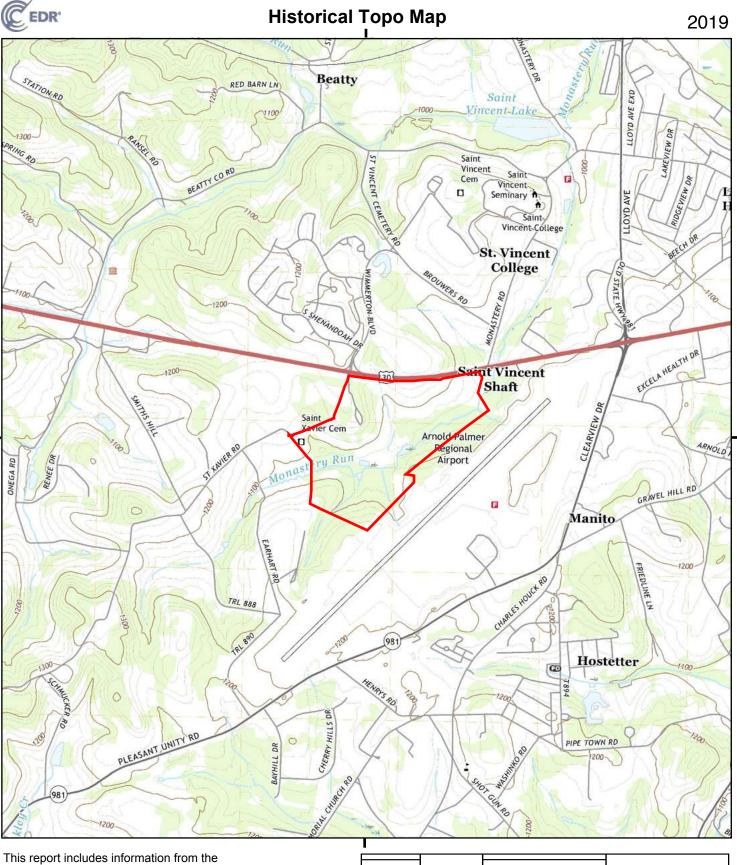


Latrobe 1902 15-minute, 62500

#### **1900 Source Sheets**



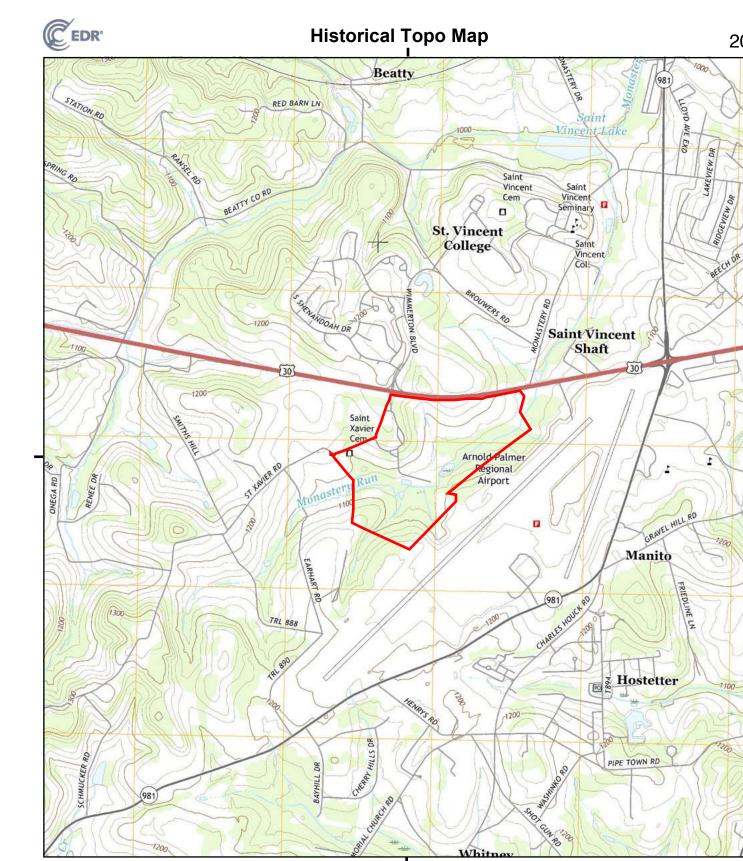
Latrobe 1900 15-minute, 62500



following map sheet(s). 0.5 1 1.5 0 Miles 0.25 NW Ν NE SITE NAME: ST XAVIER TP, Latrobe, 2019, 7.5-minute 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD ADDRESS: Latrobe, PA 15650 W CLIENT: Ecotune

SW

S



This report includes information from the following map sheet(s). 0.5 1 1.5 0 Miles 0.25 NW Ν NE SITE NAME: ST XAVIER TP, Latrobe, 2016, 7.5-minute 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD ADDRESS: Latrobe, PA 15650 W CLIENT: Ecotune 84

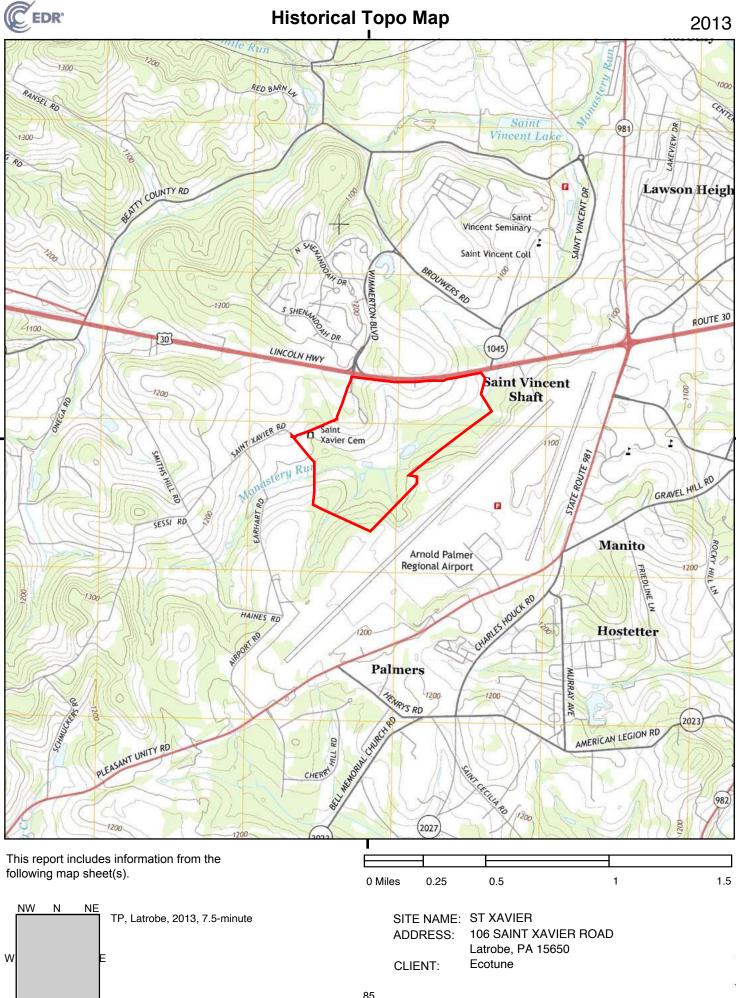
2016

Lav

Hei

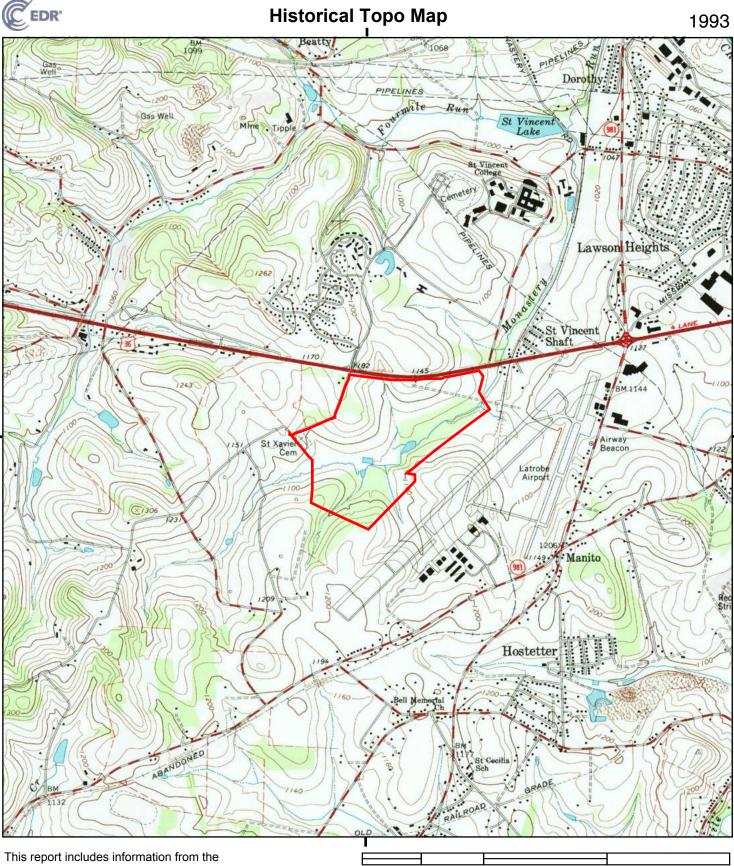
SW

S



SW

S



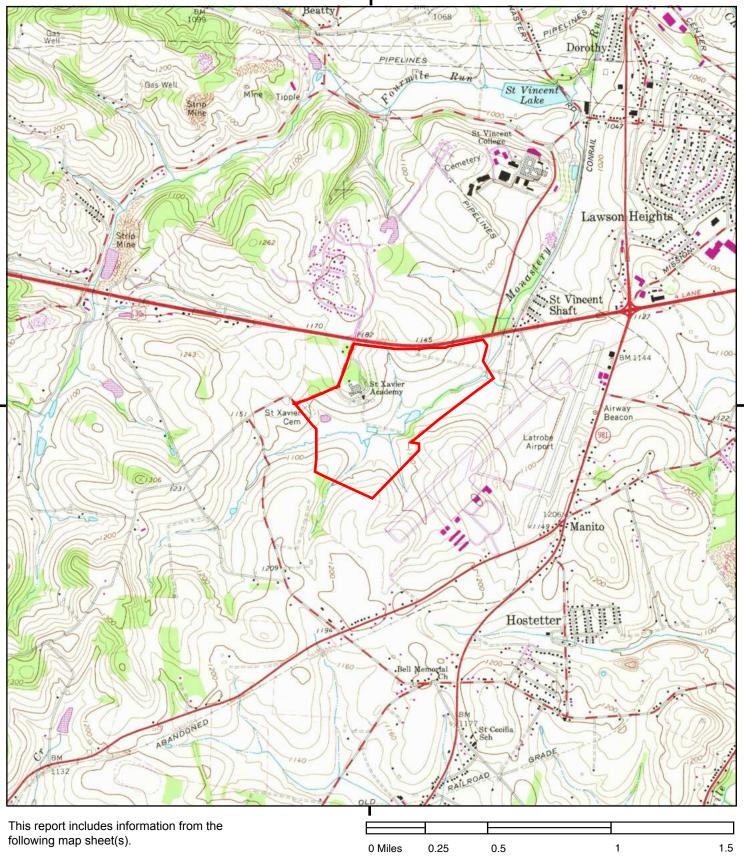
following map sheet(s). 1 0 Miles 0.25 0.5 1.5 NW Ν NE SITE NAME: ST XAVIER TP, Latrobe, 1993, 7.5-minute ADDRESS: 106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD Latrobe, PA 15650 W Ecotune CLIENT:

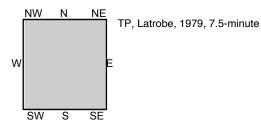
SW

S



## Historical Topo Map

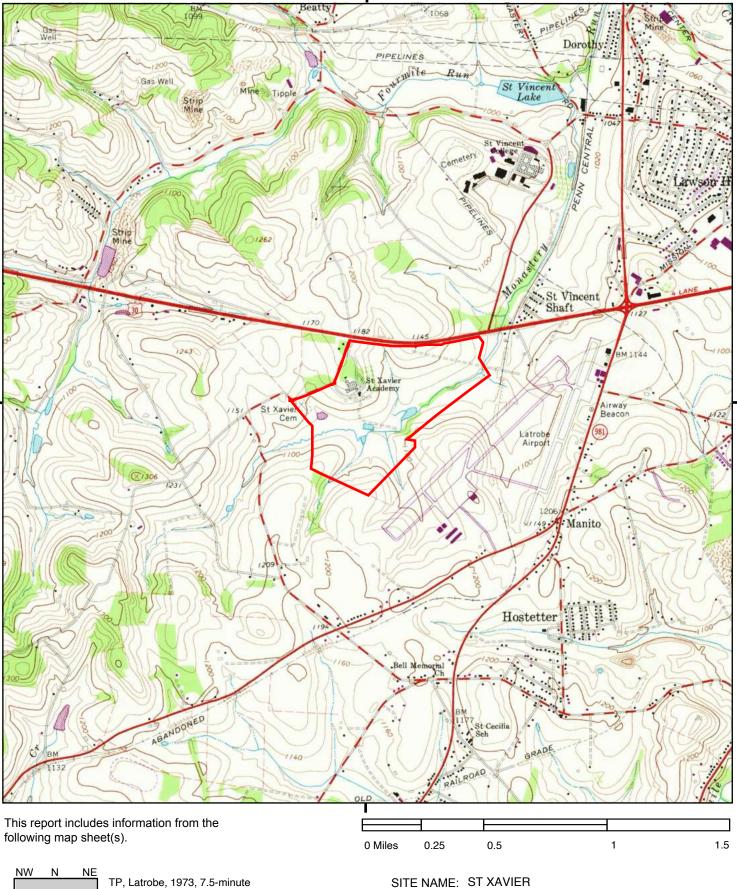


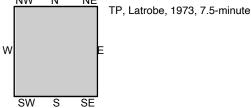






## Historical Topo Map





106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD

Latrobe, PA 15650

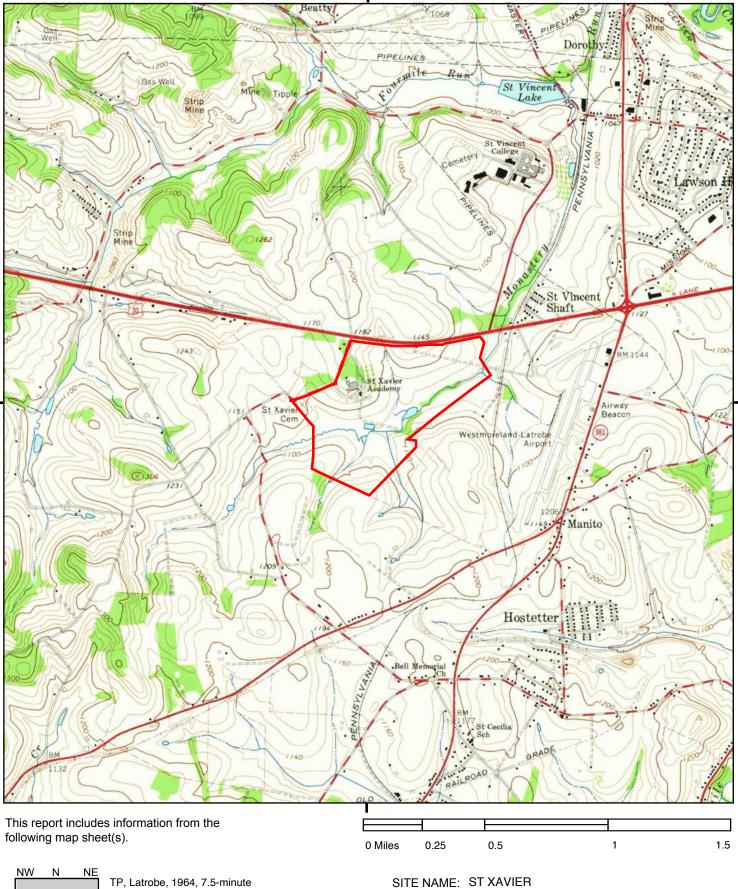
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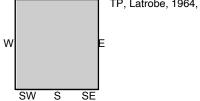
ADDRESS:

CLIENT:



## Historical Topo Map





106 SAINT XAVIER ROAD

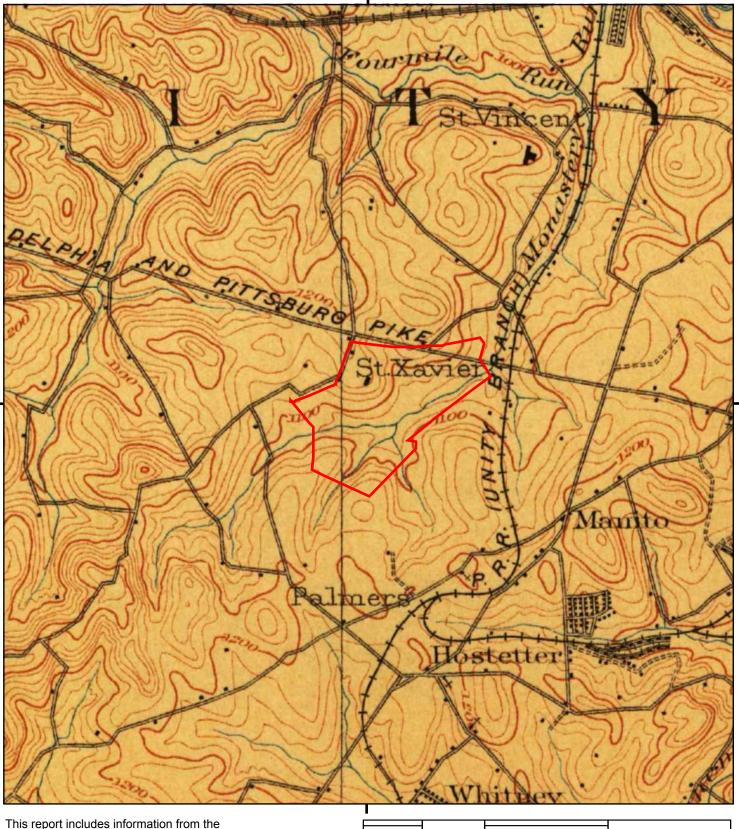
Latrobe, PA 15650

Ecotune

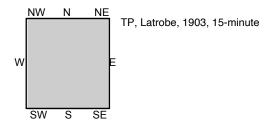
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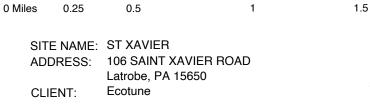
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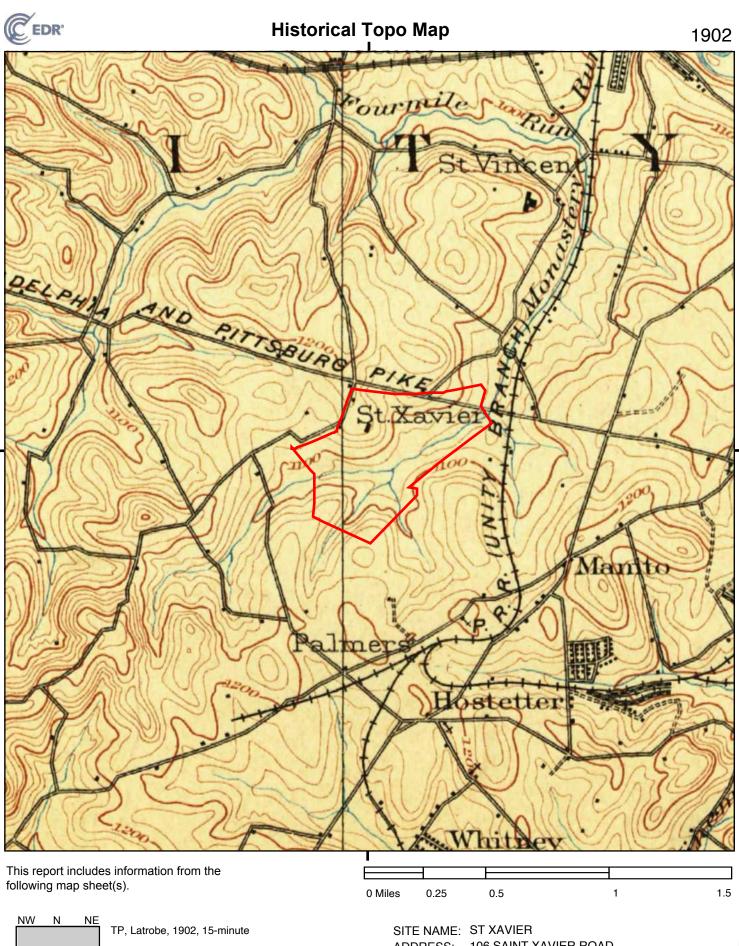


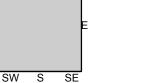


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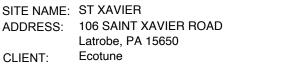


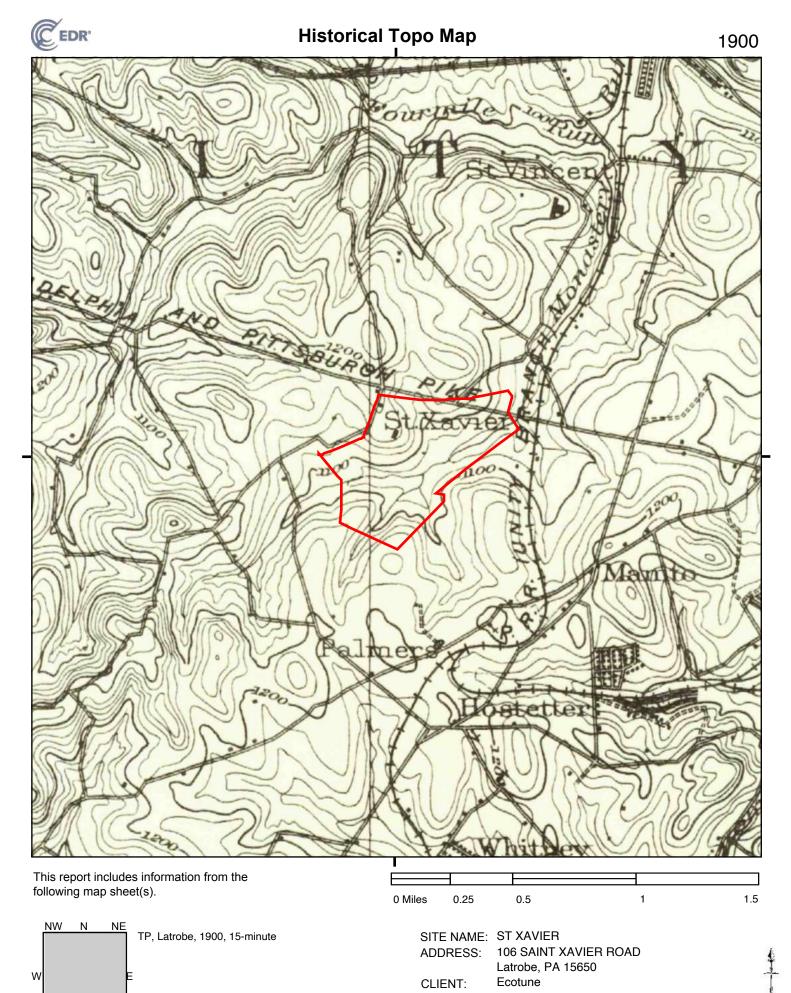






W





92

SW

S



Monastery Run-125292620 Assessment Unit ID: PA-SCR-125292620

Waterbody Condition: E Good

Existing Plans for Restoration: No

303(d) Listed: No

Year Reported: 2022

Organization Name (ID): Pennsylvania (21PA)

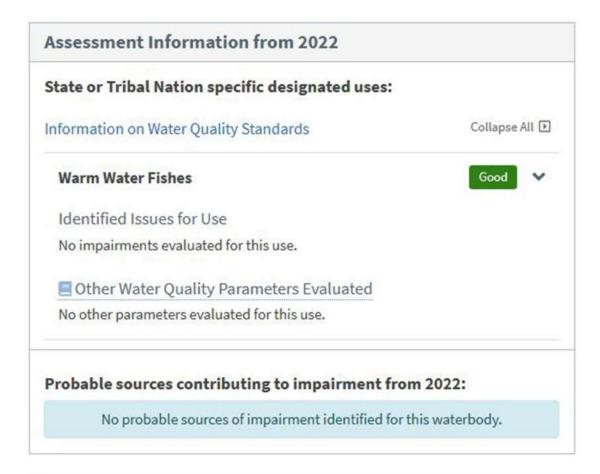
What type of water is this?

Stream/creek/river (0.3343 Miles)

Where is this water located?

UNITY TWP, 15650 (county: Westmoreland)





Assessment Documents

No documents are available

## **Plans to Restore Water Quality**

### What plans are in place to protect or restore water quality?

Links below open in a new browser tab.

Plan	Impairments	Туре	Date
Kiskiminetas- Conemaugh River Watersheds Tmdl	M <mark>etals, pH,</mark> Siltation	TMDL	2010-01-26
Monastery Run Watershed	Metals	TMDL	2004-11-03

## eMapPA

#### **Monastery Run**

#### PA Historic Streams (1 of 15)

Name: Monastery Run Net Streams: 75790 Shed: 18C Named: 1 Rec No: 75790 Seg ID: 43457\_1.9357\_2.1983 Seg ID Old: 43457\_1.9357\_2.1983 From Node: 91243 To Node: 91036 Down River Mile: 1.935746 Up River Mile: 2.198306 WRDS: 43457 Strahler: 2

#### PA Water Plan (2 of 15)

Watershed\_Name: Loyalhanna Creek Watershed\_ID: 18C Basin: Ohio Stream Count: 750 State Water Plan Major: Conemaugh River State Water Plan Minor: Loyalhanna Creek

#### Stormwater 167 (3 of 15)

DEP Regional Office: SWRO County: Westmoreland Stormwater Watershed Name: LOYALHANNA CREEK ACT 167 Plan: NO Approval Date: Null

## PA MD Instream Flow Study Area (4 of 15)

Floodplains (5 of 15) Name: 1 Map Type: 2

#### 100 Year Floodplains (6 of 15)

FIPS: 42129 Community: 0964 Firm Panel No: 42129C0442D Zone: A Floodway: Undeveloped Coastal BarrierArea: COBRA\_OUT Special\_Flood\_Hazard\_Area: IN Panel: 0442D QUAD Unit: C4 QUAD Name: 40079-C4

#### NHD Flowline (7 of 15)

GNIS Name: Monastery Run GNIS ID: 01181412 ComID: 125292624 Reachcode: 05010008000146 Length KM: 0.427 Flow Direction: WithDigitized FType: 460 FCode: 46006 FDATE: 9/18/2004 12:23:29 AM

#### Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 (8 of 15)

Type: 0 Hydrologic Unit Code: 5010008 Region Name: Ohio Region Sub Region Name: Allegheny Accounting Unit Name: Allegheny Catalogue Unit Name: Kiskiminetas. Pennsylvania. Water Resource Region: 5 Sub Region Number: 501 Accounting Unit: 50100

#### Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 (9 of 15)

HUC 12 Code: 050100080106 HUC 12 Name: Middle Loyalhanna Creek HUC 2 Code: 05 HUC 2 Name: Ohio Region HUC 4 Code: 0501 HUC 4 Name: Allegheny HUC 6 Code: 050100 HUC 6 Name: Allegheny HUC 8 Code: 05010008 HUC 8 Name: Kiskiminetas HUC 10 Code: 0501000801 HUC 10 Name: Loyalhanna Creek Acres: 34883.603423 States: PA Area SQ Mile: 54.505414

#### Supporting Streams Assessments (10 of 15)

Assessment Unit ID: 10516 GNIS Name: Monastery Run Assessed Use: Aquatic Life Attain Use: Supporting Attained: Y ReachCode: 05010008000146 COMID: 125292624 Length Miles: 0.264059 HUC: 05010008 EPA Status: Approved Date\_Created: 5/27/1999

## TMDL Streams (11 of 15)

TMDL GEN ID: 378 TMDL Name: Monastery Run Watershed ReachCode: 05010008000146 COMID: 125292624 Status Final: N Cause: ALUMINUM ; IRON ; MANGANESE ; METALS ; PH ; PH, LOW TMDL Begin Date: 9/4/2004 TMDL End Date: 11/4/2004 Meeting Date: 10/7/2004 Draft\_Date: 9/4/2004 Final\_Date: 3/17/2005 TMDL URL Title: Monastery Run Watershed TMDL URL File: MonasteryRun\_FourmileRun\_FINAL\_TMDL.pdf Info Sheet URL Title: Information Sheet for Monastery Run Watershed Info Sheet URL File: MonasteryRun\_INFO.pdf Public Notice URL File: MonasteryRun\_INFO.pdf Other URL File: Null Other URL Title: Null Other URL File: Null TMDL ID: 202 Comment: Superseded by Kiski TMDL

#### TMDL Streams (12 of 15)

**TMDL GEN ID:** 2121 TMDL Name: Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh River Watersheds TMDL ReachCode: 05010008000146 **COMID:** 125292624 Status Final: Y Cause: ALUMINUM ; IRON ; MANGANESE ; METALS ; PH ; PH, LOW ; SILTATION ; TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) ; TURBIDITY TMDL Begin Date: Null TMDL End Date: Null Meeting Date: Null Draft Date: Null **Final Date:** 1/29/2010 TMDL URL Title: Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh River Watersheds TMDL TMDL URL File: EPA TMDL.htm Info Sheet URL Title: TMDL Allocations Info Sheet URL File: App G (Allocations) final.xls Public Notice URL Title: Null Public Notice URL File: Null Other URL Title: Null **Other URL File: Null** TMDL ID: Null **Comment:** Null

#### Designated Use Streams (13 of 15)

Designated Use Gen ID: 37155 **GNIS Name:** Monastery Run **GNIS ID:** 01181412 ReachCode: 05010008000146 **COMID:** 125292624 Length Miles: 0.264 Map Symbology: WWF Length Miles: 0.264 Desginated Use: 12 DES Use ID: 8 Use Description: WWF(WARM WATER FISHES) Migratory\_Fish: N HUC: 05010008 Basin: N Basin Narrative: Null Segment Narrative: Null Evaluation Date: Null

#### Last Edit Date: Null

County Boundaries (14 of 15) County Name: Westmoreland PA Code: 65 Federal Code: 129

Municipalities (15 of 15) Name: UNITY Type: TWP Code: 65959

This map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size. The **community map repository** should be consulted for possible updated or additional flood hazard information.

To obtain more detailed information in areas where **Base Flood Elevations** (BFEs) and/or **floodways** have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood Profiles and Floodway Data and/or Summary of Stillwater Elevations tables contained within the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that accompanies this FIRM. Users should be aware that BFEs shown on the FIRM represent rounded whole-foot elevations. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance rating purposes only and should not be used as the sole source of flood elevation information. Accordingly, flood elevation data presented in the FIS report should be utilized in conjunction with the FIRM for purposes of construction and/or floodplain management.

Boundaries of the **floodways** were computed at cross sections and interpolated between cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with regard to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway widths and other pertinent floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

Certain areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures. Refer to Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" of the Flood Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures for this jurisdiction.

The projection used in the preparation of this map was Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 17. Horizontal datum was NAD 83, GRS80 spheroid. Differences in datum, spheroid, projection or UTM zones used in the production of FIRMs for adjacent jurisdictions may result in slight positional differences in map features across jurisdiction boundaries. These differences do not affect the accuracy of this FIRM.

Flood elevations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. These flood elevations must be compared to structure and ground elevations referenced to the same **vertical datum**. For information regarding conversion between the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, visit the National Geodetic Survey website at http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/ or contact the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

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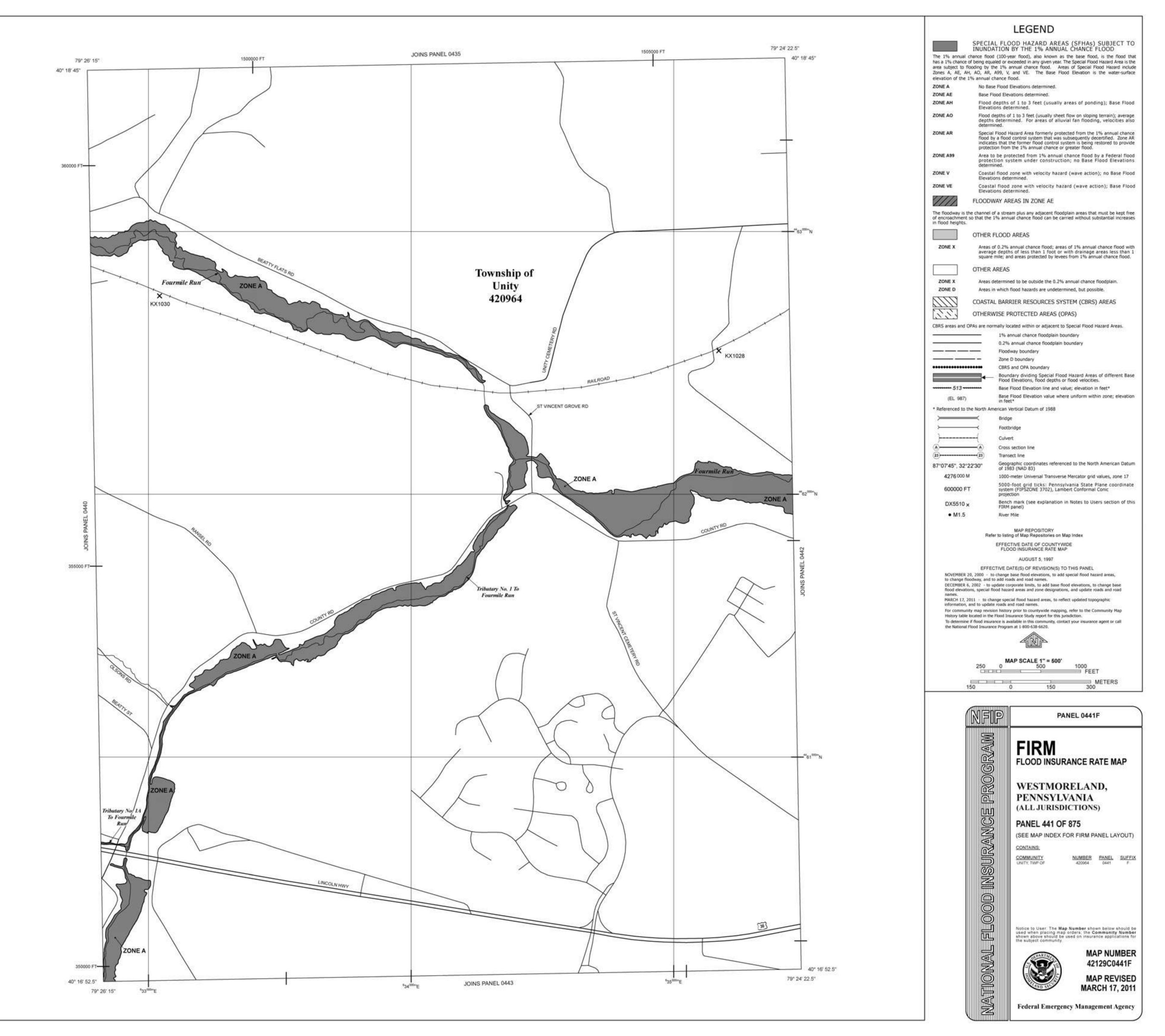
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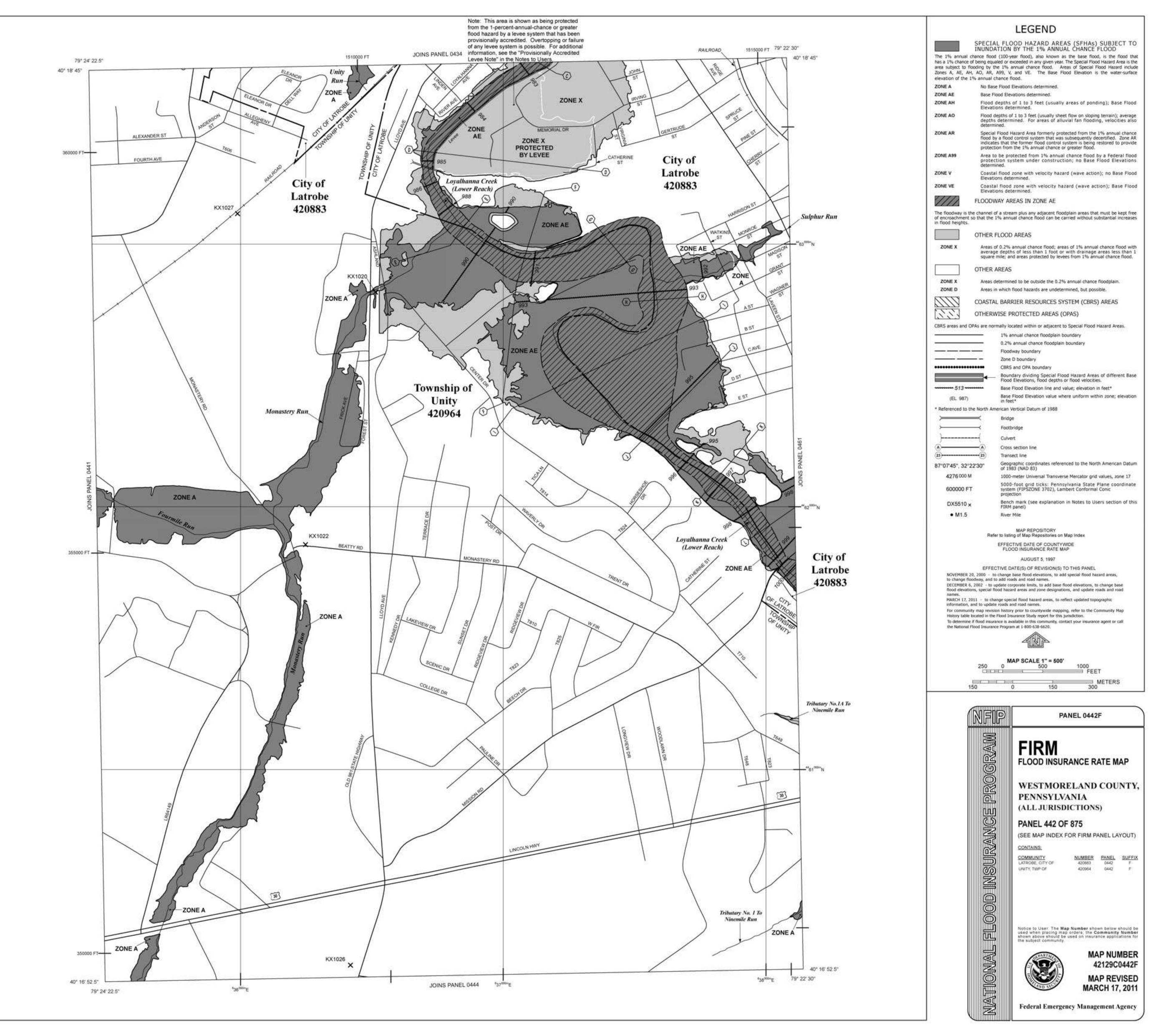
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### Provisionally Accredited Levee Notes to Users:

Check with your local community to obtain more information, such as the estimated level of protection provided (which may exceed the 1-percent-annualchance-level) and Emergency Action Plan, on the levee system(s) shown as providing protection for areas on this panel. To maintain accreditation, the levee owner or community is required to submit the data and documentation necessary to comply with Section 65.10 of the NFIP regulations by September 14, 2012. If the community or owner does not provide the necessary data and documentation or if the data and documentation provided indicate the levee system does not comply with Section 65.10 requirements, FEMA will revise the flood hazard and risk information for this area to reflect de-accreditation of the levee system. To mitigate flood risk in residual risk areas, property owners and residents are encouraged to consider flood insurance and floodproofing or other protective measures. For more information on flood insurance, interested parties should visit the FEMA Website at http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/index.shtm.



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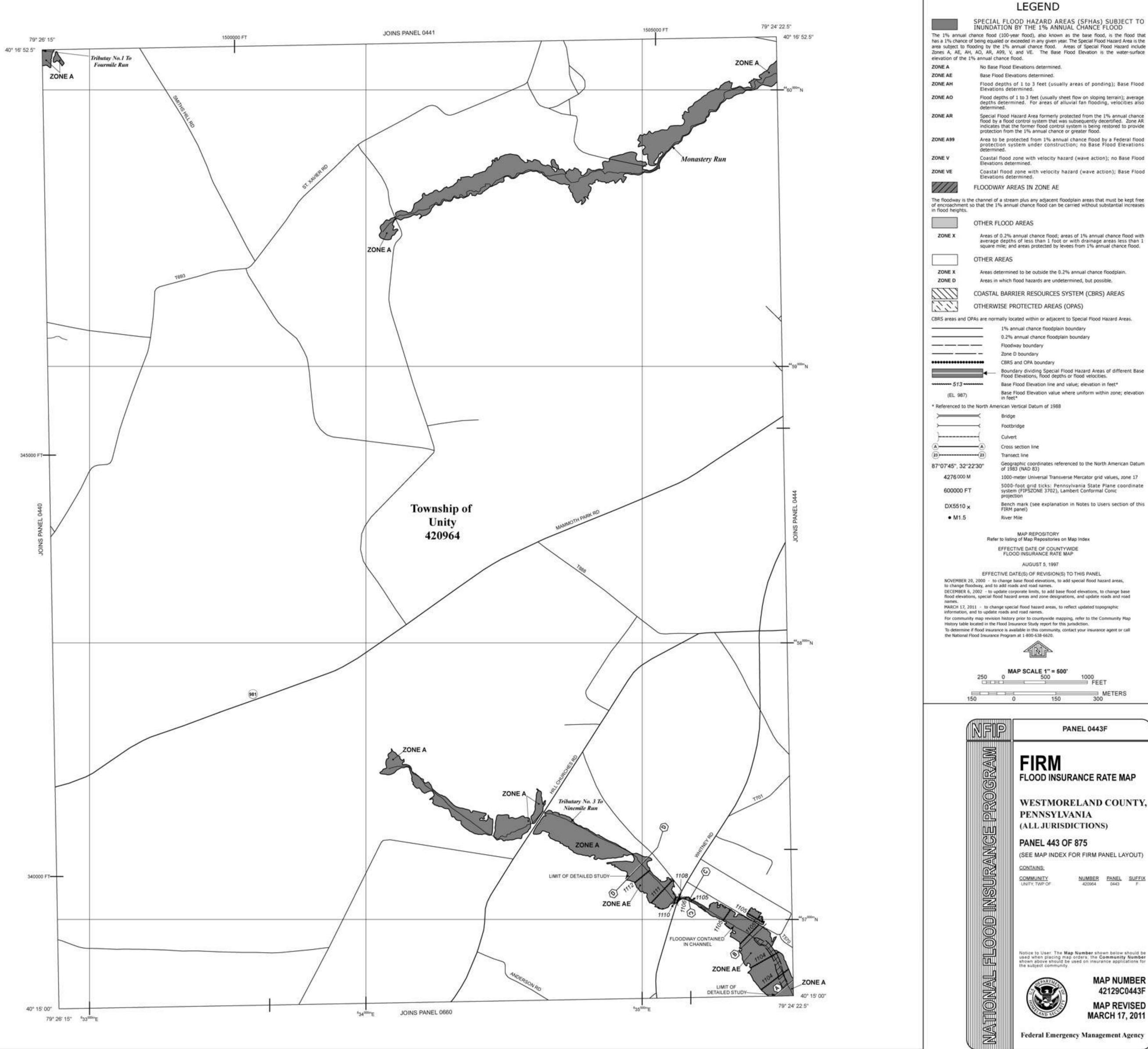
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ISO NAL ISO	PANEL 0443F FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA (ALL JURISDICTIONS) PANEL 443 OF 875				
EFFE FLI EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2000 - to chang to change floodway, and to add n DECEMBER 6, 2002 - to update o flood elevations, special flood has names. MARCH 17, 2011 - to change sp information, and to update roads For community map revision histo History table located in the Flood 1 To determine if flood insurance is the National Flood Insurance Prog	corporate limits, to add base flood elevations, to change base zard areas and zone designations, and update roads and road ecial flood hazard areas, to reflect updated topographic and road names. ory prior to countywide mapping, refer to the Community Map Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction. available in this community, contact your insurance agent or call				
Cub     Cross     Cro	tbridge				
Floc Zon CBR ■ 513	No annual chance floodplain boundary adway boundary e D boundary IS and OPA boundary Indary dividing Special Flood Hazard Areas of different Base ad Elevations, flood depths or flood velocities. e Flood Elevation line and value; elevation in feet* e Flood Elevation value where uniform within zone; elevation eet* vertical Datum of 1988				
square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood. OTHER AREAS Areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible. COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREAS OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAS) RS areas and OPAs are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas. 1% annual chance floodplain boundary					
ZONE X Areas of 0.2% average dept	6 annual chance flood; areas of 1% annual chance flood with ths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1				
Elevations de NE VE Coastal floo Elevations de FLOODWAY A	etermined. Id zone with velocity hazard (wave action); Base Flood				
flood by a flo indicates that protection fro NE A99 Area to be p protection s determined.	Hazard Area formerly protected from the 1% annual chance od control system that was subsequently decertified. Zone AR t the former flood control system is being restored to provide in the 1% annual chance or greater flood. rotected from 1% annual chance flood by a Federal flood system under construction; no Base Flood Elevations d zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood				
NE AE Base Flood El NE AH Flood depth Elevations de NE AO Flood depths	No Base Flood Elevations determined. Base Flood Elevations determined. Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding); Base Flood Elevations determined. Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain); average depths determined. For areas of alluvial fan flooding, velocities also determined.				
	exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the annual chance flood. Areas of Special Flood Hazard include V, and VE. The Base Flood Elevation is the water-surface flood.				

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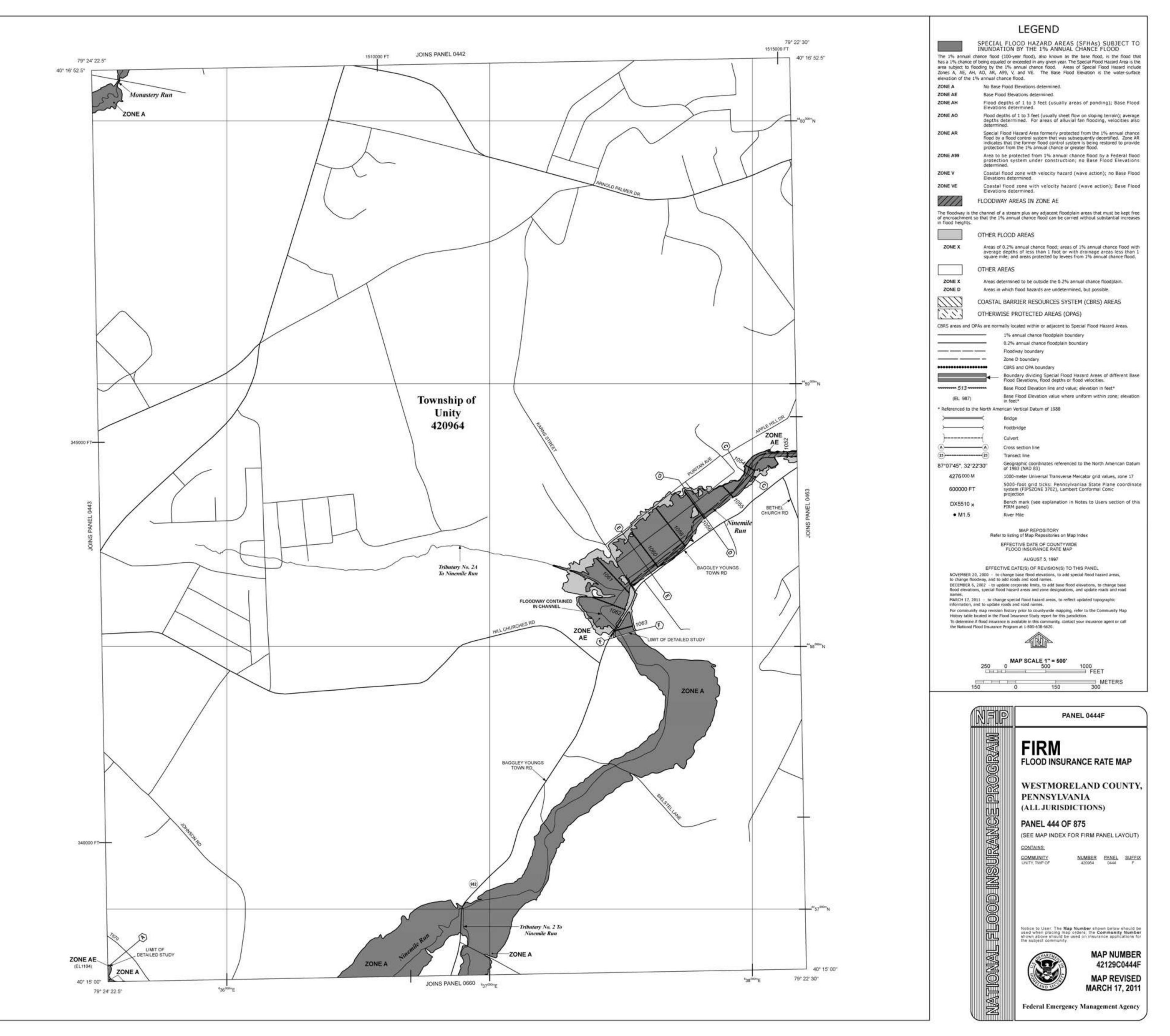
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## **Stewardship Objectives**

The St. Xavier Nature Preserve is owned and operated by the Westmoreland Land Trust. Therefore, the property should accomplish the WLT's goals while respecting, preserving, and honoring the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy's presence on the property. The Westmoreland Land Trust's Mission, Vision & Values are as follows:

**Mission**: To conserve and steward land in Westmoreland County of special ecological, cultural, or recreational value, for public benefit.

**Vision**: Throughout Westmoreland County open space and recreational land abounds, water resources are protected, and wildlife flourishes. Westmoreland County is known to families, businesses, and visitors for its high quality of life.

Values: The Westmoreland Land Trust values the following:

- Conservation of diverse real property that is in, or in close proximity to, Westmoreland County; and culturally, historically, ecologically, recreationally, or scenically valuable.
- Restoration, protection, and maintenance of conserved property as appropriate for its best long-term stewardship.
- Partnership with public or private entities where beneficial to encourage collective effort.
- Research and planning in support of conservation efforts.
- Promotion and education of conservation opportunities and benefits.
- Conformance with the Land Trust Standards and Practices published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004, or as amended.

As the property was acquired to be conserved as a nature preserve, there is a responsibility as steward to maintain the natural values that exist on the property, more specifically:

- To preserve the intrinsic values of the land within the recreational and educational uses promulgated by the Westmoreland Land Trust.
- To guard against environmental degradation, and work to redress past environmental degradation.
- To strategically work to control factors that adversely impact the value and sustainability of wildlife habitat.
- To regulate or control the recreational use of lands to prevent the deterioration of the natural environment and the quality of the recreational experience.

#### Land Management

The land of the St. Xavier Nature Preserve may be considered in the following categories:

- St. Xavier Grove and Bellbrook Yard Areas
- CREP Areas
  - o CP2 Areas
  - CP22 Areas
- Non-CREP Field Areas
- Woodlands

There are different short-term objectives and requirements for each area, as discussed herein. Longer-term objectives and recommendations for each area should be developed as part of a Master Plan for the nature preserve/park.

#### St. Xavier Grove and Bellbrook Yard Areas

The short-term objective for these areas is to treat them as informal lawn areas with periodic mowing, removal of downed branches or trees, and control of invasive plants and woody vegetation. Management will not include application of fertilizers, insecticides, or herbicides, with the exception of management of stinging insects or termites, and spot treatment of invasive plants when desired control cannot be achieved by cutting or removal.

#### **CREP** Areas

In 2022, areas of the St. Xavier Nature Preserve were enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), as depicted in an aerial view. CREP provides cost-share and incentive payments for initial field preparation and plantings, and annual rental payments for the 15-year term of WLT's CREP agreements (through 9/30/2037). It is important to note that areas may be withdrawn from either CREP agreement without jeopardizing the entire agreement. If an area is withdrawn, repayment by WLT and a penalty is calculated based on the area withdrawn - not on the entire acreage enrolled. This option is worth considering if, as part of the Master Planning process, it is determined that conversion of part of the CP2 or CP22 acreage to some other use before 2037 is desirable. It is also important to note that it may be possible to enroll eligible CP2 areas in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program without penalty during the term of the CREP agreement (before 2037).

#### CP2 Areas

A contract signed by WLT on 10/13/22 enrolled Fields 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (the CRP areas shown as cropland) totaling 70.01 acres as CP2 areas, for "Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses".

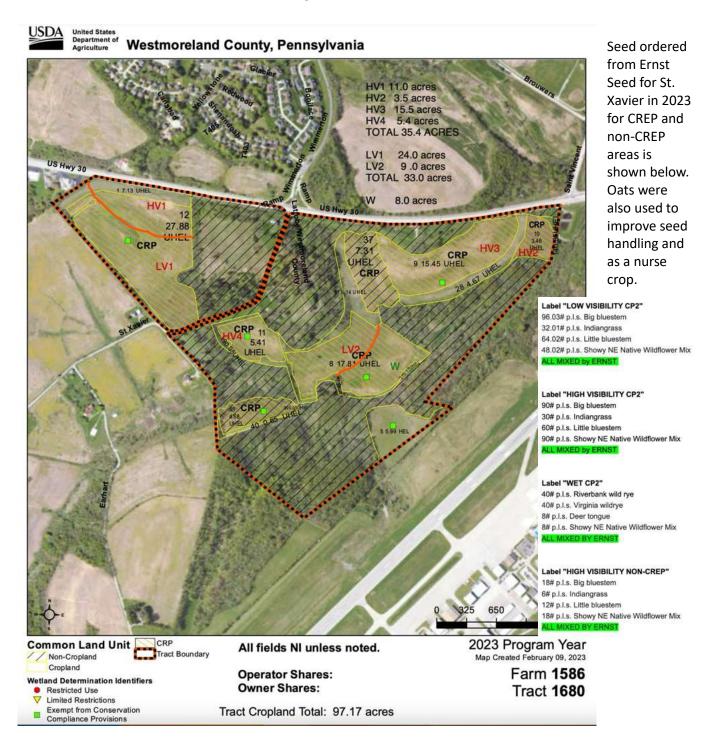
#### CP22 Areas

A contract signed by WLT on 11/9/22 enrolled Fields 37 and 45 (the CRP areas shown as non-cropland) totaling 11.99 acres as CP22 areas, for "Riparian Forest Buffers".

Management of these areas is governed by the CREP contracts, including the provisions of the respective CP2 or CP22 Job Sheets that form part of the contract packages.

#### **CP2** Areas

WLT's objectives for the 5 CP2 field areas are: to establish native grasses and wildflowers to improve the conservation value of these fields; to ensure compliance with CREP requirements for the life of the CREP contract; and to use a higher proportion of wildflower seed to create additional visual interest in areas visible from Route 30 (these areas are designated as HV areas on the aerial).



High Visibility (HV), Low Visibility (LV), and Wet (W) CREP areas are as shown. High Visibility Non-CREP areas are the strips outside of the CP2 fields.

These are the components of the Showy Northeast Native Wildflower Mix from Ernst Seeds (used as a component of the CP2 plantings):



Ernst Conservation Seeds 8884 Mercer Pike Meadville, PA 16335 (800) 873-3321 Fax (814) 336-5191 www.ernstseed.com

Date: November 18, 2023

#### Showy Northeast Native Wildflower Mix - ERNMX-153-1

	Botanical Name	Common Name	Price/Lb
27.90 %	Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	43.20
8.80 %	Chamaecrista fasciculata, PA Ecotype	Partridge Pea, PA Ecotype	7.20
8.80 %	Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	28.80
6.60 %	Rudbeckia hirta	Blackeyed Susan	31.20
5.90 %	Asclepias tuberosa, PA Ecotype	Butterfly Milkweed, PA Ecotype	312.00
5.90 %	Heliopsis helianthoides, PA Ecotype	Oxeye Sunflower, PA Ecotype	33.60
5.90 %	Penstemon digitalis, PA Ecotype	Tall White Beardtongue, PA Ecotype	168.00
4.90 %	Zizia aurea, PA Ecotype	Golden Alexanders, PA Ecotype	72.00
2.90 %	Liatris spicata	Marsh Blazing Star	252.00
2.90 %	Rudbeckia triloba, WV Ecotype	Browneyed Susan, WV Ecotype	57.60
2.70 %	Baptisia australis, Southern WV Ecotype	Blue False Indigo, Southern WV Ecotype	96.00
2.40 %	Lespedeza capitata, RI Ecotype	Roundhead Lespedeza, RI Ecotype	115.20
1.80 %	Aster oblongifolius, PA Ecotype	Aromatic Aster, PA Ecotype	336.00
1.80 %	Lespedeza virginica, VA Ecotype	Slender Lespedeza, VA Ecotype	216.00
1.80 %	Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	Narrowleaf Mountainmint	168.00
1.80 %	Senna hebecarpa, VA & WV Ecotype	Wild Senna, VA & WV Ecotype	28.80
1.20 %	Aster laevis, NY Ecotype	Smooth Blue Aster, NY Ecotype	336.00
1.20 %	Aster novae-angliae, PA Ecotype	New England Aster, PA Ecotype	336.00
1.00 %	Monarda fistulosa, Fort Indiantown Gap-PA Ecotype	Wild Bergamot, Fort Indiantown Gap-PA Ecotype	96.00
0.90 %	Solidago bicolor, PA Ecotype	White Goldenrod, PA Ecotype	240.00
0.90 %	Solidago nemoralis, PA Ecotype	Gray Goldenrod, PA Ecotype	264.00
0.70 %	Senna marilandica	Maryland Senna	28.80
0.60 %	Penstemon hirsutus	Hairy Beardtongue	480.00
0.40 %	Aster pilosus, PA Ecotype	Heath Aster, PA Ecotype	264.00
0.30 %	Solidago odora, PA Ecotype	Licorice Scented Goldenrod, PA Ecotype	384.00
100.00 %		Mix Price/Lb Bulk:	\$97.77

Seeding Rate: 6-10 lb per acre with 30 lb per acre of a cover crop (grain oats, Jan 1-Aug 1; grain rye, Aug 1-Jan 1)

Herbaceous Flowering Species - Herbaceous Perennial; Pollinator Favorites; Uplands & Meadows

Contains the showiest native forbs common in the Northeast. Excellent for wildlife food and shelter, including pollinators. Mix formulations are subject to change without notice depending on the availability of existing and new products. While the formula may change, the guiding philosophy and function of the mix will not.

WLT secured mowing and spraying of the CP2 field areas before Friendship Farms' **late June 2023 planting of the CP2 areas**. The CREP obligations stated below are defined in the USDA document "PA CRP & CREP Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses (CP2) Job Sheet".

Must:	Maintain ≥ 60% of cover in introduced perennial grasses Keep tall fescue from exceeding 10% of the cover Prevent woody vegetation Control these noxious weeds and reestablish any						
	destr	oyed CP2 cove	er:				
	animated oat broomrape bull thistle Canada thistle common waterhemp dodder	Eur. wand loosestrife giant hogweed goatsrue hydrilla johnsongrass kudzu	mile-a-minute multiflora rose musk/nodding Palmer amaranth poison hemlock purple loosestrife	shattercane tali waterhemp wavyleaf basketgrass			

During the 3-year **Establishment Period after planting (7/01/2023 thru 6/30/2026**), WLT may mow or spray as necessary to control annual grasses or unwanted weeds **but must**:

- a) Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document actions
- b) Mow at a height > 8"
- c) For spraying, follow all label instructions.

During the **Maintenance Period (From 07/01/2026 thru the end of contract on 9/30/2037)**, WLT may mow or spray only as stated below to control annual grasses or unwanted weeds **and must**:

- a) Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document actions
- b) Spot mow or spray *only on areas with weed pressure*, not to exceed 1/3 of any field in a year
- c) Mow or spray only between August 1 and August 31, except with FSA pre-approval d) Mow at a height > 8"
- e) For herbicide use follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of application
- f) Obtain NRCS review and FSA approval for any temporary having or grazing

During the year preceding each period of **Mid-Contract Management** Practices, WLT should contact NRCS to request a site visit. The NRCS site visit, field evaluation, and issuance of specific directions are required for **Mid-Contract Management** Mowing.

**Mid-Contract Management** is described in the CREP contract's Prescribed Mowing Job Sheet and will be required twice during the contract; **once between 10/01/2027 and 9/30/2029 and again between 10/01/32 and 9/30/34**. Additional requirements for Mid-Contract Management Mowing are:

- a) Compliance with NRCS specific directions for mowing
- b) Mow only during August, except with FSA pre-approval
- c) Mow at a height > 8"
- d) Mow in accordance with the "PA CRP & CREP Mid-Contract Mgmt Prescribed Mowing Job Sheet" that forms part of the CP2 contract.

**No later than calendar year 2036,** WLT should assess each of the CP2 fields, and establish a plan for their post-CREP management.

#### CP22 Areas

WLT's objectives for the 2 CP22 field areas are to establish and maintain woody vegetation as a forested area to strengthen its value as a riparian buffer.

WLT secured mowing of the CP22 field areas before Friendship Farms' **late November 2022 planting of the CP22 areas**. Friendship Farms' invoice for purchase and planting of the trees and shrubs reflects their use of 30" tree shelters for shrubs, 48" tree shelters for trees, 4' wire cages for white pines, and mats for all plantings. The highlighted plant list for trees and shrubs was reviewed and approved by FSA and NRCS; there may have been minor adjustments based on availability of tree stock at the time of purchase.

FSF Conservation Contractors, L	0			Basswood		Cedar, Eastern Red
P.O. Box 505	LC.		and the second se	Birch, River		Hemlock
Pleasant Unity, PA 15676			100	Cherry, Black		pine, pitch
5 (724)423-1545				Flowering		
joe@friendshipfarms.com			25	Dogwood		pine, white
Manager Ma			100	Gum, Black		spruce, norway
NOT THE R.D.			100	Hickory, Pignut		spruce, white
INVOICE			100	Hickory, Shagbark		Spruce, red
ITTOICE			50	Hophornbeam		Total Evergree
BILL TO	INVOICE		100	Hornbeam, Am.		make up < 20%
John Lohr Westmoreland Land Trust		E 10/20/2022 E 11/19/2022	150	Maple, Red		
218 Donohoe Road		S Net 30	150	Maple, Sugar	612	30" shelter
Greensburg, PA 15601			100	Oak, Bur	012	30" stakes
			150	Oak, Chestnut	612	(25/bundle
PURCHASE ORDER			150	Oak, Pin	2380	4' shelters
St Xavier Rip Buffer			160	Oak, Red	2300	4' stakes
			150	Oak, Swamp White	2380	(25/bundle
ACTIVITY	OTY RATE	AMOUNT	150 100	Oak, White Paw Paw	2500	
nursery:Labor Install shrubs/2.5'shelters/mats	4.00	2,448.00	100	Poplar, Tulip		5'shelters
Labor to install trees/shelters/mats			100	Red Bud		5' stakes
nursery:Labor - Install trees/4' shelters/mats Labor to install trees/shelters/mats	2305 4.50	10,372.50	100	Serviceberry,	-	(25/bundle
Labor-build & Install wire cages	63 7.00	441.00	100	Allegheny	2992	mats(100/bun
Labor- build & install wire cages			150	Sycamore	12580	staples(1000/B
nursery:Labor to install white pine with bud cap Plant white pine potted seedlings with paper bud	37 3.50	129.50	2385	Total Trees	121.00	birdnets
cap			2380	Total Needed/Job	1400	(50/bundle
nursery:Tree seedlings	2,380 7.30	17,374.00		Shrubs:		
Containerized native tree seedling		1 107 00	25	Alder, Smooth		
Shrub seedlings Containerized native shrub seedlings	612 7.30	4,467.60		Blueberry,		
nursery:4' Treeshelter	2,280 4.50	10,260.00	50	Highbush		
4' Tubex tree shelter			50	Buttonbush		
4' white cak stake 4' White Oak Stake	2,342 1.25	2,927.50	50	Chokeberry, Black		
nursery:30* tubex treeshelter	612 3.75	2,295.00	25	Chokeberry, Red Dogwood, Gray		
30" Tubex treeshelter	12328 99321	0.0003338	25	Dogwood, Red		
nursery:30* white oak stake 30* white oak stake	612 1.00	612.00	25	Osier		
4' wire cage	63 25.00	1,575.00	50	Dogwood, Silky		
4' vinyl coated wire cage			50	Elderberry		
4' white cak stake 4' White Oak Stake	126 1.25	157.50	40	Holly, Winterberry		
nursery:bud cap with staples	37 0.90	33.30	25	Red Bud		
Bud cap, paper with staples			25	Spicebush		
			25	Tea, New Jersey		
				Viburnum,		
			50	Blackhaw		
				Viburnum,		
			50	Nannyberry		
			50	Witchhazel		
ACTIVITY	OTY RATE		615	Total Shrubs		
Weed barrier mats 3x3' Vispore weed barrier mat	2,992 1.75	5,236.00	612	total shrubs needed		
www.reporter mode beings men				needeu		
	DALAR IN	58.328.90				
Thank you!	PAYMENT BALANCE DUE	58,328.30				

The CREP obligations stated below for the CP22 areas are defined in the USDA document "PA CRP & CREP Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22) Job Sheet".

ist: Maintain $\geq$ 60% of canopy cover OR 70% of the number of							
trees and shrubs originally planted (Note: both can							
include acceptable volunteer native trees or shrubs)							
Control these noxious weeds and reestablish any							
destroyed CP22 trees and/or shrubs:							
animated oat broomrape buil thistle Canada thistle common waterhemp	shattercane tali waterhemp wavyleaf basketgrass						
	include acc Control these destro animated oat broomrape buil thistle Canada thistle	include acceptable volur Control these noxious weer destroyed CP22 tree animated oat Eur. wand loosestrife broomrape giant hogweed buil thistle goatsrue Canada thistle hydrilla common waterhemp johnsongrass	include acceptable volunteer native Control these noxious weeds and rees destroyed CP22 trees and/or s animated oat broomape buil thistle Canada thistle common waterhemp johnsongrass poison hemlock	include acceptable volunteer native trees or shr Control these noxious weeds and reestablish any destroyed CP22 trees and/or shrubs: animated oat broomrape glant hogweed builthistle canada thistle canada thistle by ohnsongrass canada the poly of the shatter common waterhemp poly of the shatter common waterhemp			

During the 4-year **Establishment Period (12/01/2022 thru 11/30/2026)**, WLT may mow or spray as necessary to control annual grasses or unwanted weeds, **but must**:

- a) Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document actions
- b) Mow at a height <u>></u> 8"

c) For spraying, follow all label instructions.

In addition, throughout the use of tree shelters, WLT should:

- a) Inspect shelters at least annually; straighten tipped shelters; replace broken stakes; and remove bird netting if trees are at or above the top of the tube.
- b) Use fabric, mulches, mowing, or herbicides to control weeds around trees.
- c) Remove shelters and stakes when the tube begins restricting tree stem diameter growth. Removing tubes too early may result in a tree unable to support itself. Trees need to grow above the shelter for several years to develop wind hardiness. Freshly exposed tree bark may take several weeks to "harden" and become resistant to damage. Tree shelters may encourage weak, V-shaped branch angles within the tube, especially on opposite branching species. Prune off these weak branches when the tubes are removed. Tree shelters restrict limb formation for the height of the tree shelter.

During the **Maintenance Period (From 12/01/2026 thru the end of the contract on 9/30/2037)**, the WLT may mow or spray only as stated below to control annual grasses or unwanted weeds, **but must**:

- a) Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document actions
- b) Spot mow or spray **only on areas with weed pressure**, not whole fields or pre-set portions of fields, and not to exceed 1/5 of any field in a year
- c) Mow at a height  $\geq$  6"
- d) Mow or spray only between August 1 & August 31, except with FSA pre-approval
- e) For herbicide use follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of application

The WLT should contact NRCS sometime in early calendar year 2027 to request a site visit. This NRCS site visit, field evaluation, and issuance of specific directions are required for this **Mid-Contract Management** Mowing.

**Mid-Contract Management** is described in the CREP contract's Job Sheet and will be required **once between 10/01/2027 and 9/30/2028**. Other requirements for **Mid-Contract Management** Mowing are:

- a) Compliance with NRCS specific directions for mowing
- b) Mow only during August, except with FSA pre-approval
- c) Mow at a height > 8"
- d) Mow in accordance with the "PA CRP & CREP Mid-Contract Mgmt Prescribed Mowing Job Sheet" that forms part of the CP22 contract.

**No later than calendar year 2036,** WLT should assess each of the CP22 areas, and establish a plan for their post-CREP management.

#### **Non-CREP Field Areas**

WLT's short-term objectives for the Non-CREP Field Areas are to - as part of the Master Planning process - assess each of the areas and plan their disposition and management, balancing considerations of habitat quality and sustainability, and utilitarian needs that may be met by the areas.

#### **Woodlands**

WLT's objectives for the St. Xavier woodlands are to strategically use available resources and capacity to nurture habitat quality and sustainability. Deer pressure, invasive plant pressure, and stormwater are among the factors posing stewardship challenges in areas of the St. Xavier nature preserve. With respect to deer management, WLT's Agreement of Sale and Purchase for the property dated January 28, 2021, includes that:

Buyer agrees to initially only allow deer hunting by bow and arrow on the Property unless or until such time as this restriction is found by Buyer, in its good faith, commercially reasonable judgment, to be inconsistent with the best ecological management of the Property.

Stewardship decisions about the St. Xavier woodlands should be guided by consideration of how best to nurture habitat quality and sustainability given constraints in capacity, contractual requirements and constraints, and the challenges of adverse impacts including deer, invasive species, and pathogens.

# WHAT IS **CREP?**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership among farmers, state and federal governments, and private groups that pays landowners to conserve and enhance their land.

Land enrolled in CREP is removed from production and grazing under a 10 – 15 year contract. Enrollees agree to establish and maintain approved conservation practices designed to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on environmentally sensitive land.

Landowners benefit by receiving reliable income on marginally productive land next to creeks and other waterways. In addition to annual rental payments, maintenance payments and signing incentives, many landowners also report improved livestock health, increased production and satisfaction in doing their part to conserve our natural resources.

For more information about Pennsylvania's CREP program or to find the FSA office nearest to you, visit

# **CREPPA.org**

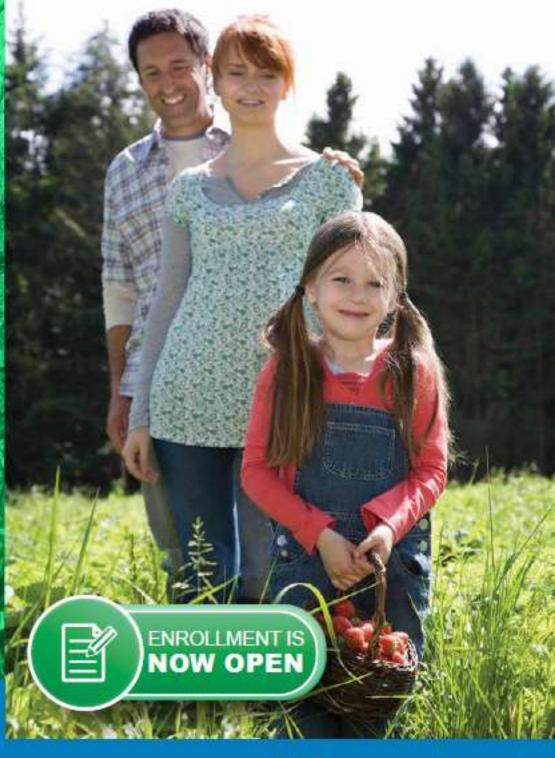
CREP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency.













Financial and other support for the CREP Program Outreach Office and this brochure is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from the USDA-NRCS.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

# Helping Landowners Protecting Natural Resources

Visit us online at **CREPPA.org** 

# BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

# **Enrolling in CREP Benefits Landowners**

- M Reliable income on marginally productive land
- M Improved livestock health; increased production
- M Reduced streambank erosion and soil loss
- Professional help to design and manage conservation practices
- M A public demonstration of good stewardship
- Reduced flooding and cleaner, healthier waterways
- M Improved habitat for fish, wildlife and game

# Landowner Responsibility

To successfully establish and maintain the conservation practices as planned



# CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND RENTAL RATES

# **CREP** Payments

Each CREP contract is unique. Soil type, conservation practices, site slope and other factors are used to determine the annual rental rates and other payments you may receive. Visit www.creppa.org for more information. Contact your local FSA office to speak to a CREP representative about your situation and to calculate payments.

# **CREP** Conservation Practices Include

- Riparian Buffers •
- Establishing Permanent Grasses 
  on Highly Erodible Cropland
- Establishing Permanent Native Grasses .
  - Creating Wildlife Habitat
  - Hardwood Tree Planting
    - Grass Waterways •
  - Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife •
  - Livestock Exclusion from Streams
- Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover .
  - Wetland Restoration •
  - Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
    - Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer •



# HOW TO ENROLL

Landowners with unforested areas close to a stream, pond or wetland may be eligible to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Enrollment begins by contacting the local FSA office to discuss the CREP program and how well suited it is for your particular situation. Next, a CREP representative will visit your land to determine which conservation practices are suitable for you and your property.

An enrollment offer is then prepared which includes the proposed conservation practices, the annual rental rate, the cost share to install the practices and other incentive payments that may be available. After your CREP representative reviews the offer with you and answers any questions you may have, you have 30 days to accept the offer.

For more information or to find the Farm Service Agency Office closest to you visit: www.creppa.org



# Conservation Reserve Program

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT NATIVE GRASSES

#### Wind & Water Erosion Control | Water Quality Enhancement | Habitat



## Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

Native grasses are an effective means to control erosion, improve water quality, and create habitat for grassland and game bird species. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with practices like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

# Why Native Grasses?

With an ever-increasing need to protect fragile ground and increase wildlife habitat, establishing native grasses - grasses indigenous to an area - is an effective conservation strategy. With close to 7 million acres of CP-2 in place, the practice supports many species of plants and wildlife. Offered in **general sign-up** (and under certain conditions as a **continuous sign-up**), CP-2:

- Establishes new or maintains existing cover
- Prevents soil loss from wind and water erosion
- Creates habitat for grassland and game bird species
- Improves water quality by intercepting sediment and nutrients
- Captures carbon

USDA Farm Service Agency

#### Photo courtesy of BLM/MT

## Financial Benefits

#### CP-2 participants are guaranteed:

- 10 years of annual rental payments
- 10% Rental Rate Incentive if enrolled in a wellhead protection area
- Payments covering up to 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the native grass practice
   50% from a Cost Shore Payment and
  - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
  - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) under certain continuous sign-up conditions
- Mid-Contract Management Cost Share
- Additional incentives may be available in your state under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

**CP-2** 





### Eligible Land

- Planted or considered planted 4 out of 6 years between 2008 and 2013
- Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity
- Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions

### Practice Requirements

- Land must not be harvested or grazed during the life of the contract except when managed or emergency having or grazing is authorized
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects and pests should be controlled
- Practice shall be maintained without additional cost-share payments

# Owner/Operator Eligibility

Participants must:

- Have owned or operated the land for more than 12 months prior to program sign-up
- Be in control of the land for the length of the contract
- Meet USDA payment eligibility provisions

### Obligations

Participants will:

- Not harvest or graze the practice area
- Work with USDA-approved conservationist to develop a conservation plan
- Perform periodic management activities according to the conservation plan
- Complete seeding of the practice within 12 months of the effective date of the contract

### Proven Conservation Benefits

- In prime habitat, a 4% increase in CRP vegetation is associated with a 22% increase in pheasant counts
- CRP reduced nutrient losses in FY 2013 by an estimated 565 million pounds of nitrogen and 113 million pounds of phosphorus
- In 2014, CRP lowered greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 43 million metric tons – the same benefit as taking nearly 8 million cars off the road for a year

FSA will ultimately determine participant and land eligibility.

#### For More Information:

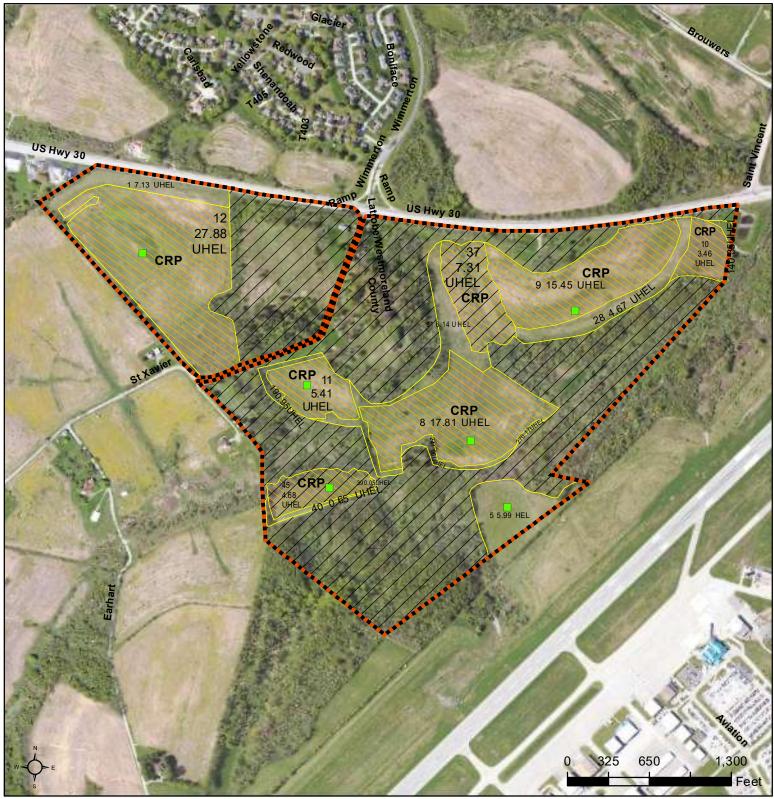
Contact your local USDA, Farm Service Agency: <a href="http://offices.usda.gov">http://offices.usda.gov</a>

Landscape photo courtesy BLM/Montana. Pheasant photo courtesy of Pheasants Forever, Peter Brethelsen



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer





#### Common Land Unit

Non-Cropland Cropland Tract Boundary

#### Wetland Determination Identifiers

- Restricted Use
- ✓ Limited Restrictions
- Exempt from Conservation
- Compliance Provisions

All fields NI unless noted.

Operator Shares: Owner Shares: 2023 Program Year Map Created February 09, 2023

> Farm **1586** Tract **1680**

#### Tract Cropland Total: 97.17 acres

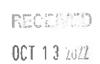
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) maps are for FSA Program administration only. This map does not represent a legal survey or reflect actual ownership; rather it depicts the information provided directly from the producer and/or National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery. The producer accepts the data 'as is' and assumes all risks associated with its use. USDA-FSA assumes no responsibility for actual on the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact boundaries and determinations or contact USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Map created using 2022 NAIP imagery. USDA is an equal opportunity employer, lender and provider.

								Page 1 of 2
		F AGRICULTURE		1. ST. 8	CO. CODE &	ADMIN, L	OCATION	2. SIGN-UP
(07-06-20) C	Commodity Crea	tit Corporation			42	129		NUMBER 57
					TRACT NUMBE	ËR		4. ACRES FOR
CONSERVATION	RESERVI	E PROGRAM	CONTRACT		110	065A		ENROLLMENT 70.01
5A. COUNTY FSA OFFICE	ADDRESS (Incl	ude Zip Code)		6. TRA	CT NUMBER	7. CON1	FRACT PERIOD	
WESTMORELAND COUNTY PA		AGENCY			1680		(MM-DD-YYYY)	TO: (MM-DD-YYYY)
214 DONOHOE ROAD SUITE GREENSBURG, PA15601-75	-			i	1000	10-	01-2022	09-30-2037
				8. SIGN	NUP TYPE:		1	. <u>.</u>
58. COUNTY FSA OFFICE	PHONE NUMB	ER		1		sylvai	nia II-Or	nio River
(Include Area Code); (724	·····			Basi				···· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·
THIS CONTRACT is entered i (referred to as "the Participal CCC for the stipulated contra ecreage the Conservation Pic comply with the terms and C Program Contract (referred to applicable contract period. T thereto. BY SIGNING THIS C addendum thereto; and, CRP	nt".) The Partic oct period from an developed fo onditions conta o es "Appendix "he terms and c ONTRACT PAR	ipant agrees to pla the date the Contra Ir such acreage an ined in this Contra "). By signing belo onditions of this co TICIPANTS ACKNO	ce the designated act is executed by d approved by the ct, including the A w, the Participant onfract are contain DWLEDGE RECEIF	acreage into the the CCC. The F CCC and the Pa ppendix to this acknowledges i red in this Form	e Conservation larticipant also articipant. Addi Contract, antitic receipt of a cop CRP-1 and in ti	Reserve I agrees to itionally, ti ad Append y of the A he CRP-1	Program ("CRP") implement on su he Participant an dix to CRP-1, Co ppendix/Append Appendix and ar	or other use set by ich designated d CCC agree to hservation Reserve ices for the by addendum
9A. Rental Rate Per Acre	\$176.9	95 *MC	10. Identificati	on of CRP Lar	nd (See Page	2 for add	litional space)	
9B. Annual Contract Paymer	nt \$12,36	38.00	A. Tract No.	8. Field No.	C. Practic	e No.	D. Acres	E. Total Estimated Cost-Share
9C. First Year Payment	\$		1680	0008	CP2	2	17.01	\$ 0.00
(Item 9C is applicable only w	hen the first yea	ar payment is	1680	0009	CP2	2	15.45	\$ 0.00
prorated.)	-		1690	0010	CP2	2	3.46	\$ 0.00
11. PARTICIPANTS (I	f more than	three individual	ls are signing, i	see Page 3.)		• · · •		
A(1) PARTICIPANT'S NAME ADDRESS (Include Zip C WESTMORELAND LAND TRUST 218 DONOHOE RD		(2) SHARE	(3) SIGNATURE	(By)		AL SIGNIN NTATIVE	IG IN THE CAPACITY	(5) DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
GREENSBURG, PA15601-6987			by service	m	Executi			10/15/2022
B(1) PARTICIPANT'S NAME ADDRESS (Include Zip C		(2) SHARE %	(3) SIGUATURE	(By)	(4) TITLE/REL INDIVIDUA REPRESE	L SIGNIN		(5) DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
C(1) PARTICIPANT'S NAM ADDRESS (Include Zip C	ode)	(2) SHARE %	(3) SIGNATURE		(4) TITLE/REL INDIVIDUA REPRESE	AL SIGNIN		(5) DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
12. CCC USE ONLY	A. SIGNATO	RE OF CCC REP	RESENTATIVE					B DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
	XII	1						11-9-2022
is the Commodity Cred 3831 et seq), the Agric receive benefits under Tribal agencies, and m identified in the System the requested informat	tit Corporation Ch cultural Implementation ongovernmental e n of Records Noti ion will result in a	arter Act (15 U.S.C. 7 ent Act of 2018 (Pub. Reserve Program. 1 entities that have bear ce for USDA/FSA-2, I determination of inelig	714 et seq.), the Fool L. 115-334) and 7 C. The information coller n authorized access ( Farm Records File (A gibility to participate fi	I Security Act of 1 FR Part 1410 Th Sed on this form n to the information to the information to mated). Provis n and receive bene	985 (16 U.S.C. 36 e information will i nay be disclosed t by statute or regul ting the requested iffis under the Cor	301 et seq.) be used to to other Fec tation and/o d informatio nservation t	, the Agricultural Ad determine eligibility feral, State, Local g or as described in e n is voluntary. How Reserve Program.	r to participate in and povernment agencies, pplicable Routine Uses
and civil traud, privacy,	and other statute	s may be applicable (	to the information pro	vided. RETURN	THIS COMPLETE	D FORM T	O YOUR COUNTY	FSA OFFICE.
In accordance with Federal civil in institutions perticipating in or adm expression), sexual orientation, or civil rights activity, in any program	ninistering USDA disability, age, ma	programs are prohibi Initel status, femity/pai	ited from discriminatii rental status, income	ng based on race, derived from a pu	color, national ori blic assistance pr	igin, religio: ogram, poli	n, sex, gender iden ilical beliefs, or repi	tity (including gender risal or retaliation for prior

Persons with disabilities who require atternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <a href="http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing\_cust.html">http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing\_cust.html</a> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, cell (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Weshington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender







#### CRP-1 (07-06-20)

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#### CONTINUATION OF ITEM 10 - Identification of CRP Land

Page 2 of 2

B. Field No. 0011 0012	C. Practice No. CP2 CP2	D. Acres 5.41 27.88	\$ 0.00
0012	CP2	27.88	\$ 0.00
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GREENSBURG SERVICE CENTER 214 DONOHOE ROAD, SUITE C

#### **Conservation Plan**

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS. NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA WEST CORPORATION

625 ABBOTT RD

BUFFALO, NY 14220

Westmoreland Land Trust 218 Donohoe Road Greensburg, PA 15401

#### OBJECTIVE(S)

The Sisters of Mercy would like to implement CREP CP2 to increase the number of grass species present and reduce soil erosion that is currently taking place on the land by implementing CP2 Conservation Cover to areas that need planted to native warm season grasses

Install the conservation practices, enhancements, and activities according to the implementation requirements, designs, construction plans, or other documents that facilitate meeting the applicable NRCS technical criteria. If you do not have such information, contact your local office before starting to install your conservation practices, enhancements, and activities.

#### **Conservation Cover (327)**

General Cover - Establish and/or maintain permanent vegetation to reduce wind and water erosion, delivery of sediment to surface water, to reduce particulate matter and precursors, and reduce greenhouse gases

Tract: 1680 Fields 10, 11, 12, 8, 9 70.01 ac

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
70 01 Ac	05	2023	-12	

#### Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Low - Enable movement and / or provide food and cover to sustain wildlife that inhabit uplands Application of this practice will meet wildlife habitat planning criteria

Tract: 1680 Fields 10, 11, 12, 8, 9 70.01 ac

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
35.02 Ac	08	2028	-	**
35 02 Ac	08	2029	<u>20</u>	
35 02 Ac	08	2033		
35 02 Ac	08	2034		1992 1992

RECEIVED

CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS AGA) 0-30:22 SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA WEST CORPORATION DATE 8-1-202-7 CERTIFICATION OF CERTIFIED PLANNER 6/30/27 Det CA Westmoreland Land Trust Do

( )

#### PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collections is 0578-0013. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 45/0.75 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information

#### PRIVACY ACT

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USDA	Dep	ted States partment of iculture		PA CRP & ( lishment of Pe Grasses (CP2)	rmanent Native	
Particip	pant:	The Sisters	of Mercy	FSA Contract:		7
Location: 40°16'53.1"N		79*24'43.6"W	County:	Westmoreland	· .	
Farm Number: 1586		86	Tract Number:	1680	~	

#### **Definition:**

The establishment and maintenance of permanent vegetative cover consisting of native warm-season or native cool-season grasses and forbs or legumes.



A well-established CP2 field.



Native warm-season grasses providing winter habitat for wildlife.

#### Purpose:

This practice establishes or maintains vegetative cover of native grasses, forbs, and legumes on eligible cropland to:

1. Provide long-term grassland habitat for wildlife

#### **Description:**

Native warm-season grasses (WSGs) grow best in the summer, and go dormant in mid- to late fall. WSGs include grasses like switchgrass, Indian grass, big bluestern, little bluestern and eastern gamagrass. These grasses grow strong root systems very quickly, but grow leaves and other above-ground structures more slowly. WSGs are excellent for long-term erosion control and improving water quality. As bunch grasses, they do not form dense sod, but retain open spaces among their grass clumps (*see winter picture above*). Legumes and wildflowers can thrive in the open spaces among WSGs. They provide excellent nesting and foraging habitat for wildlife in spring, summer, and fall. WSGs' stiff stems typically remain upright throughout the year; because they don't pack down under snowfall, WSGs provide excellent winter cover for wildlife.

Practice	<b>Guidance</b>	for New	CP2 Acres:

Establish WSGs and legumes/wildflowers in the fields indicated in Table 1 and on the Conservation Plan Map, by following the Site Preparation and Planting Guidance below. Weed control (mowing or herbicide treatment) during the period of three years after seeding may help the WSG cover establish succeessfully. After the WSGs are established, follow the Operation and Maintenance requirements below. CRP/CREP contracts also require periodic management of CP2 acres, which should follow the Mid-Contract Management guidance below.

Site Preparation for New CP2 Acres

Apply appropriate herbicide(s) to CP2 acres, to remove existing vegetation.

Use non-selective herbicides (like glyphosate) when removing all existing vegetation; use selective herbicides (like 2,4-D formulations) when removing broad-leaved vegetation but retaining existing grasses. Extremely vigorous plants may require multiple treatments: apply herbicide(s) in early fall of the year prior to WSG planting, followed by another spring application of herbicides at least two weeks prior to planting. Always follow herbicide label instructions for rate, timing, and methods of herbicide application(s). Take special care to avoid herbicide carryover that may negatively affect the CRP or CREP planting.

SITE-	Site current cover is grass. An initial mowing could be done late summer as part of the site
SPECIFIC	preparation before the first herbicide application in early fall.
NOTES	

Planting Guidance for New CP2 Acres ALL mixes and rates refer to Pure Live Seed (PLS)			ibs of	Items in gray for USDA use only
	lbs / ac	Acres		Seed tag verified?
All native warm-season grasses (chaose one mix)			needed	Yes 🖸 No 🖸
Switchgrass (3 lbs) and deertongue (3 lbs)	6		D	open line and the second
X Big bluestem (3 lbs), Indiangrass (1 lb), and Little Bluestem [2] EVD, WD MIND	6	62.01	373	
Big bluestem (3 lbs), Indiangrass (2 lbs), and switchgrass (1)     EWD_MD_AIWE_SPD	6		0	A STATE AND A STATE OF
Big bluestem (3 lbs), Indiangrass (1 lb), Little bluestem (2) and switchgrass (1) EWD, WD, MWD, SPD	7		0	and person and
Native Wildflowers (pollinator mix recommended, other options must contain > 3 species)	1		0	
Mixed native warm-season and caol-season grasses (choose one	e mix)			Yes 🛛 No 🗍
<ul> <li>Big bluestem (2 lbs), Indiangrass (1 lb), Little bluestem (1 lb), switchgrass (1 lb), sideoats grama (1 lb), and Canada wildrye (2 lbs)</li> <li>EVID VD VVD</li> </ul>	8		0	· · · ·
Big bluestem (3 lbs), eastern gamagrass (2 lbs), switchgrass (1 lb), deertongue (1 lb), and Virginia wildrye (3 lbs) (2007) (2007)	10		0	-14 <sub>12</sub> -
Riverbank wildrye (5 lbs), Virginia wildrye (5 lbs), and switchgrass (1 lb) いう かいの SPD PD	11		o	
Canada wildrye (4 lbs) and switchgrass (3 lbs) END WD VNLD SPD	7		Ð	an e si segu
Native Wildflowers (pollinator mix recommended, other options must contain > 3 species)	1		O	and the
Native cool-season grasses (choose one mix)				Yes D No D
Canada wildrye (3 lbs), Virginia wildrye (3 lbs), Riverbank wildrye (2 lbs), and Bottlebrush (2 lbs) WD MWD SPD	10		0	
Canada wildrye (4 lbs), Virginia wildrye (4 lbs), and Riverbank wildrye (2 lbs) = ett 5 wb, wws	10		0	e The South States
口 Riverbank wildrye (4 lbs), Virginia wildrye (4 lbs), and Canada wildrye (2 lbs) いた たかみ SPD	10		o	CT THE REAL STREET
Native Wildflowers (pollinator mix recommended, other options must include > 3 species)	1		0	ter carrier

\* Abbre ristions represent the following soll drainage dategories. EWD = Excessively Well Drained, WD = Well Drained. NIMD = Moderately Well Drained, SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained. PD = Poorly Drained.

#### Planting Method for New CP2 acres

No-Till drill.

After completion of site preparations, plant the selected seed mixture with a no-till drill, taking care to place seed at the proper depth in the soil. Seeding pattern should be perpendicular to the direction of surface water flow whenever possible.

Please see seed recommendation from our state biologist on the seeding mix to use. (emails attached) For

uplands use seed mix: Big bluestem (3 lbs), Indiangrass (1 lb), Little Bluestem (2 lbs), and could add Native wildflowers (1 lb). \*remember CREP has a 60% grasses requirement.
 SITE-Suggestion for wet portions from state biologist: "Given the wetness of the site and the preference for no switchgrass, I'd suggest the following mix: Riverbank wildrye (5 lbs), NOTES Virginia wildrye (5 lbs), and Deertongue (1 lb). This is a hybrid of two mixes on our Table 122 seed lists/420 IR, and should do well in poorly drained conditions." A 1lb of Native wildflowers (forbs) could be added, but will still to have the 60% grasses requirement for CREP. This wet seed mix will only be used for 8ac on Field 8.

#### Establishment of New CP2 Acres

Warm-season grasses typically need two to three years after seeding to fully establish. During those three years, WSG establishment improves greatly with reduction of competing vegetation and/or weed pressure. As a result, CRP and CREP rules allow mowing and spraying of CP2 acres, at any time during the three years of establishment. Do not mow CP2 acres lower than 8 inches, and follow all label instructions when applying appropriate herbicides. Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document the establishment actions taken.

After the establishment period ends, mowing and spraying must follow the more restrictive timing and guidance given in *Operation and Maintenance*, below. Therefore, NRCS recommends using the available mowing and/or spraying to its full advantage in the establishment years, to promote the most vigorous CP2 cover possible.

#### Operation and Maintenance:

To be compliant with the CRP/CREP contract, 60% or more of the cover on CP2 acreage must be introduced perennial grasses and/or native perennial grasses which are acceptable to CRP/CREP. Non-grass vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife (except woody vegetation) may be present, but cannot exceed 40% of the cover on CP2 acres. Clovers and wildflowers, whether part of an approved seed mix or occurring naturally on the site, are "other species beneficial to wildlife" and cannot exceed 40% of the cover on CP2 acres. Encroachment of tall fescue cannot exceed 10% of the cover on CP2 acres. Woody vegetation in CP2 acres will result in non-compliance with the CRP/CREP contract, because it degrades the grassland value of the habitat and indicates improper maintenance of the CP2 cover.

To control unwanted vegetation and to keep the existing conservation cover in compliance with the CRP/CREP contract, perform maintenance (by spot mowing or herbicide treatment) on specific, limited locations where weeds occur. To avoid permanent damage to CP2 cover, do not mow WSGs below 8 inches. Treatment with appropriate herbicides should always follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of herbicide application. Spot mowing and herbicide treatment can only occur on acres with weed pressure, and cannot exceed 1/3 (33%) of any field in a given year. Both spot mowing and herbicide treatment must occur between August 1 and August 31. If mowing more than 1/3 of a field or spot mowing or herbicide treatment needed at other times of the year—for example, thistle control in May or early June—is needed, it must be requested from and pre-approved by the FSA County Committee.

Control noxious weeds (see list below) on all CP2 acres over the entire length of the CRP/CREP contract. Mowing alone may not be sufficient to control noxious or woody vegetation; a follow-up herbicide treatment may be necessary. Any CP2 cover destroyed must be re-established.

animated oat broomrape buil thistle Canada thistle common waterhemp dodder

giant hogweed goatsrue hydrilla Johnsongrass kudzu

Eur. wand loosestrife

mile-a-minute multiflora rose musk/nodding v Palmer amaranth poison hemlock purple loosestrife

shattercane tall waterhemp wavyleaf basketgrass

Temporary having or grazing of CP2 acres is limited to specific situations (Hay Emergency declared by USDA, weed control via Prescribed Grazing, Mid-Contract Management practices, etc.). All having or grazing activities require review by NRCS and approval by FSA prior to implementation.

#### Mid-Contract Management (MCM):

Implement the MCM practices indicated in Table 2 below, to prolong, improve, or diversify the benefits of the CP2 cover. Specific guidance for each MCM practice chosen can be found on the related Job Sheet(s) included with this CRP/CREP plan. Contact NRCS for a site visit and field evaluation before conducting MCM, to verify that the contracted MCM activity applies to the condition of the site.

By signing this document, the participant agrees to implement the CP2 conservation practice following the technical recommendations provided by NRCS and approved by FSA. Any changes to the CP2 practice must receive NRCS and FSA approval prior to implementation.

Pactor articipant d modifications) 1nist eland

#### Table 1: CP2 Implementation and Schedule Select number (items in grey are for USDA reporting only) of fields Field Year Acres Acres Date Certified by Comments NRCS | Part. Planned Planned Applied Applied 5 17 81 2023 8 2023 9 15 45 3.46 2023 10 11 541 2023 12 27 88 2023 Certification Statement: in the timplementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated NRC5 Representative **Certified By:-**Table 2: Mid-Contract Management Activity and Schedule

	1-001	itract Management Acti	vity and					
Select number				(items.	in grey ore	for USDA rej	porting I	only)
of fields	Field						Certified By:	
10	$\left[ \cdot \right]$	Mid-Contract Management	Acres Planned	Year Planned	Acres Applied	Year Applied	NRCS / TSP	Participant
	8	Prescribed Mowing	8 91	2028				
	9	Prescribed Mowing	7.73	2028				
	10	Prescribed Mowing	1.73	2028				
	11	Prescribed Mowing	2.71	2028				
	12	Prescribed Mowing	13.94	2028				
	8	Prescribed Mowing	8.91	2029				
	9	Prescribed Mowing	7.73	2029				
	10	Prescribed Mowing	1.73	2029				
	11	Prescribed Mowing	2.71	2029				
	12	Prescribed Mowing	13.94	2029				
	8	Prescribed Mowing	8 91	2033				
	9	Prescribed Mowing	7.73	2033				
	10	Prescribed Mowing	1.73	2033	ŀ			
	11	Prescribed Mowing	2.71	2033				
	12	Prescribed Mowing	13.94	2033				
	8	Prescribed Mowing	8 91	2034				
	9	Prescribed Mowing	7.73	2034				
	10	Prescribed Mowing	1.73	2034				
	11	Prescribed Mowing	2.71	2034				
	12	Prescribed Mowing	13.94	2034				

#### **Certification Statement:**

i certify that implementation of this conservation practice is completel meets or verial for the stated ourpose<sub>s</sub>si, and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications

	0	$\bigcirc$	
ertified By:	Х		

 From:
 DiOrio. Dennis - NRCS. Kittanning, PA

 To:
 Carmenatv Martinez. Gisela - NRCS. Greensburg. PA

 Subject:
 FW: [External Email]Changes in St Xavier CREP Contractung Timeline & Additional CP2 Acreage

 Date:
 Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:18:26 PM

Denny (724) 919-5136

From: Gillis, James - NRCS, Harrisburg, PA <james.gillis@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:42 PM
To: John Lohr <norlohr@gmail.com>; DiOrio, Dennis - NRCS, Kittanning, PA
<dennis.diorio@usda.gov>
Cc: Humbert, Elizabeth - FSA, Greensburg, PA <Elizabeth Humbert@usda.gov>; Pontillo, Jason - FSA, Greensburg, PA <jason.pontillo@usda.gov>; Szymanski, Kaycee - FPAC-NRCS, Greensburg, PA
<kaycee.szymanski@usda.gov>; Betsy Aiken <betsyaiken2S@gmail.com>; Colt, Tammy
<tcolt@pa.gov>; Joe <joe@friendshipfarms.com>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Changes in St Xavier CREP Contracting Timeline & Additional CP2

Acreage

I've tried to answer all your questions below (*in blue, right in your original message*), and I hope that helps. If I've missed anything or was unclear, please let me know!

Jim

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From: John Lohr <norlohr@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:20 AM

To: DiOrio, Dennis - NRCS, Kittanning, PA <<u>dennis.diorio@usda.gov</u>>; Gillis, James - NRCS, Harrisburg, PA <<u>james.gillis@usda.gov</u>>

Cc: Humbert, Elizabeth - FSA, Greensburg, PA <<u>Elizabeth.Humbert@usda.gov</u>>; Pontillo, Jason - FSA, Greensburg, PA <<u>Jason.pontillo@usda.gov</u>>; Szymanski, Kaycee - FPAC-NRCS, Greensburg, PA <<u>kaycee.szymanski@usda.gov</u>>; Betsy Aiken <<u>betsvaiken25@gmail.com</u>>; Colt, Tammy <<u>tcolt@pa.gov</u>>; Joe <<u>joe@friendshipfarms.com</u>>

Subject: Re: [External Email]Changes in St Xavier CREP Contracting Timeline & Additional CP2 Acreage

Denny and Jim

With CREP practice etablishment funding, are we permitted to add forbs to your recommended CP2

mix for the wet field? Would it be wise to include forbs here? Yes, you can add forbs to the wet portions of the site. We usually say 1 pound of forbs added to the grass mix. Any more than that may be wasted money, because the density of the CREP grasses will eventually shade the "extras" out. Flower seed is pretty pricey, so you don't want to spend the \$\$\$ just to have a fair amount of it fade out within a couple years.

Also CREP CP2 fields are meant to be mostly grass, not forbs (a minimum 60% grasses) That's a restriction based on the program policy; we know higher amounts of forbs are great for some species of wildlife, but CREP isn't the most flexible program sometimes. But if the other portions of the area do go into WRE, we can do all sorts of forb plantings or grass plantings or tree plantings there, based entirely on what works for wildlife (and you guys, of course!) So don't give up on high density forbs, even if we can't do it through CREP right now

It remains our plan to use at least the 1 lb. of forbs on the upland fields previously designated as CP2 in our CREP application. Of course, that's great too. But please keep in mind my caution above about the cost of the seed and the amount that will eventually survive in a CREP field. And please be sure to separate your seed mixes so that the right seed gets planted in the right place. I don't say that to be mean or arrogant, it's just that I've seen people mix all their seed together and/or confuse which seed goes where. The end result is that, at best, only half the seed you bought is planted in the right place, and at wurst, non-of-it is planted in the right place. That usually happens most often when the person buying the seed isn't the person planting the seed. Again, i'm not trying to be offensive or anything like that, just trying to help you avoid the mistakes of others!

We could look at the lay of the land and avoid wasting our forbs seed in the low spots where there could be standing water after we do the anticipated WRE restoration. That's a very good idea, for two reasons: 1) you don't want to waste your CREP seed, and 2) if you get into WRE, then NRCS pays 100% of the costs as long as they're reasonable. So if you get the property enrolled, we'd cover the seeding costs. I'm not sure how you're looking at it now, but any ground enrolled in CREP would have to be taken out of CREP to go into WRE. So if you and the local staff are pretty confident about getting in to WRE, you may want to make sure there's minimal 'overlap' between the programs' acres. It'll make things a lot easier.

We have been looking at the Ernst Wetland Meadow mix for possible species. Would you have a recommended forbs mix for this wet field? Good choices for wetter areas are: swamp milkweed, Joe Pye weed, wingstem, New York ironweed, and blue vervain. There are other options out there, but they aren't cheap and sometimes they don't germinate as well. I'm a big fan of sticking to the tried and-true basics that establish better and last longer. Plus, most of these are tall enough to be visible in among the grasses, and they offer a variety of colors when they bloom. Plus, there'll be other forbs come up on their own, without having to buy or plant them. Most of them aren't quite as showy as the ones listed above, but they're still great for bees and butterflies—and you can't beat the price!

Thank you. Thank you for your interest in doing conservation! I grew up not too far away, and used to go past these fields fairly often. It'll be nice to see them in the future, knowing they'll be something other than developments and stores! John

On Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 3-12 PM DiOrio, Dennis - NRCS, Kittanning, PA <<u>dennis.diorio@usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Hi, I wanted to run that seed mix past our Biologist, Jim Gillis Unfortunately, that won't work as

there isn't much grass seed in the mix; in order for the land to be in compliance with CREP rules 60% of the cover will need to be grasses when it is established. Jim made this suggestion:

Given the wetness of the site and the preference for no switchgrass, I'd suggest the following mix Riverbank wildrye ( 5 lbs), Virginia wildrye (5 lbs), and Deertongue (1 lb). This is a hybrid of two mixes on our Table 122 seed lists/420 IR, and should do well in poorly drained conditions.

Jim is in the area for a few weeks for some personal business and may swing by the property to look at the site if he gets the chance. If he has any other suggestions, I will pass those along to you folks.

Thanks, Denny (724) 919-5136

From: John Lohr <<u>norlohr@gmail.com</u>>

Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 12:07 PM

To: Humbert, Elizabeth - FSA, Greensburg, PA <<u>Elizabeth.Humbert@usda.gov</u>>, Pontillo, Jason - FSA, Greensburg, PA <<u>jason.pontillo@usda.gov</u>>; Szymanski, Kaycee - FPAC-NRCS, Greensburg, PA <<u>kaycee.szymanski@usda.gov</u>>; DiOrio, Dennis - NRCS, Kittanning, PA <<u>dennis.diorio@usda.gov</u>> Cc: Betsy Aiken <<u>betsyaiken25@gmail.com</u>>; Colt, Tammy <<u>tcolt@pa.gov</u>>; Joe <<u>joe@friendshipfarms.com</u>>

Subject: (External Email)Changes in St Xavier CREP Contracting Timeline & Additional CP2 Acreage

#### Te / id shail

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Liz, Jason, Kaycee, and Denny

To take full advantage of both our agreement of sale with the Sisters and a CREP enrollment, we need to accelerate our timeline for getting an approved CREP contract at St Xavier.

We could now utilize an approved CREP contract for the Sisters as soon as it is ready, but definitely will need it in hand by early-June at the latest.

We will however be requesting that the effective start date of the approved CREP contract be delayed until October 1, 2022.

Additionally, after learning of a potential future opportunity with NRCS to enroll the field we had intended as CP23 in the WRE, we request that our current CREP application be modified to include this entire field in CP2 with a seed mix best adapted to the field's wet conditions.

Could something like the following Ernst seed mix be an option? Wetland Meadow Mix **Mix Composition** 

21.0% Carex vulpinoidea, PA Ecotype (Fox Sedge, PA Ecotype) 20.0% Elymus virginicus. PA Ecotype (Virginia Wildrye, PA Ecotype) 16.0% Carex Jurida, PA Ecotype (Lurid Sedge, PA Ecotype) 12.0% Carex Jupulina, PA Ecotype (Hop Sedge, PA Ecotype) 12.0% Carex scoparia, PA Ecotype (Blunt Broom Sedge, PA Ecotype) 3.0% Verbeng hastata, PA Ecotype (Blue Vervain, PA Ecotype) 2.4% Asclepias incarnata, PA Ecotype (Swamp Milkweed, PA Ecotype) 2.0% Juncus effusus (Soft Rush) 2.0% Zizia aurea. PA Ecotype (Golden Alexanders. PA Ecotype) 1.6% Aster novae-analiae, PA Ecotype (New England Aster, PA Ecotype) 1.3% Carex stipata, PA Ecotype (Awl Sedge, PA Ecotype) 1.0% Bidens cernua, PA Ecotype (Nodding Bur Marigold, PA Ecotype) 1.0% Juncus tenuis, PA Ecotype (Path Rush, PA Ecotype) 0.8% Solidago rugosa, PA Ecotype (Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod, PA Ecotype) 0.6% Verbeng urticifolig, PA Ecotype (White Vervain, PA Ecotype) 0.5% Carex crinita, PA Ecotype (Fringed Sedge, PA Ecotype) 0.5% Eupatorium perfoliatum, PA Ecotype (Boneset, PA Ecotype) 0.5% Helenium autumnale, PA Ecotype (Common Sneezeweed, PA Ecotype) 0.5% Mimulus ringens, PA Ecotype (Square Stemmed Monkeyflower, PA Ecotype) 0.3% Lobelia siphilitica, PA Ecotype (Great Blue Lobelia, PA Ecotype) 0.3% Scirpus cyperinus, PA Ecotype (Woolgrass, PA Ecotype) 0.2% Alisma subcordatum, PA Ecotype (Mud Plantain, PA Ecotype) 0.2% Aster puniceus, PA Ecotype (Purplestem Aster, PA Ecotype) 0.2% Aster umbellatus, PA Ecotype (Flat Topped White Aster, PA Ecotype) 0.1% Penthorum sedoides, PA Ecotype (Ditch Stonecrop, PA Ecotype)

Please let me know asap if there are any problems from your perspective in meeting our advance time table

Thanks again for everyone's help with this CREP application, and we look forward to getting the contract approved in the very near future.

John

--For the Westmoreland Land Trust John R. Lohr 2300 Mt Pleasant Road PO Box 59 Norvelt, PA 15674

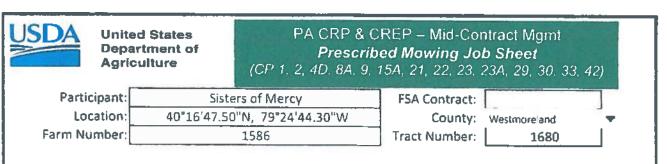
Phone 724 771-3682

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John R. Lohr 2300 Mt Pleasant Road PO Box 59 Norvelt, PA 15674

- -

Phone 724-771-3682



Applicable CREP or CRP Activity: CP 2

#### Purpose:

Prescribed Mowing is a Mid-Contract Management (MCM) activity intended to alter and/or increase the forb diversity or plant structural diversity in long-term CRP and CREP grasses.

For this site, Prescribed Mowing will: (select all that apply)

 Enhance wildlife habitat by increasing structural diversity of plant community. Select Purpose

#### Description:

CRP and CREP fields provide valuable wildlife habitat, but over time they become less diverse and support fewer types of wildlife. Periodic disturbance helps CRP and CREP fields maintain desirable grassland cover made of mostly grasses and forbs. Prescribed Mowing can improve wildlife habitat by rejuvenating forbs and other flowering plants, reducing vegetation which would interfere with the Over-seeding / Inter-seeding of additional plant species, encouraging plant communities with the physical structure of open-land or grassland habitats, and maintaining the early-successional plant species favored by many open-land wildlife species. After Prescribed Mowing occurs, mowed CRP/CREP acres may be over-seeded with a mix of grass and forbs, or may re-grow naturally from existing plants and seeds.

Prescribed Mowing differs greatly from the maintenance mowing allowed by some CRP and CREP contracts. Maintenance mowing focuses on annual reductions of unwanted vegetation within a field, whereas Prescribed Mowing focuses on occasional alteration or improvement of the habitat value of the field. Prescribed Mowing may occur only at specific times in the CRP or CREP contract (see Mowing Timeframes, below), and may include up to half of most CRP/CREP fields. Some CRP/CREP practices (all CP8A, and any CP15A or CP21 practices which are  $\leq$  40 feet wide) may receive a one-time Prescribed Mowing of their entire acreage. Prescribed Mowing does not involve or authorize annual mowing for generic weed control, periodic mowing or mowing for cosmetic purposes, at any time.

#### Practice Guidance:

NRCS will conduct a site visit prior to the implementation of the Prescribed Mowing MCM, to determine the extent of mowing needed, the mowing pattern to follow, and any additional management activities needed to support the Prescribed Mowing. NRCS guidance may vary, based on site-specific conditions.

#### <u>Mowing Heights</u>

To prevent damage to the growing portions of the grasses,

Mow warm-season grasses no lower than 8 inches

#### Mowing Timeframes

Complete the Prescribed Mowing MCM by the date specified in the Conservation Plan and in Table 1 below. Prescribed Mowing shall occur between August 1 and August 31, to encourage and protect the nesting and brood-rearing habitat that CRP and CREP grass fields provide from April 1 through July 31. Prescribed Mowing may occur outside of August, on a case-by-case basis, but only if NRCS recommends it and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) pre-approves it.

The following guidance applies to cost-shared Prescribed Mowing activities during the CRP/CREP contract:

Select the duration of the CRP/CREP Contract: 15 years The one required Prescribed Mowing Should Occur in: in year 4 or 5, but before end of year 9 And if needed, additional Prescribed Mowing\* may occur: before end of year 12

\*FSA may cost-share additional Prescribed Mowing activities, if funds remain in the CRP/CREP contract; contact FSA for further information prior to conducting any additional Prescribed Mowing. Note that the guidance above applies to cost-shared Prescribed Mowing; unfunded or non-cost-shared Prescribed Mowing can occur in any year of the CRP/CREP contract, if recommended by NRCS and pre-approved by FSA.

#### <u>Mowing Patterns</u>

Typically, entire CRP or CREP fields will not be mowed for Prescribed Mowing. NRCS may recommend mowing entire fields, but only in rare cases when management efforts or site conditions warrant such mowing. In most cases, mow roughly half of a field in the first year of the Mid-Contract Management activity, and mow the second half of the field the following year. Do not mow any area twice in two consecutive years as part of the Prescribed Mowing MCM.

A ternating row

Prescribed Mowing will follow this mowing pattern:

#### **Mowing Pattern:**

Mow gray strips in year 1. Mow white strips in year 2. This mowing pattern will allow active management of the vegetation in the field while still retaining useful amounts of habitat for wildlife.

If Over-seeding / Inter-seeding or herbicide treatment of any kind will occur after Prescribed Mowing, use the Alternating Block pattern, because it provides larger areas of disturbance and makes the subsequent seeding and/or spraying significantly easier. If dense patches of undesired vegetation occur in the field, the Alternating Block pattern will most effectively reduce those patches and encourage grass and forb growth.

SITE-	Enter text here	han ah ya takiyin dhe takin takin dhe datan dhe datan dhe datan takin takin dhe datan takin takin dhe datan d	na na pôrez e <b>n p</b> orecerte a concerne e f	ine folo onde door webs <b>a</b> re ar sam is of a and box boost whole	a may in the set of participants of a set of many sector of the set
SPECIFIC					
NOTES					

Residue treatme	
	Leave mowing residues in the field, dispersed evenly across mowed areas. Avoid wind rows, clumping, or other heavy accumulation of residues that will smother the desired cover or prevent success of later activities like over-seeding or herbicide application.
	Remove mowing residues from the field by raking and baling, then destroy or donate residues. Participant must coordinate with and receive approval from FSA prior to removing mowing residues. Annual payment reduction or fee for FSA service may apply.
Additional activi	ties to follow Prescribed Mowing:
	None required. Upon completion of the Prescribed Mowing MCM activities, follow the Operation and Maintenance guidelines given in the applicable Job Sheets (CP1, CP2, CP4D, etc.).
□ .	Inter-seeding / Over-seeding. Diversify plant community by planting seeds on areas that received Prescribed Mowing (refer to Inter-seeding / Over-seeding MCM Job Sheet). After establishment of the new seeding, follow the Operation and Maintenance guidelines given in the applicable Job Sheets (CP1, CP2, CP4D, etc.).
	Strip-Spray Herbicides. Diversify plant community and/or habitat structure by applying herbicide(s) to areas that received Prescribed Mowing (refer to Strip-Spraying Herbicides MCM Job Sheet). After completion of the herbicide application, follow the Operation and Maintenance guidelines given in the applicable Job Sheets (CP1, CP2, CP4D, etc.).

By signing this document, the participant agrees to implement the Prescribed Mowing following the technical recommendations provided by NRCS and approved by FSA. The participant is aware that NRCS must conduct a site visit prior to the Prescribed Mowing, to determine the need for Mowing and provide any updated technical recommendations. Any changes to the Prescribed Mowing activity must receive FSA approval prior to implementation.

(POA)

Participant

NRCS Representativ and Inst

eland

Participant

FSA/COC Representative (new contracts or modifications only)

ect numbe	г							
of fields	Field	Acres	Year	Acres	Year		tified By:	
10		Planned	Planned	Applied	Applied	NRCS / TSP	Participant	Comments
	8	8 91	2028					
	9	7.73	2028					
	10	1.73	2028					
	11	2.71	2028					
	12	13.94	2028					
	13	8.91	2029					
	7	7.73	2029					
	8	1.73	2029					
	9	2.71	2029					
	<u>у</u> Э	13.94	2029					
	8	8 91	2033					
	9	7.73						
	10	1.73	2033					
	11	2.71	2033					
	12	13.94						
	13	8.91						
	7	7.73	<u></u>	<u> </u>				
	8	1.73		· · · ·				<u> </u>
	9	2.71						
	10	13.94	2034					

#### **Certification Statementi**

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purposets), and meets the NPUS conservation practice standard and specifications.

Certified By:

Х **NRCS Representative** 

Westmoreland T1680



Service Layer Credits Source Esn Maxar GeoEye Earthstar Geographics CNES/Arbus DS USDA USGS AeroGRID IGN and the GIS User Community Esri, HERE Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS user community Sources Esn, HERE Garmin, Intermap increment P Corp. GEBCO, USGS FAO, NPS NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esn Japan, METL Esn China



#### **1. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: Westmoreland T1680 Date of Review: 4/12/2021 11:32:50 AM Project Category: Habitat Conservation and Restoration, Upland habitat restoration (planting grasses, native vegetation) Project Area: 281.40 acres County(s): Westmoreland Township/Municipality(s): UNITY TOWNSHIP ZIP Code: Quadrangle Name(s): LATROBE Watersheds HUC 8: Kiskiminetas Watersheds HUC 12: Middle Loyathanna Creek Decimal Degrees: 40.279253, -79.413898 Degrees Minutes Seconds: 40° 16' 45.3098" N, 79° 24' 50.335" W

#### 2. SEARCH RESULTS

Results	Response
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
	No Known Impact No Known Impact No Known Impact

As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate no known impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Therefore, based on the information you provided, no further coordination is required with the jurisdictional agencies. This response does not reflect potential agency concerns regarding impacts to other ecological resources, such as wetlands.

						Page 1 of 1
CRP-1 U.S. DEPARTMENT ( (07-06-20) Commodity Cre		1. ST. 8	42 CO. CODE	2. SIGN-UP NUMBER 57		
CONSERVATION RESERV	3. CON	TRACT NUMBE	4. ACRES FOR ENROLLMENT 11.99			
5A. COUNTY FSA OFFICE ADDRESS (Inc	lude Zip Gade)		6. TRA	CT NUMBER	7. CONTRACT PERI	OD
WESTMORELAND COUNTY FARM SERVICE 214 DONOHOE ROAD SUITE F GREENSBURG, PA15601-7552	AGENCY			1680	FROM: (MM-DD-YYY) 10-01-2022	) TO (MM-DD-YYYY) 09-30-2037
			8. SIGN	NUP TYPE:	ylvania II-	Obio Piwor
5B. COUNTY FSA OFFICE PHONE NUM (Include Area Code): (724)853-8555	BER		Basi		yivania ii-	-onio kiver
THIS CONTRACT is entered into between th (referred to as "the Participant".) The Parti CCC for the stipulated contract period from acreage the Conservation Plan developed fi comply with the terms and conditions cont Program Contract (referred to as "Appendia epplicable contract period. The terms and thereto. BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT PAI addendum thereto; and, CRP-2, CRP-2C, C	tipant agrees to plo the date the Contr or such acreage an alned in this Contra- i'). By signing beh conditions of this c RTICIPANTS ACKN	ace the designated act is executed by of approved by the act, including the A act, including the Contain ow, the Participant contract are contain OWLEDGE RECEIF	acreage into the the GCC. The F CCC and the Po ppendix to this acknowledges red in this Form	e Conservation Participant also i articipant. Addi Contract, entitle receipt of a cop i CRP-1 and in ti	Reserve Program ("Cf agrees to implement o tionelly, the Participar ad Appendix to CRP-1, y of the Appendix/App he CRP-1 Appendix an	RP") or other use set by n such designated it and CCC agres to Conservation Reserve endices for the of any addendum
9A. Rental Rate Per Acre \$170.	36	10. Identificati	on of CRP La	nd (See Page	2 for additional space	and a second
9B. Annual Contract Payment \$ 2,04	9.00	A. Tract No.	B. Field No.	C. Practic	e No. D. Acres	E. Total Estimated Cost-Share
9C. First Year Payment \$		1680	37	CP2	2 7.31	\$ D.00
(Item 9C is applicable only when the first ye prorated.)	1680	45	CP2	2 4.68	\$ 0.00	
11. PARTICIPANTS (If more than	three individua	ls are signing a	see Page 3.)	i		
A(1) PARTICIPANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Include Zip Code) WESTWORDLAND LAND TRUST 312 DONOHOE RD GREENSBURG, FA15601-6987	(3) SIGNATURE ( Jety Ad		(4) TITLE/RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING IN THE REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY EXECUTIVE DIVECTOR		(5) DATE (MM-0D-YYY) 11/09/2022	
B(1) PARTIĈIPANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)	(2) SHARE	(3) SIGNATURE	(Ву)	(4) TITLE/RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING IN THE REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY		(5) DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
C(1) PARTICIPANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)	(3) SIGNATURE	(Ву)	(4) TITLE/RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING IN THE REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY		(5) DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	
12. CCC USE ONLY A. SIGNATU	RE OF CCC REP	RESENTATIVE		· · · · ·		B DATE (MM-DD-YYYY) 11-9-2022
NOTE: The following statement is made in sec is the Conmodity Credit Confordance 3831 at saq), the Agricultural Improven receive banefils under the Conservatio Tribal agencies, and rongovernmental identified in the System of Records Not the requested information will result in a Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Stat	harter Act (15 U.S.C. tent Act of 2016 (Pub. n Roserve Program entities that have bee ice for USDA/FSA-2, a determination of inel	714 et seg.), the Food L. 115-334) and 7 Ci The information collec in authorized access ( Farm Records File (A Igibility to participate in	d Security Act of 1 FR Pari 1410 Th ded on this form n to the information utomated) Provi n and receive ben	985 (16 U.S.C. 36 e information with 1 nay be disclosed t by statute or regu ding the requested efits under the Cor	Út et seg.), the Agricultui be used to determine elig, o other Federal, State, Lo lation and/or as described i Information is voluntary. Iservation Reserve Progra	ral Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C ibility to participate in and scal government agencies, t in applicable Routine Uses However, failure to furnish am.
and civil fraud, privacy, and other statu In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U. institutions participating in or administering USD/ expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, m civil rights activity, in any program or activity com Persons with disabilities who require alternative in	es may be applicable S. Department of Agr. A programs are prohib antal status, family/pe ducted or funded by U	to the information pro iculture (USDA) civil r ited from discriminatii irental status, income ISDA (not all bases ap	vided. RETURN ights regulations a ng based on race, derived from a pu oply to all program	THIS COMPLETE and policies, the U color, national ori blic assistance pro is). Remedies and	D FORM TO YOUR COU SDA, its Agencies, office gin, teligion, sex, gender ogrem, political beliefs, or complaint filing deadline:	INTY FSA OFFICE. s, and employees. and identity (including gender reprise) or retallation for prior s vary by program or incident

the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2800 (voice and TTY) or contect USDA through the Faderal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form AD-3027, found online at <a href="http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing\_cust.lutml">http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing\_cust.lutml</a> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by (1) mail. U.S. Department of Agnculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civit Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, (2) fax: (202) 690-7442, or (3) amail <u>program infake@usda.gov</u> USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



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GREENSBURG SERVICE CENTER 214 DONOHOE ROAD, SUITE C

# **Conservation Plan**

-SISTERS OF MERGY OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA WEST CORPORATION

625 ASBOTT RD

BUEEALO NY 14220

Westmoreland Land Trust 218 Donohoe Rd Greensburg, PA 15601

# OBJECTIVE(S)

The Sisters of Mercy would like to implement CREP CP22 to increase aquatic species habitat and reduce soil erosion and runoff by implementing CP22 Ripanan Forest Buffers adjacent to water body areas

Install the conservation practices, enhancements, and activities according to the implementation requirements designs, construction plans, or other documents that facilitate meeting the applicable NRCS technical criteria. If you do not have such information, contact your local office before starting to install your conservation practices, enhancements, and activities.

#### **Riparian Forest Buffer (391)**

Ripanan Forest Buffer Establish restore or enhance woody plant communities located adjacent to watercourses or water bodies Tract: 1680 Fields 3. 41.99 ac Dr.M. 11-09-2022

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
11 99 Ac	05	2023		

#### Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Low Enable movement and / or provide food and cover to sustain wildlife that inhabit uplands Application of this pragice will meet wildlife habitat planning criteria

# Application of this practice will meet wildlife habitat planning criteria Tract: 1680 Fields 18, 11.99 ac JXX 11-09-2022

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
11 99 Ac	60	2028	-	e.
11 99 Ac	08	2033	57	**

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### CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS

6-3022 / 8-1-2022 FSA PUA) TERS OF MERCY OF THE RICAS, NEW YORK INSYLVANIA WEST RPORATION SIS AN PB CO CERTIFICATION OF Dety Acin 11/09/2022 1/1/22 6/90/22 DATE Hisels M. Carnen CERTIFIED PLANNER b Westmareland Land Trust Date

#### PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OM8 control number. The valid OM8 control number for this information collections is 0578-0013. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 45/0.75 minutes per response including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information.

#### PRIVACY ACT

The above statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U S.C 522a). Furnishing this information is voluntary, however failure to furnish correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of such technical or financial assistance. The information may be furnished to other USDA agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice or other state or federal law enforcement agencies or in response to orders of a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal

#### USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW.

Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (856) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deal, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, targe print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2500 (voice and TDD).

	United States Department of Agriculture		PA CRP & CREP est Buffer (CP22		
P	articipant: T	he Sisters of Mercy	FSA Contract:		
	Location: NORTH	AND SOUTH PLANTING	County:	Westmoreland	•
Farr	n Number:	1586	Tract Number:	1680	

### Definition

Riparian forest buffers are areas of predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and upslope from watercourses or water bodies. Dominant vegetation in buffers is native species of trees and/or shrubs.







Natural riparian forest buffer

# Purpose(s):

Establish and maintain a Riparian Forest Buffer that will: (select all that apply)

1. Create shade to lower water temperatures to improve habitat for aquatic organisms.

# **Description**:

The plants in a riparian forest buffer remove sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in runoff that would otherwise reach streams and other water bodies. Their leafy canopies shade and cool the water, which in turn encourages natural in-steam processes and supports fish and insects. In some cases, those same canopies provide nectar, pollen, and egg-laying sites for pollinators. The buffers offer safety, food and living space for many wildlife species, frequently providing much-needed connecting corridors and linkages across the landscape. The plants in the buffer also improve air quality by removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it as organic carbon in the vegetation and soil.

Practice Guidance for New Riparian Forest Buffers (establishment of new CP22 acres): Establish native trees and shrubs in the fields indicated in Table 1 and on the Conservation Plan Map, by following the Site Preparation, and Establishment guidance below. Weed control (mowing or herbicide treatment) during the period of four years after planting is especially important to help the trees and shrubs establish successfully. After the trees and shrubs are established, follow the Operation and Maintenance requirements below. CRP/CREP contracts also require periodic management of CP22 acres, which should follow the Mid-Contract Management guidance below.

## Site Preparation prior to planting new CP22 acres

Apply appropriate herbicide(s), to remove high amounts of competing vegetation.

Where weed pressure IS a concern, spray the entire CP22 acreage. Treat the entire CP22 area with herbicides, to reduce weed pressure or competing vegetation that will inhibit planting or threaten the successful establishment of the trees and shrubs. If possible, spray rows with a systemic burn-down herbicide like glyphosate, but spray between-row areas with a broadleaf-specific herbicide like 2-4,D, to retain any existing grasses. Extremely vigorous plants may require multiple treatments: apply herbicide(s) in early fall of the year prior to buffer planting, followed by another spring application of herbicides at least two weeks prior to planting. Always follow herbicide label instructions for rate, timing, and methods of herbicide application(s). Take special care to avoid herbicide carryover that may negatively affect the CRP or CREP planting.

Following "Practice Guide for CRP/CREP Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22)" guidelines for requirements, planting, and maintenance. Species selection shall be verified by NRCS forester prior to planting the contract timeframe. To remain in compliance with the CREP contract, tree survival must remain at SITEor above 70% of the original number of plants installed or 60% canopy cover. Replant trees or SPECIFIC SPECIFIC NOTES forester for local planting location within buffer. Trees and shrubs with more tolerance to wet soils

shall be planted closest to stream channel while less wet soil tolerant species planted farest the stream channel. Noxious weeds must be controlled for the entire length of the CREP contract.

Stream or Water Body name: unnamed Buffer Dimensions

All CRP/CREP CP22s must be at least 35' wide, and can usually be a maximum of 180' wide on average. Any CREP CP22  $\leq$  50' wide will receive payments from FSA only, while CREP CP22s  $\geq$  50' wide can receive payments from both FSA and state CREP partners.

	N	ORTH TREES	AND SHRUBS			
Plant trees	and shrubs (bareroot, c	ontainerized, d	or ball-and-bur	lap) on	7.31	ac(s)
Planting at	a spacing of 15' x 13' (1	5' between the	e rows, and 13	' between plar	nts within	
the row}	will require at least	1500	trees and	300	shrubs.	
		SOUTH TREE A	ND SHRUBS			
Plant trees	and shrubs (bareroot, c	ontainerized, o	or ball-and-bui	no (qel	4.68	ac(s)
Planting at	a spacing of 15' x 13' (1	5' between the	e rows, and 13	' between plar	nts within	:
the row) w	ill require at least	880	trees and	262	shrubs.	
	NORTH	Trees and Shru	ıbs			
BUFFER WIDTH	('left' / 'right' are facil p	ng upstream; u Ionds, wetland		hen buffering		
	Left (ft): 180		Right (ft):	180		
BUFFER LENGTH	Left (ft): 915	5 Right (ft):	853			
BUFFER SIZE	Tree/Shrub area=	7.31	acre(s)			
тот/	AL NORTH PLANTING BU		and the second se		-	
		Trees and Shri				
BUFFER	('left' / 'right' are faci	ing upstream; i	use only left w	hen buffering	1	

		$\sim$		
WIDTH		ponds, wetlands, etc.)	1	
	Left (ft):	180 Right (ft): 0	1.1	
BUFFER				
LENGTH	1.000 (00).	1 122 Diaba (ft). 0		
LENGTH	cent (n):	1,133 Right (ft): 0		
BUFFER	Tree/Shrub a	rea= 4.68 acre(s)		
SIZE			NORTH AND S	OUTH ACRES
TOT	AL SOUTH PLAT	NTING BUFFER ACRES = 4.68		11.99
Tree species	s bareroot, con	tainerized, or ball-and-burlap		
Site	Tree Species	Column1	Planned #	Applied #
		River Birch	10	0
		Black cherry	50	Q
		Blackgum	150	0
		Pignut hickory	25	0
		Shagbark hickory	25	0
		Hophornbeam species	200	۵
		Red maple	175	0
		Pin oak	150	0
		Sugar maple	175	0
		Northern red oak	125	0
_		Scarlet oak	150	0
		Swamp white oak	150	0
		Pawpaw	100	٥
		Poplar, Tulip	160	0
		Serviceberry, Allegheny	100	0
		Sycamore	165	0
		Hemlock	25	O
		pine, virginia	50	0
		white pine	100	0
		white oak	200	0
		red bud	95	0
		rubs combined) must be ≤ 0 ntainerized, or ball-and-burlap	2,380	0
Site	Shrub Species	Column1	Planned #	Applied #
		Alder, Smooth	25	0
		Blueberry, Highbush	50	0
		Buttonbush	42	0
		Chokeberry, Black	25	0
		Chokeberry, Red	25	0
		Dogwood, Gray	25	0
		Dogwood, Red Osier	25	0
		Dogwood, Silky	50	0
		Elderberry	50	0
		Holly, Winterberry	40	0
		Raspberry, Black	25	0
		Tea, New Jersey	25	0

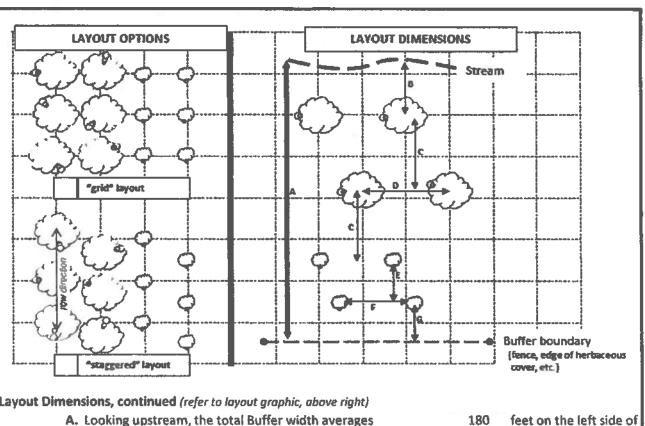
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. 6	
- 1	S
	B County



	Viburnum, Blackhaw	50	0
	Viburnum, Nannyberry	50	Ethell 0
	Witchhazel	30	0
	Flowering Dogwood	25	0
Conifers (	trees/shrubs combined) must be ≤ 0	562	0 200

Shelter Spe	ecifications			Pk	anned #	Applied #	
ري ا	Shelters for deciduous trees:				2,205		
Tree Shelters	shelter type: tr	ee shelters	shelter height:	4'			
L le	Shelters for coniferous trees				175		
	(approved cages or similar large-diame	ter shelter systems	only)				
	shelter type: fei	nce / cages	·	4'			
ub ters	Shelters for shrubs				562		
Shrub Shelters		je multistem e single stem	shelter height: 2'				
	Tota	l # of tree tubes o	or approved similar st	elters =	2,942		
		Total # of 3	' x 3' or similar ground	l mats =	2,942	3 34-2	
						7.3F	
	Stakes for tree tubes or similar system	15		-	2,942	1.185	Ī
Stakes	(assumes one stake per tree tube or sin	nilar shelter)			F		
Stal							
			Total # of	stakes =	2,942		
	Minimum	# of cable ties or	similar attachment m	ethod =	5,884		
SITE- SPECIFIC NOTES	Enter text here						



- A. Looking upstream, the total Buffer width averages 180 feet on the left side o the stream and 180 feet on the right side of the stream, as measured from top of the streambank to the outer boundary of the Buffer (including grass buffer, when applicable).
- B.Distance from the top of streambank to the first row of wet species trees/s 8 feet.
- C. Distance between tree rows is 15 feet.
- D. Distance between trees within a row is 12 feet.
- E. Distance between shrub rows is 15 feet.
- F. Distance between shrubs within a row is 10 feet.
- **G.** Distance from the outer row of plants to the buffer boundary is 0 feet. (Includes Riparian Herbaceous Cover / grass edge, when applicable).

#### Establishment of New CP22 Acres

New trees and shrubs typically need three to four years after seeding to fully establish. During those years, CP22 establishment improves greatly with reduction of competing vegetation and/or weed pressure. As a result, CRP and CREP rules allow mowing and spraying of CP22 acres, at any time during the four years of establishment. Do not mow CP22 acres lower than 8 inches, and follow all label instructions when applying appropriate herbicides. Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document the establishment actions taken.

After the establishment period ends, mowing and spraying must follow the more restrictive timing and guidance given in Operation and Maintenance, below. Therefore, NRCS recommends using the available mowing and/or spraying to its full advantage in the establishment years, to promote the most vigorous CP22 cover possible.

#### **Operation and Maintenance:**

To be compliant with the CRP/CREP contract, either 60% canopy cover OR 70% of the number of trees and shrubs originally planted must be present on the CP22 acres throughout the CRP/CREP contract. Canopy cover or number of woody stems can include acceptable volunteer native trees or shrubs.

To control unwanted vegetation and to keep the existing conservation cover in compliance with the CRP/CREP contract, perform maintenance (by spot mowing or herbicide treatment) on specific, limited locations where weeds occur, rather than whole fields or pre-set amounts of fields (i.e. 1/3 of a field). Mow up to 20% (one-fifth) of any CP22 field in any given year; do not mow below 6 inches in height. Treatment with appropriate herbicides should always follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of herbicide application.

Both spot mowing and herbicide treatment must occur between August 1 and August 31. Spot mowing or herbicide treatment needed at other times of the year—for example, thistle control in May or early June—is possible, but must be requested from and pre-approved by the FSA County Committee.

Control noxious weeds (*seed list below*) on all CP22 acres over the entire length of the CRP/CREP contract. Mowing alone may not be sufficient to control noxious or invasive vegetation; a follow-up herbicide treatment may be necessary. Any CP22 trees aand/or shrubs destroyed must be re-established.

animated oat	giant hogweed	musk/nodding thistle
broomrape	goatsrue	Palmer amaranth
bull thistle	hydrilla	poison hemlock
Canada thistle	johnsongrass	purple loosestrife
common waterhemp	kudzu	shattercane
dodder	mile-a-minute	tall waterhemp
Eur. wand loosestrife	multiflora rose	wavyleaf basketgrass

#### Mid-Contract Management (MCM):

Implement the MCM practices indicated in Table 2 below, to prolong, improve, or diversify the benefits of the CP22 cover. Specific guidance for each MCM practice chosen can be found on the related *Job Sheet* (s) included with this CRP/CREP plan. Contact NRCS for a site visit and field evaluation before conducting MCM, to verify that the contracted MCM activity applies to the condition of the site. Maintain stakes, cages, tubes, and planting the length of contract.

By signing this document, the participant agrees to implement the Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22) conservation practice, following the technical recommendations provided by NRCS and approved by FSA and you shall maintain the site the length of contract.

Participant

FSA / COC Representative

(new contracts or modifications only)

eland Digitally signed by JAMES MES PALMER PALMER Date: 2022.09.26 10:54:54 -04'00' **NRCS** Representative

151

number of fields 2	- Field	Acres Planned	Year Planned	Acres Applied	Date Applied	Certi NRCS	ified by TSP	Com	ments	90-194 2010
	3/18	7.31	2022	1 Hamilen	4 required			eter laren e	netion	
	ion Statem	4.68	2022	177 Iu plia	pais (svi)			dan yasi	161 2023	v kilos
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USDA Department of Agriculture		PA CRP & CREP prest Buffer (CP22	) Job Sheet	
Participant:	The Sisters of Mercy	FSA Contract:		
Location:	Northern Planting	County:	Westmoreland	
Farm Number:	1586	Tract Number:	1680	

### Definition

Riparian forest buffers are areas of predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and upslope from watercourses or water bodies. Dominant vegetation in buffers is native species of trees and/or shrubs.



Newly planted riparian forest buffer



Natural riparian forest buffer

# Purpose(s):

Establish and maintain a Riparian Forest Buffer that will: (select all that apply)

1. Create shade to lower water temperatures to improve habitat for

## Description:

The plants in a riparian forest buffer remove sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in runoff that Practice Guidance for New Riparian Forest Buffers (establishment of new CP22 acres): Establish native trees and shrubs in the fields indicated in Table 1 and on the Conservation Plan Map, by following the Site Preparation, and Establishment guidance below. Weed control (mowing or herbicide treatment) during the period of four years after planting is especially important to help the trees and shrubs establish successfully. After the trees and shrubs are established, follow the Operation and Maintenance requirements below. CRP/CREP contracts also require periodic management of CP22 acres, which should follow the Mid-Contract Management guidance below.

## Site Preparation prior to planting new CP22 acres

Apply appropriate herbicide(s), to remove high amounts of competing vegetation.

Following "Practice Guide for CRP/CREP Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22)" guidelines for requirements, planting, and maintenance. Species selection shall be verified by NRCS forester prior to planting the contract timeframe. To remain in compliance with the CREP contract, tree survival must remain at or above 70% of the original number of plants installed or 60% canopy cover. Replant trees or shrubs that do not survive to meet the SPECIFIC
 70% survival or 60% canopy requirements. Consult NRCS forester for local planting location within buffer. Trees and shrubs with more tolerance to wet soils shall be planted closest to stream channel while less wet soil tolerant species planted exterior. Noxious weeds must be controlled for the entire length of the CREP contract.

#### Stream or Water Body name: unnamed Buffer Dimensions

All CRP/CREP CP22s must be at least 35' wide, and can usually be a maximum of 180' wide on average. Any CREP CP22  $\leq$  50' wide will receive payments from FSA only, while CREP CP22s  $\geq$  50' wide can receive payments from both FSA and state CREP partners.

BUFFER('left' / 'right' are facing upstream; use only left when bufferingWIDTHponds, wetlands, etc.)Left (ft):180Right (ft):180
(eft (ft)- 180 Right (ft)- 180
BUFFER LENGTH Left (ft): 915 Right (ft): 853
BUFFER Tree/Shrub area= 7.31 acre(s)

Plant Materials: Type, Spacing, and Amounts Needed

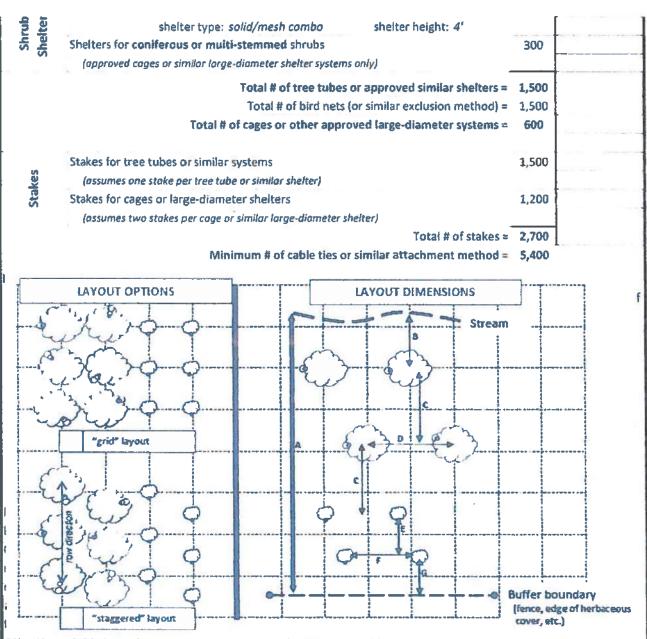
TREES /	Plant trees and shrubs (bareroot, containeri	ized, or ball-ar	nd-burlap) on		7.31	ac(s)
SHRUBS	Planting at a spacing of max 15' x 13' (15' b	between the ro	ows, and 13' bet	tween plant	ts within	
	the row) will require at least	1500	trees and	300	shrub <mark>s</mark> .	

CP22s must include at least four species of trees and two species of shrubs. More species may be used, if desired. See *Tree and Shrub Specifications section* for plant specifications. NRCS must pre-approve plant substitutions. Match species selections and planting locations to site-specific conditions: plant only wet-tolerant species in wet areas, and only dry-site species in upland areas.

A maximum total of 300 conifers (pines, spruces, hemlocks, etc.) may be planted in the

CP22. Conifers are not required; if conifers are included, only native or approved conifers may be used. Consult NRCS forester.

Site	Tree Species	Column1		Planned #	Applied #
		Tree list attached. Cons	sult NRCS Forester with species and list prior	0	0
Shrub spe	Confers Itraes/sit cies bareroot, co	nublinenized, or ba		0	0
Site	Shrub Species	Column1	11	Planned #	Applied #
		Shrub list attached. Co	nsult NRCS Forester with species and list prior	0	0
	$\mathbb{P}^{(i)}(X_{t}^{i})(j t^{i} t) = \mathbb{E}_{t}(t t^{i} t^{i}) + \mathbb{E}_{t}^{i}$	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	0	Û
Sheiter S	pecifications	_		Planned #	Applied #
Shelter S Shelters Lice Shelters	pecifications Shelters for dec		id/mesh combo shelter height	1,200	Applied #



After the establishment period ends, mowing and spraying must follow the more restrictive timing and

#### **Operation and Maintenance:**

To be compliant with the CRP/CREP contract, either 60% canopy cover OR 70% of the number of trees and shrubs originally planted must be present on the CP22 acres throughout the CRP/CREP contract. Canopy cover or number of woody stems can include acceptable volunteer native trees or shrubs.

To control unwanted vegetation and to keep the existing conservation cover in compliance with the CRP/CREP contract, perform maintenance (by spot mowing or herbicide treatment) on specific, limited locations where weeds occur, rather than whole fields or pre-set amounts of fields (i.e. 1/3 of a field). Mow up to 20% (one-fifth) of any CP22 field in any given year; do not mow below 6 inches in height. Treatment with appropriate herbicides should always follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of herbicide application.

Both spot mowing and herbicide treatment must occur between August 1 and August 31. Spot mowing or herbicide treatment needed at other times of the year—for example, thistle control in May or early June—is possible, but must be requested from and pre-approved by the FSA County Committee.

Control noxious weeds (*seed list below*) on all CP22 acres over the entire length of the CRP/CREP contract. Mowing alone may not be sufficient to control noxious or invasive vegetation; a follow-up herbicide treatment may be necessary. Any CP22 trees aand/or shrubs destroyed must be re-established.

animated oat	giant hogweed	musk/nodding thistle
broomrape	goatsrue	Palmer amaranth
bull thistle	hydrilla	poison hemlock
Canada thistle	johnsongrass	purple loosestrife
common waterhemp	kudzu	shattercane
dodder	mile-a-minute	tall waterhemp
Eur. wand loosestrife	multiflora rose	wavyleaf basketgrass

#### Mid-Contract Management (MCM):

implement the MCM practices indicated in Table 2 below, to prolong, improve, or diversify the benefits of the

By signing this document, the participant agrees to implement the Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22) conservation practice, following the technical recommendations provided by NRCS and approved by FSA.

e-Signed by John Lohr For if applicable On 08-05-22

Participant

**Digitally signed by JAMES** PALMER Date 2022.0803 14 39 20 04:00

POA

**NRCS** Representative

<u>×</u>

Participant

FSA / COC Representative (new contracts or modifications only)

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Select										
number of								~		
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USDA Department of Agriculture		PA CRP & CREP Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22) Job Sheet				
Participant:	The Sisters of Mercy	FSA Contract:				
Location:	SOUTHERN PLANTING	County:	Westmoreland	~		
Farm Number:	1586	Tract Number:	1680			

#### Definition

Riparian forest buffers are areas of predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and upslope from watercourses or water bodies. Dominant vegetation in buffers is native species of trees and/or shrubs.



Newly planted riparian forest buffer



Natural riparian forest buffer

## Purpose(s):

Establish and maintain a Riparian Forest Buffer that will: (select oll that opply)

1. Create shade to lower water temperatures to improve habitat for aquatic organisms.

#### Description:

The plants in a riparian forest buffer remove sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in runoff that would otherwise reach streams and other water bodies. Their leafy canopies shade and cool the water, which in turn encourages natural in-steam processes and supports fish and insects. In some cases, those same canopies provide nectar, pollen, and egg-laying sites for pollinators. The buffers offer safety, food and living space for many wildlife species, frequently providing much-needed connecting corridors and linkages across the landscape. The plants in the buffer also improve air quality by removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it as organic carbon in the vegetation and soil.

Practice Guidance for New Riparian Forest Buffers (establishment of new CP22 acres):

Establish native trees and shrubs in the fields indicated in Table 1 and on the Conservation Plan Map, by following the *Site Preparation*, and *Establishment* guidance below. Weed control (mowing or herbicide treatment) during the period of four years after planting is especially important to help the trees and shrubs establish successfully. After the trees and shrubs are established, follow the *Operation and Maintenance* requirements below. CRP/CREP contracts also require periodic management of CP22 acres, which should follow the *Mid-Contract Management* guidance below.

Site Preparation prior to planting new CP22 acres

Apply appropriate herbicide(s), to remove high amounts of competing vegetation.

Following "Practice Guide for CRP/CREP Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22)" guidelines for requirements, planting, and maintenance. Species selection shall be verified by NRCS forester prior to planting the contract timeframe. To remain in compliance with the CREP contract, tree survival must remain at or above 70% of the original number of plants installed or 60% canopy cover. Replant trees or shrubs that do not survive to meet the 70% survival or 60% canopy requirements. Consult NRCS forester for local planting location within buffer. Trees and shrubs with more tolerance to wet soils shall be planted closest to stream channel while less wet soil tolerant species planted exterior. Noxious weeds must be controlled for the entire length of the CREP contract.

	Water Body name: unnamed		
Buffer Dim	ensions		
All CRP/	CREP CP22s must be at least 35' wide, and can usually be a maximu	im of 180' wide o	n average. Any
CREP CP22	$\leq$ 50' wide will receive payments from FSA only, while CREP CP22s	≥ 50' wide can red	eive payments
rom both	FSA and state CREP partners.		
	Trees and Shrubs	ł	
BUFFER	('left' / 'right' are facing upstream; use only left when buffering		
WIDTH	ponds, wetlands, etc.)		
	Left (ft): 180 Right (ft): 0		
BUFFER			
LENGTH	Left (ft): 1,133 Right (ft): 0		
BUFFER	Tree/Shrub area= 4.68 acre(s)		
SIZE			
	TOTAL BUFFER ACRES = 4.68		
Plant Mat	erials: Type, Spacing, and Amounts Needed		
TREES /	Plant trees and shrubs (bareroot, containerized, or ball-and-burla	no (ai	4.68 ac(
SHRUBS	Planting at a spacing of 15' x 13' (15' between the rows, and 13'		
	the row) will require at least 880 trees a	-	shrubs.

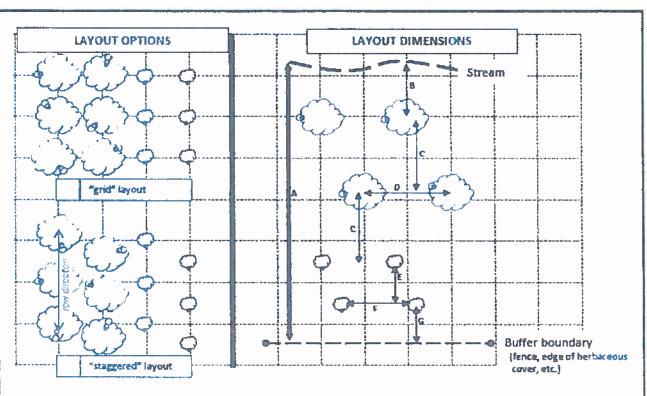
CP22s must include at least four species of trees and two species of shrubs. More species may be used, if desired. See *Tree and Shrub Specifications section* for plant specifications. NRCS must pre-approve plant substitutions. Match species selections and planting locations to site-specific conditions: plant only wet-tolerant species in wet areas, and only dry-site species in upland areas.

A maximum total of 250 conifers (pines, spruces, hemlocks, etc.) may be planted in the CP22. Conifers are not required; if conifers are included, only native or approved conifers may be used. Consult NRCS forester.

Tree spe	cies bareroot, con	tainerized, or ball-and-burlap		
Site	Tree Species	Column1	Planned #	Applied #
		Tree list attached. Consult NRCS Forester with species and list prior	0	0
			0	0
	Court in the court			
Shruh si		rub: complex if must be < 290	0	0
		ncon: company systems here 2500 ntainerized, or ball-and-burlap Column1	0 Planned #	Applied #
	pecies bareroot, co	ntainerized, or ball-and-burlap	0 Planned # 0	O Applied #
Shrub sj Site	pecies bareroot, co	ntainerized, or ball-and-burlap Column1	0 Planned # 0 0 0 0	Applied #

18	t	A
	anned #	Applied #
Sheiters for deciduous trees:	630	<u> </u>
shelter type: solid/mesh combo shelter height: 5'		
Shelters for coniferous trees	0	
(opproved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)		
Shelters for deciduous, single-stemmed shrubs	262	
shelter type: <i>solid/mesh combo</i> shelter height: 4'		
Shelters for coniferous or multi-stemmed shrubs	250	
(approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)		
Total # of tree tubes or approved similar shelters =	880	
Total # of bird nets (or similar exclusion method) =	880	
Total # of cages or other approved large-diameter systems $\approx$	250	
Stakes for tree tubes or similar systems	880	
(assumes one stake per tree tube or similar shelter)		
Stakes for cages or large-diameter shelters	0	
(assumes two stakes per cage or similar large-diameter shelter)		
Total # of stakes =	880	
Minimum # of cable ties or similar attachment method =	1,760	
Enter text here		
	Shelters for deciduous trees: shelter type: solid/mesh combo shelter height: 5' Shelters for coniferous trees (opproved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only) Shelters for deciduous, single-stemmed shrubs shelter type: solid/mesh combo shelter height: 4' Shelters for coniferous or multi-stemmed shrubs (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only) Total # of tree tubes or approved similar shelters = Total # of tree tubes or approved similar shelters = Total # of cages or other approved large-diameter systems = Stakes for tree tubes or similar systems (assumes one stake per tree tube or similar shelter) Stakes for cages or large-diameter shelters (assumes two stakes per cage or similar large-diameter shelter) Total # of cable ties or similar attachment method = Minimum # of cable ties or similar attachment method =	Shelters for deciduous trees:       630         shelter type: solid/mesh combo       shelter height: 5'         Shelters for coniferous trees       0         (opproved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       262         Shelters for deciduous, single-stemmed shrubs       262         shelter type: solid/mesh combo       shelter height: 4'         Shelters for coniferous or multi-stemmed shrubs       250         (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       250         (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       250         (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       250         (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       250         (approved cages or similar large-diameter shelter systems only)       880         Total # of tree tubes or approved similar shelters = 880       880         Total # of cages or other approved large-diameter systems = 250       250         Stakes for tree tubes or similar systems       880         (assumes one stake per tree tube or similar shelter)       880         Stakes for cages or large-diameter shelters       0         (assumes two stakes per cage or similar large-diameter shelter)       0         Cassumes two stakes per cage or similar large-diameter shelter)       0 <td< td=""></td<>

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### Layout Dimensions, continued (refer to layout graphic, above right)

- A. Looking upstream, the total Buffer width averages
   180 feet on the left side of the stream and
   0 feet on the right side of the stream, as measured from top of the streambank to the outer boundary of the Buffer (including grass buffer, when applicable).
- B. Distance from the top of streambank to the first row of trees is 0 feet.
- C. Distance between tree rows is 15 max feet.
- **D**. Distance between trees within a row is 12 max feet. must be  $\leq 12^{\circ}$
- E. Distance between shrub rows is 13 max feet.
- F. Distance between shrubs within a row is 12 max feet. must be  $\leq 12'$
- **G.** Distance from the outer row of plants to the buffer boundary is 0 feet. (Includes Riparion Herbaceous Cover / grass edge, when applicable).

#### Establishment of New CP22 Acres

New trees and shrubs typically need three to four years after seeding to fully establish. During those years, CP22 establishment improves greatly with reduction of competing vegetation and/or weed pressure. As a result, CRP and CREP rules allow mowing and spraying of CP22 acres, at any time during the four years of establishment. Do not mow CP22 acres lower than 8 inches, and follow all label instructions when applying appropriate herbicides. Contact NRCS prior to mowing or spraying, for technical assistance and to document the establishment actions taken.

After the establishment period ends, mowing and spraying must follow the more restrictive timing and guidance given in Operation and Maintenance, below. Therefore, NRCS recommends using the available mowing and/or spraying to its full advantage in the establishment years, to promote the most vigorous CP22 cover possible.

#### Operation and Maintenance:

To be compliant with the CRP/CREP contract, either 60% canopy cover OR 70% of the number of trees and shrubs originally planted must be present on the CP22 acres throughout the CRP/CREP contract. Canopy cover or number of woody stems can include acceptable volunteer native trees or shrubs.

To control unwanted vegetation and to keep the existing conservation cover in compliance with the CRP/CREP contract, perform maintenance (by spot mowing or herbicide treatment) on specific, limited locations where weeds occur, rather than whole fields or pre-set amounts of fields (i.e. 1/3 of a field). Mow up to 20% (onefifth) of any CP22 field in any given year; do not mow below 6 inches in height. Treatment with appropriate herbicides should always follow label directions for rate, amount, and timing of herbicide application.

Both spot mowing and herbicide treatment must occur between August 1 and August 31. Spot mowing or herbicide treatment needed at other times of the year-for example, thistle control in May or early June-is possible, but must be requested from and pre-approved by the FSA County Committee.

Control noxious weeds (seed list below) on all CP22 acres over the entire length of the CRP/CREP contract. Mowing alone may not be sufficient to control noxious or invasive vegetation; a follow-up herbicide treatment may be necessary. Any CP22 trees aand/or shrubs destroyed must be re-established.

animated oat	giant hogweed	musk/nodding thistle
broomrape	goatsrue	Palmer amaranth
buli thistle	hydrilla	poison hemlock
Canada thistle	johnsongrass	purple loosestrife
common waterhemp	kudzu	shattercane
dodder	mile-a-minute	tall waterhemp
Eur. wand loosestrife	multiflora rose	wavyleaf basketgrass

## Mid-Contract Management (MCM):

moreland Land Trust

Implement the MCM practices indicated in Table 2 below, to prolong, improve, or diversify the benefits of the CP22 cover. Specific guidance for each MCM practice chosen can be found on the related Job Sheet (s) included with this CRP/CREP plan. Contact NRCS for a site visit and field evaluation before conducting MCM, to verify that the contracted MCM activity applies to the condition of the site.

By signing this document, the participant agrees to implement the Riparian Forest Buffer (CP22) conservation practice, following the technical recommendations provided by NRCS and approved by FSA.

e-Signed by John Lohr For if appl/cable POA On 08-05-22 Participant Participant Digitally signed by JAMES JAMES PALMER Date: 2022.08.03 14:34:27 PALMER -04'00' FSA / COC Representative **NRCS Representative** (new contracts or modifications only)

Table 1: R	ioar	ian Forest	Buffer (CP2	2) installa	tion						
Select			1								
number of											
fields			Acres	Year	Acres	Date	Cert	ified by	Com	ments	
1	*	Field	Planned	Planned	Applied	Applied	NRCS	TSP			
		# 40	4.68	2022							
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# **Managing Invasive Plants**

Developing a plan for managing invasive plants can be highly beneficial. A plan can serve as a reference while management progresses and can support decision making and problem solving needed to achieve desired vegetation conditions. Having a plan in place also ensures consistency in management efforts as personnel change, helps engage volunteers and is useful as supporting material for writing grants and soliciting partnerships. Invasive plant management planning is built upon a framework that takes into account a myriad of considerations – from operating under policies and laws, to working with adjacent landowners, to selecting control methods that are effective in a particular environment. Planning can be an ongoing process that is adjusted or refined by assessing new information until invasive plant management objectives are achieved, and ultimately, desired vegetation conditions are realized.

After developing a plan, it is beneficial to gather and evaluate information about the nature, quality, ability, extent, or significance of the many factors that influence invasive plant management decisions. These factors may include distribution, abundance, and impacts of invasive plants; ecological characteristics and conditions of a management area; and costs and effects of management activities, all within the context of operational constraints. Assessment is ongoing and integrated throughout the invasive plant management process, evaluating new information and knowledge as it is acquired.

The following invasive plants can be found on the St. Xavier Nature Preserve:

Autumn Olive Russian Olive Japanese Honeysuckle Multiflora Rose Japanese Barberry European Barberry Garlic Mustard Japanese Stiltgrass Oriental Bittersweet Tree of Heaven

#### - Management Methods: Physical

Management methods that use manual or mechanical means to remove, kill, injure, or alter growing conditions for unwanted plants are termed physical methods. Such methods are relatively labor intensive, and may need to be used repeatedly or in combination with other management methods. However, for socially sensitive sites, highly selective physical methods may be desirable because of their minimal environmental impact.

Physical methods typically employ simple, readily available tools and equipment. However, the effectiveness, impacts, and expense of physical methods can vary greatly depending on the type of method used and the characteristics of the infestation and are therefore appropriate for small, localized infestations or infestations in ecologically or socially sensitive areas. Physical methods that can be applied more easily over larger areas, may have more significant non-target effects.

#### - Management Methods: Chemical

Use of chemical herbicides on the property should be limited to situations in which managers or decision makers determine that no other reasonable means of control are available, effective or feasible. Natural or mechanical methods of controlling invasive plants (fire, cutting, hand removal) are preferable to chemical control. The objectives should focus not only on removal or control of the target species, but also on establishing and maintaining desired vegetation conditions and protecting un-infested areas from invasion.

Herbicides can efficiently and effectively suppress or kill unwanted plants and should be used judiciously, safely, and in a way that minimizes adverse effects on non-target resources. Safe and effective use of chemical methods to manage invasive plants requires a working knowledge of how to select and apply herbicides properly and a solid understanding of how herbicides kill or suppress plants. In-depth knowledge of herbicides is also advantageous when chemical methods are discussed with the public.

Use herbicides only in situations where the benefits of controlling invasive populations outweigh the overall risks of using herbicides, and/or other methods are prohibitively expensive, not effective, impractical, or likely to cause more damage than the herbicide.

### - Management Methods: Prescribed Fire

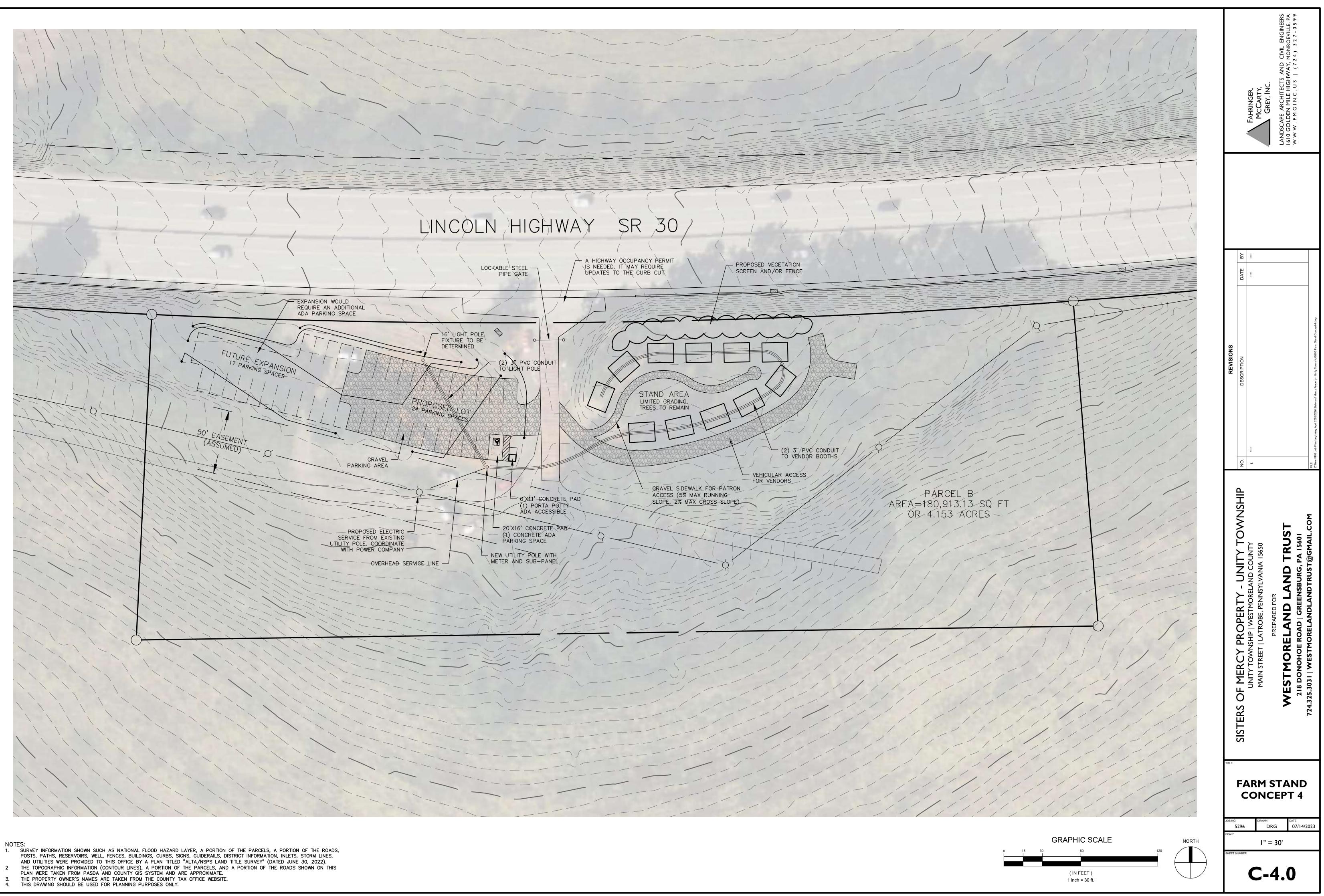
Prescribed fire may or may not be suitable for use on the St. Xavier property due to the property's proximity to U.S. Route 30 and the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. When able to be conducted safely and properly, fire is a powerful, naturally occurring disturbance that influences a complex network of biological communities and ecological processes. Further, prescribed fire is by far the single-best management practice for maintaining early succession communities. Burning consumes dead plant material, and nutrients from the ashes are then moved via rainfall into the top few inches of soil. This increases plant nutrition the following growing season. As dead plant material is consumed, an open structure is created at the ground level. This allows the seedbank to germinate and creates optimum conditions for brooding and foraging. We do not recommend burning all cover in one year. Instead, burn fields on a rotation.

The use of prescribed fire is widely accepted as a primary tool for habitat restoration and management. The effectiveness of fire as an invasive plant management tool depends upon a wide range of variables and is specific to each situation and species. Hence, the effect of fire on individual plants and plant communities is variable. In some cases fire may suppress invasive plant species, whereas in other cases fire may promote plant invasion and plant population expansion.

Today, fire is regularly used to enhance and maintain wildlife habitat in fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce hazardous fuels, and protect property and natural resources. Prescribed fires are intentionally set and allowed to burn under a controlled set of conditions that define a fire prescription. Prescriptions are developed by experienced fire managers and ecologists who work together to create predictable fire characteristics that produce desired results.

#### - Integrated Methods

Combining physical and chemical methods is common and each method can drastically improve the efficacy of the other. For example, comparisons of different control methods for a variety of common invasive plants indicates that pulling and cutting alone are not as effective as cutting and applying a herbicide to stumps. Also, combining mowing with selective herbicides can enhance perennial invasive plant control, probably by improving herbicide contact with leaf surfaces. Of course, as with chemical control alone, use herbicides judiciously, safely, in a way that minimizes adverse effects on non-target resources and only as a last option.



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- 4.

# **Conclusions & Recommendations**

Parks, preserves and natural areas often face conflicting objectives from the different user groups and agendas. Use by the public often creates some degree of degradation of the resource, whereas strict natural preservation provides limited benefits for the community. Stewards of the St. Xavier preserve will need to establish a balance between these objectives. The collaborative vision for the property as established by WLT and the Sisters of Mercy is to establish a nature preserve (with short and long-term management plans including improving the quality of wildlife habitat in the former farm fields and woodlands, possible restoration of the wetlands, and strengthening of the buffer areas flanking Monastery Run and its tributaries) and to provide low-impact public visitation and enjoyment (including accessible trails through the former campus and convent areas, walking trails through the fields and woodlands, and phased additions of visitor amenities along with interpretive signage & materials explaining the history of the property). Furthermore, the WLT wishes to establish a farmer's market on a separate parcel, adjacent to Route 30, within the overall property.

In establishing the property as a nature preserve, and to protect and restore wildlife habitat, occasional maintenance will be required: The open fields, if left undisturbed will begin to add the forbs that will create the meadow. This transition will take several growing seasons. After another several growing seasons, early succession will begin to exhibit itself. By the fifth year, a cycle of every five to ten years will require some action to maintain the meadow and a variety of methods can be utilized; mowing, disking, and prescribed fire. Refer to the CREP contract, and the discussion within this report, for specific maintenance requirements of those areas.

Recreational uses on the property should be in keeping with the collaborative goals and objectives of the WLT & Sisters of Mercy, including conservation, passive recreation and education. Posted signage defining proper use is imperative; no snowmobiles, no off-road vehicles, etc. If it is decided that bicycles or equestrian use is to be permitted, then appropriate signage would be needed. Hiking trails are to be established and should link the various ecosystems (fields, forest, streams and wetlands) to each other and exposes the user to their differences (plants, sun exposure, temperature, topography, etc.). Trailhead signage/mapping is popular and useful along with mileage markers at specific intervals which indicates the distance from the trail head and help the user decide whether to continue or return to the parking area.

Establishment of a handicapped accessible trail accommodates the entire community and would be relatively straight-forward in the former campus and convent areas. It is recommended that signage be provided along the way and/or at the terminus to provide education and enhance interest for those whose limitations would otherwise keep them from enjoying the entire property. Signage could potentially describe the history of the site, wildlife found on the property, or tree species along the trail (a good variety of trees exist in this area).

WLT may find it beneficial to partner with a nearby college (St. Vincent) or high school to utilize their environmental department or biology classes to assist in the maintenance & monitoring of the property, and use this partnership as an outdoor laboratory. This may include cooperation with local schools to develop an on-site interpretive program for elementary and secondary school children. Several wet areas exist on the property (see the drainage features map) and we would recommend a wetland delineation be conducted at some point in the future to identify the extent of these areas. It may be worthwhile for WLT to consider conversion of eligible CP-2 areas to enrollment in the NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program, to consider enrollment of appropriate non-CREP areas in the WRE program, and also to consider other means of establishing wetland areas. It will also be worthwhile to consider reestablishing the connections of Monastery Run and tributaries to their floodplains – we would recommend a separate analysis of the possible enhancements be undertaken at some point in the future.



References & Attachments	
St. Xavier Nature Preserve Open House Flier	
Trib Live Article July 2023	
Trib Live Article September 2023	
Trib Live Article September 2023 (2)	
PNDI Receipt	



# St. Xavier Nature Preserve Open House

September 9, 2023, 10 AM - 4 PM 106 St. Xavier Road Latrobe, PA 15650



An **Open House** will celebrate the opening of the St. Xavier Nature Preserve to the public. The 248-acre property sits along Route 30 just west of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. It was the site of the former St. Xavier Academy and Convent and is well known to many families throughout the region. Although the Academy and Convent were destroyed by fire in 1972, a separate fine 1862-era guesthouse, "Bellbrook", remains. Bellbrook will become a base of operations for the Nature Preserve, with ample capacity for other complementary uses.

The Nature Preserve holds fields, forests, wetlands, and over a mile of Monastery Run, a tributary to Loyalhanna Creek. Westmoreland Land Trust is honored to have worked with the Sisters of Mercy to secure the conservation acquisition of the St. Xavier property; the Sisters will retain ownership of the adjacent St. Xavier Cemetery.

The **Open House** is expected to draw up to 300 visitors. Features will include:

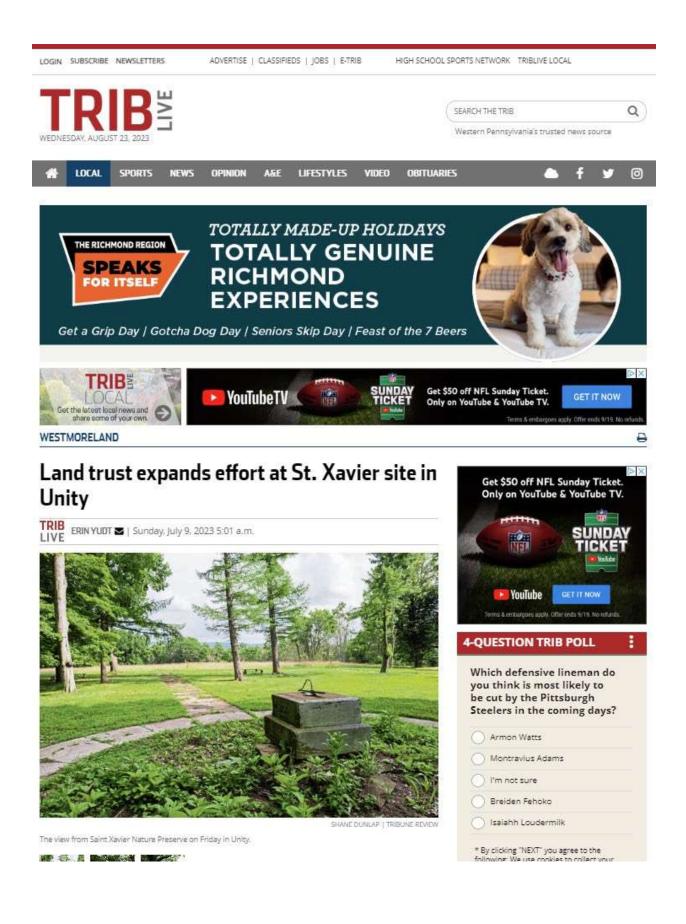
- Tours of Bellbrook
- Tours or self-guided exploration of the nature preserve
- A celebration of conservation of the land
- The opportunity to meet up with some of the Sisters of Mercy & St. Xavier almuni
- Refreshments
- Celtic harp music and children's activities

Sponsorships are available, with recognition in the program for sponsorships of \$100 or more\*

Signature \$1,000Silver \$250Gold \$500Bronze \$100\*Sponsorship must be received by August 20, 2023, for inclusion in the event program.



Westmoreland Land Trust / 218 Donohoe Road / Greensburg PA 15601 westmorelandlandtrust@gmail.com 724 325-3031



The Westmoreland Land Trust is expanding a preservation project at its St. Xavier site by planting native grasses and wildflowers.

Along Route 30 in Unity, the St. Xavier Nature Preserve is part of an ongoing collaboration with Saint Vincent College, which donated cameras and other infrastructure to create livestreams of three bird nest boxes.

The space contains almost 248 acres. It was purchased by the trust for about \$1 million with funds provided by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Conservation Fund Act.

Last October, more than 2,300 trees were planted in the first project designed to preserve the property.

John Lohr, board member and former board chair, said that the trees have been doing very well.

"We purposely planted the trees in the dormant season, and they have been taking very well and did well over winter," Lohr said. "We're working on preserving about 80 of the 250 acres of the property right now."

The St. Xavier Nature Preserve at Route 30 and St. Xavier's Road — across from the Wimmerton housing development — is denoted by a blue state historical marker. The former St. Xavier Academy was the oldest institution of the Sisters of Mercy, a religious group of women who came to America from Ireland in 1843 aiming to serve the sick and needy. That's the group that the Westmoreland Land Trust bought the nature preserve from.

St. Xavier opened in 1845 as Mt. St. Vincent's Young Ladies Academy near today's Saint Vincent College. The two-story, 12-room brick house was made available by the Rev. Michael Gallagher and graduated its first class of 16 students in August 1846.

The first main academy building, a three-story brick structure, welcomed students in 1847 but was destroyed by a fire in 1868. A new school stood in its place two years later and grew in the following decades. In 1928, a hall for boarding boys in grades 1-8 was created.

The academy and convent were demolished after another fire on March 16, 1972.

There is one building left on the property, which is called Bellbrook.

The trust bought the St. Xavier property to help the Sisters of Mercy with their plans for the site.

"The St. Xavier site has years upon years of harsh farming damage, causing the soil to deteriorate, killing vegetation, making wet, swampy areas in some spots," Lohr said. "The Sisters were actually the ones who stopped the farming about five years ago and made plans to restore the property back to its original state; we're just fulfilling their mission."

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The Foodture restaurant is back after legal fight over name

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Aug. 22, 2022

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Aug: 82, 2022

Lohr said that the planting for the native grasses and wildflowers will be done twice to ensure "strong planting."

"The seeds that we're working with ... it's like planting sand," Lohr said. "These plants are slow growing. But the great thing is that they are deep rooted and sustain over time — not as fragile like farming grasses."

The native grass and wildflower planting is part of a partnership between the trust and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which pays farmers to retire and restore land that erodes easily or floods often. The trust is also working with Friendship Farms, a local Latrobe farm, on this project.

Betsy Aiken, executive director of the trust, said that modifications are made to the actual seed mix and drill used to help with plant growth.

"Friendship Farms makes use of a specialized seed drill for the mix that is effective for handling the very small wildflower seeds, and oats are also added to the mix to help with movement of the seed through the equipment," Aiken said. "Grasses include big bluestem, Indiangrass, little bluestem, riverbank wildrye, Virginia wildrye and deertongue. The wildflower seed is Ernst's 'Showy Northeast Native Wildflower Mix.'"

Joe Costello, owner and planter for Friendship Farms, said that this conservation project is special to him.

"My brother and I went to the school (St. Xavier) before it burned down, so it's pretty special to be working on," Costello said. "It also is an exciting project because it will be adding more green space to the area and bringing people back to mature.

"It could have easily been developed and taken away."

Costello said that the wildflower and native grasses planting is expected to take about one more week depending on the weather. The planting started last week.

Erin Yudt is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Erin at eyudt@triblive.com.





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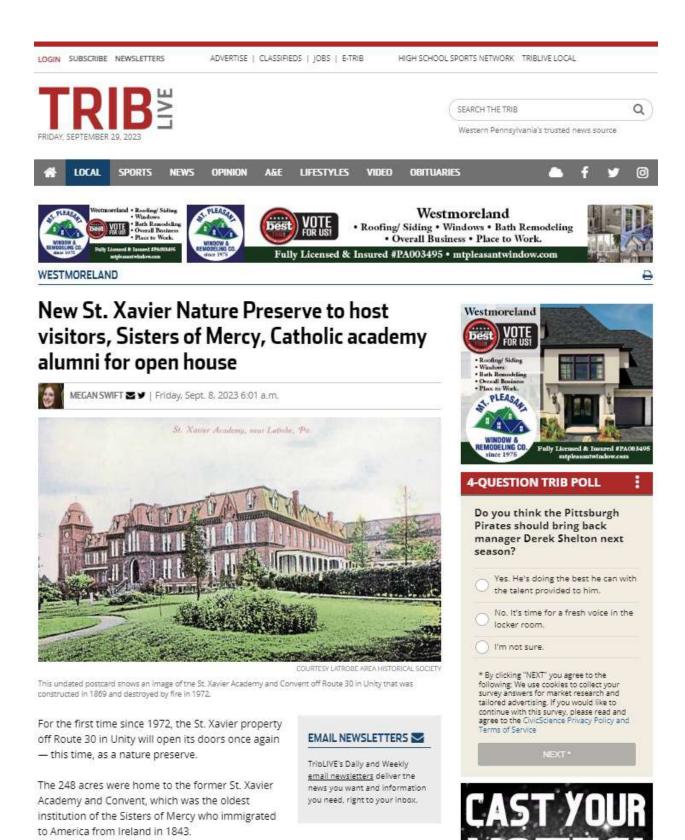
sex assaults on boy

charged with multiple



dump truck hits vehicles makes landfall in South Texas, bringing welcome in Shadyside, 1 hurt rain and cooler Aug. 22, 2023 temperatures

Aug. 32, 2033





Both were destroyed by a fire on March 16, 1972, leaving the separate 1862-era guesthouse — "Bellbrook," a 3,410-square-foot building with 8 bedrooms nearby that was used as a retreat by the Catholic nuns - still standing.

Now, Bellbrook is set to become the base of operations for the new St. Xavier Nature Preserve. The Sisters of Mercy will retain ownership and care of the adjacent St. Xavier Cemetery.

Westmoreland Land Trust's open house for the new nature preserve will last from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, featuring tours of Bellbrook and golf cart tours of the grounds, which include fields, forests, wetlands and more than a mile of Monastery Run, a tributary to Loyalhanna Creek.

Refreshments, Celtic harp music and children's activities also will be offered during the open house, as well as a celebration of conservation of the land at 11 a.m.

Betsy Aiken, executive director of the Westmoreland Land Trust, said the trust worked with the Sisters of Mercy to acquire the property in August 2022 and started conservation work "right away." However, discussion of the conservation of the property began four years earlier — in 2018.

Aiken said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program had two components for about 100 acres of the property: planting trees and shrubs, and planting meadows of indigenous grasses and wildflowers. Field preparation began last fall on the property, and planting began in late spring, she said.

Another aspect of the conservation work, according to Aiken, is "working to manage and control unwanted invasive plants, trees and shrubs" on the St. Xavier property. She said several of the trees along St. Xavier road had either died or lost branches, so work was needed to be done to rejuvenate the grove.

Aiken said the trust is expecting a good turnout at the open house, as there's been "great interest."

"It's a very visible property," Aiken said. "Many of the people ... have connections with the property - either having attended this school, having a relative attending the academy or knowing one of the sisters who resided there."

Several Sisters of Mercy and alumni of St. Xavier Academy are expected to attend, Aiken said, and it will be "a significant event."

Following the open house, the nature preserve will be open to the public, with the Westmoreland Land Trust continuing conservation work on the property and outlining future improvements through a master plan.

Megan Swift is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Megan at 724-850-1204, mswift@triblive.com or via Twitter ¥.



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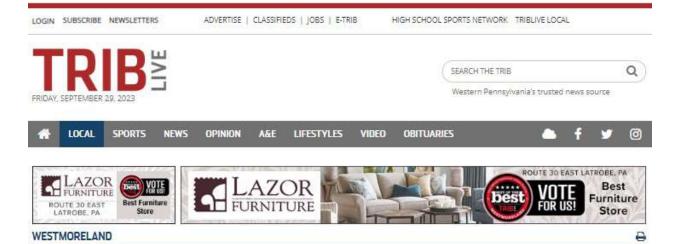
stats, trends, history and Ravens' Lamar Jackson



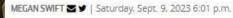


TCU takes 10-game Big

Trib HSSN don't-miss



# 'Homecoming': Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier's Academy alumni return to Unity to celebrate opening of new nature preserve





Sister Sheila Canney of the Sisters of Mercy, an alumni of Saint Xavier Academy, listens to speakers during an open house of the Saint Xavier Nature Preserve on Saturday in Unity.



Barbara Mance was sitting in her English class at St. Xavier's Academy on March 16, 1972, when the fire alarm went off. She walked downstairs, assuming it was just another fire drill.

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#### 4-QUESTION TRIB POLL

Do you believe that the Pittsburgh Pirates will make the playoffs next season?

0	Yes
0	No
Ô	No strong feelings

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She and her classmates were joking that "maybe the old place is finally burning." Upon arriving outside, they discovered it was.

you need, right to your inbox.

"It was sad," said Mance, 69, of Oakland, Md, "There were a lot of tears,"

The fire destroyed the St. Xavier Academy and Convent, which was the oldest institution of the Sisters of Mercy who immigrated to America from Ireland in 1843. And Mance became part of the last class of 18 students at the academy.

But, this weekend, for the first time since 1972, the 248-acre St. Xavier property off Route 30 in Unity opened its grounds to the public — as a nature preserve.

Mance said she traveled from Maryland specifically to attend the open house held at the property Saturday by the Westmoreland Land Trust.

"It's like a homecoming, and I knew that I'd run into some people that I knew and a lot that I wouldn't remember. But I was willing to take a chance," Mance said. "And I wanted to see what they'd done with the property because it holds a lot of fond memories."

St. Xavier's Academy was a part of Mance's life, she said, as she had four sisters who attended before her.

"There were a lot of tears, but I loved living here," Mance said. "You made friendships that have lasted a lifetime "

Mance said, in the aftermath of the fire, she and her fellow seniors were sent to the infirmary to help transport the nuns to the nearby building on the property still standing — Bellbrook, a 3,410-square-foot building with 8 bedrooms that was used as a retreat by the Catholic nuns. It is now the base of operations for the new nature preserve.

"We were helping wheel the nuns out - wheel them down through the grove to this house," Mance said. "It started raining, so we were taking off our jackets and putting them over the nuns' heads trying to keep them dry.

Soon after, the students were transported via bus to St. Joseph's Academy down the road, and they were off school for about two weeks, she said.

Since Mance was one of about a third of the students at the time who lived at the school as a boarder, her belongings had to be gathered and brought over. The 1972 class graduated at St. Joseph's, she said.

St. Xavier's Academy was set to close after the class of 1972 anyway, Mance said, because enrollment was down, which is why the timing of the fire was so strange.

Now, seeing the former site of the academy be turned into a nature preserve is the best case scenario that Mance could have wished for.

"It looks gorgeous," she said.



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Northwestern

Lions win in Green Bay behind 3 TDs from David 12 regular-season Montgomery

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winning streak into visit Fect 28, 2022 from West Virginia

Sept 29, 2022

### Saved for posterity

The property almost did end up with a starkly different fate, Sister Sheila Carney said. She was the one receiving the phone calls with offers to buy the property, and one offer — if accepted — could've established the property as a prison site.

"I think, over the years, we've held a concern about the fact that we no longer had the resources to maintain this land the way it deserved, so to see it come to this conclusion is just amazing," said Carney, 78, of Pittsburgh. "I mean, it's the best possible outcome that there could've been."

She became part of the Sisters of Mercy community in 1967, and since her earliest days, she's been at St. Xavier's for "very significant" moments in her life.

"I love this place," Carney said. "It was a place where the young sisters came in the summer, and things were relaxed a little bit, so there was a lot of fun out here."

She shared her fond memories with attendees of the nature preserve's open house, such as going to get soft serve ice cream on Route 30 when they "occasionally" got a hold of a dime.

The Sisters used to sit on the porch and sing, as well as walk the trails on the property, she said. Carney was able to spend time with Sisters both around her age and ones who were more elderly — who she considered "wisdom figures in the community."

They discussed what drew them to the Sisters of Mercy, as well as stories of their ministry throughout the years, according to Carney.

In 1988, Carney said around 100 Sisters came to the property in the summer for an event called "reverencing the land." They discussed their "responsible stewardship" of the property and cleaned the land up.

Carney was part of the group of Sisters who planted a tree next to Bellbrook — as a symbol of the Sisters' "commitment to this land and to its preservation into the future."

When the tree was planted, "it was just a baby," a little sapling, Carney said. Now, it's around the height of the Bellbrook house.

Though the Westmoreland Land Trust worked with the Sisters of Mercy to acquire the property in August 2022 and started conservation work "right away," <u>the</u> <u>discussion of the conservation of the property</u> began four years earlier — in 2018, according to Betsy Aiken, executive director of the trust.

Carney said the decision to allow the trust to acquire the property was a "very serious" one on the part of the Sisters of Mercy.

"I'd say (it's) a generous decision," Carney said. "I hope that it will really be loved and appreciated by the citizens of this area as much as it has been loved and appreciated by our community." Bill Mihalco, chair of the Westmoreland Land Trust, said he remembers signing the papers in 2022 to acquire the property. Since then, the biggest task has been the rehabilitation of Bellbrook, as well as other conservation work.

Wood from two of the trees on the property was used as flooring in the building, he said.

Mihalco, 72, of Penn Township said the trust has conserved more than 600 acres of land, according to his calculations, and it's looking to keep the St. Xavier property in perpetuity as a nature preserve.

In the next few years, he said, the trust is looking to develop more hiking and walking paths "so the public can come in and enjoy the property more."

As of now, the grove area is probably the best place for the public to go, he said. Seeing everyone at the open house on Saturday was "just unbelievable" for Mihalco.

"To hear the stories that the sisters have and the history associated with it and the love they have for this property and the commitment to make sure that it's preserved — we have a big task ahead of us," Mihalco said. "Hopefully, we're up to the task."

Carney said she's been one of the Sisters who has come to St. Xavier's "most consistently" since she works at Carlow University, and she plans to return, as the Sisters of Mercy are retaining ownership and care of the adjacent St. Xavier Cemetery.

Mance said she was "just so happy" to be back at the property for the open house. It was "nice" to see so many people come back who still "have a fondness" for St. Xavier's, and Carney agreed.

"When I drove up here and saw all these cars and all these people, I was just overwhelmed to see this energy on the land," Carney said. "It's amazing."

Megan Swift is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Megan at 724-850-1204, mswift@triblive.com or via Twitter ¥.

## **1. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: Sisters of Mercy land acquisition Date of Review: 2/19/2021 03:50:39 PM Project Category: Habitat Conservation and Restoration, Land acquisition Project Area: 301.84 acres County(s): Westmoreland Township/Municipality(s): UNITY TOWNSHIP ZIP Code: Quadrangle Name(s): LATROBE Watersheds HUC 8: Kiskiminetas Watersheds HUC 12: Middle Loyalhanna Creek Decimal Degrees: 40.279465, -79.414506 Degrees Minutes Seconds: 40° 16' 46.757" N, 79° 24' 52.2207" W

## 2. SEARCH RESULTS

Results	Response
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
	No Known Impact No Known Impact No Known Impact

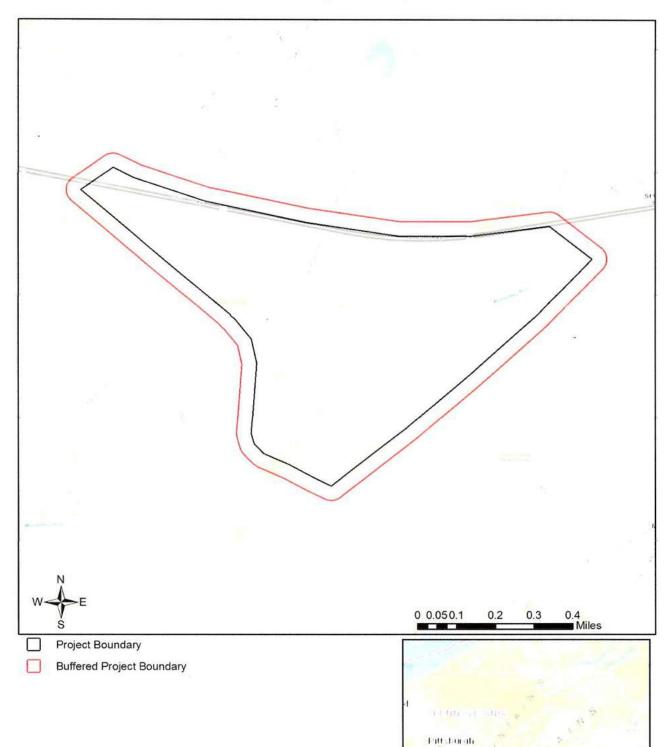
As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate no known impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Therefore, based on the information you provided, no further coordination is required with the jurisdictional agencies. This response does not reflect potential agency concerns regarding impacts to other ecological resources, such as wetlands.



## Sisters of Mercy land acquisition

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China





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## 3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

### PA Game Commission RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

### PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

### PA Fish and Boat Commission RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service RESPONSE:

No impacts to **federally** listed or proposed species are anticipated. Therefore, no further consultation/coordination under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. is required. Because no take of federally listed species is anticipated, none is authorized. This response does not reflect potential Fish and Wildlife Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

### 4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources.

## 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (<u>www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us</u>). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

## 6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

#### PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section 400 Market Street, PO Box 8552 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552 Email: <u>RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov</u>

### PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services 595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823 Email: <u>RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov</u>

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office Endangered Species Section 110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101 State College, PA 16801 Email: <u>IR1\_ESPenn@fws.gov</u> NO Faxes Please

#### PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797 Email: <u>RA-PGC\_PNDI@pa.gov</u> NO Faxes Please

# 7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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## 8. CERTIFICATION

I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (including project location, project size/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate and complete. In addition, if the project type, location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any questions that were asked during this online review change, I agree to re-do the online environmental review.

applicant/project proponent signature

3/101

date