

***Patton Township
Open Space
Property
Community
Engagement Plan***

*Marjorie D. Seward Open Space Property
Haugh Family Preserve
Gray's Woods Preserve*

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Executive Summary

This Recreational Plan for Patton Township’s Open Space properties outlines a strategic vision for enhancing public access while preserving the ecological and historical value of three community assets: the Majorie D. Seward Property, Haugh Family Preserve, and Gray’s Woods Preserve. Together, these properties offer a combined nearly 700 acres of forests, wetlands, and historical landscapes, each with distinct recreational potential and environmental sensitivity.

The plan is guided by five overarching goals: expanding low-impact recreational opportunities, preserving ecological integrity, building community connection, supporting place-based learning, and delivering improvements in a phased, transparent manner. To achieve these, the plan proposes multi-use trail systems, ADA-compliant access, signage upgrades, educational features like QR-coded self-guided tours and historical markers, and a series of community-focused programs including seasonal events, scout partnerships, and youth trail-naming contests.

A key component of the plan is its emphasis on community engagement and stewardship. Volunteers will play a central role through an “Adopt-a-Trail” program and educational partnerships with Penn State. Infrastructure improvements will unfold in four phases through 2031, starting with community surveys and pilot programs and culminating in long-term capital investments and grant-funded initiatives.

This plan represents a coordinated effort between Township staff, partner organizations, local educators, and the public to ensure these natural areas are used, appreciated, and protected for generations to come. By balancing accessibility with sustainability, Patton Township can lead the way in inclusive, conservation-minded outdoor recreation.

Introduction

The development of a recreational plan for Patton Township’s Open Space properties serves a critical role in balancing public access with long-term conservation goals. This plan outlines a vision for safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible recreational opportunities across the Seward, Haugh, and Gray’s Woods properties—three uniquely valuable natural areas in the region. Each site presents its own ecological characteristics and community potential, and this effort seeks to highlight and enhance those qualities through thoughtful planning. By engaging with stakeholders, Township staff, and the broader community, the planning process aims to ensure that these spaces are used and preserved in ways that reflect shared values and sustainability goals. Over the next five years, the Open Space Stewardship Committee is committed to advancing key priorities for these properties: ensuring they are well-managed and responsibly stewarded, promoting low-impact recreational use that prioritizes environmental

preservation, fostering a “leave no trace” ethic among visitors, and increasing public awareness of these open spaces as community assets. This document details the purpose and guiding vision for the plan, provides an overview of the properties and their conservation objectives, and explains the collaborative process that has shaped its direction.

Property Descriptions

Seward Open Space Property

The Seward Property encompasses approximately 36.7 acres and is located off Skytop Mountain Road in Patton Township, Centre County, PA. This scenic parcel stretches along a steep ridgeline with slopes as steep as 50% and is characterized by a mix of forested terrain and diverse soil types. The forest is home to mature stands of oak, hickory, and tuliptree, supporting a wide variety of native plant species and offering sweeping views of the Bald Eagle Valley and adjacent watersheds. Access is available via a grass-covered gravel lane at 1263 Skytop Mountain Road, with plans for a small gravel parking area that will accommodate up to six vehicles. The property is currently open for passive recreation and hunting, with existing hunting stands and a main trail already in place. Future improvements include new trail loops and scenic overlooks. While no rare species have been documented, the area is within the foraging range of three endangered bat species and faces challenges from past storm damage, invasive plants, and a concerning density of spongy moth egg masses. Visitors are drawn to Seward for its peaceful trails, wildlife and bird viewing, and stunning ridge-top views, making it an excellent destination for nature walks, photography, and informal environmental education.

Haugh Family Preserve

The Haugh Property, also known as the Haugh Family Farm Open Space/Haugh Family Preserve, spans approximately 466 acres, with around 238 acres in active farmland and 227 acres consisting of forests, shrublands, and wetlands. This diverse landscape features 34 mapped wetlands covering nearly 27 acres, including vernal pools, Ten Acre Pond, forested swamps, and shrub-dominated barrens. These environments support a wide array of native plant and animal species, such as red maple–blackgum forests and seasonal pools that are essential breeding habitats for amphibians. The property has an existing trail network used for hiking, hunting, and environmental research, suggesting entry is possible through established parking areas. Currently, the site is utilized for passive recreation like hiking and birdwatching, educational field visits, and regulated hunting. Community engagement is evident through trail use and the rentable community gardens, however there is strong potential for further environmental education. The property is ecologically significant, hosting 16 sensitive species including rare plants, marbled salamanders, reptiles, and several dragonfly species. Notably, the preserve is also home to populations of rare butterflies that rely on the elfin host plant, underscoring the need for careful habitat management. Wetlands on the property are particularly vulnerable to invasive species, such as reed canarygrass, which threaten native biodiversity. Visitors are drawn to the Haugh property for its peaceful trails, rich biodiversity, and opportunities to explore rare wetland ecosystems, making it a valuable destination for nature enthusiasts, educators, students, and families.

Gray’s Woods Preserve

Gray's Woods Preserve spans 149.74 acres across Patton and Halfmoon Townships and lies adjacent to State Game Lands #176. As part of the Scotia Barrens Biological Diversity Area, the preserve features gently rolling terrain with an average slope of 5–6%, scattered mining-era depressions, and a range of soil types including Hagerstown and Morrison soils, both considered prime farmland. The property offers a diverse mix of forest habitats, former quarry sites, and unique wildlife areas. Public access is available through two main entry points: one off Gray's Woods Boulevard and another from Heritage Trail Road, with a parking lot conveniently located near the northern end by the playground. The preserve is well-used for recreational activities such as walking and hiking, with a developed trail system already in place. Environmentally, the area is significant for hosting sensitive habitats for rare species including tiger beetles, butterflies, and the threatened Eastern Spadefoot toad. The property is also historically significant, once part of the "Old" and "New" Scotia iron ore mining operations in the late 19th century, visited by Andrew Carnegie and connected to the region's industrial legacy. More information on the Scotia History can be found in [Appendix B](#). Invasive species are present and require continued management at this property. Visitors to Gray's Woods Preserve can enjoy a peaceful, accessible natural setting that supports both outdoor recreation and educational exploration. It's an excellent location for hiking, birdwatching, learning about native species, or simply enjoying a quiet walk in an ecologically rich and historically layered landscape.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Provide safe, enjoyable, and inclusive low-impact recreational opportunities across all three properties.

- Expand and improve trail networks at all sites, prioritizing marked hiking paths and scenic overlooks.
- Organize other activities to engage the community with the open space properties.
- Encourage use of designated spaces for nature observation, reflection, and low-impact recreational activities.

GOAL 2: Preserve the ecological integrity and natural habitats of all properties.

- Implement leave no trace signage and educational materials to the properties and in all marketing mediums.
- Create and maintain pollinator habitats.
- Prevent recreational overuse in sensitive areas through trail planning and education.

GOAL 3: Foster a sense of ownership and connection between the public and the open space properties.

- Host community-driven initiatives like a trail naming contest with local schools to promote family involvement.

- Collaborate with existing outdoor clubs to organize birdwatching outings and nature events.
- Use storytelling and public recognition to build long-term emotional investment.

GOAL 4: Position the properties as platforms for place-based learning and academic exploration.

- Develop interpretive signage and QR code-based tours to highlight natural history and forest ecology.
- Integrate site visits and lectures into Penn State classes related to forestry, wildlife, and history.
- Finalize a Township research policy to facilitate student and faculty-led studies on-site.
- Publicly highlight research conducted at the sites to encourage transparency and mutual recognition.

GOAL 5: Deliver improvements and information access in a phased, transparent manner.

- Follow the established property timelines for adding trail signage, overlook benches, engagement initiatives and accessibility upgrades.
- Centralize all maps, brochures, and property information on a dedicated section of the Township's website.
- Coordinate long-term recreational planning with community input, Township oversight, and adaptive strategies.

Recreational Opportunities & Recommendations

Trail Development

- **Proposed Trail Types and Additions (hiking, biking, accessible):** Develop a range of trails to accommodate various users, including designated footpaths for hikers, dedicated biking routes, and ADA-compliant loops to ensure inclusive access. To minimize user conflict, hiking and biking trails should have separate trailheads or clear directional signage. At least one trail loop at each property could meet ADA guidelines to maximize inclusivity, featuring stable surfaces, gentle slopes ($\leq 5\%$ where possible), and a minimum width of 36 inches to support mobility devices. While the existing trail connection from Patton Woods to the Scotia Barrens is usable, user feedback on AllTrails.com suggests the route needs improvement. Reviews noted issues such as unclear markings, fallen trees, and overgrown sections. One user commented, "Confusing, a lot of downed trees and overgrown areas," while another wrote, "Not very well marked," and "I needed Siri to walk me back to my car." These insights highlight the need for clearer signage, improved trail maintenance, and better user navigation tools.

- **Trail Maps:** While Purple Lizard maps are thorough and highly detailed, not all users will have an up-to-date copy or be frequent enough trail users to invest in the \$17 map. To enhance on-site navigation without undermining Purple Lizard’s business, installing weatherproof trailhead panels that include key details such as elevation profiles, loop distances, points of interest, and emergency contact information is recommended. Additionally, QR codes can be placed at major wayfinding points in the trail system, linking visitors to a simplified digital version of the trail map for easy navigation. These QR links can also promote Purple Lizard’s website, offering users the option to purchase the full, comprehensive map if they are interested in a deeper resource.
- **Naming Strategies and Community Contests:** Engaging the public through trail naming contests is a great way to build community ownership and a deeper connection to the Open Space properties. To add a meaningful and creative dimension, themed naming strategies can be used to tell a story unique to each site. One approach is to partner with local elementary schools such as Park Forest, Gray’s Woods, or Spring Creek. A selected grade level from each school could be invited to submit their work to name a trail, with the option to include an artistic or writing component tailored to their age group that encompasses their name selection. This not only fosters civic pride but also integrates educational value. Contact information for the principals at each of these schools is provided in [Appendix A.3](#). In addition, for future trails at the Seward Property, trail names could be themed around ice cream flavors—honoring Marjorie D. Seward’s well-documented love of ice cream, as noted in her obituary. A follow-up activity could include polling all elementary students in Patton Township to vote on their favorite flavors, ensuring that even those not directly involved in the main naming contest have a chance to participate and feel included in shaping their local trails.
- **Safety, Signage, and Maintenance:** To ensure visitor safety and preserve the long-term quality of the trail system, standardized wayfinding and safety, signage should be installed throughout each property. This includes difficulty ratings, directional arrows, and mileage markers made from reflective materials for durability and visibility. In addition to signage, a regular trail maintenance routine should be established. Scheduling quarterly volunteer clean-up days through a partnership between the Public Works Department and local Eagle Scout candidates is recommended. These projects would require minimal involvement from Township staff while offering valuable leadership and service opportunities for scouts. Contact information for local troop leaders is available in [Appendix A.3](#).

Educational Features

- **Historical Markers:** Install interpretive signage throughout the properties to highlight the area’s rich history, including its legacy of iron-ore mining and ecological significance. Panels should be placed at key historical and environmental points of interest and constructed with durable, weather-resistant materials. They can feature photos, timelines, and quotes from archival documents to create an engaging, educational experience for visitors. In addition to marking on-site features, signage can also direct visitors to notable historical locations within the adjacent State Game Lands, as some sites of significance extend beyond Patton Township property boundaries. Collaborating with local historians—such as Bryce Boyer—will help ensure the accuracy and depth of the content. Relevant historical documents provided by Mr. Boyer are included in [Appendix B](#). While the history of the Scotia Barrens remains relatively underrecognized, it played a foundational role in shaping State College and the surrounding region—particularly through the development of the iron-ore industry,

which helped pave the way for the growth of Penn State University and the broader community. Preserving and sharing this history offers an opportunity to connect current residents with the roots of their landscape.

- **QR Code Self-Guided Tours:** Install [QR codes](#) at key trail stops to provide visitors with access to rich digital content that enhances their experience. These codes can serve dual purposes—offering interactive trail maps for navigation while also sharing educational insights about local wildlife and the area's iron ore mining heritage. Each QR code should link to a mobile-friendly webpage featuring audio narration, historical photographs, ecological information, and detailed maps specific to that location for an inclusive and fulfilling experience. To ensure inclusivity, the pages should incorporate accessibility features such as text-to-speech functionality and adjustable font sizes. QR codes should be printed on tamper-resistant plates and mounted on trail posts or kiosks for long-term durability and easy visibility. By blending navigation with storytelling, this approach adds both practical and interpretive value to the visitor experience.
- **PSU Class Integration:** Collaborate with [Penn State faculty](#) to integrate the Township's open space properties into academic programming, including course-related field trips, research initiatives, and service-learning projects. Relevant departments may include Recreation, Park & Tourism Management, Agricultural Sciences, and Environmental History. When research is underway, temporary signage should be posted to notify the public and encourage trail users to avoid disturbing students and faculty. Preliminary outreach has already been conducted by the 2025 Patton Township summer intern, Paige Myers. She contacted faculty to gain their interest, introduce them to the properties and the Township's goals, encouraged them to review the conservation plans available on the Township website, and outlined the appropriate steps for requesting site access or launching a research project. Researchers are required to share their findings with the Township, though publication or public sharing is at the discretion of the researcher. Paige's outreach efforts are available in [Appendix C.2](#).

Outreach & Community Use

- **Birdwatching Clubs:** Partner with [local birdwatching organizations](#) to host guided walks, group observations, and seasonal migration events on the open space properties. These collaborations not only promote appreciation for the area's biodiversity but also encourage low-impact recreation aligned with the Township's goals. By supporting and uplifting these organizations, the Township builds meaningful connections with key user groups and fosters broader community engagement. Events can be promoted through the Patton Township newsletter (The Patton Pulse), the Township website, and social media platforms. Early-morning property access can also be accommodated to align with peak birding times.
- **Family Activities:** Organize seasonal, family-friendly events such as nature walks, scavenger hunts, and educational activities throughout the year, rotating between different open space properties. For example, a themed event like an "Autumn Leaf Scavenger Hunt" can include simple printable handouts, interactive activity stations, or volunteer-guided hikes. A broader list of ideas is available in the [Community Engagement Plan](#). These events are designed to be low-maintenance and largely self-guided, minimizing the need for extensive Township staffing on the day of. To ensure strong community turnout, events should be planned well in advance to allow time for coordinated promotion

through Township newsletters, email blasts, the website, social media, and any partnering organizations. A digital sign-up form can also be used to estimate attendance and help tailor logistics. When additional support is needed, partnerships with local or Penn State organizations can provide volunteers to help keep things running smoothly, monitor the event, and engage with attendees.

- **Volunteer & "Adopt-a-Trail" Programs:** Encourage long-term stewardship of the Open Space properties by launching an "Adopt-a-Trail" program that allows individuals, families, clubs, scout troops, or other community groups to take responsibility for maintaining specific trail segments. A formal sign-up process can be hosted on the Township website, where available segments are listed. Volunteers will be provided with basic training materials outlining their responsibilities, Township expectations, and safety guidelines. Tasks may include light trail maintenance such as picking up litter, clearing small branches or debris, and notifying Township staff of any larger issues that may impede trail use. These volunteers act as the Township's eyes on the trails, reducing the need for frequent staff inspections and ensuring that the trails remain clean, safe, and accessible. Participants should be recognized publicly on Township platforms and may be honored through annual awards or appreciation events to foster continued involvement and pride in their role. This initiative not only helps preserve trail quality but also strengthens the community's connection to the land.

Infrastructure Improvements

- **Parking:** Expand or enhance parking areas to safely accommodate more visitors and reduce roadside congestion near trail access points. Begin by evaluating current parking capacity and identifying locations where lots can be expanded or newly established. All lots should include designated ADA-accessible spaces to ensure inclusive access. To support alternative transportation and reduce vehicle overflow, install bike racks and clear signage discouraging roadside parking. Use natural elements, such as plantings, to define parking boundaries in a way that blends with the landscape. Parking improvements are already outlined in the Seward Forest Management Plan as well as the Gray's Woods Preserve and Haugh Family Preserve Conservation Plan, and implementation is currently underway. The Township should continue to follow the guidance set forth in those plans to ensure consistency with long-term goals.
- **Benches and Seating:** Install resting areas along trails and scenic points to enhance the overall visitor experience, particularly for older adults and individuals with limited mobility. Weather-resistant benches should be placed around every 0.5 to 0.75 miles on longer trails and prioritized at overlooks or high-use spots. Use durable, low-maintenance materials, with anchored mounts, armrests, and back support to ensure comfort. The Seward Property, known for its stunning views, especially in the fall, should be a top priority for overlook seating. Where space allows, consider adding picnic tables to encourage longer stays and social gatherings. These areas should be kept toward the parking areas and accompanied by "Leave No Trace" signage to promote responsible use and discourage littering.
- **Trailhead Kiosks:** Build small informational kiosks at entrances with trail maps, guidelines, and educational material about the site. The kiosks could have roofs and locking glass for posting maps, event flyers, and regulations. Include a "You Are Here" map, feedback form for the Township on how to improve the spaces, emergency numbers, Leave No Trace guidelines and QR codes to digital

resources and information. Place kiosks near parking areas when possible. Musser Gap Trail has something like this, a photo of this kiosk can be found in [Appendix C.3](#).

- **Accessibility Upgrades:** Enhance accessibility across trails, facilities, and signage to ensure all community members, regardless of physical ability, can enjoy the open space properties. Begin by conducting a comprehensive accessibility audit at each site using ADA trail design standards. Priority upgrades may include leveling uneven surfaces, widening entrances, improving signage visibility, and installing accessible picnic tables and benches where appropriate. While not every trail will be ADA-compliant in order to preserve the ecological integrity of sensitive areas, implementing these thoughtful accommodations will distinguish Patton Township's Open Space Properties as inclusive and forward-thinking. Striking this balance allows the natural environment to thrive while ensuring that outdoor recreation remains welcoming and accessible to all.

Research & Educational Integration

Patton Township's Open Space properties present valuable opportunities for research and educational partnerships, particularly with local institutions like Penn State University. The Township envisions collaboration with university departments to conduct ecological studies, land management research, and conservation-focused projects that support both academic learning and the Township's stewardship goals. To facilitate these partnerships, Township staff will develop and share targeted research questions aligned with conservation priorities and community interests. Additionally, ongoing studies and findings will be actively communicated to the public through accessible channels such as the Township website, email blasts, and social media outlets. This approach not only enhances transparency but also fosters community engagement and environmental awareness, encouraging residents to take an active interest in the preservation and understanding of local natural resources. Possible outreach contacts from the University can be found in [Appendix A.2](#).

Community Engagement Plan

Patton Township's Community Engagement Plan aims to connect residents of all ages and backgrounds to the Township's open space properties in meaningful, inclusive, and lasting ways. This plan leverages public input, educational partnerships, and low-barrier events to foster stewardship, enhance recreational use, and build a sense of shared ownership over these unique natural areas.

Public Involvement and Communication

To keep residents informed and involved, the Township will use a combination of digital tools, print media, and community partnerships. Key channels include:

- **The Patton Pulse** monthly newsletter
- **Township website and social media**
- **Flyers distributed via local schools, libraries, and community centers**

- **QR code signage** that links visitors to interactive maps, surveys, and feedback forms

An initial public survey gathered baseline interest and will inform future outreach efforts. Survey participants are invited to stay involved through ongoing communications and program updates.

Community Events and Workshops

A range of low-cost, seasonal events will be hosted across the Seward, Haugh, and Gray's Woods properties to activate these spaces and build public connection. These events are designed to be family-friendly, diverse in theme, and accessible to underrepresented groups.

Examples include:

- **Guided Birdwatching Walks**
In partnership with the State College Bird Club, timed during spring and fall migrations. Early access hours may be granted for optimal viewing.
- **“Ice Cream Trails” Grand Opening at Seward**
Featuring student-named trails and a themed celebration with ice cream giveaways and family activities.
- **Autumn Leaf Scavenger Hunt**
A self-guided event with downloadable activity sheets, temporary signage along the trail, and small prizes for participation.
- **History of the Barrens Tour**
A guided walking tour through Gray's Woods featuring temporary interpretive signage, QR code stops, and historical stories shared by local historian Bryce Boyer. The experience could also include live storytelling sessions or a visit to the scale model display of historic Scotia. Some historical sites extend into the adjacent State Game Lands, so participants should be aware that group sizes in those areas are limited to 10 people or fewer.
- **Nature Journaling Workshop**
Inspired by Centred Outdoors Create, participants can learn simple sketching and journaling techniques on-site using provided kits. Partnering with a mental health organization can assist in the planning of this.
- **Mindfulness on the Trail**
A guided wellness event incorporating gentle yoga or meditation at a scenic overlook, encouraging stress reduction and mental health benefits from time in nature. Partnering with PSU CAPS and designating quiet regions for meditation and reflection can aid in this coming to fruition.
- **Pollinator Walks & Garden Talks**
Featuring local master gardeners or environmental educators who can lead talks about native species and how residents can create pollinator-friendly spaces at home or part of the Haugh Family Preserve Community Gardens.
- **Night Hikes and Star Parties**
Especially suited for older students or families with older children, offering guided night hikes with astronomy insights in partnership with PSU astronomy clubs.

Events will be advertised at least one month in advance and may include RSVP options via online forms to help with planning. Many will require minimal staffing thanks to partnerships with local groups, volunteers, or Penn State student organizations. Contact information for the organizations mentioned above and many more can be found in [Appendix A.3](#).

School and Youth Engagement

The plan includes dedicated strategies to involve local schools and youth programs:

- **Trail Naming Contests** with elementary schools, integrating writing or art components tied to classroom curriculum.
- **Scout Badge Opportunities** through the Adopt-a-Trail program and seasonal clean-up events.
- **Classroom Field Trip Integration** with pre-visit and post-visit criteria for teachers.
- **STEAM-based QR code tours** blending science, history, and art.

Working with staff from Gray's Woods, Park Forest, and Spring Creek Elementary Schools ensures wide participation across the district.

Inclusion and Equity Considerations

Efforts will be made to ensure events and programs are inclusive and welcoming:

- Accessible trail and event design where feasible
- Intentional outreach to underserved communities and nontraditional user groups
- Inclusion of multilingual signage or translated handouts as needed
- Collaboration with Penn State organizations focused on equity, diversity, and mental health

Ongoing Feedback and Adaptation

Post-event surveys, QR-linked feedback forms, and a dedicated email contact will help the Township adapt engagement efforts over time. The centralized webpage will also provide updates and highlight community stories to sustain momentum.

Management & Maintenance Plan

Responsible Parties

Ongoing care of the Open Space properties will be a shared responsibility between Patton Township, community volunteers, and relevant partner organizations. The Township will oversee core infrastructure projects, safety oversight, and coordination with outside entities, while volunteers, especially those participating in the Adopt-a-Trail program, will provide light maintenance and reporting support. Local clubs, student organizations, and scout troops recruited during [Phase 3](#) will serve as valuable partners for stewardship and community engagement. As interest in educational use grows, Penn State classes and research groups may also contribute maintenance through integrated service-learning activities.

Maintenance Schedule and Volunteer Engagement

Routine maintenance of trails, signage, and amenities will be guided by a seasonal schedule established by Township staff. Volunteers participating in the Adopt-a-Trail program will be responsible for tasks such as clearing small debris, reporting downed trees or vandalism, and helping maintain trail markers and QR signage. A central form will be made available online to report maintenance needs or submit volunteer

updates, helping reduce email and phone traffic to Township staff. In-person gatherings or open house events may be used to onboard new volunteers and review responsibilities and safety guidelines.

Trail Rules and User Expectations

To preserve the ecological integrity and low-impact recreational quality of these properties, clear signage will be posted at trailheads outlining permitted and prohibited uses. Signage will follow Leave No Trace principles and reflect Township ordinances. Key posted rules will include:

- **No motorized vehicles** on trails (including ATVs, dirt bikes, etc.)
- **Pack-in, pack-out** policy to minimize litter
- **Stay on designated trails** to prevent erosion and habitat disruption
- **Pets must be leashed** and waste must be picked up
- **No removal of plants, wildlife, or historical artifacts**

As infrastructure grows and formal programming develops, Township staff will periodically review and update both the rules and the maintenance procedures to ensure the open space properties remain safe, welcoming, and sustainable for all users.

Recommended Implementation Timeline

Phase 1: Completed by Summer 2025 Intern

Focus: Community input, low-cost awareness, foundational work

Public Survey Launch

- Developed a short community survey to assess public awareness of the three Open Space properties, understand preferred uses, and gather ideas to encourage visitation.
- Promoted via the Patton Pulse, Township website, and social media.
- Created using Microsoft Forms as a free and accessible tool.
- In addition to collecting feedback, the survey gathers contact information for future engagement opportunities.
- As of now, there have been 40 responses. Survey questions and response data are included in [Appendix C.1](#).

Email Outreach

- Contacted Penn State faculty (ERM, RPTM, Wildlife & Fisheries, and History departments) to explore classroom integration opportunities. No responses have been received to date. A screenshot of the outreach email is included in [Appendix C.2](#).
- Coordinated with Bryce Boyer to incorporate historical context. Bryce contributed valuable photos, maps, and insights, all compiled in [Appendix B](#).

- Met with Katie Ombalski from Woods and Waters for early-stage planning support and help designing the initial community survey.
- Connected with Susan Wheeler to explore alignment with the Township's parks program. Susan shared useful resources to guide future Open Space programming.

Draft Policy/Procedures for Research Use

- Outlined a proposed process for academic use of the properties.
- Currently, individuals must email Nicole Harter (Patton's Zoning Officer) to notify her of visits and submit any findings. Data is not made public unless requested by the researcher.
- If future interest increases, a formal submission form is recommended. The form could collect visit details (location, date, purpose, group size), clarify whether the activity is research or exploratory, and allow consent to share findings with the Township and/or public.

Draft Community Engagement Ideas

- Created a draft for a youth trail-naming contest (see [Recreational Opportunities and Recommendations](#)).
- Drafted an Adopt-a-Trail program to encourage long-term stewardship (see [Recreational Opportunities and Recommendations](#)).
- Compiled local scout and club contact lists for potential partnerships ([Appendix A.3](#)).
- Brainstormed event ideas to activate community involvement ([see Community Engagement Plan](#)).

Information to Collect:

Analysis of Survey Results

- The Patton Pulse is published monthly. The Open Space Survey will be featured in the August 2025 issue and promoted via social media and the township website. After submitting the survey, respondents are directed to a follow-up contact form for future engagement opportunities.
- A syncing Excel file with response data is available in [Appendix C.1](#). If syncing issues occur, contact 2025 intern Paige Myers for updated results (contact information in [Appendix A.2](#)).

Phase 2: Early Implementation and Engagement

Focus: Pilot programs, community participation, educational engagement, signage improvements

Develop QR Code Test Tour

- Use a free [QR code generator](#) to create a simple, mobile-friendly webpage with educational content (local species, wetlands, or Scotia history).
- Print temporary QR codes and mount them on laminated cards placed along an existing trail.
- Collect feedback from users: Did the QR code work properly? Was the content engaging? Was cell reception an issue? Would they like to see more of this?

Host First Community Event (Minimal Cost)

- Select one pilot event from the [Community Engagement Plan](#) to serve as the Township's first open space program event.
- Partner with Penn State clubs or outdoor groups for volunteer support, guides, or co-hosting.
- Consider partnerships for printing costs (partnering with a PSU organization who can get free or reduced printing of larger posters through the university).
- Promote the event through flyers, the Township website, *Patton Pulse*, and social media, beginning at least one month in advance.

Launch Social Media Highlights

- Feature a student spotlight or family photo enjoying the trails.
- Create an online submission form for students, families, or residents to share their experiences and photos.
- Share historical highlights from Bryce Boyer's materials to educate and engage the community.

Install Directional and Informational Signage

- Begin placing improved trailhead signs and basic directional signage to help users better navigate the properties.
- Signage should follow basic accessibility and visibility guidelines and reflect each property's specific layout and permitted uses.
- Directional and mileage signs should be placed at pivotal points on the trails to ensure users are following the correct paths and are aware of how far they have traveled.

Plan Future Trail and Parking Enhancements (As Permitted)

- Begin internal planning for potential trail expansions and parking upgrades—where allowed under existing deeds and easements.
- For properties where new trails cannot be added, focus on improving and maintaining existing paths and ensuring clarity of access.
- Prioritize trails that can support safe, low-impact use while preserving ecological integrity.

Information to Collect:

QR Code Pilot Feasibility

- Is laminated paper durable enough for outdoor use during a trial period?
- Are the selected locations within areas of decent cell service?
- What design elements or incentives might encourage visitors to scan the QR codes?
- Where exactly should the signs be placed for visibility and impact?

Community Event Feedback

- Use a short follow-up survey after the event to gather input on what residents enjoyed and what future events or programs they'd like to see.
- Continue to plan and host events frequently to ensure continued community engagement.

Signage Feedback and Maintenance Considerations

- Observe how the initial signage holds up in outdoor conditions and gather community feedback on its clarity and helpfulness.
- Identify high-traffic areas where more permanent signage may be needed long-term.

Phase 3: Moderate Projects

Focus: Infrastructure, signage, and formalized programs

Begin “Adopt-a-Trail” Program

- Appoint a Township staff member as the volunteers’ main point of contact to oversee and monitor the volunteer program.
- Develop a digital sign-up form that includes participant contact information, program expectations, and terms and conditions.
- Recruit local partners directly such as Rotary Clubs, scout troops, and student organizations (see [Appendix A.3](#) for contacts).
- Clearly outline participants' responsibilities, including light maintenance tasks and the duration of their commitment.
- Set up a central, user-friendly online form to manage questions and feedback, helping reduce direct emails and calls.
- Consider hosting an open house at the Township building to introduce participants, review program guidelines, and answer questions in person.

Install Trailhead Kiosks

- Design kiosks to display QR code tour highlights, trail maps, and educational content.
- Promote local resources like Purple Lizard Maps for deeper exploration.

- Clearly communicate trail rules (no motorized vehicles, Leave No Trace principles) and encourage low-impact recreation practices.

Implement Finalized QR Code Signage

- Use insights from the [Phase 2](#) trial to refine placement, design, and content of the QR signs.
- Install permanent, weatherproof signage and announce the official launch of the QR code tours to the public via the Township's communication channels.

Conduct Youth Trail Naming Contest

- Coordinate with [local school staff](#) to select a participating grade level and outline contest guidelines (submit a trail name with a drawing or short writing piece).
- Work with teachers to align the contest with classroom activities or curriculum.
- Collect student entries and allow the Board of Supervisors or Open Space Stewardship Committee to select the winners.
- Display winning trail names at trailheads and celebrate the students on the Township website (with parental permission).
- For the Seward Ice Cream Trail version, distribute a digital or paper ballot to students in all three elementary schools to vote on their favorite ice cream-themed names.
- Announce the results and invite families to the grand opening celebration of the newly named Seward trails.

Information to Collect:

Adopt-a-Trail Program

- What level of maintenance is appropriate and manageable for volunteers?
- What frequency should tasks be completed (weekly, biweekly)?
- What recognition or incentives (signage, social media shoutouts) could encourage participation?

Trail Naming Contest

- What timeline works best with the school calendar for student participation?
- What consent forms or photo permissions are required for publicly recognizing students?
- How will entries be judged and winners announced?

Phase 4: Capital Improvements & Long-Term Projects

Focus: Infrastructure builds, multi-year partnerships, and pursuit of larger funding opportunities

Align with Township Capital Project Timelines

- Marjorie D. Seward Property:

- Trail improvement projects scheduled for 2026.
- Installation of benches and seating at scenic overlooks by 2028.
- Addition of educational signage between 2028–2031.
- Haugh Family Preserve & Gray’s Woods Preserve:
 - Evaluate opportunities for expanded trail loops and improved signage.
 - Explore feasibility of establishing at least one accessible trail loop, where allowed by easements and terrain.
 - Explore the viability of trail expansion and additions due to deed and program restrictions.

Pursue Grant Funding

- Leverage community feedback, survey results, and event participation data to strengthen grant applications.
- Prioritize funding sources that align with accessibility, conservation, environmental education, and community recreation.

Create a Centralized Online Hub

- Develop a comprehensive landing page on the Township website to house trail maps, upcoming events, research updates, and community highlights.
- Ensure the page is easy to navigate, mobile-friendly, and updated regularly to reflect new developments and opportunities.

Formalize Academic Research Partnerships

- If interest in research continues to grow, implement a formal policy outlining expectations, approvals, and data sharing practices.
- Promote the research program to regional colleges and universities (Penn State, Lock Haven University) to encourage consistent academic use.
- Work with the Open Space Stewardship Committee and Board of Supervisors to identify key research questions or topics they’d like students and faculty to explore.

Information to Collect:

Capital Project Readiness

- Confirm projected dates, budgets, and any matching fund requirements for trail improvements, signage, and seating installations.
- Ensure infrastructure plans comply with conservation easements and ADA requirements.
- Identify potential contractors or in-house teams for build-out and maintenance.

Grant Strategy

- What local, state, or federal grants best match the scope and goals of each property?
- Which organizations or foundations have historically supported similar projects in Central PA?
- Can partnerships with Penn State or other institutions strengthen applications?

Web Hub Development

- Who will manage and update the webpage content long-term?
- Interactive elements (like a calendar, trail status updates, or photo submission portal) could be included to enhance the experience.

Conclusion

Patton Township's open space properties represent more than just preserved land, they are dynamic community assets with the potential to inspire recreation, education, and environmental stewardship. Through thoughtful planning, phased implementation, and strong public engagement, this recreational plan provides a roadmap for sustainable use and long-term care of these cherished spaces. By aligning ecological preservation with inclusive access and community involvement, Patton Township is investing in a healthier, more connected, and resilient future for all who live, learn, and explore here.

While this plan presents a comprehensive set of recommendations based on research, stakeholder input, and best practices, it is intended as a guiding document, not a prescriptive one. Final decisions should reflect the Township's evolving priorities, available resources, and the expertise of relevant staff and partners. As a graduate intern, my role has been to support and inform this process, and I hope the ideas outlined here prove useful as Patton Township continues its stewardship of these special places.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Contact Information and Resources

A.1. Board of Supervisors and Open Space Stewardship Committee Members

Patton Township Board of Supervisors

Sultan Magruder, Chair, smagruder@twp.patton.pa.us

Betsy Whitman, Vice Chair, bwhitman@twp.patton.pa.us

Elliot Abrams, eabrams@twp.patton.pa.us

Pamela Robb, pam_promos@yahoo.com

Susan Chyczewski, schyczewski@twp.patton.pa.us

Open Space Stewardship Committee members

Ann Donovan, a.mccall.donovan@gmail.com

Heidi Miller, heidihome124@gmail.com

James Savage, jes10@psu.edu

Joe Viglione, joevig99@gmail.com

Kelli Prescott, kab2008@gmail.com

Lisa Preis, lhpreis@earthlink.net

Mary Walsh, mary_walsh@yahoo.com

A.2. Contacts made by 2025 Summer Intern

Patton Twp Summer 2025 Intern: Paige Myers, 412-589-8684, paigemyers@outlook.com

Patton Twp Manager: Amy Farkas, afarkas@twp.patton.pa.us

Patton Twp Parks Program: Susan Wheeler, swheeler@twp.patton.pa.us

Patton Twp Zoning Officer: Nicole Harter, [nharter@twp.patton.pa.us](mailto:nhart@twp.patton.pa.us)

Scotia History Expert: Bryce Boyer, 814-659-9479, bryce43boyer@yahoo.com

Woods and Waters Conservancy: Katie Ombalski, katie@woodswaters.com

Penn State Faculty and Staff

Academic Advising Coordinator in the Dept of Forest Ecosystem Management: Garrett Evans, gre5041@psu.edu

Associate Research Professor in Agricultural Economics: Matthew Royer, mbr5430@psu.edu

Dept of History Director of Undergraduate Studies: Kathryn Salzer, kes30@psu.edu

Head of the Dept of History: Amy Greenberg, asg5@psu.edu

Penn State Dept of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management: RPTMinfo@psu.edu

Professor in Penn State's Agricultural Sciences Dept: Kathryn Bartling, kfb5680@psu.edu

Professor in Penn State's Agricultural Sciences Dept: Michael Hile, mlh144@psu.edu

A.3. Contacts and future recommended partnerships

Counseling and Psychological Services at Penn State (CAPS): Natalie Hernandez, Senior Director, ccaps@psu.edu

Happy Valley Adventure Bureau: Lois Wolfe, lwolfe2790@aol.com

QR Code Generator, <https://qr.io/>

State College Bird Club, djw105@psu.edu

Gray's Woods Elementary School: Gregg Wilson, 814-235-6100, gaw11@scasd.org

Park Forest Elementary School: Dr. Jessica Quinter, 814-231-5010, jlq11@scasd.org

Spring Creek Elementary School: Paul Brigman, 814-231-5026, pgb14@scasd.org

Local Rotary Clubs

Downtown State College Rotary Club, SCRotaryDT@gmail.com

State College Rotary, statecollegerotary@gmail.com

State College Sunrise Rotary Club, SCSunriseRotary@gmail.com

Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 31 (Scouting America), SCRotaryDT@gmail.com

Boy Scout Troop 339 (PSU-affiliated, aposcoutingpsu@gmail.com)

Coed Scouts Troop 32, 814-238-2422, officescpc@gmail.com

Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA – Service Unit 416, <https://www.troop31.us/contact-us>

Juniata Valley Council, jeffery.pickett@scouting.org

Penn State “Girl Scout Saturdays”, cknobloch@enr.psu.edu

Penn State Clubs and Organizations

Birding Club at University Park, pennstatebirdclub@gmail.com

Cycling Club at University Park, wew5124@psu.edu

Ecosystem Science and Management Graduate Student Organization at University Park,
ecosystem.gso@gmail.com

Education, Development, and Community Engagement Graduate Student Association at University Park,
mcs6395@psu.edu

Outing Club at Penn State University Park, psoc-officers@googlegroups.com

Penn State EcoReps, ecoreps@psu.edu

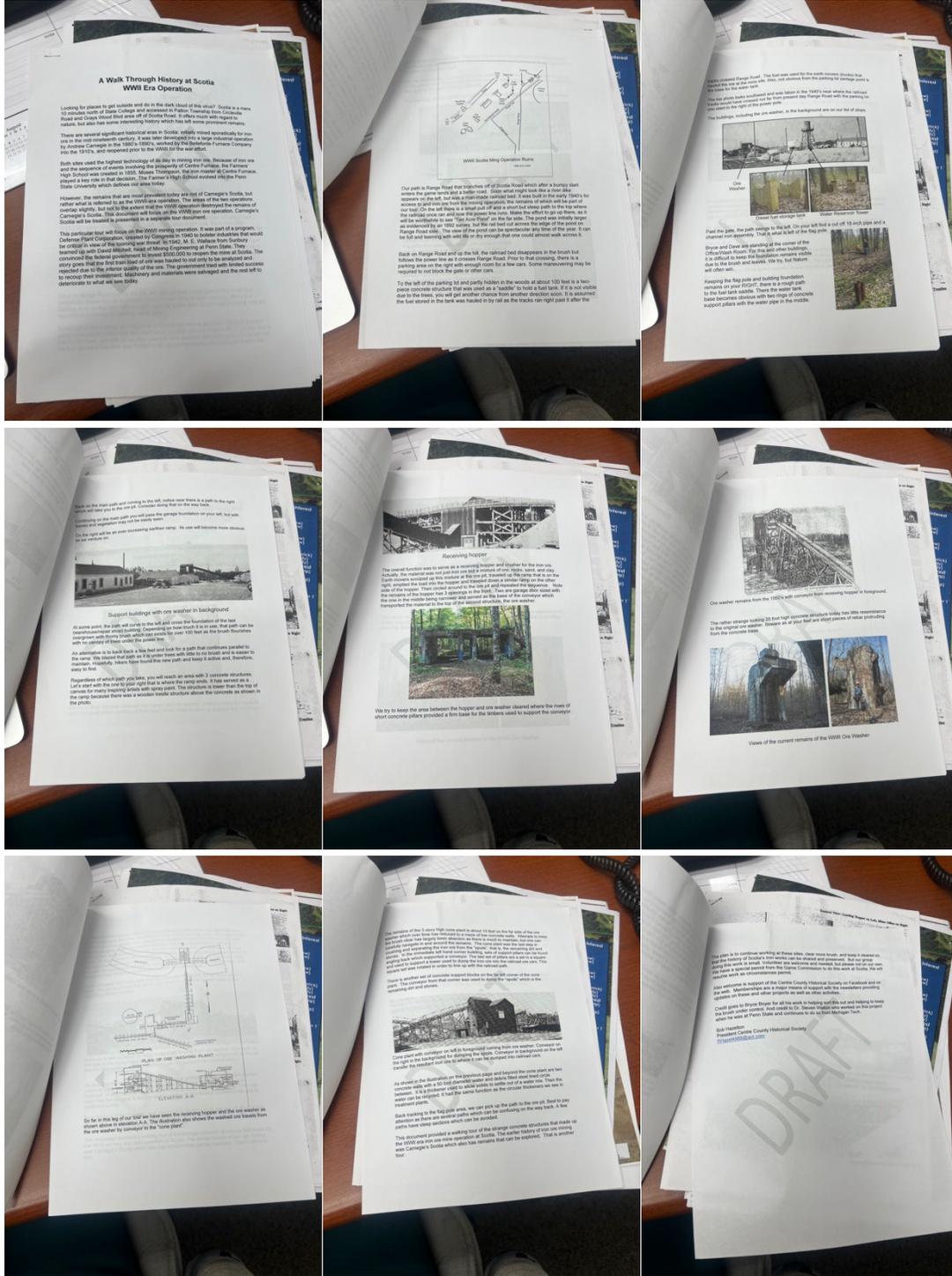
Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management Graduate Student Association at University Park,
cbp5535@psu.edu

Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Student Society at University Park, klt16@psu.edu

More PSU organizations can be found at <https://discover.psu.edu/organizations>

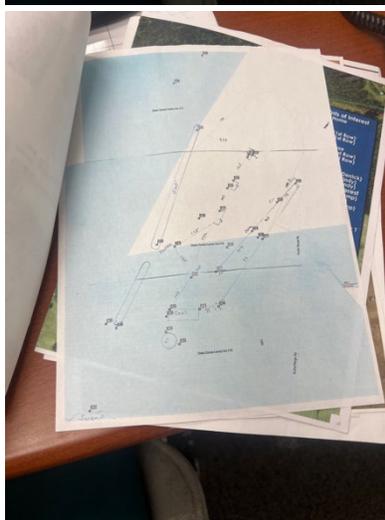
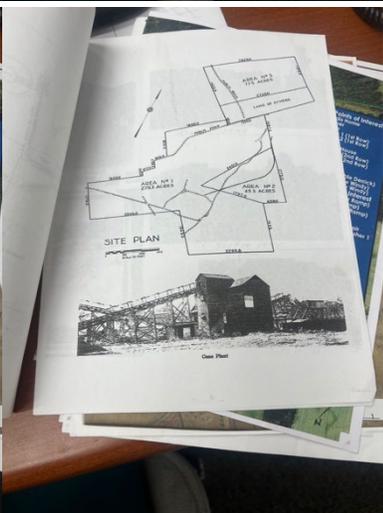
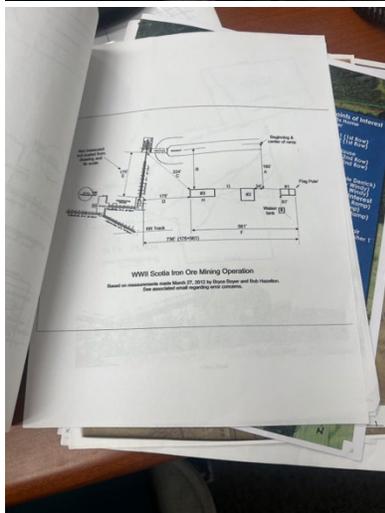
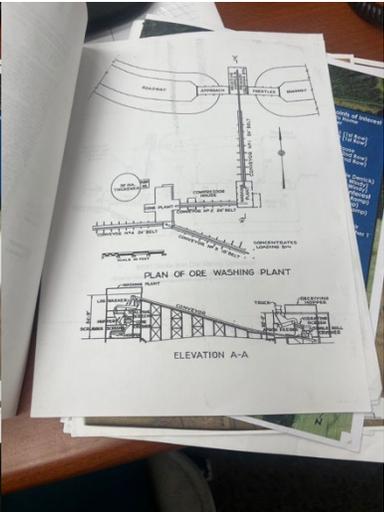
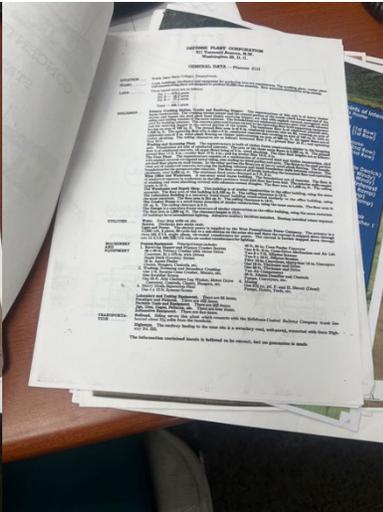
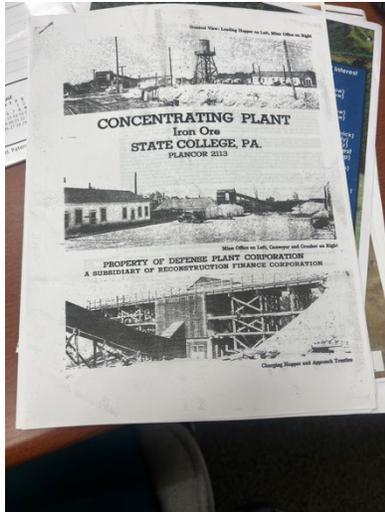
Appendix B: Historic Scotia Files

B.1. *This document, created by the Centre County Historical Society, provides a detailed walking tour of the WWII-era iron ore mining operations at Scotia, located near State College, PA. It includes historical context about Scotia's role in U.S. wartime production, site maps, photographs (both historic and current), and descriptions of key structural remains such as the ore washer, receiving hopper, and cone plant. The guide explains the mining process, describes the current conditions of the ruins, and offers navigation advice for visitors exploring the site.*

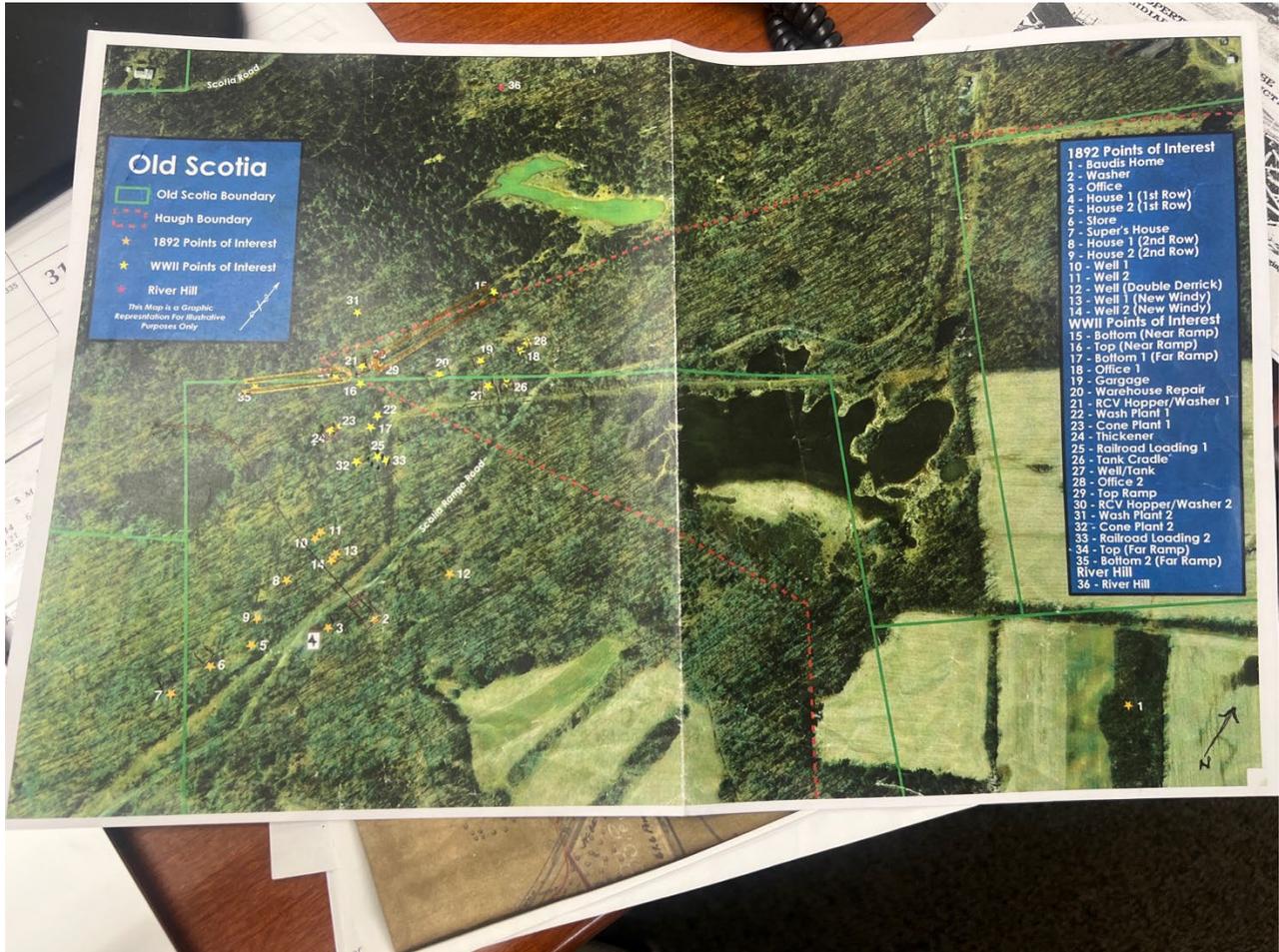


B.2. This document contains historical and technical data regarding the WWII-era Scotia Iron Ore Concentrating Plant near State College, PA. Produced by the Defense Plant Corporation, the document outlines plant facilities,

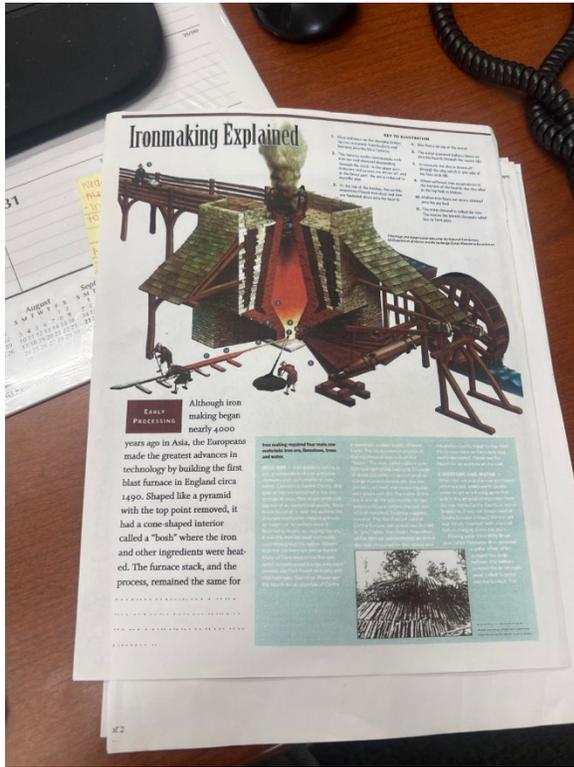
processing equipment, and site layouts used for iron ore concentration. Included are detailed diagrams of the ore washing plant, cone plant, and related infrastructure, along with photographs of the site during operation and subsequent surveys. The materials provide insight into wartime industrial processes and the physical scale of the operation, serving as both a historical record and a technical reference.



B.3. This current aerial map of the Scotia site, highlights key historical landmarks related to both the 1892 ironworks operations and the WWII-era mining efforts. Marked locations include ruins, paths of interest, and the original boundaries of Old Scotia. Modern overlays identify remaining structural features such as ore washers, concentrator foundations, and related mining infrastructure. The map serves as a visual guide to understanding the spatial layout of Scotia's historical industrial activities within the present-day landscape.



B.4. This diagram titled "Ironmaking Explained" provides a visual overview of a traditional blast furnace used in early iron production. The illustration details the step-by-step process of ironmaking, including the addition of raw materials such as iron ore, limestone, and charcoal, as well as the role of water-powered bellows. The image highlights the furnace's interior structure, particularly the bosh where materials were heated, and explains the flow of molten iron and waste slag. This visual served as an educational tool to clarify the technological process that originated in Asia and was advanced by Europeans around 1490.



B.5. The following images provide visual context for the history and industrial operations of the Scotia region. A historical diagram explains the ironmaking process using a traditional blast furnace, highlighting key components like the bosh and water-powered bellows. Several images show a detailed scale models of the old Scotia mining town, including industrial structures, residential buildings, and the Scotia Station, helping to visualize the community's layout and daily life. A historic map of the Scotia area illustrates original mining sites, transportation routes, and infrastructure, offering insight into the region's operational footprint. An archival photograph of the Scotia Station documents the original train depot that once served the area, while a model recreation captures its architectural design in detail. Additional model images show the expanded Scotia layout, including mining facilities and housing, and a model of an Otis steam shovel, representing the machinery used in iron ore extraction. Collectively, these images support understanding of Scotia's historical significance and industrial development.



B.6. Map of the current trail network across Patton Township's Open Space properties, parks, and adjacent State Game Lands #176, including Gray's Woods Preserve, Haugh Family Preserve, Circleville Park, and Patton Woods. Trails are shown in relation to property boundaries and surrounding communities.

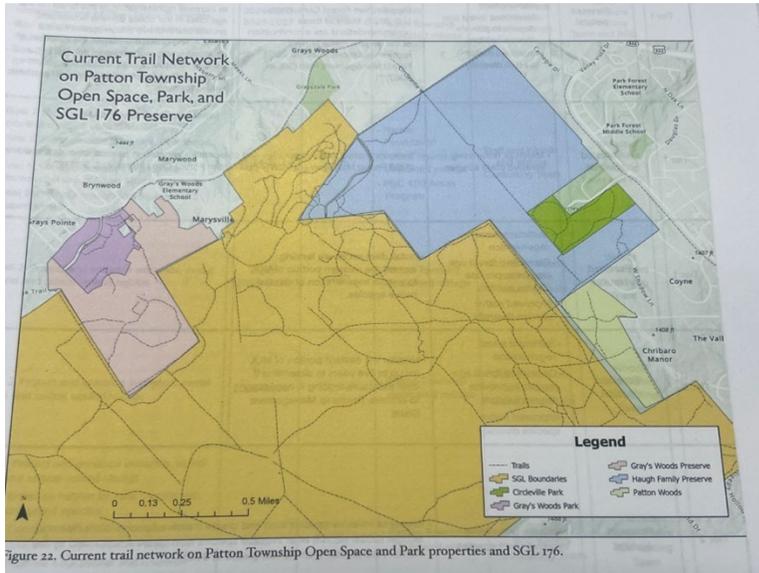


Figure 22. Current trail network on Patton Township Open Space and Park properties and SGL 176.

B.7. Remnants of the historic Scotia iron ore mining operations, now standing as weathered concrete structures deep within the forest. Once part of the region's bustling industrial activity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these ruins are heavily marked with modern graffiti but remain a tangible link to Patton Township's industrial past. Surrounded by dense woodlands, they serve as both a historical landmark and a reminder of the area's transformation from mining hub to preserved open space.



Appendix C: Notes and Supporting Documents

C.1. *The initial survey sent out via the August issue of the Patton Pulse, the Township website, and the Township social media accounts.*

Patton Township Open Space Property Interest Form

⋮

1. Have you heard of any of the following Patton Township open space properties? *

Please select at most 3 options.

Seward Property

Haugh Family Preserve

Gray's Woods Preserve

I haven't heard of any of these

2. Have you ever visited any of these properties? *

Yes

No

⋮

3. What activities would you be most interested in doing at these properties? *

Hiking or walking trails

Birdwatching or nature observation

Picnicking

Educational programs or tours

Volunteering (ex. Adopt-a-Trail program)

Attending community events

Other

4. Which of the following would make you more likely to visit these properties? *

Better trail signage or maps

More parking access

Information on the Township website

Events or programs for families

Other

5. Would you be interested in helping shape the future of these spaces? (attending events/interact with developments made and provide feedback on them) *

Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!

No thanks.

[+ Add new question](#)

C.3. Results of the initial survey can be found here: [Patton Township Open Space Property Interest Form.xlsx](#)

Below is a screenshot of the survey responses to date, 45 responses as of 8/13/25.

Have you heard of any of the following Patton Township open space properties?	Have you ever visited any of these properties?	What activities would you be most interested in doing at these properties?	Which of the following would make you more likely to visit these properties?	Would you be interested in helping shape the future of these spaces? (attending events/interact with developments made and provide feedback on them)
1 Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Picnicking ;Hiking or walking trails;	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;	No thanks.
2 Haugh Family Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
3 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	More time!	No thanks.
4 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;	Better trail signage or maps ;Events or programs for families ;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
5 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve;	No	Picnicking ;Hiking or walking trails;Attending community events;	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Events or programs for families ;	No thanks.
6 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Birdwatching or nature observation;	Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
7 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Educational programs or tours;Attending community events;	Better trail signage or maps ;I hike at Patton Woods and through to Scotts several times a week - these are really important open spaces and very well used! It is very easy to get lost, however. The other need is mosquito abatement. ;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
8 Gray's Woods Preserve;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;	Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
9 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;Better trail signage or maps ;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
10 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
11 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Volunteering (ex. Adopt-a-Trail program);	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
12 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
13 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
14 Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;	More parking access;Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families ;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
15 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;	Better trail signage or maps ;Less ticks;Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
16 Seward Property;Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families; Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
17 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve;	Yes	Birdwatching or nature observation;Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;Educational programs or tours;	Better trail signage or maps ;Events or programs for families ;	No thanks.
18 Gray's Woods Preserve;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;Educational programs or tours;Attending community events;	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
19 Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
20 Gray's Woods Preserve;	No	Birdwatching or nature observation;Hiking or walking trails;Educational programs or tours;Attending community events;	Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families ;	No thanks.
21 Seward Property;Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Educational programs or tours;Volunteering (ex. Adopt-a-Trail program);Attending community events;	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families ;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
22 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;More parking access;	No thanks.
23 Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Information on the Township website;More parking access;Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
24 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;	Programs for adults;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!

Have you heard of any of the following Patton Township open space properties?	Have you ever visited any of these properties?	What activities would you be most interested in doing at these properties?	Which of the following would make you more likely to visit these properties?	Would you be interested in helping shape the future of these spaces? (attending events/interact with developments made and provide feedback on them)
25 Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Educational programs or tours;	Events or programs for families ;Better trail signage or maps ;	No thanks.
26 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
27 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve;	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;	Information on the Township website;	No thanks.
28 I haven't heard of any of these;	No	Hiking or walking trails	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website	No thanks.
29 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	No	Picnicking ;Hiking or walking trails	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website	No thanks.
30 Haugh Family Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails	Information on the Township website	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
31 Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking ;Educational programs or tours;Attending community events	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
32 Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails	More parking access	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
33 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hunting ;Hiking or walking trails	More parking access	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
34 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Picnicking	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
35 I haven't heard of any of these	No	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Events or programs for families	No thanks.
36 Haugh Family Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families ;Allow biking	No thanks.
37 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve	No	Hiking or walking trails	Anti-dec environment	No thanks.
38 Gray's Woods Preserve;Haugh Family Preserve	Yes	Attending community events;Hiking or walking trails;Educational programs or tours	Better trail signage or maps ;More parking access;Information on the Township website;Events or programs for families	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
39 I haven't heard of any of these	No	I'm not	I'm not interested in paying for more open space	No thanks.
40 Seward Property;Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails	Better trail signage or maps	No thanks.
41 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation;Picnicking ;Educational programs or tours	More parking access;Better trail signage or maps	No thanks.
42 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails	None needed. Save money for purchase of more land.	No thanks.
43 Seward Property;Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Educational programs or tours;Attending community events;Volunteering (ex. Adopt-a-Trail program);Birdwatching or nature observation	Better trail signage or maps ;Information on the Township website	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!
44 Haugh Family Preserve;Gray's Woods Preserve	Yes	Hiking or walking trails;Birdwatching or nature observation	Better trail signage or maps	Yes, I'd love to give more feedback in the future! I will click the link presented after I have submitted the survey!

C.3. Initial Outreach to PSU faculty and staff that may be interested in learning about Patton Township's Open Space Properties.

Patton Township Open Space Properties – Opportunities for Student Trips, Research, and Curriculum Integration

Myers, Paige
To: mlh144@psu.edu; RPTMinfo@psu.edu; gre5041@psu.edu; +2 others
Mon 7/7/2025 10:54 AM

Hello all,

My name is Paige Myers, and I'm a graduate student in the School of Public Policy. I am currently interning with Patton Township to help promote the educational and recreational use of three open space properties: **Marjorie D. Seward Preserve, The Haugh Family Preserve, and Gray's Woods Preserve**. These properties have been preserved with long-term conservation goals in mind and present unique opportunities for student and faculty engagement—whether through class visits, individual research, or integration into your curriculum.

My task this summer is to develop a Low-Impact Recreation and Public Engagement Plan for these sites. One of the main goals of this plan is the engagement with Penn State students and faculty to utilize these properties as much as possible!

To support this, Conservation plans have been created which provide an overview of each property, their ecological significance, and potential uses. You can view the full plans and maps at the following links:

[Conservation Plans](#)

More information and public records can be found on our website: <https://twp.patton.pa.us/>

We invite you to explore these resources and consider how they might align with your teaching or research objectives. Whether it's a field trip, data collection project, or environmental case study, these properties offer a rich, real-world context for students across disciplines.

If you or your students are interested in **visiting the properties or conducting research**, please follow this process:

1. **Email Nicole Harter** (Zoning Officer and Open Space Property Manager) at **nharter@twp.patton.pa.us** with the date and purpose of your visit.
2. If conducting research, you'll be asked to **share your findings with Nicole** afterward. Please note that Patton Township collects this information for internal use only and does not publicize research findings.

Feel free to **share this email** with other faculty, departments, or student organizations who might find this opportunity valuable. We're excited to see these properties become a living laboratory for Penn State and a resource for hands-on learning.

Thank you for your time and interest, please reach out if you have any questions!

Best regards,

Paige Myers, MPP Candidate

pmyers@twp.patton.pa.us

C.4. Musser Gap Trailhead Kiosk

