

SPARKING A VISION: SPAR HILL FARM & PRESERVE



BACKGROUND

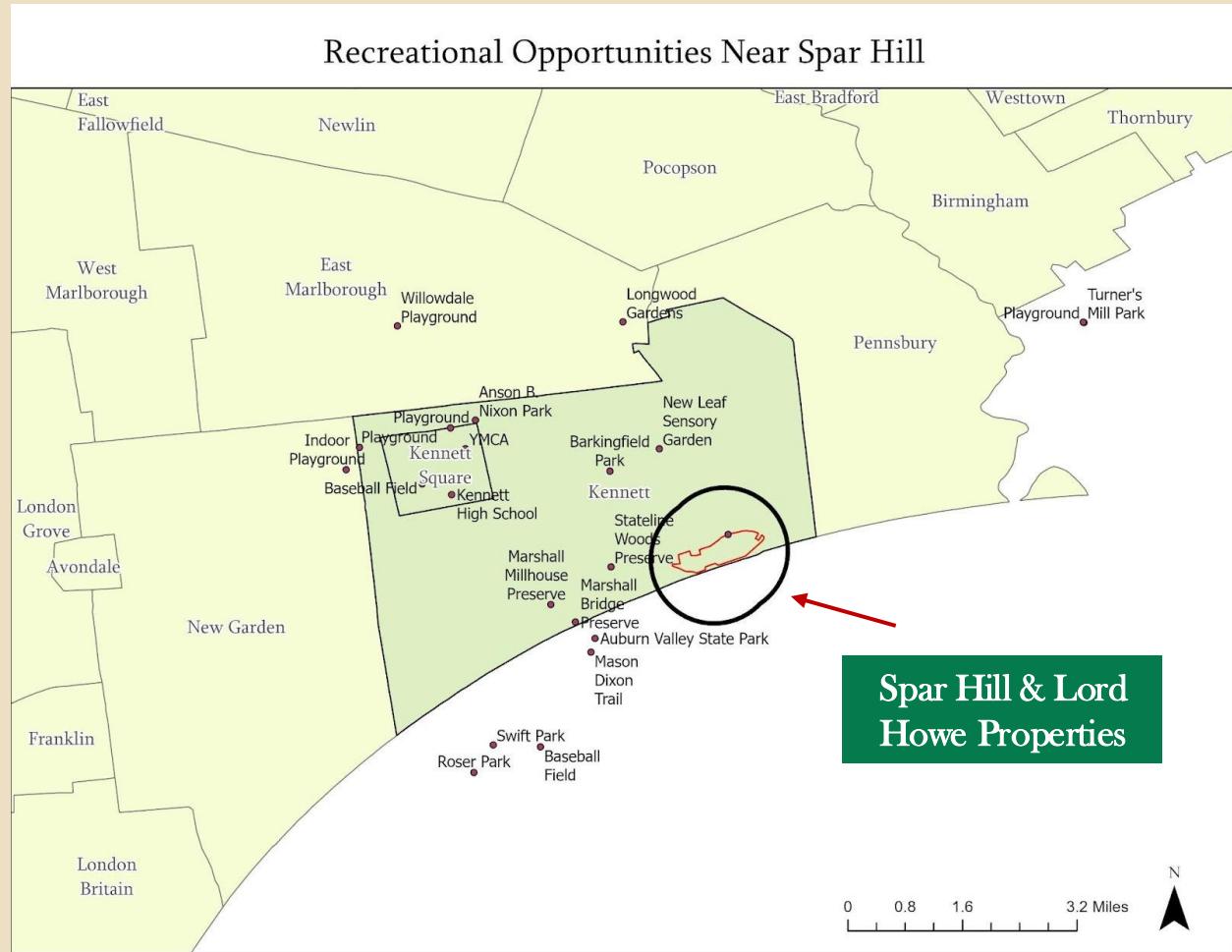


SPAR HILL FARM AND PRESERVE

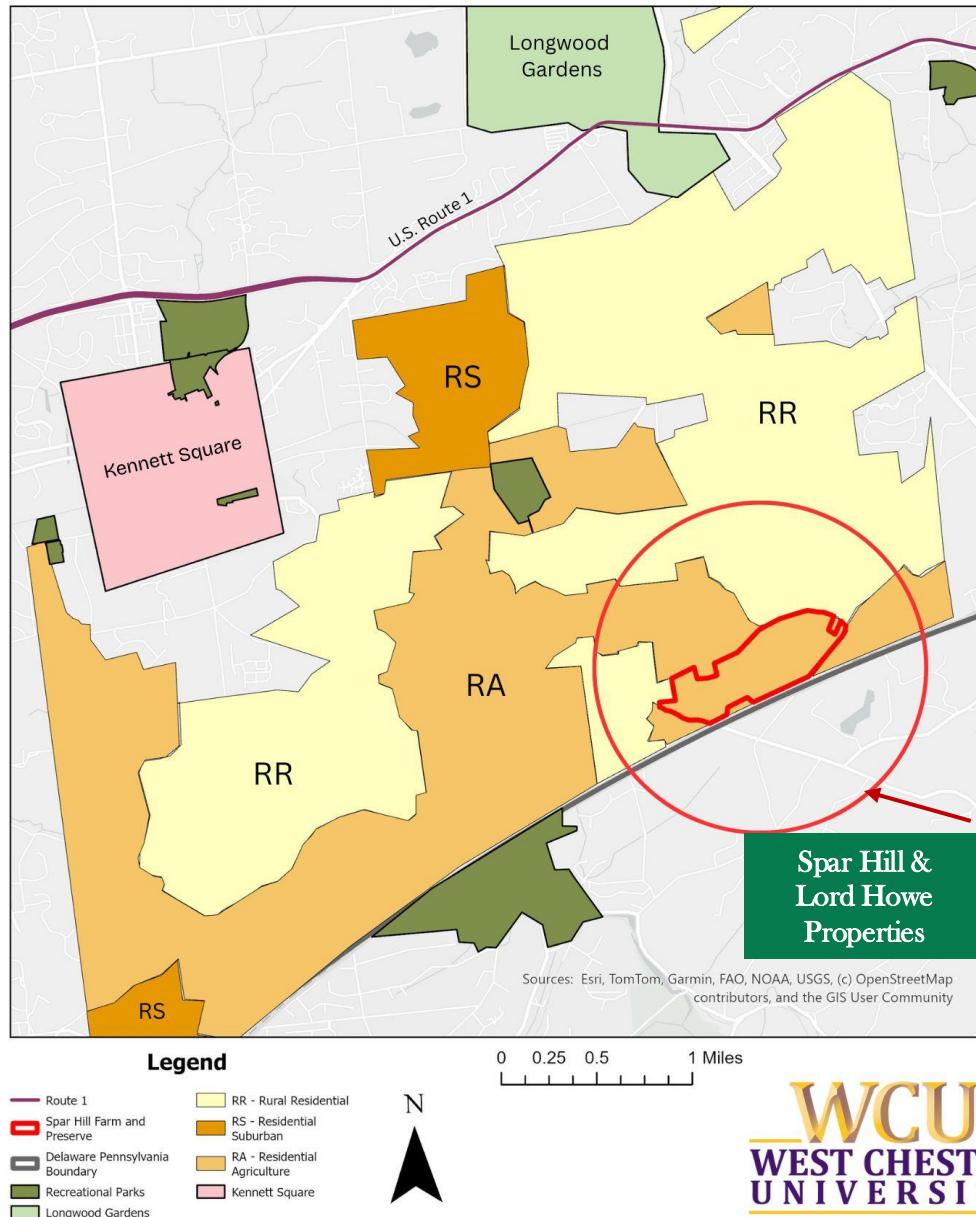
- Spar Hill is a 103-acre property recently acquired in 2018 by Kennett Township as permanent open space.
- The property is located between Burnt Mill, Center Mill, and Old Kennett Roads and borders the 68-acre Lord Howe property owned by the Township.
- The Township plans to develop Spar Hill as a passive recreation area with trails and open space that will connect to nearby preserves and the future Kennett Greenway.

REGIONAL REFERENCE

- Rural residential zoning
- Lack of recreational parks



Zoning and Existing Parks Surrounding Spar Hill Farm and Preserve



INTRODUCTION



VISION STATEMENT & MESSAGE FROM STUDIO A

Long-term goal:

- Establish a protected open space honoring township's agricultural history
- Meets needs of residents
- Encourage recreation, education and environmental stewardship.



Over the course of the semester we:

- Examined community feedback
- Conducted site visits
- Reviewed key environmental features
- Created a planning framework

We hope to offer concepts that support:

- Passive recreation
- Strengthen trail connections
- Protect the natural and historic character of the property

AGENDA

1. Purpose
2. Population & Demographics
3. Academic Assessment
4. Site Evaluation
5. Environmental Assessment
6. Site Map
7. Regulations
8. Community Engagement
9. Stakeholders
10. Envisioning Spar Hill
11. Continued Care
12. Closing Remarks & Final Thoughts



PURPOSE

This semester, our class was asked by Kennett Township to study Spar Hill Farm and Preserve and develop a planning project informed by community feedback.

Our role was to gather input from residents, understand local priorities, and use that information to shape ideas that support the township's long-term vision for these open-space areas.

OUR FOCUS



Our Focus is around the Spar hill Farm & Preserve.

Lord Howe connects to Spar Hill and is a large part of its connecting trail system. It is heavily protected and is not the focus point of any structural enhancements

POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS



KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Kennett Township, PA

Population- 8,289 Residents

Median Household Income - \$143,513

Bachelor's Degree or Higher- 67%

Employment Rate- 58.8%

Total Housing Units- 3,651

Total Households- 3,555

Median Age- 48.2

Occupied Housing Units- 97%

Chester County, PA

Population- 534,413 Residents

Median Household Income - \$131,424

Bachelor's Degree or Higher- 58%

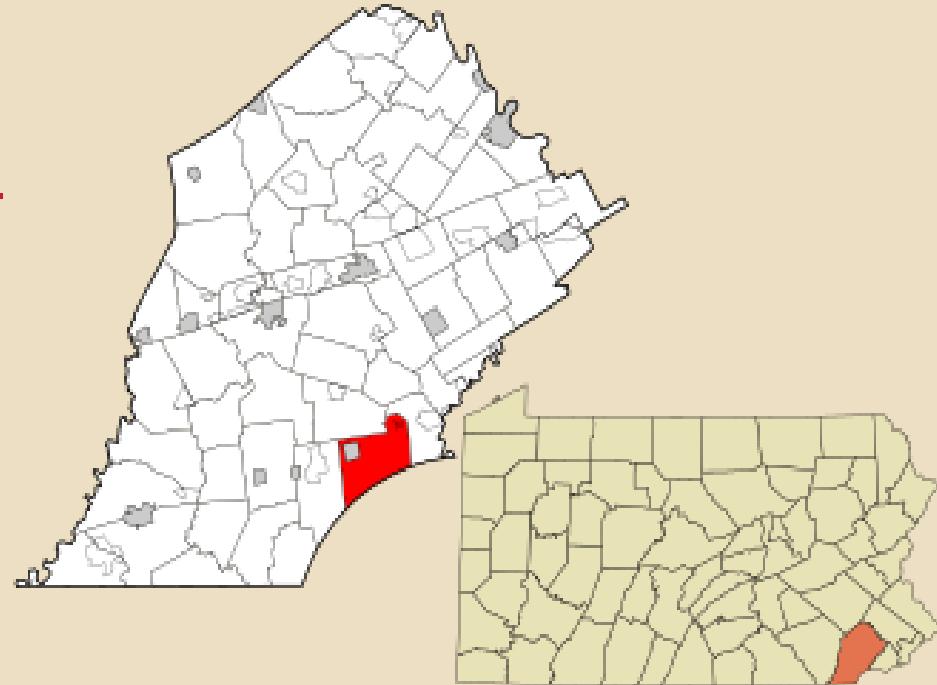
Employment Rate- 64.3%

Total Housing Units- 215,948

Total Households- 209,767

Median Age- 40.6

Occupied Housing Units- 96%



KEY DEMOGRAPHICS CONT.

Pennsylvania

Median Age- 41.1

Median Home Price- \$240,500

Median Household Income- \$76,081

Occupied Housing Units- 91%

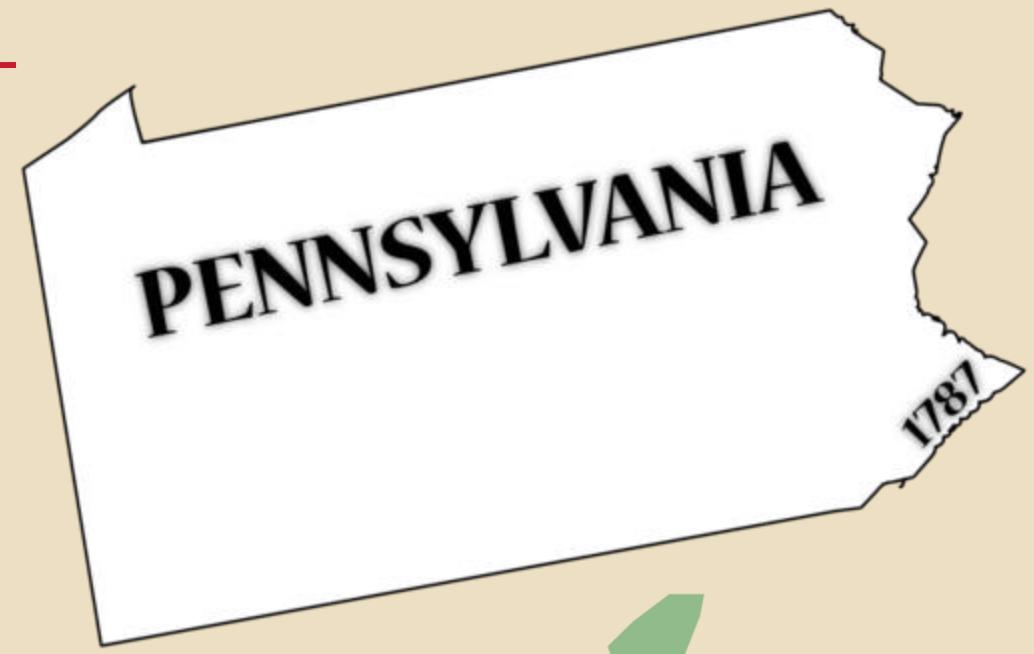
Delaware

Median Age- 42

Median Home Price- \$359,700

Median Household Income- \$81,361

Occupied Housing Units- 87%



DELAWARE

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS CONT.

Why do we care about number of households?

- The number of households matters because it helps us understand **who lives** in the surrounding area and **how many** residents may use or be affected by the site
- It also provides a **baseline** for estimating demand for access, recreation, and community amenities.





ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT



ACADEMIC REVIEW

Public Involvement

Successful plans always look for public input when they establish priorities for conservation (Brett Richardson, 2008)

Education

Planners should educate themselves on the *existing conditions of the community* (Wolf et. al, 2024).

Conservation

To improve quality of life for residents in a community, it is crucial to *conserve green space* for recreational usage.

Green space *promotes human health* by encouraging physical activity and social connections, which improves both mental health and the surrounding environment (McIntire et al., 2025).



ACADEMIC REVIEW

Natural Features

To create a healthy, functional park, it is important to *create an attractive environment that provides natural benefits* to users (Kweon & Stokes, 2022).

Sense of Community

Apart from physical appearance, it is important for planners to *consider a sense of community and safety* within a park and other green spaces Talal and Santelmann (2021).





SPAR HILL SITE EVALUATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Themes

Agriculture



History



Nature



Infrastructure



Agriculture was evident throughout the property, and it is important to keep this agricultural feel when developing a plan to allow visitors to appreciate the site.

History was shown through the farmhouse, barn, and adjacent buildings.

The trail network throughout the site shows emphasis on **Nature**, and conservation efforts are visible.

As for **Infrastructure** on the property, there are problems and concerns that *need to be addressed*.



REMAINING STRUCTURES



Ice/Smoke House



Main Farmhouse



Pony Barn



Silo Base



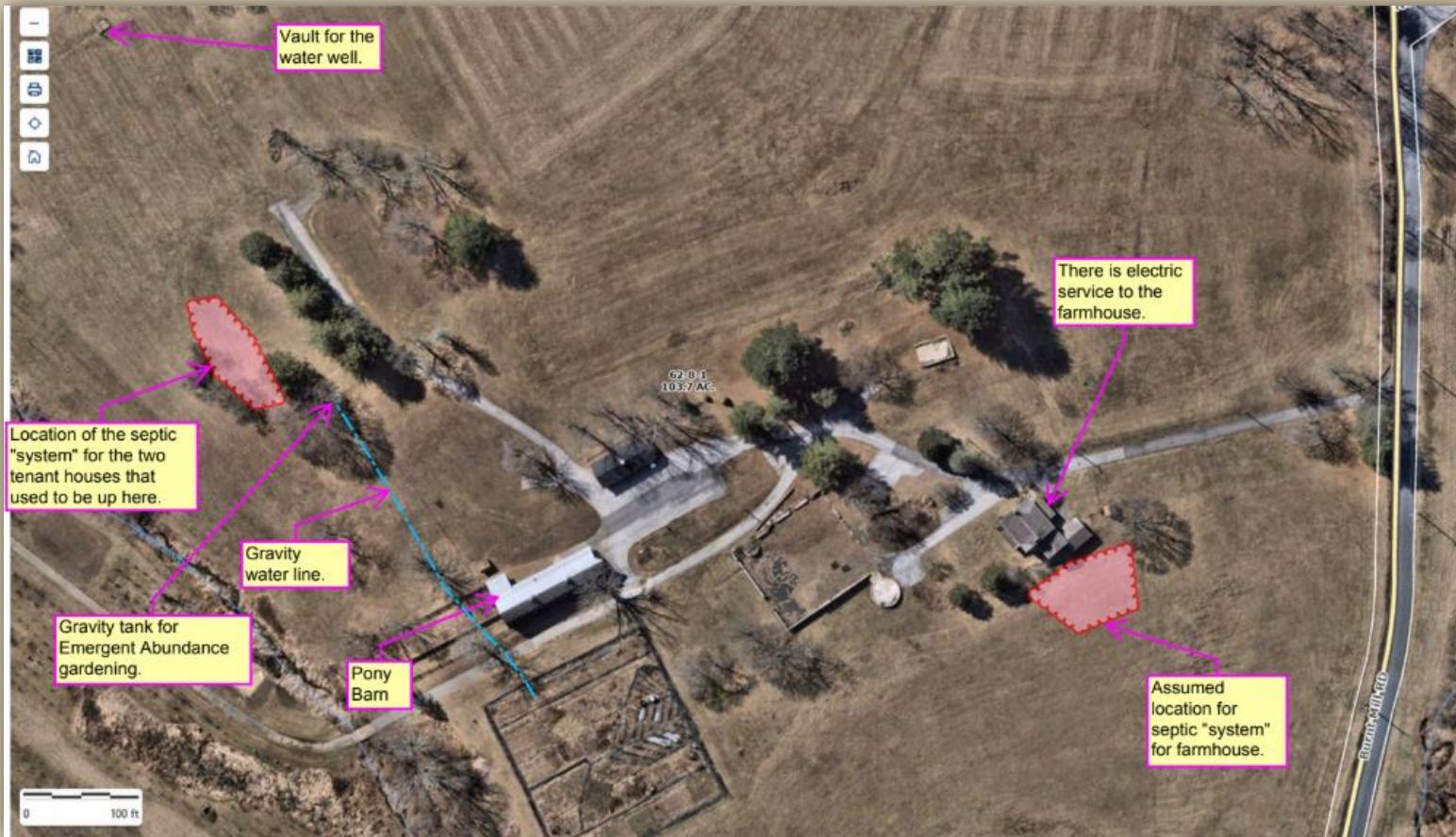
Storage Shed

ACCESSIBILITY

- Paved trails do not complete a total loop back to the parking lot for people with strollers, etc.
- Dangerous breakage in the pavement that is hazardous
- People can only reach the property by car
 - Except for neighbors who walk on the main road



SITE UTILITIES



- **No** running water on the site
- **No** access to a public bathroom
- The existing septic system is **out of date** and needs to be replaced
- **Limited** cell service on the property
- Only two of the buildings have access to electricity



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



TOPOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Limited Steep Slopes



Rolling Hills



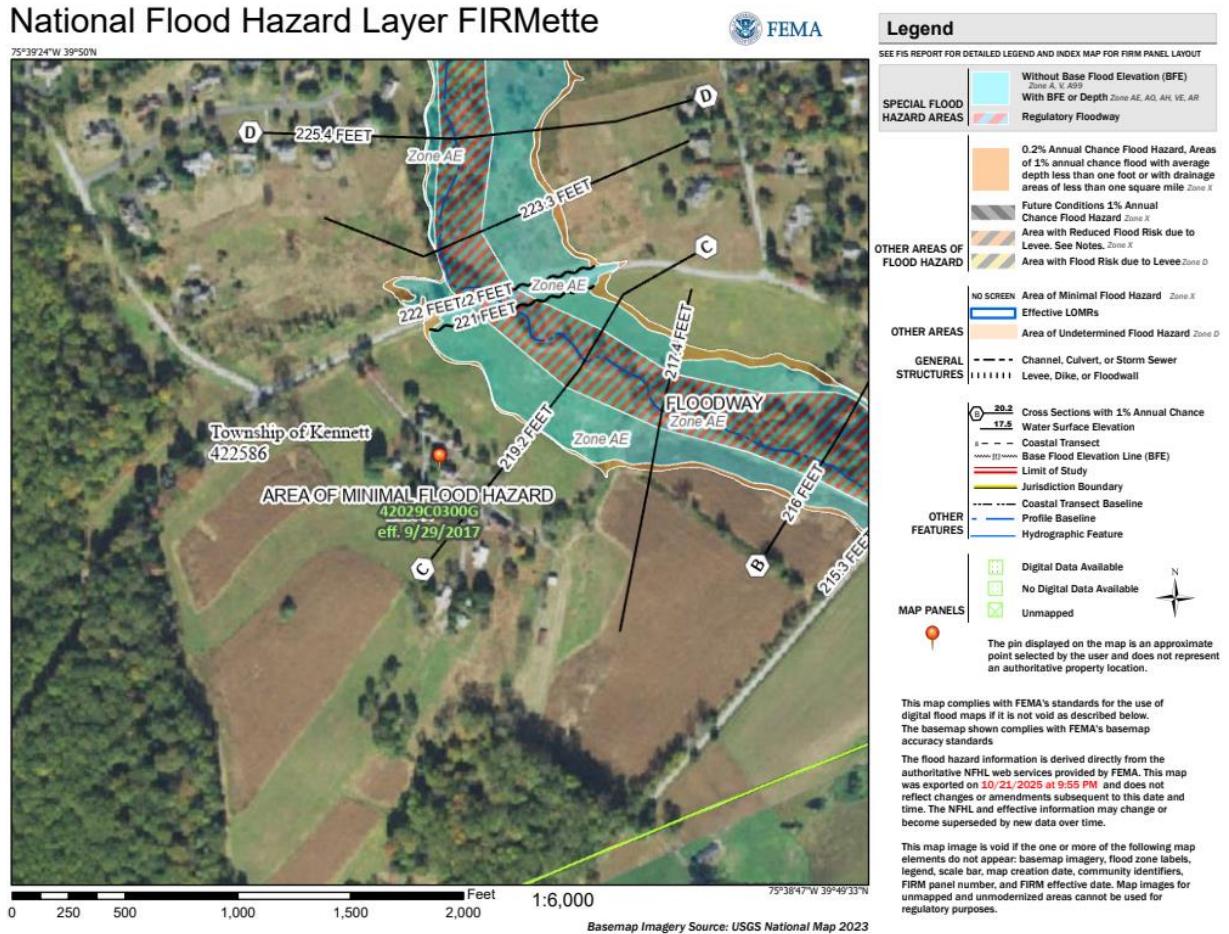
Rain Naturally Runs to Stream



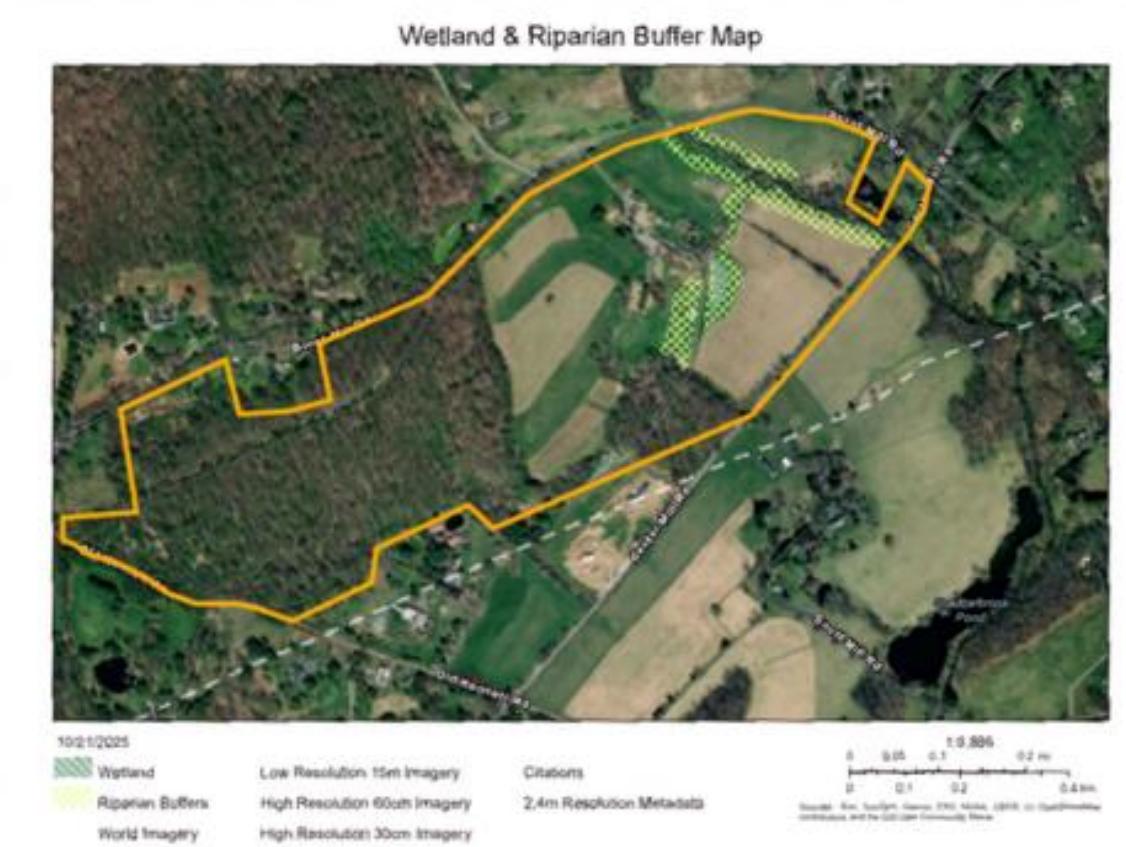
HYDROLOGY

Flood Hazard

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

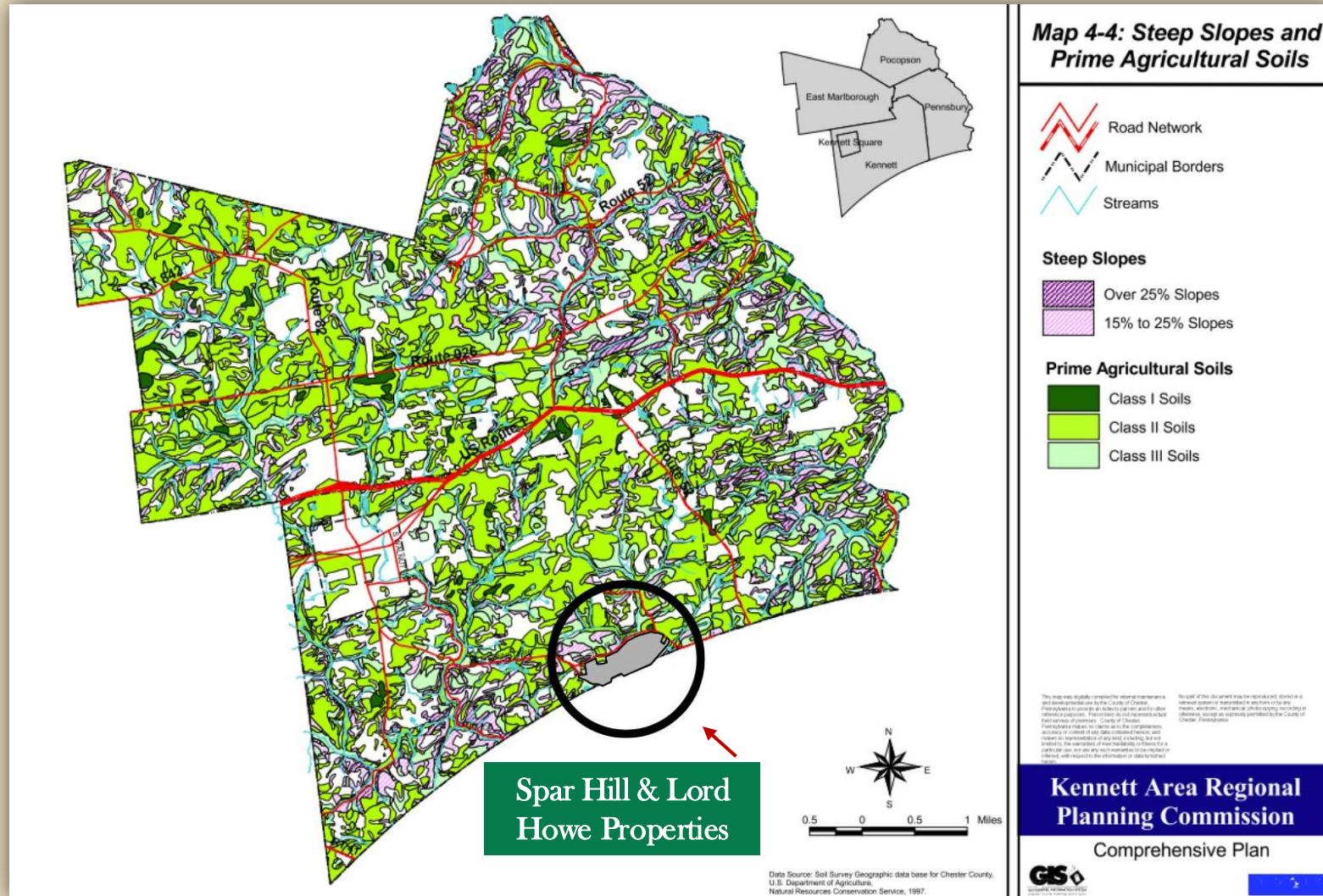


Wetland & Riparian Buffer



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

- Surrounding areas have **prime agricultural soil** and not a lot of steep slopes
- Many streams and land reflect **strong agricultural potential**
- Continue **connecting green space** to reduce fragmentation



DRONE IMAGERY

October 6, 2025





REGULATIONS



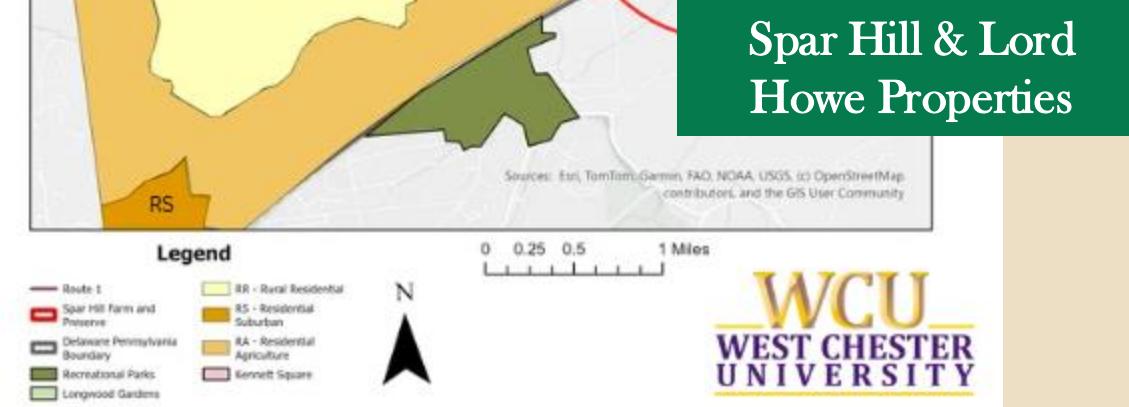
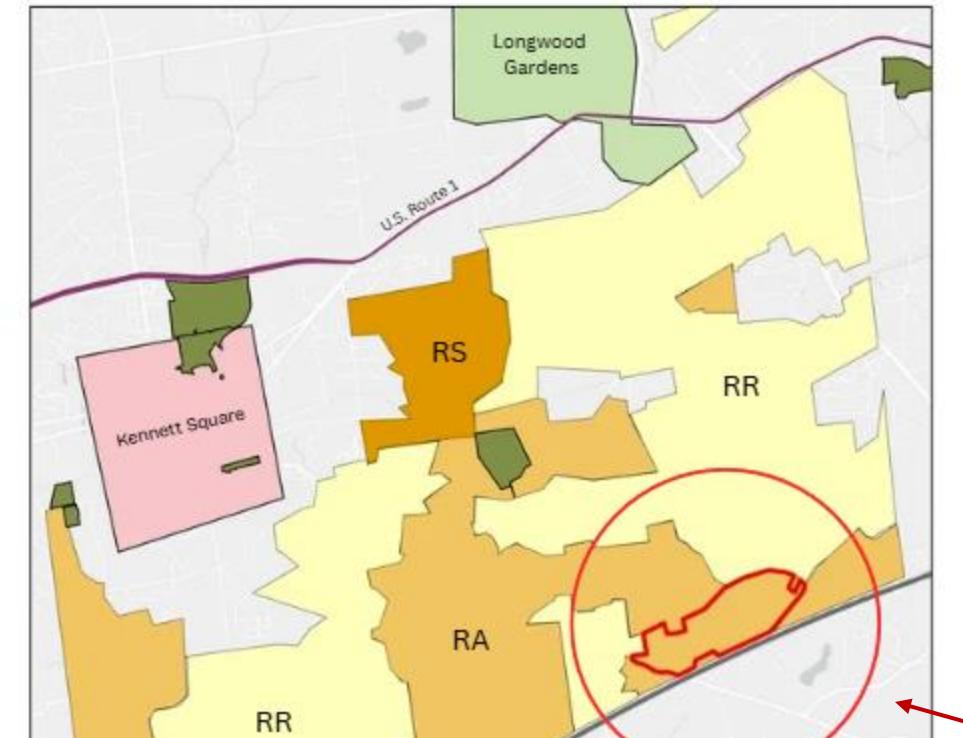
EASEMENTS

- **Spar Hill Farm and Preserve-**
 - “this Conservation Easement shall not limit improvements to the property that are in furtherance of the conservation objective”
 - Kennett Township’s resolution designating the property for conservation refers to “open space uses,” including “resource, passive recreation, or land use plan.”
- **Lord Howe Property -**
 - "Limited signage, impervious coverage must not exceed 3,000 ft, only allowed improvement of trails by wood chips for the intent of passive recreation"
 - Under easement by Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

ZONING

- Existing Zoning Conditions
 - Residential Agriculture
 - Residential Rural
- Uses By-Right
 - Agriculture
 - Adaptive reuse of a historic building
- Uses by Special Exception
 - Public recreation or park.
 - Club or Lodge

Zoning and Existing Parks Surrounding Spar Hill Farm and Preserve





HEARING YOUR VOICES: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH RESULTS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEDIA

What would you like to see at Spar Hill Farm and Preserve?



Legend

Trail System

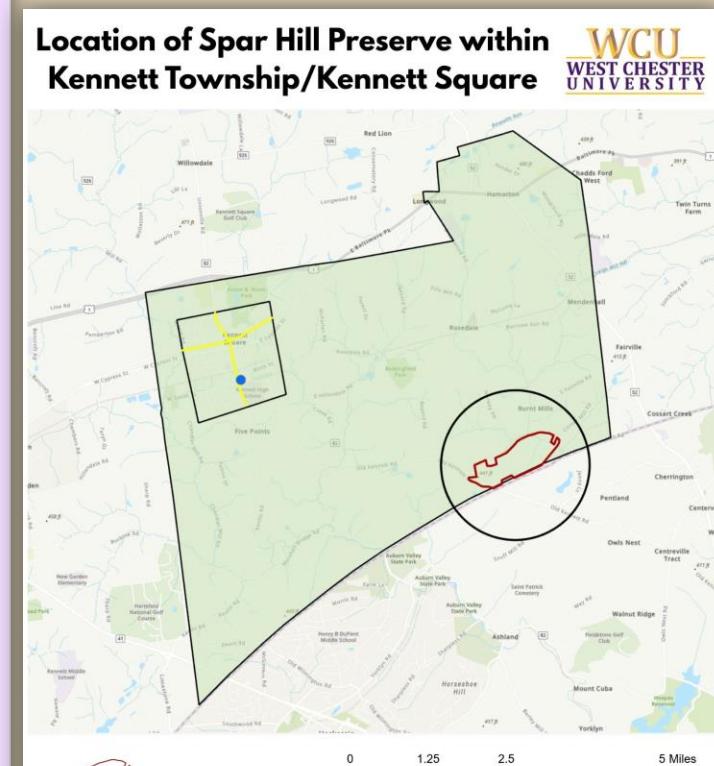


We want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to join the discussion!

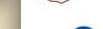


GRAB AN INDEX CARD AND LET US KNOW!

Location of Spar Hill Preserve within Kennett Township/Kennett Square



Spar Hill Preserve



Kennett Square Farmer's Market



State/Union Road



What would you like to see at Spar Hill Farm and Preserve?



TIMELINE OF OUTREACH EVENTS

Date	Event
Friday, October 3	Farmers Market
Friday, October 10	Farmers Market
Thursday, October 16	Third Thursday + Farmers Market
Sunday, October 19	Longwood Fire Dept. Fall Fest
Sunday, October 26	Victory Trunk-or-Treat

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS

Farmer's Market



10/10



Third Thursday



10/16



Longwood Fire Dept.
Fall Fest.



10/19

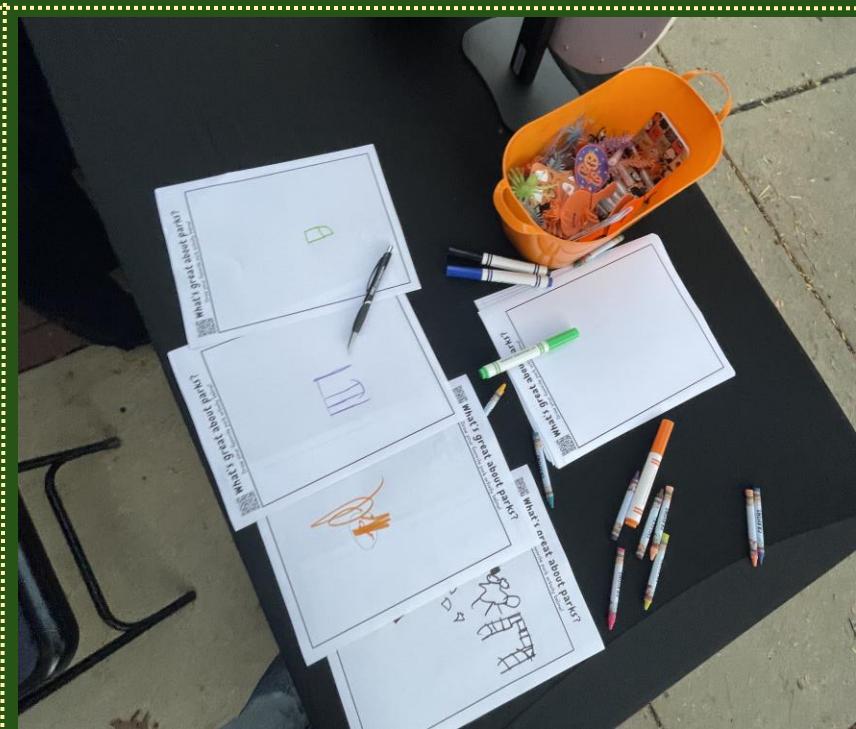
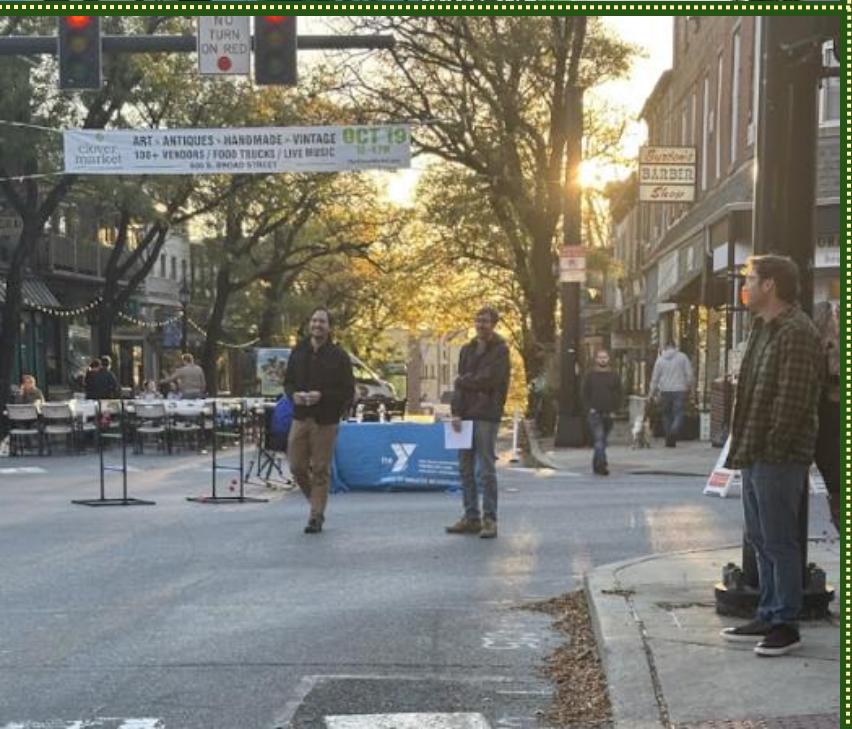


Victory
Trunk-or-Treat



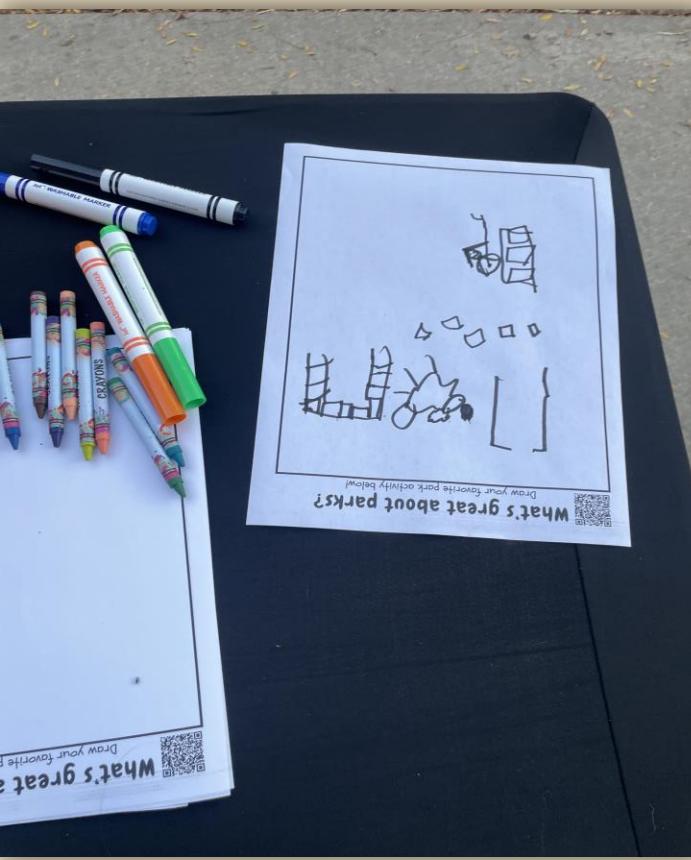
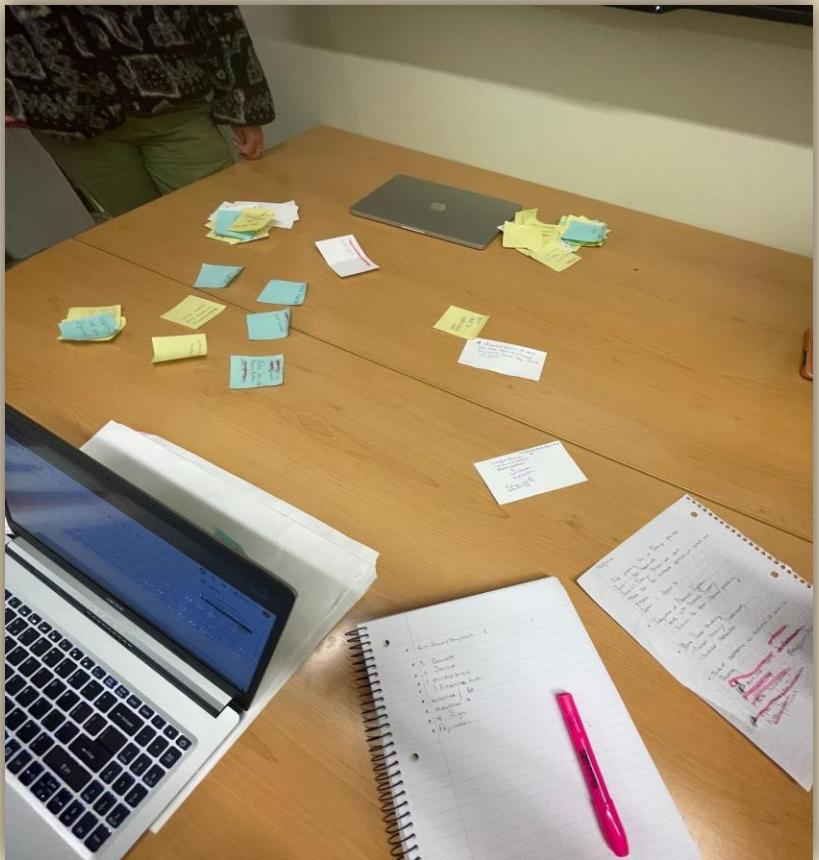
10/26





SURVEY CODING

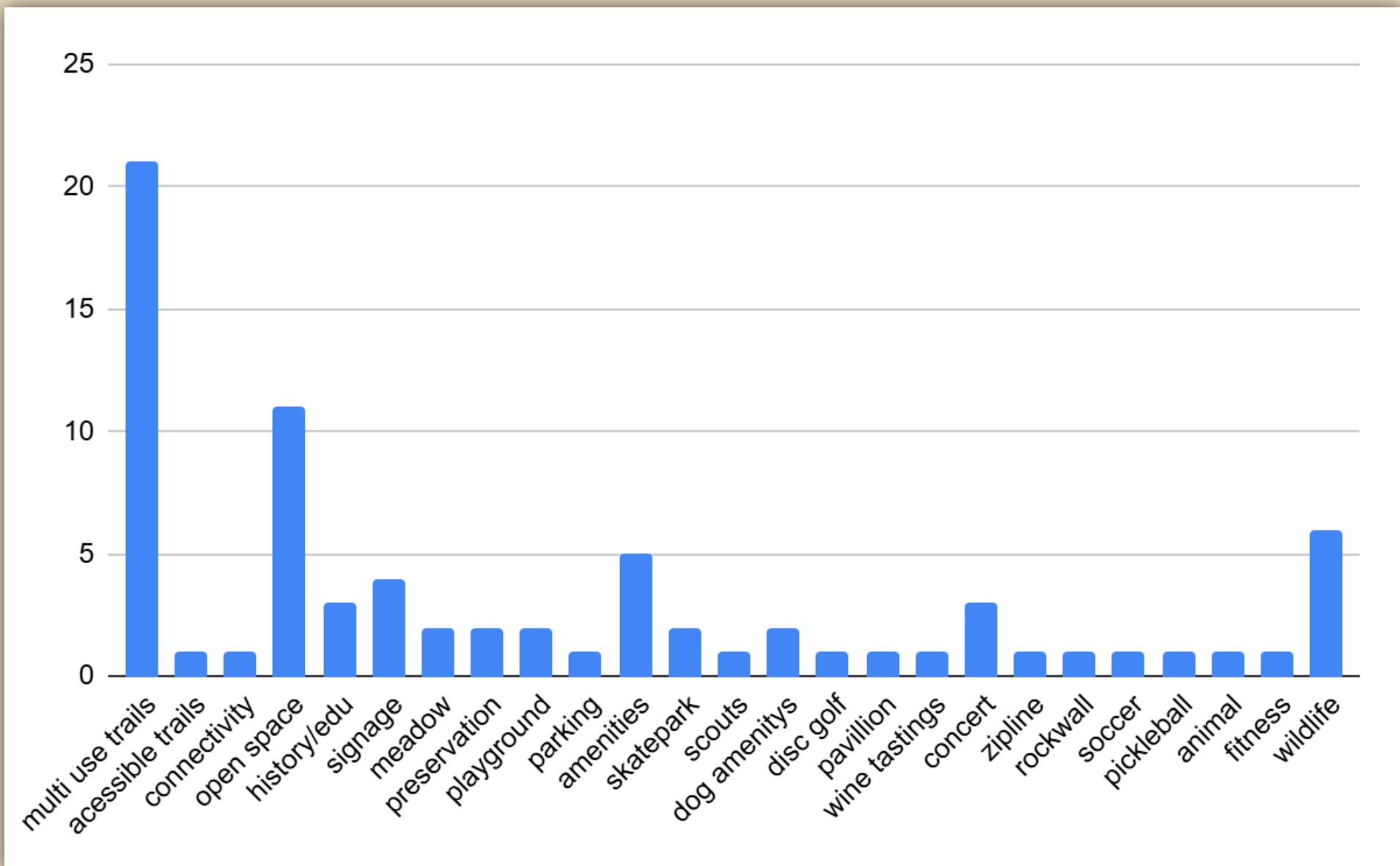
Coding - manually sorting and organizing written and drawn responses to better analyze the communities wants and to include all feedback



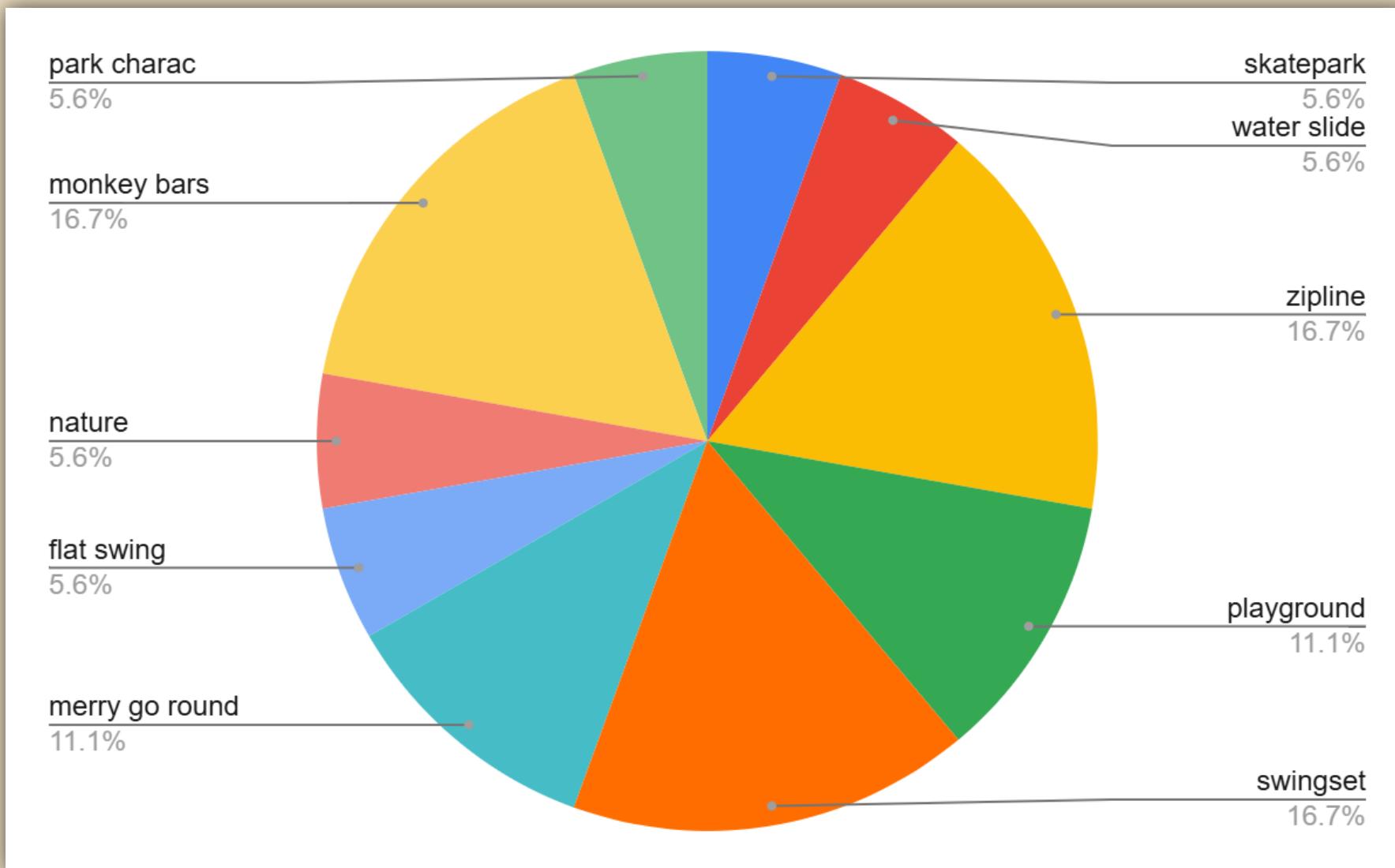
What We Coded:

- Children's Drawings
- Sticky Notes
- Index Cards

WRITTEN RESPONSES



CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS



COMMUNITY SURVEY OVERVIEW

Survey Objectives

The community engagement team developed an online survey to give residents the opportunity to share their experiences with Spar Hill and offer input on how they would like to see the space improved.

Survey Outreach

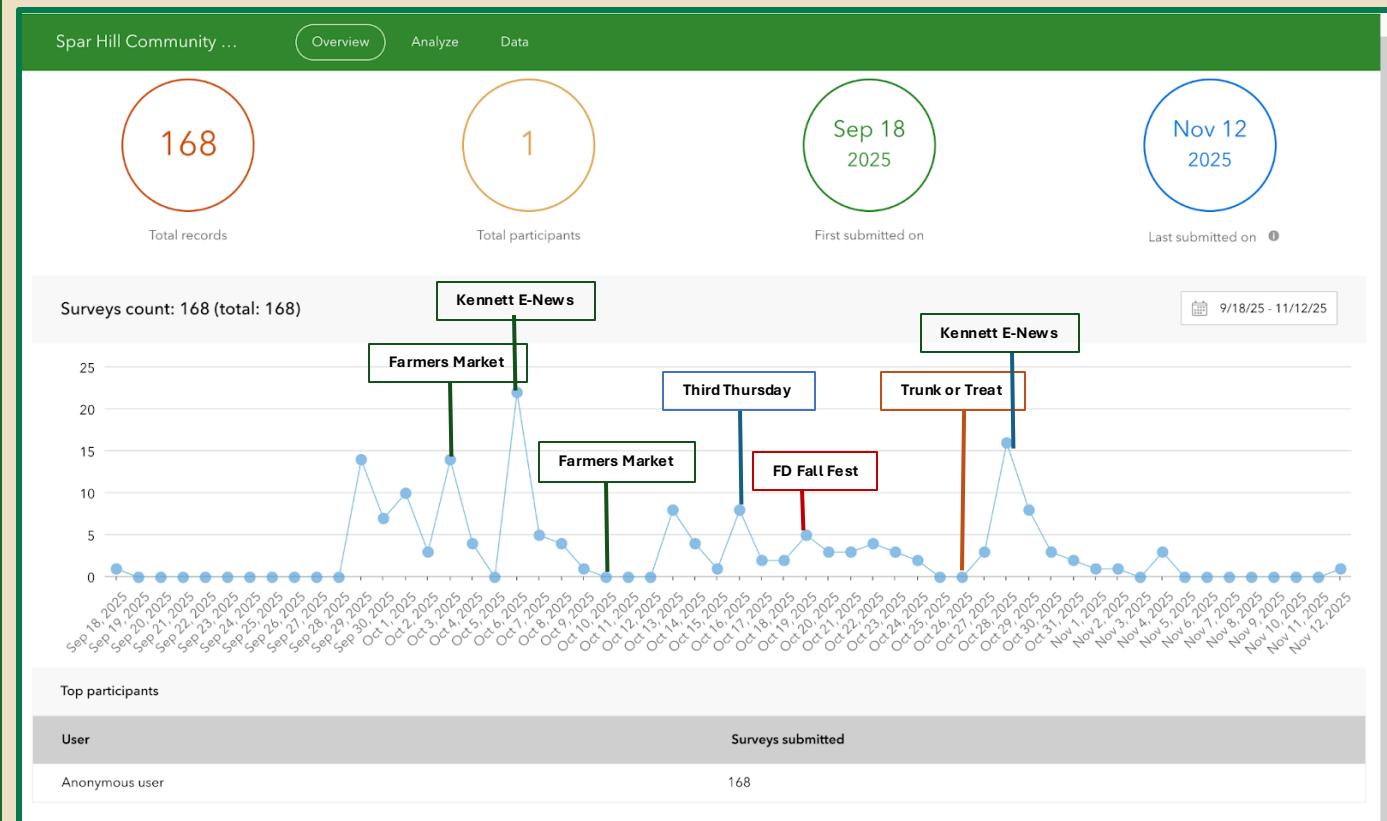
The survey link was distributed widely at all outreach events we attended and also posted at the site.

Engagement

In total, the survey received 168 online responses.

Survey Duration

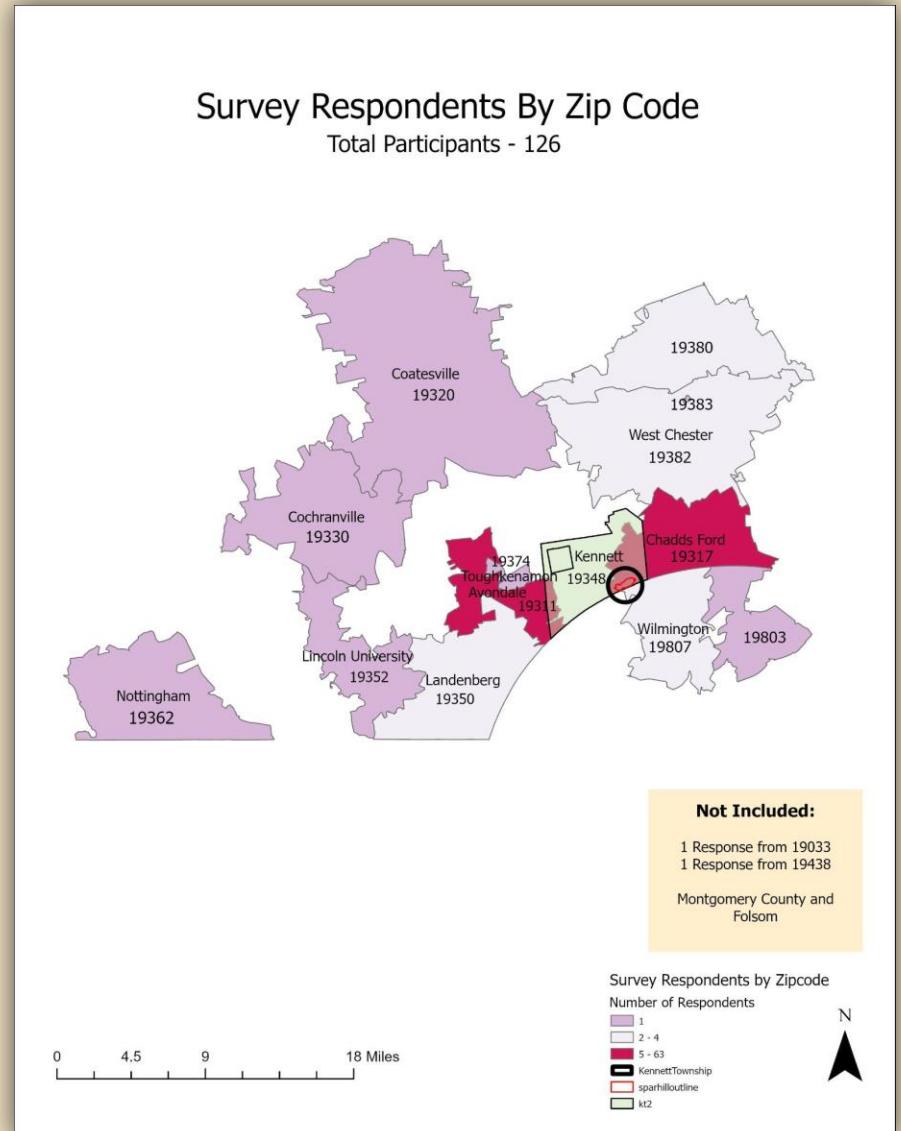
The survey was open beginning on September 18, with responses collected through October 31st.



Online Responses

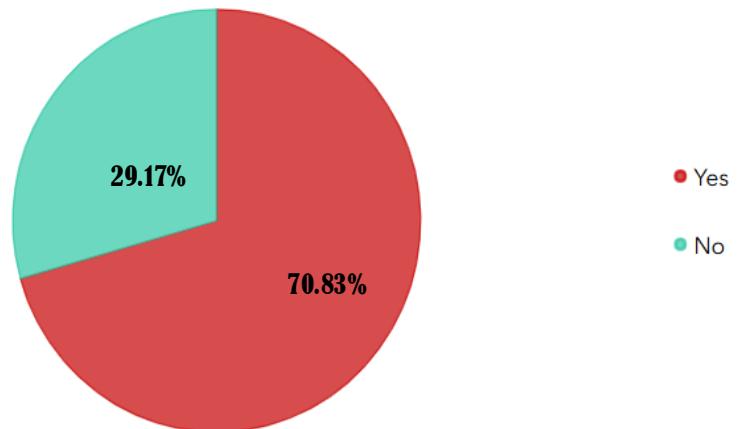
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

- Majority of respondents were from Kennett Square and Chadds Ford (Local)
- 19348 – 81 responses (63 pictured in map)
- 19317 – 50 responses (38 pictured in map)



SURVEY RESULTS

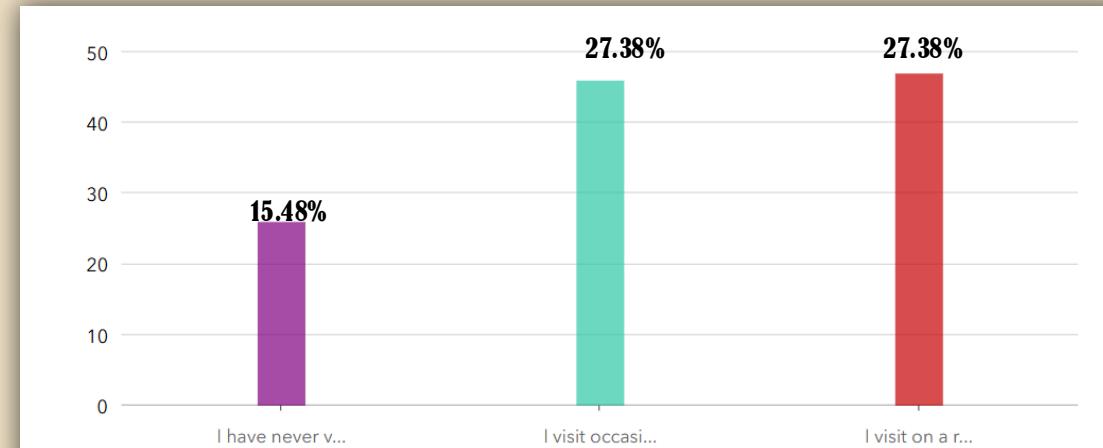
Are you familiar with the Spar Hill Property?



Almost 71% of Kennett respondents are aware of the Spar Hill Property!

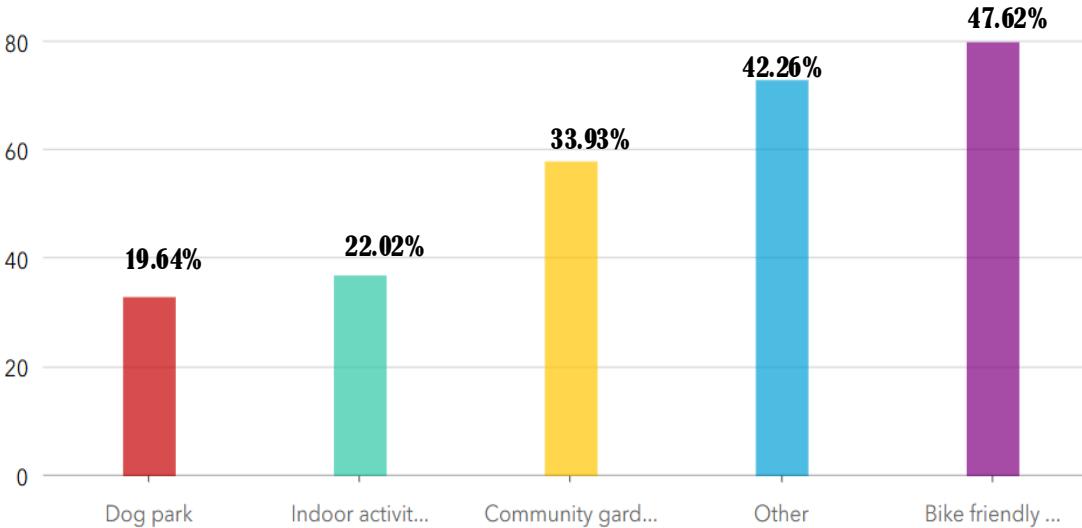
Majority of participants **equally** claim they visit on a regular basis or occasionally!

If yes, do you visit often?

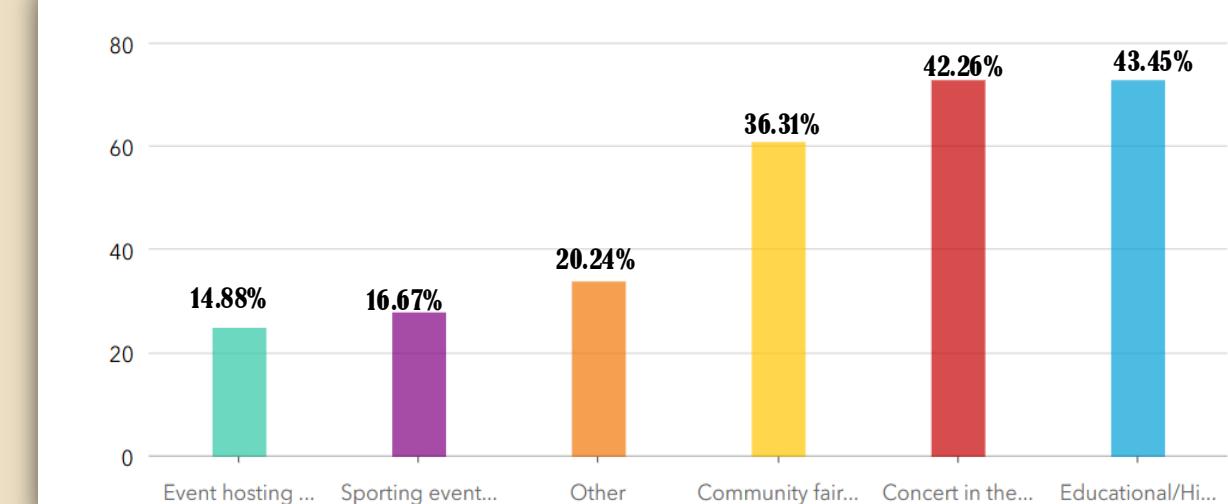


SURVEY RESULTS

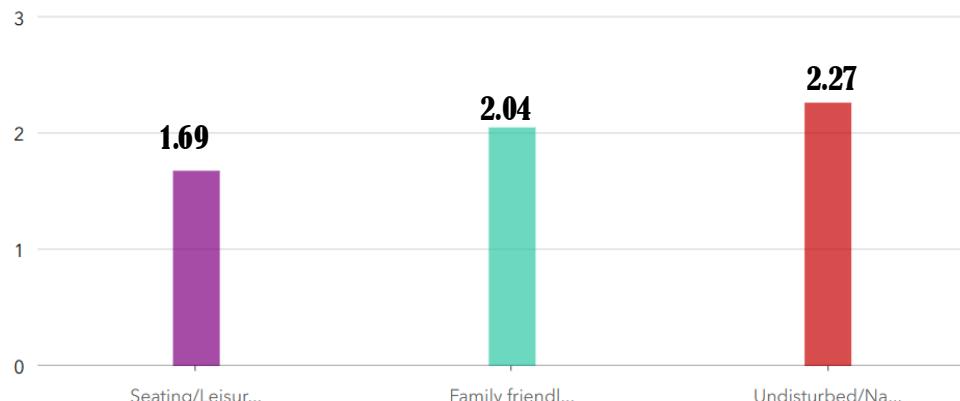
What physical amenities do you wish your community had more of?



What community activities do you wish your community had more of?



Please rank the following options (from most to least important) which you would prefer to see?

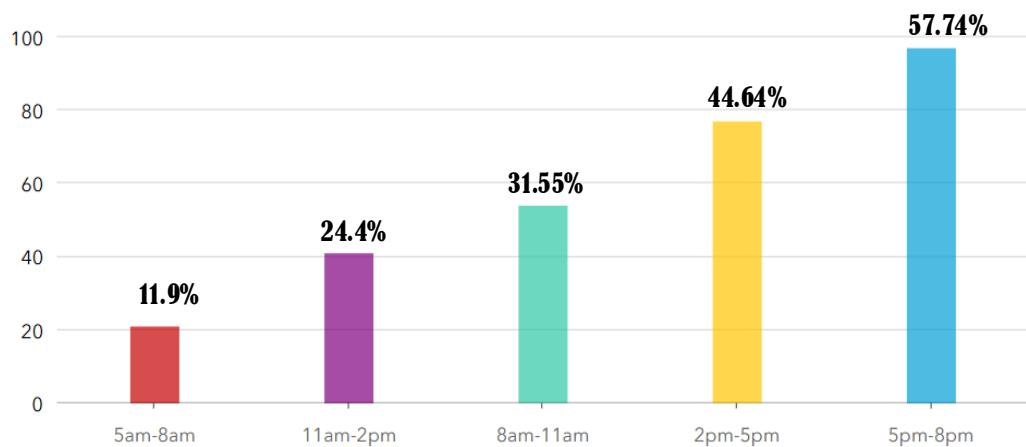


Participants asked to **RANK** by importance.

Following data is **accumulated average score**.

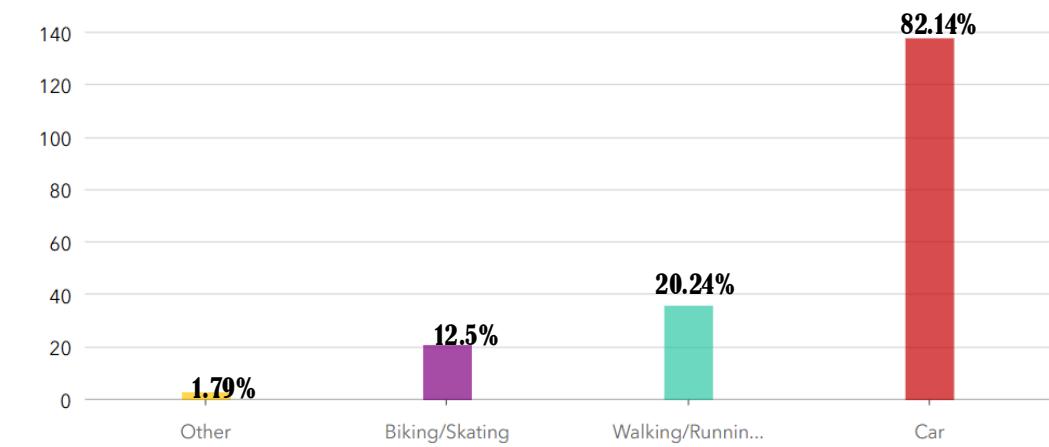
SURVEY RESULTS

What time(s) of day are you most likely to indulge in extracurricular activities during the week?



Many indicated they are most active later in the day, particularly between 2pm and 8pm, suggesting that after-school/work activities would be the most successful.

What method would you most likely use to commute to the Spar Hill property?



A notable portion shared concerns about the potential for Spar Hill to become too busy or overly developed. Several pointed out that the surrounding region already offers a wide variety of amenities, parks, and events, and they expressed a desire to avoid turning Spar Hill into another high-traffic destination.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

What physical amenities do you wish your community had more of?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

The Community expressed a **strong interest** in preserving natural open space at Spar Hill

- Many of the residents ranked **undisturbed, untouched areas** as their highest priority for the site's future

Respondents valued the opportunity to engage in **low-impact recreation**

- Walking and hiking
- No significant development

Enthusiasm for **carefully planned, family friendly amenities**

Interest in bike friendly trails, community gardens, and indoor spaces for activity

- **Safe recreation, local engagement**

Interest in concerts, seasonal fairs, educational opportunities, and historical tours

- Activities that **showcase culture** and **utilize open space**

STAKEHOLDER CONTACT LIST

Photo	Name	Organization	Title	Email
	Katelynn Morgenstern	Kennett Twp.	Dir. Planning & Zoning	kmorgenstern@kennett.pa.us
	Alison Dobbins	Kennett Twp.	Township Manager	adobbins@kennett.pa.us
	Ted Otteni	Kennett Twp.	Dir. Public Works	ted.otteni@kennett.pa.us
	Pat Muller	Kennett Twp.	Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair	pat.muller@kennett.pa.us
	Richard Leff	Kennett Twp.	Board of Supervisors, Chair	richard.leff@kennett.pa.us
	Abbie Kessler	Brandywine Red Clay Alliance	Land Preservation Director	akessler@brandywineredclay.org

	Diane McGovern	Kennett Twp Historical Commission (KTHC)	KTHC Vice-Chair	dmccmcg@gmail.com
	Linda Dillow	Kennett Twp Historical Commission (KTHC)	KTHC, membeber	linda_dillow@verizon.net
	Katharine Michael	Emergent Abundance Farming Collective	Board President and Founding Memeber	eafcollective@gmail.com
	Heather Leach	Emergent Abundance Farming Collective	Member; Farm and Food Education Partner	heleach@gmail.com
	Yulia Smagorinsky	Emergent Abundance Farming Collective	Co-Founder, Farmer and Change Facilitator	eafcollective@gmail.com
	Alexandria Sasek	Emergent Abundance Farming Collective	Co-Founder and Organization Management	eafcollective@gmail.com



ENVISIONING SPAR HILL: IMPACT SCENARIOS



REMINDER: FOCUS AREA



Our Focus is around the Spar hill Farm & Preserve.

Lord Howe connects to Spar Hill and is a large part of its connecting trail system. It is heavily protected and is not the focus point of any structural enhancements

CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS

- Accessibility
- Existing Infrastructure & Utilities
- Environmental Assets

ENVISIONING SPAR HILL

- **Scenario 0:** Baseline Improvements

- **Scenario 1:** Minimal Impact

- **Scenario 2:** Moderate Impact

- **Scenario 3:** Enhanced Use



SCENARIO 0 – BASELINE IMPROVEMENTS

Trail Maintenance

Facilities Optimization

Building Safety & Cleanliness



SCENARIO 0 – BASELINE IMPROVEMENTS

Item	Low \$	High \$	Notes
Trail Maintenance	\$9,000	\$15,000	Annual cost including mowing, hazard management, trail repairs, and invasive species control
Facilities Optimization	\$34,000	\$75,000	Optimization includes cleaning, securing siding, roof patching, reinforcement, pest mitigation, removing compromised pieces, and other basic non renovation updates
Building Safety and Cleanliness	\$15,000	\$25,000	Includes the Main Residence, Pony Barn, and Gable Equipment Shed. Each building would need trash/debris removal, basic sanitizing, rodent and pest control, and general washing

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS – BASELINE IMPROVEMENTS

- Requires minimal capital investment.
- Ensures safety and accessibility of all park users.
- Improves quality and lifespan of existing facilities.

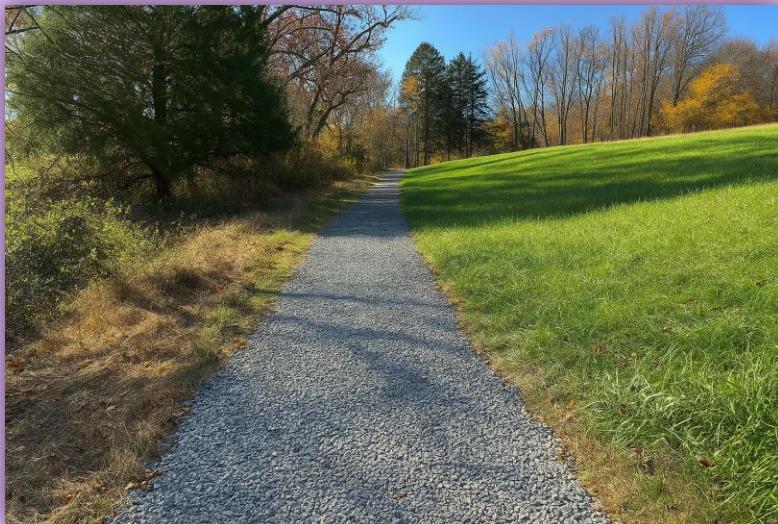
SCENARIO 1

MINIMAL IMPACT

Semi-Paved Trail System

Walking Trail Expansion

Bird Walk



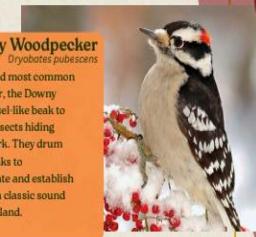
Feathered Friends
Spar Hill Farm & Preserve is home to many different species of birds

Cooper's Hawk
Accipiter cooperii



These agile raptors zip through the trees with remarkable speed and precision. Skilled bird hunters, Cooper's Hawks use surprise attacks to chase songbirds mid-air. Look for long, banded tails and sharp, rounded wings.

Downy Woodpecker
Dryobates pubescens



Smallest and most common woodpecker, the Downy uses its chisel-like beak to probe for insects hiding beneath bark. They drum on tree trunks to communicate and establish territory – a classic sound of the woodland.

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus



Unlike most woodpeckers, Northern Flickers often forage on the ground, feasting on ants with their long, sticky tongues. Watch for the flash of yellow in their wings and tail as they take flight.

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata



Bold, intelligent, and noisy, Blue Jays are the neighborhood sentinels of the forest. Their loud calls often alert other animals to danger. Known for caching acorns, they help oak forests regenerate as forgotten seeds sprout into new trees.

Learn more about our birds here: [\[link\]](#)



SCENARIO 1 – MINIMAL IMPACT

Disc Golf



Nature Preserve & Educational & Historical Educational & Historical Tours



Seating Options



SCENARIO 1 – MINIMAL IMPACT ESTIMATED COSTS

Item	Low \$	High \$	Notes
Semi Paved Trail System	\$60,000	\$150,000	Compacted crushed stone trail, around 1.5 miles of trail, around 6 feet wide
Walking Trail Expansion	\$8,000 (mowed trail)	\$90,000 (paved)	.5 - 1 mile of trail expansion, possible throughout the central and southern meadows, mowed trail would be most feasible.
Bird Walk	\$7,100	\$15,000	Would cover existing trails. Would need outdoor rated interpretive signs/panels, direction signs that start at trailhead, habitat upgrades such as bird boxes, labor.
Disc Golf	\$20,000	\$45,000	Typically, needs about 20 acres for a 9 hole course. Disc golf baskets and discs, Signage, Tee/launch pad, and trail clearing
Nature Preserve Educational& Historical Educational& Historical Tours	Startup - \$10,000 Annual - \$2,000	Startup - \$30,000 Annual - \$18,00	Startup costs come from informational signage, Or code with a guide, Trail clearing and safety evaluations. Annual costs could be just for materials if volunteer lead or on the higher end if hiring a per diem guide
Seating Options – Benches/Picnic Tables	\$250 per picnic table/bench (wood) \$700 per ADA accessible picnic table/ bench	\$1,200 per picnic table (metal) \$1,300 per ADA accessible picnic table/bench	Depending on material could be wood, plastic, or metal.

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS – MINIMAL IMPACT

- Aligns with the 69% of respondents who favored passive, low-impact uses.
- Requires minimal capital investment and low annual maintenance.
- Prioritizes conservation-first management and reduce impact of future development.

SCENARIO 2 – MODERATE IMPACT

Small - Medium
Playground

Expansion of Community
Garden

Scout Project
Opportunities



SCENARIO 2 – MODERATE IMPACT

Temporary Concerts

Off-leash Dog Area

Facility Upgrades



RENDERINGS



RENDERINGS



SCENARIO 2 – MODERATE IMPACT ESTIMATED COSTS

Item	Low \$	High \$	Details
Medium-sized wooden playground	\$20,000	\$50,000	Delivery and installation included
Wooden park bench	\$300	\$500	Installation included
Stone firepit	\$750	\$1,500	Potential use for boy scouts
Seasonal Concerts	\$3,500	\$6,500	Portable 8x12 stage, large speaker, and a generator
Off-leash dog area	\$2,500	\$5,000	4 ft tall fence at \$12/ft; 200 ft total
Low-impact bathroom	\$8,000	\$20,000	High end includes new septic system and finishes on fixtures

Total Estimate : \$60,500 - \$95,000

PARKING LOT EXPANSION



Proposed/
Expanded
Parking Lot



ArcGIS Urban 3D Modeling

Spar Hill Entrance

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS – MODERATE IMPACT

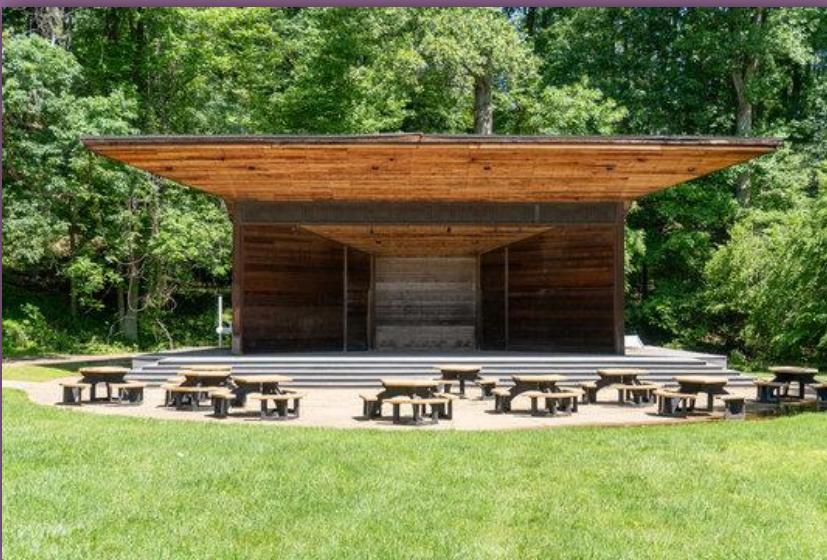
- Reflects majority interest in modest amenities and family-oriented spaces.
- Moderate funding required (could be phased through grants and partnerships).
- Balances accessibility with environmental sensitivity.

SCENARIO 3 – ENHANCED USE

Large playground

Permanent Concert
Structure

Recreational Fields



SCENARIO 3 – ENHANCED USE

Barn & House
Restoration

Festivals & Community
Events

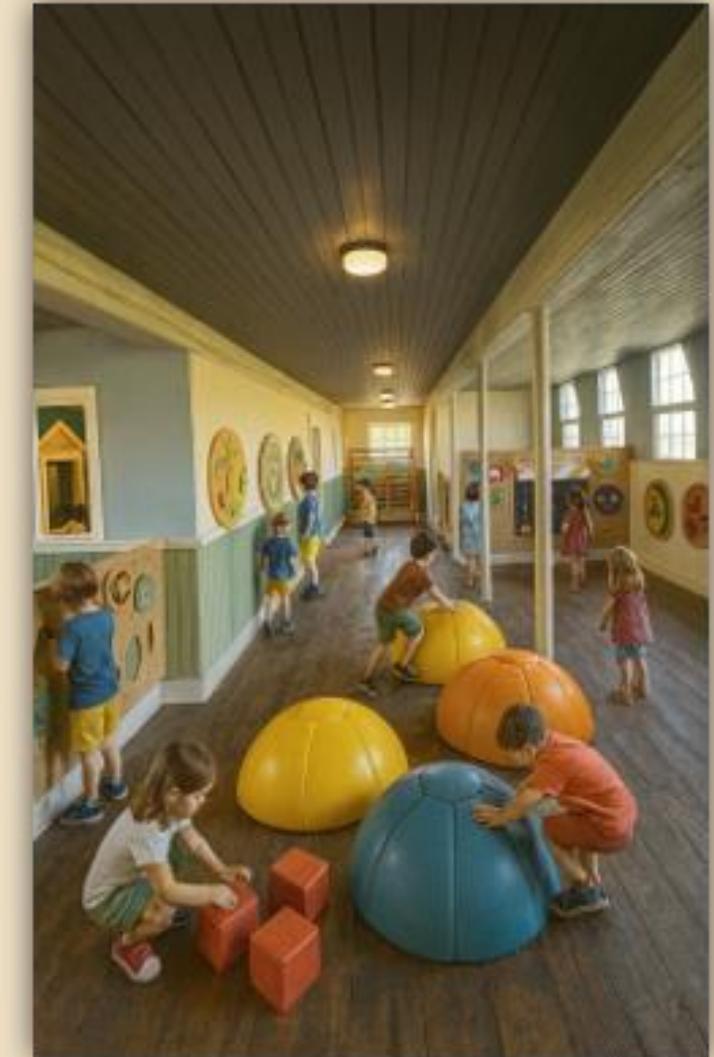
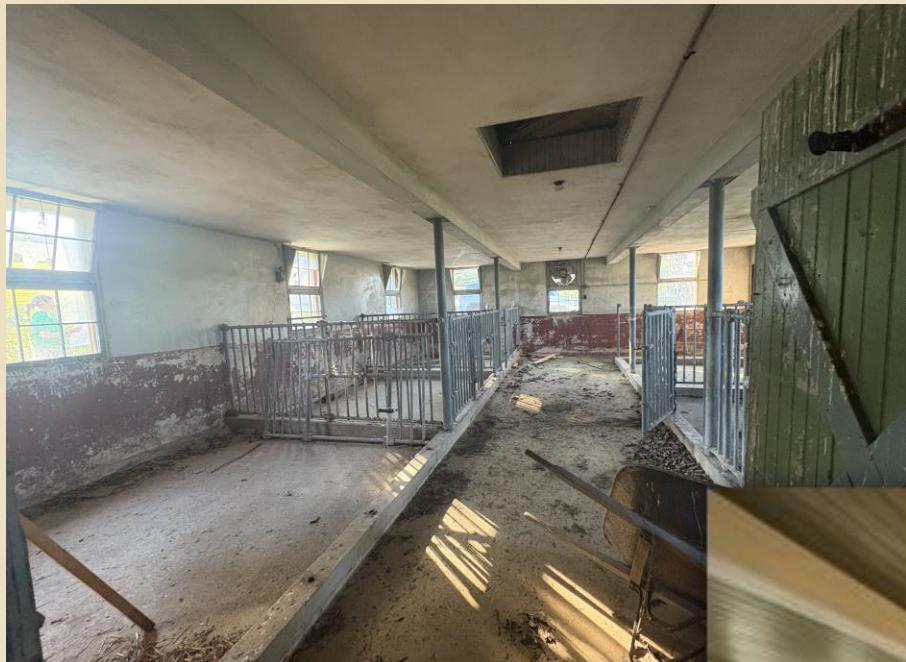
Facility Expansion



RENDERINGS



RENDERINGS



RENDERINGS



RENDERINGS



RENDERINGS



SCENARIO 3 – ENHANCED USE ESTIMATED COSTS

Item	Low \$	High \$	Notes
Large Playground	-	\$113,000.00	Ages 5-12, 46 Child capacity, 55ft x 41ft
Permanent Concert Structure	*\$550,000.00	*\$1,500,000.00	200-person capacity. Requires amphitheater, major environmental mitigation, and engineering costs. * Assuming parking lot is already expanded
Recreational/Soccer fields	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00	35x25 yard field, costs include price of physical goals, A few benches, line painting if needed, and general maintenance
Barn Restoration (educational center)	\$250,000.00	\$350,000.00	Would need new roof and interior improvements to sustain a classroom environment, insulation, paint, electrical work, and ADA accessibility
House Restoration (museum)	\$270,000.00	\$350,000.00	Costs are from assessments and designs, asbestos testing and abatement, structural repairs where needed, paint, insulation and HVAC climate control, electrical upgrades, ADA and safety features, and security cameras if deemed necessary
Festivals and Community Events	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00	Small to moderate festival (250-500 people), would need vendors and/or food trucks, entertainment, staging and basic prep, possible onsite portable facilities, and other contingency costs
Facility Expansion	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00	Using existing septic tank. Costs Incurred from water services, electrical, ventilation, and structure costs

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS – ENHANCED USE

- Represents the most development-intensive but still survey-aligned outcome.
- Supports long-term educational and community engagement goals.
- Requires formal management structure, operating budget, and funding plan.
- Must include robust community communication to address tax and transparency concerns.

INCREASING BIODIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plant native species!
- Leave natural areas un-mowed
- Encourage people to take trash home
- Natural education opportunities
- Install wildlife support
- Reduce chemical use
- Preserve connections and buffers



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



working (with) the land.

Spar Hill Farm and Preserve includes about 137 acres of working farmland. The land is leased to a local farmer who cultivates corn and hay.

Farming has long been an important part of this property's history. Today, we are working with the farmer to make the crop-land a showcase of environmentally sound agriculture, and our partners at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance are using it to study and mitigate the long term impacts of farming practices and water quality.

thinking holistically.

Sustainable agriculture requires us to consider the water, soil, and wildlife. Planting in strips that follows the contours of the land allows rainwater to flow into the grassy and riparian areas. Planting with contours slows the water, minimizing the sediment and agricultural pollutants that run off during rainfall.



Pollinators Keep Spar Hill Blooming

Pollinators Found In Spar Hill

 **Eastern Bumblebee**
(*Bombus impatiens*)

 **Honey Bee**
(*Apis mellifera*)

 **Carpenter Bee**
(*Xylocopa*)

 **Monarch**
(*Danaus plexippus*)

 **Red Admiral**
(*Vanessa atalanta*)

 **Pearl Crescent**
(*Phyciodes tharos*)

Plants That Support Pollinators Here

 **Butterfly Milkweed**
(*Asclepias Tuberosa*)

 **Black-eyed Susan**
(*Rudbeckia hirta*)

 **Aster**

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE CONT.



SPAR HILL TURKEY FARM



SPAR HILL BROAD BREASTED BRONZE TURKEYS

Trained, pedigree birds for
MAXIMUM MEAT PRODUCTION
and PROFITS



SPAR HILL TURKEY FARM
Chadds Ford, Pa. - Greenville, Del.
C. E. SCHUTT

Ca. 1949, Way Farm operated as Spar Hill Turkey Farm under the ownership of Harold S. Schutt.

A study called *Turkey Management* (1955) used Spar Hill Turkey Farm as an example, including photographs of brooder houses, rearing platforms, and other structures, most of which no longer exist today.

In 1956, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *National Turkey Improvement Plan* listed hatcheries, dealers, and independent flocks across the U.S.A.

Spar Hill Turkey Farm reported producing 45,000 turkeys, which was approximately mid-range of the Pennsylvania farm entries included in the plan.

Feathered Friends

Spar Hill Farm & Preserve is home to many different species of birds



Cooper's Hawk
Accipiter cooperii

These agile raptors zip through the trees with remarkable speed and precision. Skilled bird hunters, Cooper's Hawks use surprise attacks to chase songbirds mid-air. Look for long, banded tails and sharp, rounded wings.



Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus

Unlike most woodpeckers, Northern Flickers often forage on the ground, feasting on ants with their long, sticky tongues. Watch for the flash of yellow in their wings and tail as they take flight.

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens

Smallest and most common woodpecker, the Downy uses its chisel-like beak to probe for insects hiding beneath bark. They drum on tree trunks to communicate and establish territory – a classic sound of the woodland.



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

Bold, intelligent, and noisy, Blue Jays are the neighborhood sentinels of the forest. Their loud calls often alert other animals to danger. Known for caching acorns, they help oak forests regenerate as forgotten seeds sprout into new trees.



PERMITTING

Potential Permits Required

- SALDO Approval
- Grading & Stormwater Permits
- Building Permits
- Natural Resource / Environmental Permits
- Sewage / Water Permits
- Road / Access Permits





CONTINUED CARE



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Environmental Preservation <p>Continuous monitoring and removal of invasive species, limit trail use in sensitive areas, and regular trail upkeep through mowing, clearing, and repaving as needed.</p>	Site Cleanliness <p>Perform daily cleanings of facility restrooms and high-traffic indoor areas, with weekly and monthly janitorial services for deep cleaning of the site's interior spaces. Restock restroom and cleaning supplies as needed.</p>	Safety & Risk Management <p>Routinely monitor site entrance, parking areas, pedestrian trails, and site structures for potential hazards and address any risks for harm.</p>
Groundskeeping <p>Maintain manicured lawns on the site, tend to the upkeep of formal gardens, and ensure that landscaping is consistent with the surrounding area. Perform pruning of trees and shrubs on as-needed basis.</p>	Litter & Debris Removal <p>Install and maintain waste removal bins in high-use areas and lead community trash removal days through the creation of a Friends of Spar Hill program.</p>	Boundary and Signage Updates <p>Replace worn trail markers, update educational signs for accuracy, and clearly mark property boundaries to avoid trespassing on private properties.</p>
Stormwater and Drainage Management <p>Regularly assess the conditions of Burrs Run along the property's eastern boundary with Brandywine Conservancy, maintain rain barrels, and monitor drainage paths to track runoff.</p>	Structural Heritage <p>Conduct quarterly inspections of all structures on site and perform repairs as needed to ensure historic structures are structurally sound and heritage is preserved.</p>	Infrastructure Assessments <p>Inspect parking areas, trails, structures, signage, and waste systems for signs of wear and perform repairs as needed.</p>

SEASONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Fall :

- Plant trees/shrubs for long-term biodiversity
- Remove invasive species prior to seed drop
- Scrape Spotted Lanternfly egg masses from trees and fences
- Collect leaves for composting
- Inspections on site buildings for weak points in foundations, roofing, & siding before winter



Winter :

- Winterize rain barrels
- Snow and ice management to maintain safe entry to parking areas and trailheads
- Prepare gardens for spring



Summer:

- Maintain permaculture crops
- Water native plants using rain barrel storage
- Weekly lawn mowing in designated high-use areas
- Remove Spotted Lanternfly nymphs



Spring:

- Mulch garden beds & permaculture zones for educational gardens
- Inspect trails for post-winter erosion
- Rain barrel activation and cleaning
- Inspect historic buildings for ventilation and minor repairs
- Early inspection for new invasive growth





CLOSING REMARKS



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Spar Hill should **prioritize the conservation** of natural open space, low-impact amenities and passive recreation
- Out of 168 survey responses and direct public engagement, the key community preferences are:
 - *Undisturbed open space*
 - *Walking & hiking access*
 - *Family friendly (but modest) amenities*
 - *Avoiding overdevelopment that would turn into high traffic congestion*
- Spar Hill has the potential to be a **community hub**, serving as a space that blends history, agriculture, education and recreation
- Continued care is **essential** for long term success

FRIENDS OF SPAR HILL

- Inspired by the city of Philadelphia's Park-in-a-Truck (PiAT) community engagement initiatives
- Friends of Spar Hill is a proposed stewardship group for Spar Hill to continue engagement efforts with visitors and boost community investment in the site
- Led by community volunteers trained by Kennett Township in debris collection and event organizing
- Host trash collection days at Spar Hill, where volunteers gather debris to keep the site clean
- The Friends of Spar Hill program should be volunteer-based to mitigate initial funding concerns, without ruling out the potential for volunteer stipends if the program were to develop further.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

- 1.) Select a preferred development scenario based off community input, budgeting and conservation goals
- 2.) Reserve space for features that commit to any high-intensity development
- 3.) Conduct detailed land stewardship and master plans involving engineers, building code officers and more to stabilize infrastructure, make trails accessible and have a utilities plan
- 4.) Finalize cost estimates and phase scheduling

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