

5.0 Cultural Resources

The great scenic and environmental value of Monroe County and in particular the Cherry Valley has not gone unnoticed at the national scale. As early as 1923, Monroe County was recommended as part of a large natural reserve by the landscape architect Warren Manning in his *National Plan for the United States*. Manning anticipated the growth of the industrial east and selected Monroe County as having qualities that should be protected as a focus for outdoor recreation.

The Cherry Creek Watershed is part of the larger Delaware River Watershed which boasts one of the greatest concentrations of historical buildings, canals and landmarks in the nation.

5.1 Recreation / Open Space

See *Recreation/Open Space* map (Figure 5.1) for information on the location of federal and state owned lands, municipal facilities, and other recreation/open space areas.

State Parks, Game Lands & Forests

There are no State Parks, State Game Lands or State Forests in the Cherry Creek watershed. However, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owns approximately 50 acres along the Kittatinny Ridge.

County & Municipal Recreation Lands

Monroe County has received a *Growing Greener* planning grant in which municipalities, organized as a region, developed joint municipal park, recreation and open space plans. In the local planning process, the municipal parks, recreation and open space inventories were developed in detail as was appropriate for that level. At the county level, broad information about local parks is being used for planning purposes. The goal is to create a big picture of public parks and recreation as it relates to the present and projected needs of the public in order to improve and expand public parks and recreation within the County.

The following is a list of municipal parks and open space lands in the watershed:

- FSR Homestead – Hamilton Twp, 5 acres
- Open Space – Hamilton Twp, 2 acres
- Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Lands – Stroud Twp, 75 acres
- Totts Gap Trail Head – Stroud Twp, 30 acres
- Porter Farm – Stroud Twp, 48 acres

Greenways, Trails, and Public Access Linkages

There are tremendous opportunities to establish and protect an interconnected network of green space and trails in the Cherry Creek watershed. Advocates for open space preservation are commonly referring to such a network as “green infrastructure”, which has been defined as “an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations.” [Benedict, M. and E. McMahon, 2002. “Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century.” Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse. Washington, D.C.]

Preserving corridors of green space along stream and ridgelines will be key to avoiding fragmenting wildlife and fisheries habitat in the watershed. Establishing a protected green infrastructure network in the Cherry Valley could also have benefits for people; as some open space corridors could have trails, which would provide places for walking, hiking and bicycling between community centers, which can promote alternative forms of transportation and provide health benefits close to home.

This greenway and trail network would be established over the next 10 to 20 years. The network would be a combination of lands in public and private ownership. Some important open space areas in the watershed are protected through existing federal, state and municipal parks. Some pieces of the trail network are in place today such as the Appalachian Trail. The following sections of the report list

- Existing trails, bicycling, and scenic driving routes,
- Proposed greenway and trail corridors, and
- Connections with other regionally significant park, open space and trail resources.

See: *Greenways and Trails - Vision Plan* map (Figure 5.2) for how a green infrastructure system can function in the watershed.

Existing Trails & Public Access

The Appalachian Trail (AT) is the major existing trail in the Cherry Creek watershed, which runs along the entire southeastern border of the watershed and intersects with each of the federally owned lands referenced above. Congress recognized the AT in 2000 as one of sixteen National Millennium Trails. Millennium Trails received a White House Millennium Council logo, have a map and description in the National Trails website (<http://www.millenniumtrails.org>) and were honored in a national event on National Trails Day 2000, and benefit from increased recognition through enhanced media visibility and special partnership and funding opportunities. In addition to the access noted above near Lake Lenape there is an additional trail head access within the watershed located at the top of the Kittatinny Ridge at its intersection with Route 191.

Trails in the study area and within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area include:

- **Appalachian Trail (AT) South in Pennsylvania (white blaze)**
This trail can be started at Lake Lenape parking area off Mountain Road in the town of Delaware Water Gap. The trail climbs 1-1/2 miles and 1,060 ft. to the top of Mt. Minsi. There is also a trail head access at the top of the Kittatinny Ridge where the trail crosses Route 191.
- **Table Rock Spur**
This 1/4-mile spur branches off the right of the AT southbound (Hike 1 above), 1/3-mile past Lake Lenape, to a view of Kittatinny Ridge.
- **Mt. Minsi Fire Road (No bikes or vehicles)**
This dirt road begins at Lake Lenape parking area and climbs 1-1/2 miles and 1,060 ft. to the top of Mt. Minsi. Combined with the AT (Hike 1 above) the road forms a 4-mile loop on Mt. Minsi. Smaller unused roadways lead to and around Lake Latini.
- **Spur to the Appalachian Trail**
This 1/4-mile blue-blazed trail begins across Route 611 from Resort Point parking area, and climbs alongside a stream that once ran through the basement of Kittatinny Hotel. (Look in the parking area for the base of the hotel's fountain.) At the top of the trail, turn left for views of the Gap along the AT southbound, or turn right to Lake Lenape and the AT northbound

[From: <http://www.nps.gov/dewa/Activities/Hikes/hikeWGAP.html>]

Existing Bicycle and Scenic Driving Routes

Due to its scenic quality and relatively low traffic volume roads, Cherry Valley is a popular bike touring area for long distance riders. In addition, the Stroudsburg YMCA hosts an annual ride from Stroudsburg Borough that returns to the Borough via two alternative routes through Cherry Valley.

Proposed Greenways

The *Monroe County Open Space Plan*, adopted by the Monroe County Commissioners in June, 2001, outlines a concept for a countywide greenway system with nine greenway “spines”, or major greenway corridors. In addition, a demonstration greenway for the county was proposed in the *Greenway Project Feasibility Study*. This demonstration greenway, a three-mile section of trail called the “Godfrey Ridge Trail”, is located in the most rapidly urbanizing section of the watershed. The focus on a demonstration greenway that has high visibility and is part of a larger greenway system is a critical first step to the realization of a greenway system throughout the county and the watershed.

This Cherry Creek watershed plan incorporates by reference the goals and recommendations as put forth by the *Monroe County Open Space Plan* relating to the development of greenways in the watershed. The County Open Space Plan proposes the following greenway and trail projects in the watershed:

- **Godfrey Ridge Trail**

The Godfrey Ridge Trail is part of the larger *Brodhead Greenway & Trail System*. The preferred route for this trail follows the route of the old trolley line that used to connect Delaware Water Gap Borough to Stroudsburg. It would also provide linkage to the proposed *Liberty to Water Gap Trail* planned to link to the Statue of Liberty in Jersey City, New Jersey.

- **Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan**

This plan highlights opportunities for a connecting trail from the McMichael Creek corridor over and along Godfrey Ridge and into Cherry Valley.

- **Cherry Valley-Godfrey Ridge Trail**

This conceptual greenway corridor follows two parallel linear features, as its name implies. The ridge intersects with the proposed Godfrey Ridge Trail as described in the *Monroe Greenway Feasibility Project Study* near its serpentine descent into the Borough of Delaware Water Gap. Cherry Creek meets the Delaware River just north of the historic Delaware Water Gap Train Station. From these points, the corridor runs southeasterly through Cherry Valley, the smallest discrete watershed in the County. Cherry Valley is a limestone valley with a unique ecosystem, highly acclaimed for its visual quality. The other parallel ridge forming this valley is the Kittatinny Mountain with the Appalachian Trail traversing its top. The county roads that travel through this valley are a favorite with long-distance bicyclists. From Delaware Water Gap, approximately 3.5 miles, Route 191 bisects the valley, connecting Stroudsburg with Bangor in Northampton County. Traveling another 2.5 miles through the valley, there is the small hamlet of Stormsville, a farming community that once boasted a stagecoach stop, a farrier, a saddlemaker, a general store, a butcher shop, and a grange hall. The ridge through this section contains the Stroudsmoor Country Inn, and the Living History Farm of "Quiet Valley." The ridge has historically provided a pathway for hikers, equestrians, and more recently, mountain bikers. Another 2.0 miles away is the hamlet of Bossardsville, a crossroads where one can head west to the small community of Hamilton Square and Sciota Village. The ridge ends near Hamilton Square. Traveling southwesterly for another 3.5 miles, the valley ends near the Cherry Valley Vineyards and is bisected by the limited access highway Route 33. The valley still contains many small farms throughout its length. Total approximate length is eight (8) miles.

[From: <http://www.monroe2020.org>]

Regional Linkages

- **Middle Delaware River National Scenic River**
Thirty five miles of the Delaware River were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1978. The designated segment runs from the point where the river crosses the northern boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the point where the river crosses the southern boundary. This segment of the Delaware flows through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and cuts an "S" curve through Kittatinny Ridge. This beautiful landscape provides great recreational opportunities in addition to sightseeing and geological study value.
[From: <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wsr-delaware-middle.html>]
- **Appalachian Trail**
The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a 2,167-mile footpath along the ridge crests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in north Georgia. [From www.nps.gov/appa]. Approximately 12 miles of the trail follows the southern border of the watershed along the Kittatinny Ridge.
- **Paulinskill Valley Trail**
Just east of Delaware Water Gap, the Paulinskill Valley Trail, a New Jersey State Park, stretches 27.3 miles from Sparta Junction to Columbia and runs very near the Monroe County border and future rail-trail development intending to connect to the Delaware Water Gap.
- **DWGNRA/McDade Trail**
The McDade Recreational Trail is a planned recreational trail which, when completed, will extend for 40 miles on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. [From: <http://www.nps.gov/dewa/Activities/actBIKE.html#MRT>]

DWGNRA adopted a Park Trails Plan in 1999. The plan called for a primary trail or "spine" which paralleled the Delaware River on both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sides of the park as high priorities. These spines would later be the frameworks for a network of trails leading to various facilities and features within the park. The primary spine for the trails on the Pennsylvania side of the park was named by Congress as the Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail (MRT).

The MRT would provide trail access to two communities bordering DWGNRA: Shawnee-on-the-Delaware to the south and the borough of Milford to the north. For much of its length, the proposed trail parallels the Delaware River and US Route 209 on relatively flat terraces of the river valley. The first section is now open for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. This section of the trail runs about 5 miles from Hialeah Picnic Area

to Turn Farm trailhead parking area on River Road. This section is mostly flat, with a slight climb approaching Riverview and continuing to Turn Farm. Connection to the PennDOT Welcome Center to the McDade Trail will be provided by the proposed Shawnee Trail.

Private Recreation Areas

There are two privately owned golf courses located in the watershed. The Cherry Valley Golf 18-hole course is located in Smithfield Township and straddles both sides of the Cherry Creek. The Delaware Water Gap County Club has an 18-hole course that lies in Delaware Water Gap Borough and Smithfield Township predominantly in the Caledonia Creek subwatershed.

There are also two privately owned and operated basketball camps run seasonally (summer months). The Pocono Invitational Basketball Camp is located in Hamilton Township off Fetherman road on an approximate 25 acre parcel. The Philadelphia 76ers Camp is located in Stroud Township on Poplar Valley Road on an approximate 75 acre tract.

5.2 Historic Resources

Historical Overview and Highlights

Part of a warm and shallow sea more than half a billion years ago, the area we call the Poconos silted in and subsided again and again for millennia. Then folding, uplifting, and fresh-water erosion of the rock softened the hard edges of the Appalachians and cut out wind and water gaps. Glaciers a mile high scoured the earth, loaded with rock and debris – halting here as recently as 15,000 years ago, when modern humans were moving across the land bridge spanning the Bering Sea. Some of the continent's millions of buffalo and elk, mastodon, camels, and other large mammals had made this home.

Hunting and gathering Indians lived in the area of the confluence with the Delaware River as early as 10,000 years ago. Agriculture and more settled villages were common here by the 1500s. For white settlers, the Delaware and other rivers were public roadways. During the 1700s most of the white population lived in the Delaware River Valley, the Cherry Creek Valley and the Stroudsburg or Pleasant Valley (the Route 209 valley). In the early 1800s, people started to settle the valleys carved by the streams coming from the Pocono Plateau. In these narrow valleys with their rocky hillsides, the growing season was shorter than in the lower elevations. Sheep pasturing was a common use of the land.

One of the most notorious land scams perpetrated against the Lenni-Lenape, the first residents of the area, was the infamous Walking Purchase of 1737. Two sons of William Penn had acquired a deed signed by their father with the Lenni-Lenape which gave to

William Penn and his heirs a generally triangular piece of land in the Pocono Mountains area of eastern Pennsylvania. The boundary was defined as “as far as a man could walk in a day and half. While this meant a leisurely stroll to the Lenni-Lenape, the Penn brothers recruited the fastest walkers in the area. The Lenni-Lenape anticipated that the day-and-a-half walk through the heavy forest would cover no more than thirty-five miles. The Penn brothers recruited the three fastest men in the area, including the only one who survived the grueling pace, Edward Marshall. The Lenni-Lenape could not keep up with Marshall, who had run some sixty-five miles. When the hoax was over, the Penn brothers had gained for themselves twelve hundred square miles of prime hunting land in northeastern Pennsylvania and the undying hatred of the Lenni-Lenape. In revenge, the Lenni-Lenape killed Marshall’s pregnant wife and, in another raid, his son Peter Marshall went into hiding on the island in the Delaware that today bears his name. Marshall moved to New Jersey and lived to almost 90 years old. Marshall’s Creek in the eastern Brodhead watershed still bears his name. Other settlements in the Walking Purchase were attacked, especially in Smithfield Township and at Depuis and Brodheads in the Water Gap area.¹

Antoine Dutot founded Delaware Water Gap in 1793. He opened a hotel for travelers there, thus the beginning of the Pocono resort industry. The Gap became one of the best inland resort towns in the nation from 1870 to 1910. Most old homes in the community were boarding houses in the community's heyday, and large frame hotel buildings were in evidence all along the river. Among the most notable was Kittatinny House 1822-1931. In the early twentieth century there were over twenty hotels located in the Delaware Water Gap. Today only a few remain including the old Deerhead Inn famous as a Jazz mecca for over half a century and headquarters for the annual Celebration of the Arts Festival. However, several Bed and Breakfast establishments now operate in the Borough in remodeled vintage houses.

Cherry Valley is still one of the most scenic areas of Monroe County. According to *The Bells Ringing the Message of Progress in Monroe County*, (1915) the Cherry Creek was named after Edward or “Ned” Cherry who was one of the earliest settlers in the area, before 1738. The valley through which the stream flowed was called Cherry Valley.

Cherry Valley sits along a limestone ridge so many lime kilns operated in the area. Before the advent of commercial fertilizer, the limestone industry was important to Monroe County. Bossardsville was considered the best lime burning center. A farmer would usually build one or two lime kilns. He would quarry or buy limestone rock chunks. The chunks of limestone were burned in the summer to be ready for use on the fields in September. Some farmers kept four lime kilns burning continuously with wood or coal, although lime burned with wood was considered better. At the height of this thriving industry, over 2000 bushels of lime each day were hauled from the Williams lime kiln in Bossardsville alone. (Landmarks of *Monroe County* by William Lesh)

¹ *Delaware Diary*, by Frank Dale (Rutgers Univ. Press 1996), page 6-7 (See hand-drawn map of Walking Purchase Territory).

Supporting another industry, Cherry Valley was the source for sand for the East Stroudsburg glass factories. But land in the fertile valley has traditionally been used for farming. Dairy farms flourished and by 1880, farmers had joined together to have a cooperative creamery. In 1900, dairying was the most important farming occupation in the county.

Rail service in the area began in 1856, with the completion of the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad. And the railroad, too, followed the waterways: from the southwest bank of the Brodhead to Experiment Mills (now Minisink Hills) in Smithfield Township, where it crossed to the northeast bank of the creek, the railroad followed the Brodhead Creek to the Paradise (or West Branch) as it climbed the Pocono Plateau. In 1882, the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad through Monroe County used the Brodhead Creek Valley from Delaware Water Gap to Stroudsburg.

Between the 1980s and 2000, with the advent of new highways, population boomed in the area, increasing from under 100,000 to over 140,000. New roads, schools, housing, sewage treatment plants, industry and shopping developments have resulted, in some cases changing the character of entire townships from rural to semi-suburban and affecting the quantity and quality of streams and groundwater.

The history of any area is affected by its geography, wildlife, climate, natural resources – and, often very dramatically, by its human inhabitants. Fast-forward 100 years, and you’ll see that the history of the Cherry Creek Watershed is being shaped right now, by you. Will the valley be part of a National Wildlife Refuge?

National Register of Historic Places Sites

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. [From: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/about.htm>]

The following is a list of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the watershed, derived from Monroe County GIS data and arranged by municipality:

HAMILTON:
Bell School, 1871-72

Church of the Mountain, 1854
SMITHFIELD:
DePui Farm, ca. 1784

DELAWARE WATER GAP:
The Glenwood, 1855
Dutot School, 1870

STROUD:
Kellers Church, 1828

Historic Areas

The Monroe County Historic Legacy report identifies several historic areas in or proximate to the watershed. These are located on the map *Historic Resources* (Figure 5.3). These and other potential historic areas should be evaluated for qualification as possible historic districts or historic landscapes. The National Park Service Bulletin Number #18 provides guidelines and procedures for evaluating and nominating potential historic landscapes to recognize and preserve their historic landscape character.

These historic areas are listed below, by municipality:

STROUD:

Cherry Valley Road

HAMILTON:

Bossardsville

Stormsville

Kemmertown

Saylorsburg Village

DELAWARE WATER GAP:

Delaware Water Gap Borough

SMITHFIELD:

Minisink Hills

Historic Sites, Structures, and Locations in the Cherry Creek Watershed

Some sites have been identified, and are described below. Others remain to be researched.

- *Cherry Valley Trout Hatchery*, located in Hamilton Township, has been in operation since the mid-twentieth century.
- *Lime Kilns*, approximately five lime kilns are located in the valley and highlight the valley's early tie to farming.
- *Quiet Valley Farm* is a living history museum operated by a non-profit organization. Interpretive tours and demonstrations teach about farm life in the 1800's. An annual ice harvest demonstrates this early industry. A possible project would be to build a pond on the farm, or acquire a nearby pond to assure the demonstrations can continue. The farm is located in the

adjacent McMichael Creek watershed but an access road to the farm leads up out of the hamlet of Stormville.

- *Saylor's Lake*, on Lake Creek, was one of the larger ice harvesting operations in the watershed and is just outside the headwater area of Cherry Creek in the McMichael Creek watershed. It is also the southern most glacial moraine lake or “kettle lake” in the state.
- *Village of Stormville* – This village lies in the heart of the watershed and contains a number of buildings of historic interest including: a former stagecoach stop, grange hall, tack shop, butcher shop, lime kilns, a gothic-style tobacco barn, a log cabin (first in the valley) and a general store.
- *Creekside Park at the Delaware Water Gap Train Station* – The Lackawanna Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society is in the midst of a five-year effort to restore the historic Delaware Water Gap train station, built in 1903. Their efforts include restoration of a creek side park, located between the railroad tracks and the Brodhead Creek. This area was once a landscaped “welcoming area” for the tourists who traveled to nearby resorts by train. Plans for the area include linkages to several nearby hiking trails and the planned Pocono Mountains Welcome Center (PennDOT).

[Insert *Recreation/Open space* map]

[Insert map of *Greenways and Trails - Vision Plan*]

[Insert map of Historic Resources]

