

BIG ELK CREEK STATE PARK

Town Hall Meeting

January 10, 2024



Big Elk Creek State Park Timeline

Year Range	Accomplishment or Future Goal
2010 - 2020	Acquisition of parcels from George Strawbridge; managing without additional funding for staff, operations or amenities
2022	Governor Wolf holds state park dedication. Provided necessary funding and staffing resources for public use and stewardship
2023 - 2024	Master Planning Process with a prioritization of initial improvements and enhancements
2024 - 2025	Design and permitting of initial improvements
2026 - 2027	Construction of prioritized initial improvements
2028 -	Continued resource improvements, park enhancements, and stewardship

Master Planning Process

Process Step	Timeframe
Initial Site Visit	March 2023
Information Gathering / Inventory / Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Survey Launched• Stakeholder Meetings	March – June 2023
Preliminary Park Amenities Concept Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Survey Closed	June - October 2023
Public Meeting	November 6, 2023
Park Amenities Revisions & Final Plan Development	November 2023 – March 2024
Public Meeting	Spring 2024
Final Master Plan	Summer 2024

Park Improvements and Enhancements

- **Safe public access**
 - Parking
 - Designated Trails and Trail Crossings
 - Restroom Facilities
- **Contact and Support Facilities**
 - Visitor Center and Park Office
 - Administrative Support
 - Public Safety
 - Resource Interpretation & Environmental Education
 - Maintenance Facilities

Ecological Improvements and Enhancements

Date	Ecological Improvement/Acreage
Fall 2023	75 acre meadow established and managed by DCNR
Spring 2024	45 acres of meadow establishment by (ACB)
Spring 2024	265 acres forested riparian buffer planting (ACB)
2024	580 acres remaining in agricultural land management agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of those 245 acres have been designated as key grassland nesting bird habitat to be protected during the season the birds are vulnerable – limiting access including delaying haying / mowing
Spring 2024	Rare Species Surveys – botanical and herpetological <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional restoration or amenity exclusion areas developed based on those surveys
TBD	Stream restoration and access improvements
TBD	Additional meadow establishment and forest stewardship

Meadow Establishment and Reforestation Planting



Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center



Riparian Buffer Planting in New Cumberland Boro

Cultural Improvements and Enhancements

- Cultural stakeholder interviews conducted in July 2023
 - London Britain Township Historical Commission, Franklin Township Historical Commission, former Elk Township Historical Commission members, Elk Township, West Chester University, Legacy Land and Water Partners, Unaffiliated individuals with personal interest and expertise.
- Consultation with federally recognized tribes and nations
 - Delaware Tribe of Indians and Delaware Nation, Oklahoma





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