

New Area Study - Master Plan

PROPOSED CULTURAL COAL PARK

August 1972

Recommended:

Manager, Northeast Team, DSC

Date

Director, Denver Service Center

Date

Approved:

Director, Northeast Region

Date

Preliminary

Draft

INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSIONS

The original concept of this New-Area-Study Master Plan was to investigate the potentials of the Keyser Valley Site in Scranton and Taylor, Pennsylvania as a possible National Coal and Recreation Park. Notwithstanding its obvious authenticity, the Keyser Valley Site was found not nationally significant, but rather a part of a larger coal story that is nationally significant. It was also found in the relatively brief study performed, that neither this, nor any other single site is alone capable of portraying the significance of coal.

The coal story is a compelling one. It tells of exploitation of men and resource--of human community in the face of grueling work and common hazard--of owner's opulence and worker's bleakness--of worker's secret fraternity and corporate terrorism--of immigration and ethnic barriers--of beliefs in inexhaustible supply and energy crisis--of the American Dream and the American Way-Of-Life.

We stand today at a point of perspective. Even as vast resources await exploitation and perhaps a great new era of coal opens, another era of but recent memory is closing. The mines and the way-of-life they supported are a passing moment in our history. It was a phase of sufficient intrinsic importance to be remembered in a tangible way, and an excellent plateau from which to view the future.

A Cultural Coal Park will provide an effective memorial to the past and a viewing platform to the future. Although the Cultural Park concept is new to the National Park Service, it is no less viable because of that. Preserving, interpreting and encouraging the vitality of the Coal Way-Of-Life will keep one "cup" of American Culture from being broken.

As outlined in the Master Plan Section, the Cultural Coal Park will be comprised of perhaps as many as two dozen sites dedicated to the many and varied aspects of coal. Ownership of individual sites will be in several hands, but interpretation and overall general management will be guided by one administering agency, or private foundation. Further study, intensive and comprehensive, will be required before any firm recommendation can be made on the total extent of the Cultural Coal Park. Perhaps it will be decided that the Park be entirely contained within Pennsylvania's Anthracite Region, or, it may encompass the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or the 29 states with commercially significant coal deposits, or all 36 states with coal deposits. The logical starting point, however, is Pennsylvania.

Open-ended, phased Park growth and a list of possible sites has been indicated. Management and interpretation in a geographically far-flung park will be challenging. Surely new, unique problems will arise, but optimism must pervade.

The "glory" of coal mining has passed, leaving behind much that is less than monumental. But it has also bequeathed the leisure to contemplate.

Landscapes are blasted, scraped, mined and undermined, left smoldering and left for dead. Men have labored under constant threat of death and mutilation, and live today disabled by Black Lung and arthritis. Is this price of progress worth it? Is coal a good resource? Or is it an evil one, as Harry M. Caudill, author of Night Comes to the Cumberlands: Biography of a Depressed Area, states?

"Coal has always cursed the land in which it lies. When men begin to wrest it from the earth it leaves a legacy of foul streams, hideous slag heaps and polluted land. It peoples this transformed land with blind and crippled men and with widows and orphans. It is an industry which takes away all and restores nothing. It mars but never beautifies. It corrupts but never purifies."

lignite in Montana and Texas, anthracite or bituminous in Colorado, Alaska, West Virginia, Ohio, it then becomes essential that the primary agency be administratively independent from all the states. The role should then be played by a public or private foundation, or the National Park Service.

As previously stated, the phased expansion of sites, to a yet undetermined total scope, is desirable and logical. The following constitutes such a growth plan, and lists some sites for probable inclusion:

PHASE I

A. KEYSER VALLEY, Scranton, Pa.

Currently owned by the County of Lackawanna; a key unit in the Anthracite Museum Complex administered by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission; the History of the Anthracite Industry and Its People, Land Reclamation and Recreation.

B. ECKLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT, Eckley, Pa.

Owned by Pennsylvania; a key unit in the Anthracite Museum Complex; Anthracite Mining Town and Its Inhabitants; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

C. PIONEER TUNNEL, Ashland, Pa.

A unit of the Anthracite Museum Complex; Anthracite Demonstration Mine.

D. JIM THORPE, PA. (formerly Mauch Chunk, Pa.)

The Asa Packer Mansion and "Millionaires Row" offer contrast to Eckley's company houses.

E. ALLEGHANY PORTAGE RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, Johnstown, Pa.

Owned by National Park Service; Transportation of Coal, Mine at Lemon House Site; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

F. MISCELLANEOUS SITES IN SCRANTON, PA.

1. MAY AUG PARK, Brooks Mine demonstration and museum
2. JOHN MITCHELL GRAVE, United Mine Workers organizer
3. VON STORCH COLLIERY, 1854
4. TERRENCE POWDERLY HOUSE, Knights of Labor leader; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

PHASE II

A. DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL, Pike and Wayne Counties, Pa.

Anthracite Transportation Link 1825-29; listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

B. GLEN BURN COLLIERY, Shamokin, Pa.

Current by active coal processing; Anthracite Processing and Consumers.

C. FELL TAVERN, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Judge Jesse Fell's Anthracite Grate, the Archives Repository as a unit of the Anthracite Museum Complex.

D. POTTSVILLE, PA.

Establishment of first mining company, 1782.

E. ED MINE, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Bituminous Coal Demonstration Mine.

F. MISCELLANEOUS PENNSYLVANIA SITES

1. Bituminous Coal and Coke
2. Unionism
3. Health-Diseases and Afflictions of Coal Miners
4. Economics--Regional Reliance on the Fortunes of a "single Crop."

PHASE III

COAL AREAS IN APPALACHIA

e.g.

1. RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, First mining of coal in the U.S., 1735.
2. POCAHANTAS, VA., Exhibition Mine

PHASE IV

COAL AREAS IN COTERMINOUS U.S.

e.g.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS, Earliest notice of the presence of coal in America, 1665, noted on map by French Missionary

PHASE V

ALASKAN COAL AREAS

APPENDIX A

KEYSER VALLEY SITE

The site was purchased in 1969 by the County of Lackawanna under the Project 70 program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Consisting of 126 acres in three tracts, and bordered on the west by the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the site is located in the City of Scranton and the Borough of Taylor. Present administration of the site is by the County of Lackawanna, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Pennsylvania General State Authority has contracted for preliminary and construction drawings of a museum and related parking and access, which will be administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Regional Context

Lackawanna County is geographically unique in that it is on the edge and also within both Appalachia and the Northeast Corridor. The combination of a depressed "Appalachian"* local economy which is situated within a three hour driving radius of a highly urbanized population exceeding 25 million portends tremendous visitation.

*Per capita income of Northeast Pennsylvania in 1969 was \$2977 compared with the national average of \$3688. The area needs the real and psychological boost which parks and recreation furnish.

INVENTORY - KVS

MINING, LAND SLOPES, ETC.
ROADS, LAND SLOPES, ETC.

VEGETATION

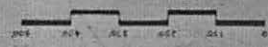
GRAY BIRCH-ASPEN
CATTAIL MARSH
MIXED HERB. COMM'S
+ PLANTED TREES

MIXED OAK FOREST
AM CHESTNUT
EAST HEMLOCK
BLACK BIRCH FOREST

MAX EXTENT - STRIPPING
EXISTING STRIP PIT
STONE QUARRY

LAND SLOPES
UNDER 6%
6% - 15%
OVER 15%

LEGEND
WATERCOURSE
10' CONTOUR
MINOR ROAD

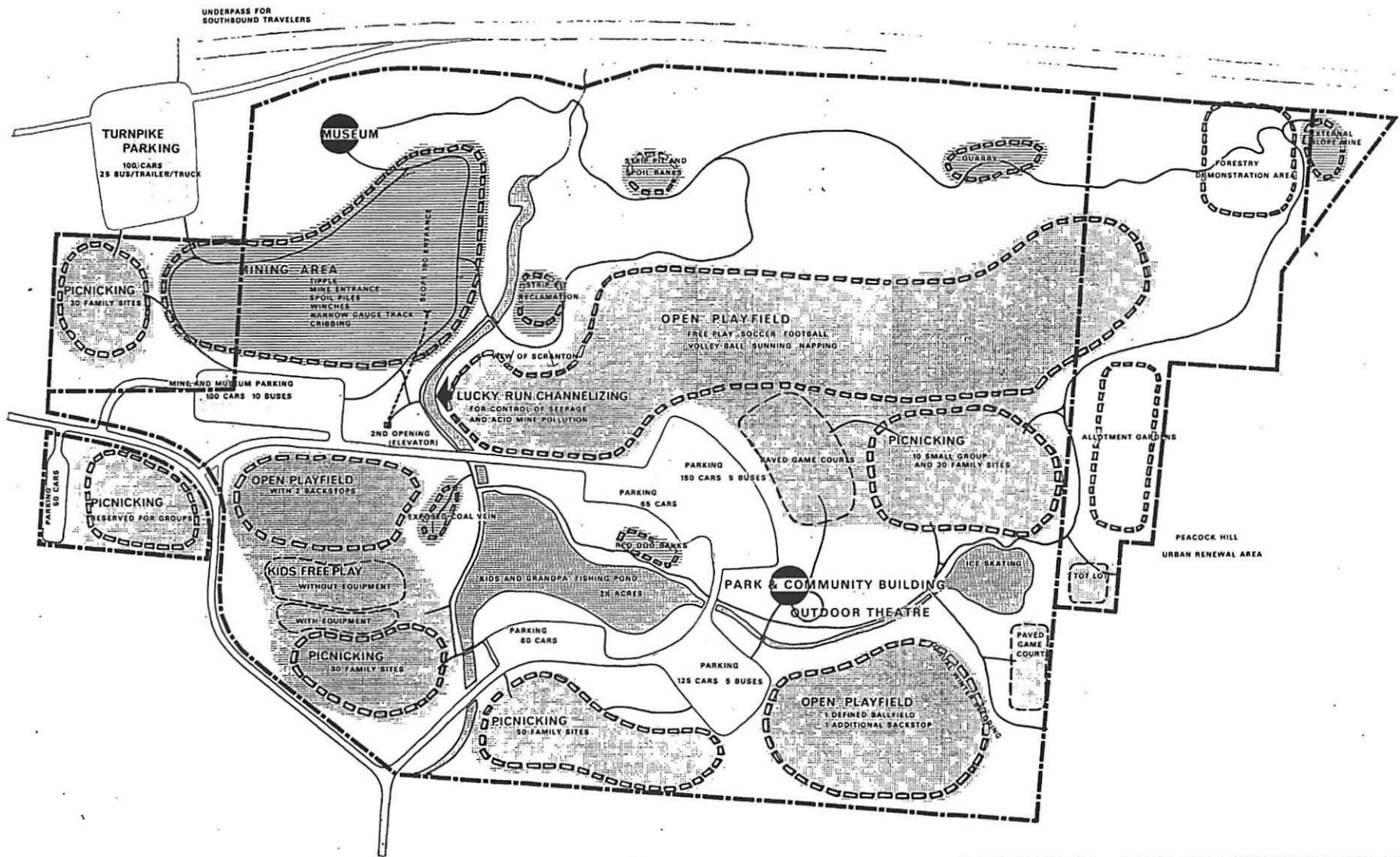


NORTHWEST EXTENSION - PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE

DIVISION ST

PEACOCK HILL - PROPOSED
URBAN RENEWAL

MILWAUKEE ROAD



GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



A P P E N D I X B

CULTURAL PARK CONCEPT

The following is a memorandum with enclosures, of Director Hartzog, National Park Service, describing the concept of a cultural park:

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

December 8, 1970

(BLUE ENVELOPE)

Memorandum

To: Directorate--WASO and Field

From: Director

Subject: Proposal for a New Park Concept

Attached is a revised draft of a new concept for National Cultural Parks. I would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Also attached is a copy of a bill recently introduced by Congressman Bennett of Florida to establish such a park.

Many thanks.

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

Enclosures

A NEW PARK CONCEPT

It is suggested that a new park concept in which private enterprise would join hands with local, State, and Federal Governments to preserve and interpret our cultural heritage is an appropriate response to these new challenges.

This new park concept would involve establishing National Cultural Parks.

Such new parks would constitute a new category of parks to implement an evolving national policy of cultural preservation and interpretation. One park in this new category already exists, namely, Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts.

This new park concept would be implemented through a series of program authorizations, as follows:

1. The Federal Government would acquire fee simple title only in those pristine lands and historic landmarks which are not otherwise protected in public or Indian Tribal ownership.
2. The Federal Government should be authorized to establish standards or types, design, construction, and operation of recreational uses and facilities within the geographic vicinity of the cultural resources and pristine lands.
3. To encourage private enterprise and the Indians, in appropriate cases, to participate in such a cooperative program, the Federal