



Conclusions

The Nittany Valley, bounded by Tussey, Nittany, and Bald Eagle Ridges, has been shaped over millennia by climate, time, and water. The embracing forested ridges and valley floor from Pine Grove Mills, Boalsburg, Lemont, State College, Pleasant Gap and Stormstown to Bellefonte and Milesburg are woven together by the silver ribbons of Spring Creek and its tributaries. Its subterranean cavern water ways, its bountiful springs, its valley farms, its sylvan hills, its canyon wilds, its abundant wild trout, its historic settlements and landscapes, its modern university, and its contemporary urban developments, are the foundation of our region. Spring Creek has so many values for our community - scenic, historic, recreational, and ecological values have been the focus of this study. This vital living environmental system that Spring Creek weaves through our lives deserves our respect and understand-

ing. The recommendations shown on the Conclusions Maps, included in the Appendix to this report are intended to stimulate discussion in our community about the issues and opportunities of conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Spring Creek Corridor. In general those recommendations urge us to consider the following actions.

Establish a healthy riparian zone along the stream banks engaging both the private and public landowners in this effort - a green corridor for Spring Creek through our community. Plant trees to cool and protect the stream and allow nature more freedom in this flood-prone zone. Apply the green corridor idea to all new development along the stream and its tributaries as bucolic farms and forests are inevitably subdivided and developed. Provide green-

ways through the community for recreation, stream protection, and habitat enhancement and address the issues of storm water management and non-point source pollution.

Recognize, reveal, and exploit the rich rural and urban cultural history that surrounds us. Use these resources to enhance the region's identity and to present the community to the world.

Ensure the permanent protection of the Spring Creek Canyon wilds at the center of our metropolitan region. The aquatic life of the stream, the wild trout, the cliffs and forested hills are an ecological resource of national significance that deserves recognition and protection.

Connect the abundant accessible public lands along the creek with a unified trail



system extending into the heart of our communities. Protect the quality of our environment and enhance our access to outdoor recreation.

Unite the creeds and missions of our fragmented authorities toward these ends and ensure the vitality of Spring Creek and the quality of our environment and recognize that our community is being transformed into a metropolitan area in the Nittany Valley.

History can be a great teacher as we strive toward these goals. A century ago the city of Boston, Massachusetts faced a dilemma similar to ours. Charles Eliot proposed an open space system for the Boston region that responded to the growth of that metropolitan area and the rise of the industrialized city. Eliot was a landscape architect, an apprentice to Frederick Law Olmsted--the father of Central Park in New York City and the designer of open space and parks

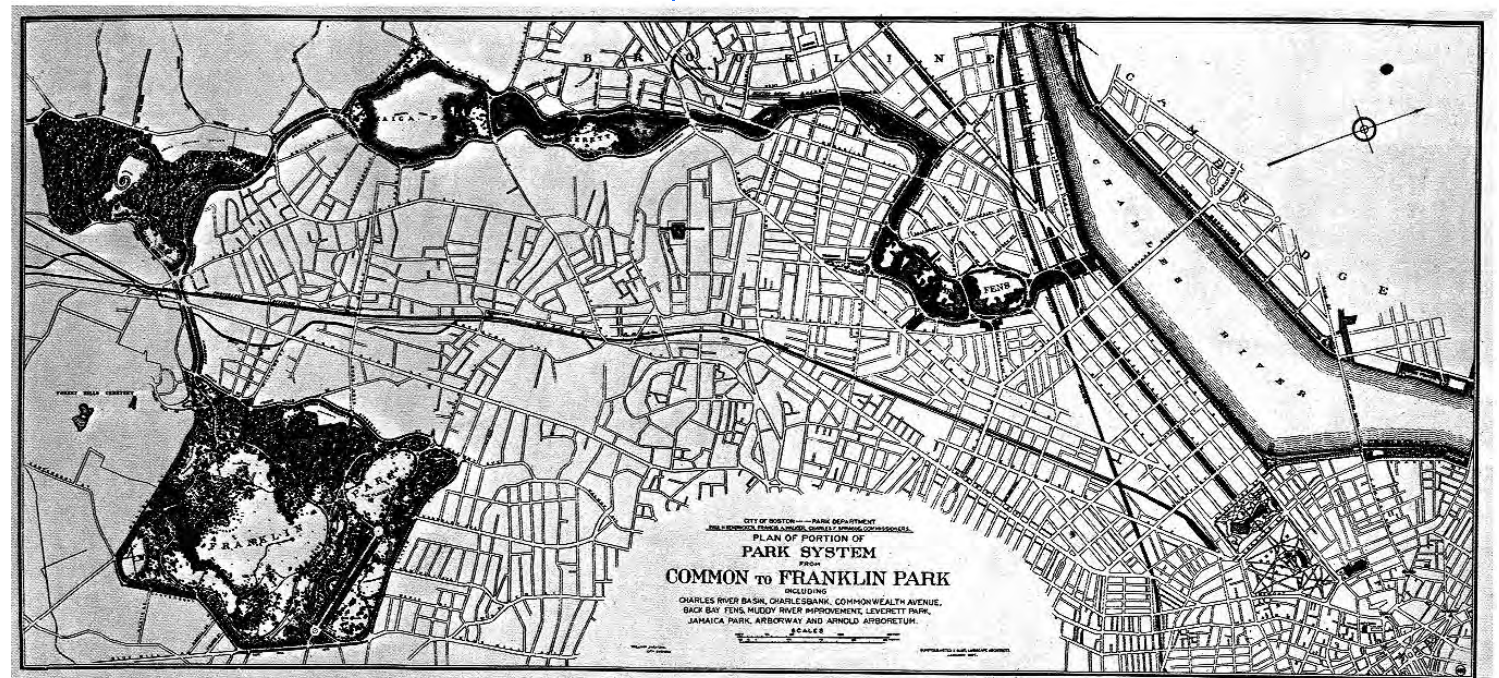


in metropolitan areas across the country. Eliot and Olmsted both appreciated Ralph Waldo Emerson's ideas about the uniqueness of America's natural heritage and the idea that true art is derived from nature. Many of Charles Eliot's proposals were adopted and survive today treasured by the residents of the Boston area as their "Emerald Necklace" of parks and open spaces.

It is the conclusion of the ClearWater Conservancy that the Nittany Valley today is at a point of decision analogous to that of a century ago in Boston. Our region is swiftly being transformed from the small towns of the post-war years, to the larger towns of today, and beyond to tomorrow's information and service based metropolitan area. Spring Creek and its associated natural and cultural landscapes are a vital part of the quality of life in this region and special to this community and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The creek and its associated ground water systems are at risk from the thousands of incremental changes to its watershed that over time may overwhelm the system and its sustainability. Likewise, the historic sites, buildings, and landscapes along the creek are at risk of being obscured or diluted by these changes. These historic landscapes and elegant ecosystems, with their many attributes, give the Nittany Valley its unique identity and contributes significantly to our pride as a very special place. History will judge whether we grasp our moment and direct our energies towards embracing the idea of a community that values its natural, cultural, an

scenic heritage and brings them forward into its future.

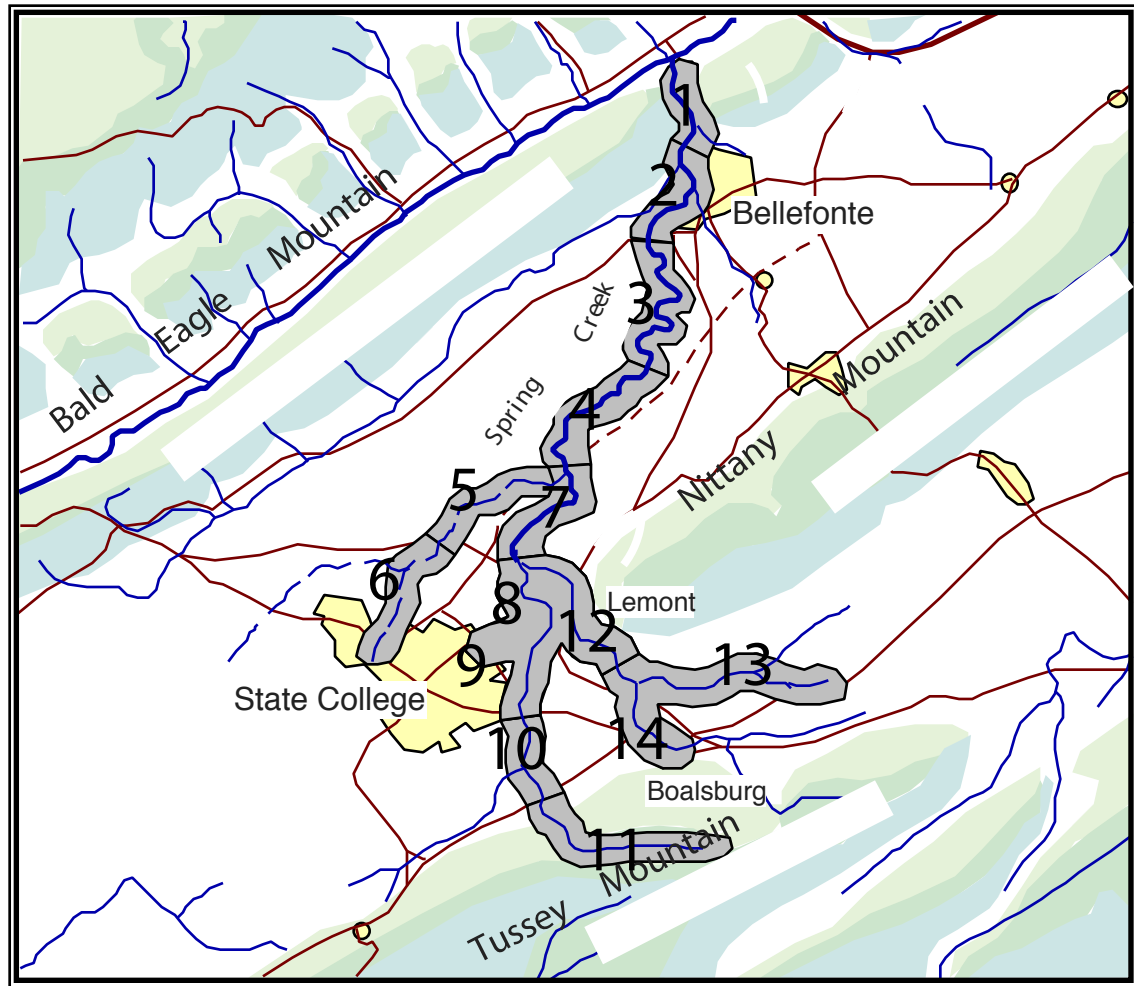
This report summarizes Phase I of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. It is not a master plan, it is but a step in a process of understanding that derives its value primarily from its educational role of informing and engaging the public in the process of protecting and enjoying the resources of the Spring Creek Corridor. Please join the ClearWater Conservancy in participating and supporting this historic effort.



Here is a rapidly growing metropolis planted by the sea, and yet possessed of no portion of the sea-front. Here is a city interwoven with tidal marshes and controlling none of them...Here is a district possessed of a charming river already much resorted to for pleasure, the banks of which are continually in danger of spoliation...Here is a community which must have pure drinking water, which yet up to this time has failed to secure even one water basin from danger of pollution...Here is a community, said to be the richest and most enlightened in America, which yet allows its finest scenes of natural beauty to be destroyed one by one, regardless of the fact that the great city of the future which is to fill this land would certainly prize every such scene exceedingly, and would gladly help to pay the cost of preserving them today.

Charles Eliot, to the Trustees of Public Reservations, Boston Park Commission
December 16, 1891
from *Design on the Land*, p. 324
by Norman T. Newton

Appendix: Study Maps



- 1. Milesburg
- 2. Bellefonte
- 3. Fisherman's Paradise
- 4. Rockview
- 5. Big Hollow East
- 6. Big Hollow West
- 7. Houserville

- 8. Slab Cabin North
- 9. Thompson Run
- 10. Slab Cabin South
- 11. Roaring Run
- 12. Lemont
- 13. Cedar Run
- 14. Boalsburg

The Appendix includes reductions of the Conclusions Maps for each of the fourteen mapping sections of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. Each map contains both an Analysis Map, summarizing the salient issues and opportunities, and a Recommendations Map, which presents a vision and develops ideas for consideration by the community for each section.

A sample of four of the study Inventory Maps is also included in this Appendix. For each of the fourteen sections four Inventory Maps record the attributes of that section. They are thematically organized: Ecology Map (Vegetation and Hydrology); History Map; Property Ownership Map; and Land Use and Zoning Map.

Additional maps of the Spring Creek Watershed were also developed for this study: Corridor Location Map; Topography and Surface Hydrology Map; Civil Divisions and Roads Map.

These maps, more than seventy-five in total, constitute the primary data record of the Spring Creek Corridor Study. They are available to the public through the ClearWater Conservancy.