

Moores Station Quarry Park Master Plan



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is the County Park Commission creating a park at the Moores Station Quarry site?

A: In 1998 the County of Mercer, the New Jersey Green Acres Program and Hopewell Township jointly purchased more than 1,000 acres of land, including the Moores Station Quarry property, to create a county park at Baldpate Mountain. The land sale allowed the quarry operator to continue its mining operation on a portion of the land for 25 years after the transfer. That right expires in the spring of 2023, at which time the Mercer County Park Commission will take possession of the site and over time, create a new park. To prepare for this transfer, a master planning process has begun in order to create a plan for the new park.

Q: What is the plan for the new park? What kinds of recreational facilities will be included?

A: Currently, there is no plan for the park or the types of recreational facilities that will be developed. However, since the quarrying operations have created a unique landscape, there are opportunities for facilities and activities that are well-suited to this landscape. Examples of recreational opportunities include mountain biking, rock climbing, and other activities and facilities that fit into this highly disturbed landscape.

Q: Does this mean that ecological rehabilitation of part or all of the site will not be considered?

A: No. Repair to some or all of this highly disturbed landscape will definitely be one of the considerations for the site. The consultant team includes landscape architects, ecologists, biologists and sustainability experts and they will include an examination and consideration of these landscape repair options.

Q: How much will the new park cost and how will it be funded?

A: Cost estimates for construction will be prepared as a part of the master planning process. However, it is likely that the eventual park construction will total millions of dollars over a period of 10 to 20 years. Park construction will be paid for by a combination of County funds specifically earmarked for park construction, and state grants.

Q: When can the park be used by County residents?

A: That will be determined, in part, by the master plan recommendations. It may be possible to incrementally open a portion of the site soon after 2023, in a manner that is safe and allows use of part of the site or some facilities as construction is completed over a longer period of time.



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Q: Will the park create new traffic on Route 29 and the surrounding roads?

A: It is anticipated that park visitors who drive to the park will come primarily via Route 29. New park visitor traffic is anticipated to be the highest on weekends. Fortunately, the heavy truck traffic that has occurred for many years in connection with the quarry operations will cease once the property transitions into a park. The master plan will examine pedestrian and cyclist connections to the park from the D&R Canal towpath and other regional trails to encourage access to the new park without a motor vehicle. Creating a safe pedestrian / cyclist crossing of Route 29 will be analyzed as part of the planning process for the project. A pedestrian connection between the quarry and Baldpate Mountain trails will also be considered during the master plan.

Q: How can I get involved in the park master planning process

A: All interested persons are encouraged to attend the virtual public meetings that will be held as a part of the master planning process. Please visit the Mercer County Park Commission website at <http://mercercountyparks.org/> to learn how to attend a meeting. Updates during the year-long master planning process will also be posted to the County Park Commission website.



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