

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MAY 26, 2022**

The second regular meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, which is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064. The meeting public notice was duly advertised in the January 4, 2022 issue of the *Express-Times* newspaper.

Chairman, Glenn Borger, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman Glenn Borger, Vice-Chairman Stephen Hurni, Supervisor Jane Mellert, and Supervisor Donald Moore. Supervisor Donald Moore participated via telephone, as permitted by the Second Class Township Code. Supervisor Randy Heard was excused from attending the meeting.

Also present was Township Manager Thomas Petrucci.

I. TOWNSHIP MANAGER– THOMAS PETRUCCI:

1. Presentation – Northern Tier Trail: Trail Connection Options (Bryan Cope, Director of Parks and Recreation for Northampton County, Kent Baird, Client Services Director for Herbert Rowand and Grubic, and Robert Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co.):

Kent Baird, Client Services Director for Herbert Rowand and Grubic, and Robert Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co. gave a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The PowerPoint for the presentation is incorporated herein to these minutes as though more fully set forth at length as “Exhibit A”.

In addition to the presentation content, general topics of discussion included the following:

- In response to comments made by Supervisor Moore, it was clarified that the Township could look at extending the Recreation Trail to Wind Gap Borough now and analyze future connections to Pen Argyl Borough using the original trail property (the former railroad ROW) in the future. Supervisor Moore expressed an interest in prioritizing the Wind Gap Borough connection and working with Waste Management to remediate the original trail property to connect to Pen Argyl Borough.

- Generally, the Board of Supervisors expressed a concern with relinquishing fee simple ownership of the trail parcels. However, it was noted that the piece of the current trail from the Grand Central Woods to the Buss Street trailhead is currently owned by Waste Management.
- Supervisor Mellert identified the fact that the piece of the current trail from the Grand Central Woods to the Buss Street trailhead is in poor condition.
- Resident, Gail Weber, opined that she would ideally like to see the trail extend from the Belfast Junction trailhead to Pen Argyl using the original railroad route.

Following the discussion, it was clarified that Northampton County is specifically requesting the following action(s) from Plainfield Township:

To dedicate a portion of the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail to the Northern Tier Trail and especially memorialize or record a permanent easement or dedicated corridor for the September 11th Memorial Trail.

Township Manager Petrucci was directed by the Board of Supervisors to meet with Bryan Cope in order to obtain additional information relative to the specifics and details of the above-identified request.

No official action was taken by the Board of Supervisors on this agenda item.

2. Announcement – Executive Session (Personnel) held on May 26, 2022:

Township Manager Petrucci announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session on Thursday, May 26, 2022 from 6:30 PM to 7:04 PM to discuss personnel matters.

No official action was taken by the Board of Supervisors on this agenda item.

3. Consideration of Approval: April 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT):

ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve the April 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes, as submitted.

Prior to the vote, Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.

Supervisor Mellert questioned whether Kelli Grim had stated if she was a member of a Planning Commission from another state or a Homeowner's Association. Township Manager Petrucci clarified that it was the Planning Commission, as per the recording.

Motion approved. Vote- 4-0.

4. Consideration of Approval: Transfer from Ameriprise Financial Police Pension Plan Account to Charles Schwab Custodian Bank (Slate Belt Regional Police Department Pension Plan):

Recent statements from the Ameriprise account that holds some of the legacy pension assets from Plainfield Township that could not be sold or held at Charles Schwab, which is the custodian bank for the Slate Belt Regional Police Department indicate that one (1) of the remaining unlisted real estate investment trusts (REITs) has converted to a common stock that can be sold on a daily basis. Once this common stock is liquidated, ~\$16,500 of the \$18,000 in the account could be transferred to the main pension account at Charles Schwab.

ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve liquidating and transferring the unlisted REIT in the Ameriprise Police Pension Account that has now converted to a common stock, in accordance with the completed Ameriprise form 401 (a) Qualified Plan Transaction Request.

Prior to the vote, Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.

Motion approved. Vote- 4-0.

5. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 2022-15: Emergency Operations Plan Update:

ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Donald Moore to adopt Resolution No. 2022-15, which is the 2022 Emergency Operations Plan Update, subject to revising the population number to the correct number as per the 2020 Census (as identified by Supervisor Mellert).

Prior to the vote, Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.

The Board of Supervisors will decide how to handle the consideration of whether or not to utilize and appoint a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator in the future.

Motion approved. Vote- 4-0.

6. Review of Plan Slate Belt Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations; Consideration of Submission of Comments to Lehigh Valley Planning Commission: Plan Slate Belt Centers and Corridors Map/Materials (DRAFT); Future Land Use Plan (DRAFT):

ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve submitting the following comments to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC):

A. Comments on Centers and Corridors Map (DRAFT)

- i. The potential impact of the Interstate 80 (I-80) Reconstruction Project/I-80 Rockfall Mitigation Project should be considered. In the event of a closure or diversion of I-80, there could be impacts to the entire Slate Belt region, especially concerning the influx of additional commercial vehicles to an already strained transportation network. Traveling south, motorists may have to use S.R. 191 to get to the Stockertown S.R. 33 entrance; alternatively, they could also utilize S.R. 611 to get to the Chrin Interchange (Tatamy) on S.R. 33. Traveling north, motorists may utilize the Stockertown, Belfast, and Wind Gap entrances to get onto S.R. 33. Both S.R. 512 and S.R. 191 could receive a large volume of additional traffic, if traffic is diverted from I-80.
- ii. The entire length of S.R. 512 in Plainfield Township, Wind Gap Borough, and Pen Argyl Borough should be labeled as a Regional Critical Corridor. The segment of S.R. 512 between Pen Argyl Borough and Wind Gap Borough connects intensely utilized locations and serves as a commercial corridor.
- iii. Sullivan Trail (S.R. 1005) should be labeled as a Commercial Corridor.
- iv. S.R. 191 should be labeled as a Regional Critical Corridor.
- v. Kesslerstown Road (S.R. 1009), Delabole Road (S.R. 1016), Pen Argyl Road (S.R. 1011), and Church Road (S.R. 1023) should be labeled as Local Critical Corridors.
- vi. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) should confirm the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) traffic data counts by conducting its own separate traffic counts utilizing LVPC employees and traffic data counting equipment.
- vii. Recent data trends indicate that truck and freight traffic has increased as a result of the pandemic and evolving societal needs (including a shift from citizens patronizing traditional brick and mortar stores to more frequently utilizing e-commerce service delivery methods that rely on logistics/warehousing uses). Additionally, the use of recreational facilities, including trails, has increased as much as two-hundred percent (200%) for some communities in the region as a result of both the pandemic and an ongoing national wellness trend. The impact of the additional use of trails on the regional multi-modal transportation network should be analyzed. Factors to be considered should include population projections, planned regional trail connections, and anticipated new housing units/ commercial buildings/subdivision/land development activities. Specifically, the *Plan Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan* should identify multi-modal infrastructure enhancement opportunities for the Slate Belt region, so that the communities can collectively work towards achieving these planned improvements in the future and mitigate the increased usage of the combined vehicular and pedestrian networks.
- viii. Engler Road (T-624), Young's Hill Road (T-627), and Lefevre Road (T-628) should be labeled as Local Connectors. The reason for this is due to the fact that these roads connect residential areas to exurban and natural/rural areas. Young's Hill Road (T-627), and Lefevre Road (T-628) are important routes that connect Plainfield Township to Stockertown Borough.
- ix. It is noted that there are some discrepancies between the labels of the Centers and Corridors Map and the Place Type matrix. For example, T3 is labeled as "Exurban Zone" on the Map and as "Rural Zone" on the matrix. In the T8 column of the matrix, Pen Argyl is incorrectly labeled as "Penn Argyl". T5 is labeled as "Rural Center" on the matrix and

“Exurban Center” on the map. T6 is labeled as “Neighborhood Center” on the map and “Commercial Center” on the matrix. T11 is labeled as “Industrial Center” on the matrix and “Highway Center” on the map.

- x. The Centers for Plainfield Township should be adjusted accordingly in order to remain consistent with the suggested modifications to the Corridors as set forth in comment numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 above.
- xi. Generally, it is currently unclear how the Centers and Corridors Map will enable the municipalities that comprise the Slate Belt to enhance the transportation network by identifying projects that could be submitted to the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study for consideration to be placed on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), to apply for multi-municipal grant funding, or to plan appropriately for future anticipated growth and development.
- xii. Road names, watercourses and streams should be labeled on the Centers and Corridors Map. This information is necessary for identification purposes.

B. Comments on Future Land Use Plan Map (DRAFT)

- i. The current Future Land Use Plan Map identifies five (5) land use categories (Character-Defining Area, Preservation Buffer, Farmland Preservation, Development and Exurban). For reference, the 2004 *Plainfield – Pen Argyl – Wind Gap Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan* featured fourteen (14) land use categories (Conservation, Community Facilities, Public Parks/Recreation, Agricultural Preservation, Rural Residential, Suburban Residential, Urban Residential, Town/Village Center, General Commercial, Highway Interchange Commercial/Business, General Industrial/Business, Light Industrial/Business, Extractive Industrial and Solid Waste Landfill). Plainfield Township officials would like to clarify whether or not the current Future Land Use Plan Map is intended to be the final Land Use Plan for the *Plan Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan*. While the five (5) land use categories as proposed appear generally consistent, it would seem that sub-land use categories are needed for each of the five (5) categories, especially exurban, which includes rural, parks/recreation, commercial and residential uses.
- ii. Similar to the above comment, it is the understanding of Plainfield Township officials that one of the benefits of entering into a multi-municipal comprehensive plan is that the governing bodies of the communities can, if so inclined, take advantage of the provisions set forth in Article XI (Intergovernmental Cooperative Planning and Implementation Agreements) of the *Municipalities Planning Code*. Specifically, as per Section 1103 of the *Municipalities Planning Code*, to “plan for the accommodation of all categories of uses within the area of the plan, provided, however, that all uses need not be provided in every municipality, but shall be planned and provided for within a reasonable geographic area of the plan”, among other things. The five (5) land use categories appear to lack the level of specificity required by the *Municipalities Planning Code* that would enable the governing bodies comprising the *Plan Slate Belt* land use area to effectuate this section by adopting consistent Zoning Ordinances after the *Plan Slate Belt* project is completed.
- iii. It was the understanding of Plainfield Township officials that a discussion would occur amongst the *Plan Slate Belt* communities to ascertain how the multiple land use categories would be distributed across the entire land use area. This discussion has not occurred to date. Simply stated, it is unclear how the Future Land Use Plan Map as currently drafted will facilitate these discussions when they take place.
- iv. Road names, watercourses and streams should be labeled on the Future Land Use Plan Map. This information is necessary for identification purposes.

Prior to the vote, Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.

Motion approved. Vote- 4-0.

7. Discussion/Possible Official Action: Amendment to Chapter 27 (Zoning) at Section 318 (Accessory Uses) (§27-318) – Adding Accessory Uses of “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Fowl” and “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Chickens”:

Township Manager Petrucci had previously sent out versions of a Zoning Ordinance Amendment that effectively accomplishes the following:

- Adds new accessory uses of both “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Fowl” and “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Chickens”. The “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Fowl” accessory use is exclusively limited to the Farm and Forest Zoning District. The “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Chickens” accessory use is limited to the following Zoning Districts:
 - a. Suburban Residential District (SR)
 - b. Planned Residential District (PR)
 - c. Village Residential District (VR)
 - d. Village Center District (VC)
 - e. Industrial/Business Park District (I-BP)
 - f. Blue Mountain Conservation District (BMC)
- Adds new definitions related to these two new accessory uses.
- Establishes the dimensional requirements and standards for each accessory use. Note that the overall requirements are not as restrictive as in previous draft chicken/fowl ordinances. The intent with this Zoning Ordinance Amendment is to allow chickens across the entire Township (with reasonable restrictions to protect public health and property values) while allowing any type of fowl in the Farm and Forest Zoning District (again, with reasonable restrictions to protect public health and property values).

The proposed revisions were based on the general recommendations that were provided during a seminar that Zoning Officer Sharon Pletchan attended during the PSATS conference.

Topics of discussion/comments on this agenda item are provided as follows:

- Supervisor Moore expressed a concern with roosters being permitted in the residential zoning districts.

- Supervisor Mellert questioned whether the ordinance could be regulated in such a way so as not to require zoning permits. Resident, Nolan Kemmerer, communicated his support for this concept. Township Manager Petrucci expressed a concern with enforcement and grandfathering, but will explore whether this is feasible and report back to the Board of Supervisors.
- Supervisor Mellert noted that the ordinance states that the Township “would regulate the incidental sales of eggs as it would regulate a typical roadside vegetable stand”. These regulations should be reviewed to ensure consistency.
- Supervisor Mellert identified an issue with the “Raising and Keeping of Domesticated Chickens” setback requirements. The ordinance requires a twenty-five feet (25’) setback from property lines and a ten feet (10’) setback from any dwelling units not owned by the property owner. These setbacks are impossible to comply with, as per Supervisor Mellert.
- Supervisor Mellert requested that the ordinance be examined to ensure that duplexes are allowed to have chickens- not just single family residential homes.
- Generally, the sentiment was expressed that residents should not be penalized across the entire Township for the negative actions of only a handful of property owners.

Following the discussion, it was confirmed that Township Manager Petrucci will attempt to address the comments received during the meeting and provide a revised ordinance, as necessary, for the future consideration of the Board of Supervisors.

No official action was taken by the Board of Supervisors on this agenda item.

II. CITIZEN’S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA:

Millie Beahn, Resident: Millie Beahn questioned the ownership of the current Recreation Trail. Waste Management currently owns the piece of the current trail from the Grand Central Woods to the Buss Street trailhead. The Township owns the rest of the trail fee simple. Millie Beahn expressed a concern with the Township giving up any portion of the trail to Northampton County. Township Manager Petrucci will ascertain specifically what Northampton County is seeking from Plainfield Township in terms of an easement or a fee simple transfer.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, a motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Glenn Borger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci
Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township
Board of Supervisors



PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP

Northern Tier Trail and September 11th National Memorial Trail
Making the Connection

Thursday, May 26, 2022

On Behalf of Northampton County



KENT BAIRD, AICP
Project Manager & Planner

HRG

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
Engineering & Related Services

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED COMPANY



BOB THOMAS, AIA
Principal, Architect & Planner

**CT
&C**

Our team is responsible for the planning, design, engineering, acquisitions, permitting and construction details of numerous trail and trail systems including the following large trails:

- > Schuylkill River Trail—Philadelphia County, Montgomery County and Schuylkill County
- > September 11th National Memorial Trail—Statewide
- > Circuit Trail Network Planning Needs
- > Radnor Township Trails—Delaware County
- > Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Area Trail-Multi-County
- > Pennsylvania Highlands Trail—New Jersey and Pennsylvania
- > Perkiomen Trail—Montgomery County
- > Liberty Bell Trail—Montgomery County and Bucks County
- > Cross County Trail—Montgomery County
- > Wissahickon Trail—Montgomery County
- > Audubon Loop, Montgomery County
- > Grand History Loop—York County
- > York County Trail Plan—York County
- > Neshaminy Creek Greenway Trail—Bucks County
- > Jordan Creek Greenway Trail—Lehigh County
- > Northern Tier Trail—Northampton County
- > Bethlehem Trail—City of Bethlehem
- > Two Rivers Trail—Northampton County
- > Ironton Rail Trail—Lehigh County
- > Naylors Run Trail—Upper Darby Twp., Delaware County
- > East Coast Greenway—Multi-State and County
- > Bensalem Greenway, Bensalem Township—Bucks County



Suggested Agenda

Introductions

Northern Tier Trail

**September 11th National
Memorial Trail**

County Trail Request





ONE BIG TRAIL COMMUNITY

14 Municipalities

Borough of Walnutport
Moore Township
Bushkill Township
Plainfield Township
Washington Township
Borough of Roseto
Upper Mount Bethel Township
Lehigh Township
Borough of Champan
Borough of Wind Gap
Borough of Pen Argyl
Bangor Borough
Borough of East Bangor
Borough of Portland

Two Rivers Trail Friends

Wilson Borough
City of Easton
Palmer Township
Forks Township
Tatamy Borough
Stockertown Borough
Wind Gap Borough
Bushkill Township
Plainfield Township

24 Conservation & Trail Partners

Allentown Hiking Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Appalachian Mountain Club
Audubon Pennsylvania
The Conservation Fund
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
Friends of Minsi Lake
Kittatinny Ridge Alliance
Lehigh Gap Nature Center
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Lehigh Wheelmen Association
The Nature Conservancy
National Parks Conservation Assoc.
National Park Service
Northern Lehigh Recreation
PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
PA Dept. of Transportation
PA Game Commission
Scenic, Wild Delaware River
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Valley Mountain Bikers
Walnutport Canal Assoc.
Waste Management, Inc.
Wildlands Conservancy

WHAT WE FOUND

- More than the 14 municipalities will visit the Northern Tier Trail!
- Actually... millions of possible trail customers!

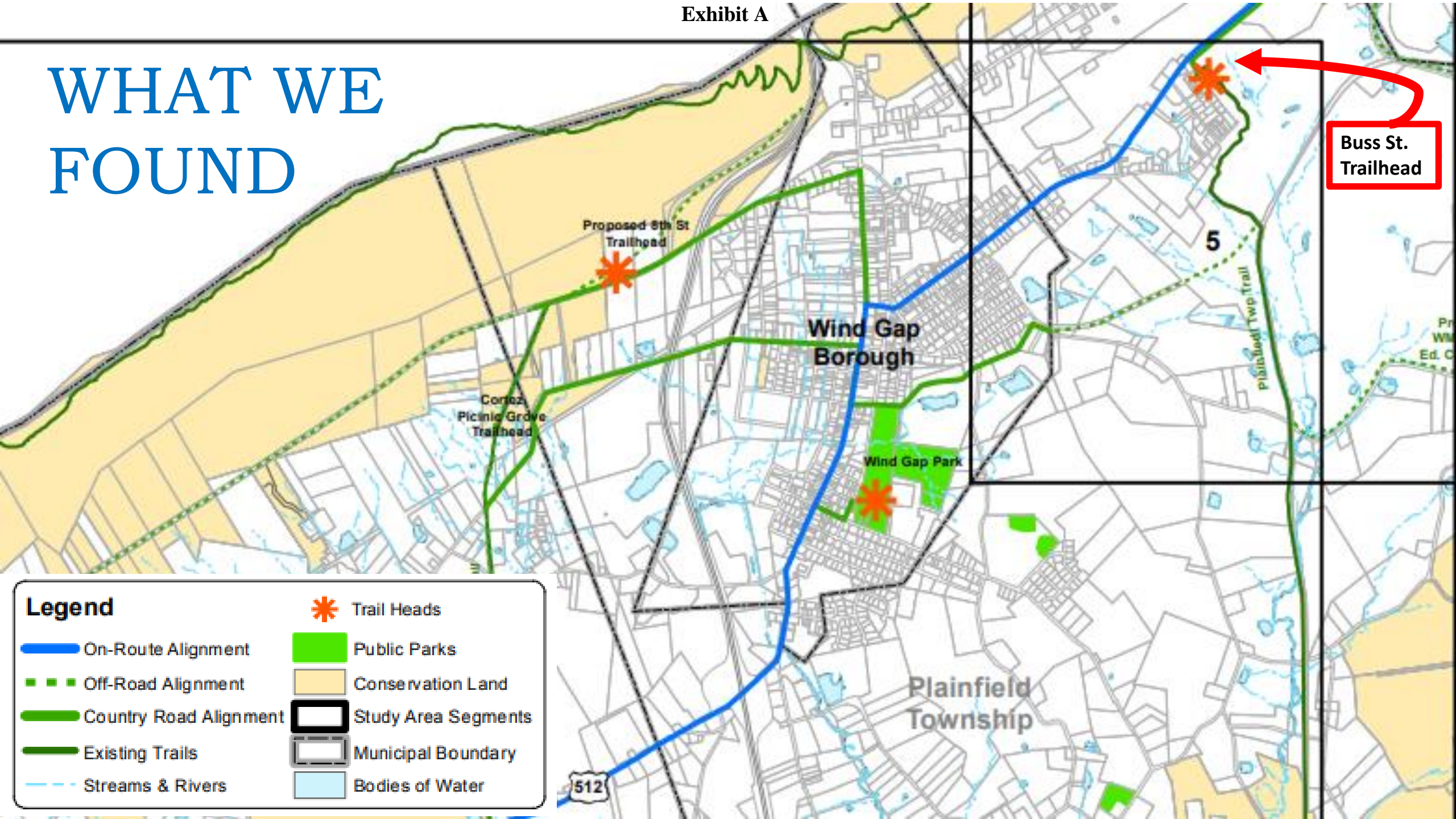
2010 US Census

<u>Northern Tier Communities</u>	
Borough of Walnutport	2,070
Lehigh Township	10,526
Moore Township	9,198
Borough of Chapman	199
Bushkill Township	8,178
Borough of Wind Gap	2,720
Plainfield Township	6,138
Borough of Pen Argyl	3,595
Washington Township	5,122
Bangor Borough	5,273
Borough of Roseto	1,567
Borough of East Bangor	1,172
Upper Mount Bethel Township	6,706
Borough of Portland	512
Total	62,983
Northampton County	297,973
Lehigh County	349,497
Lehigh Valley	647,232

The Northern Tier is a collection of 14 municipalities in the most northern reaches of Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Their span from the Lehigh River east to the Delaware River includes 35 miles of rolling farmland, forests, and streams set to the backdrop of the majestic Kittatinny Ridge. Without realizing it, a resident and visitor might forget just how close they are to the cities of **Boston, New York, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C.** The collective population of these cities is **23,843,017 people!**

Not to be outdone by the cities, the counties of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, surrounding Northampton's Lehigh Valley, have almost as many possible Northern Tier Trail visitors with **11,009,333 people** estimated in 2016.

WHAT WE FOUND

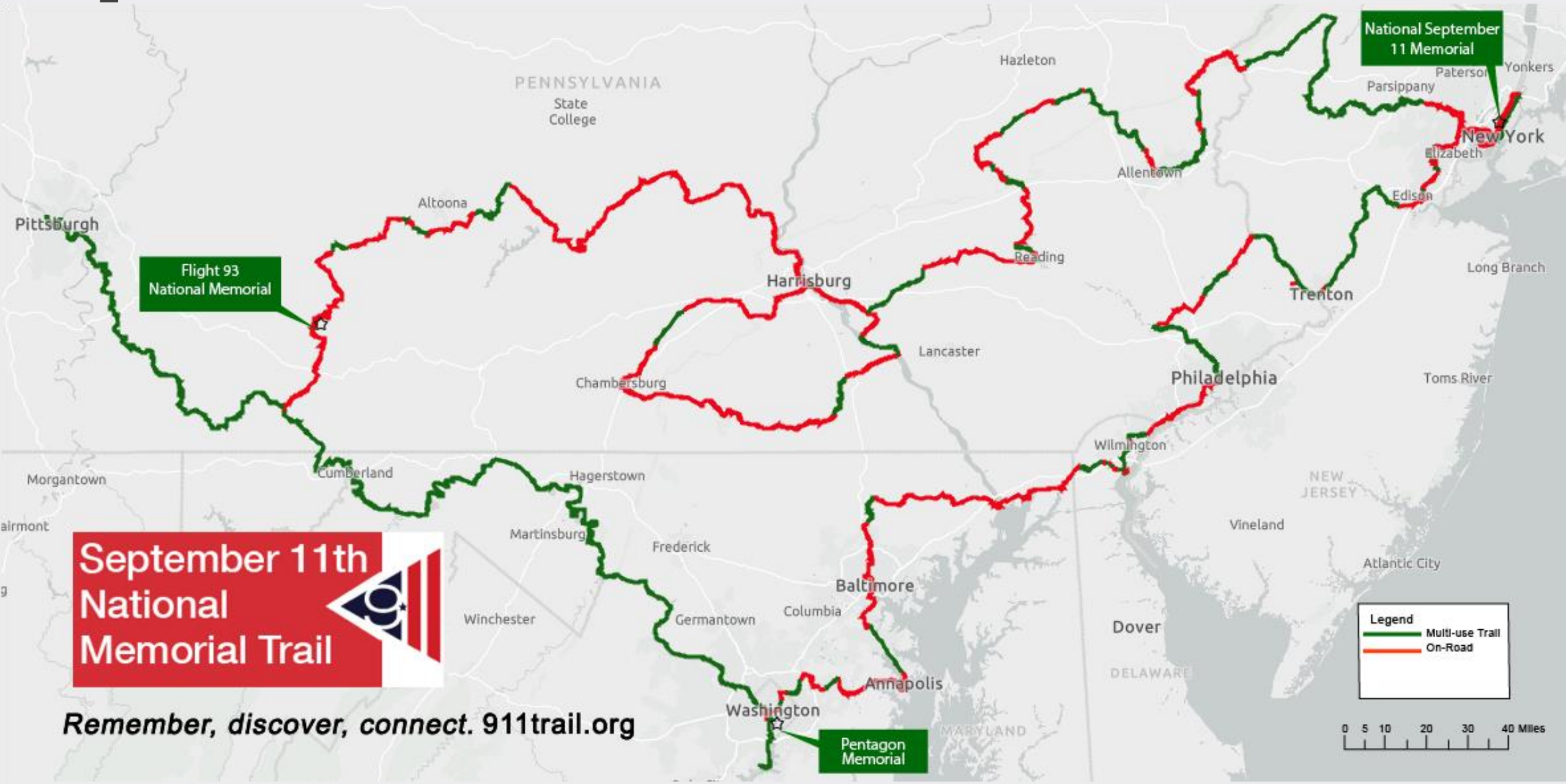


Buss St. Trailhead

Legend

On-Route Alignment	Trail Heads
Off-Road Alignment	Public Parks
Country Road Alignment	Conservation Land
Existing Trails	Study Area Segments
Streams & Rivers	Municipal Boundary
	Bodies of Water

September 11th National Memorial Trail



National September 11 Memorial

Flight 93 National Memorial

Pentagon Memorial

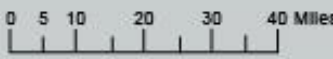
September 11th National Memorial Trail

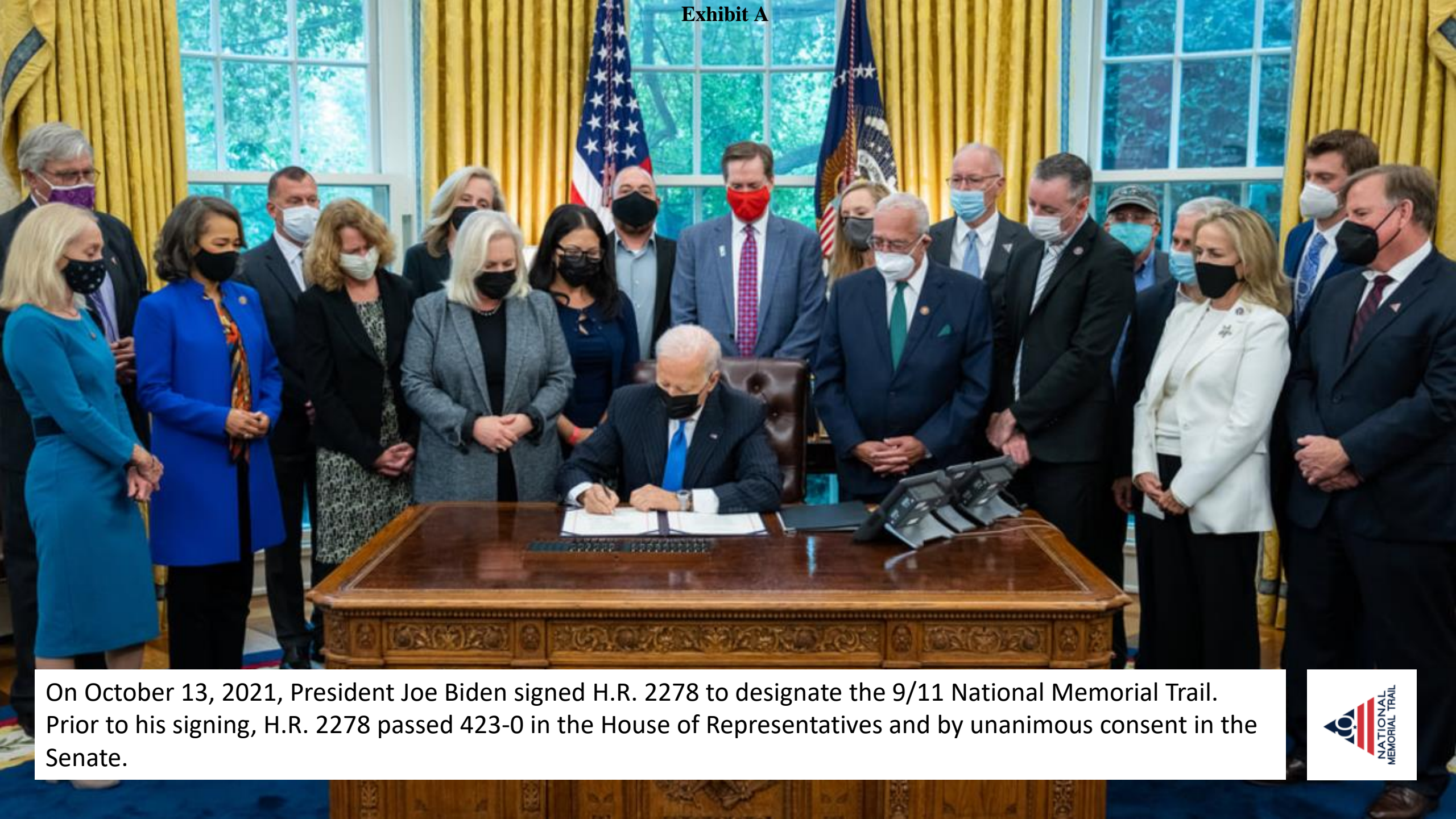


Remember, discover, connect. 911trail.org

Legend

- Multi-use Trail
- On-Road





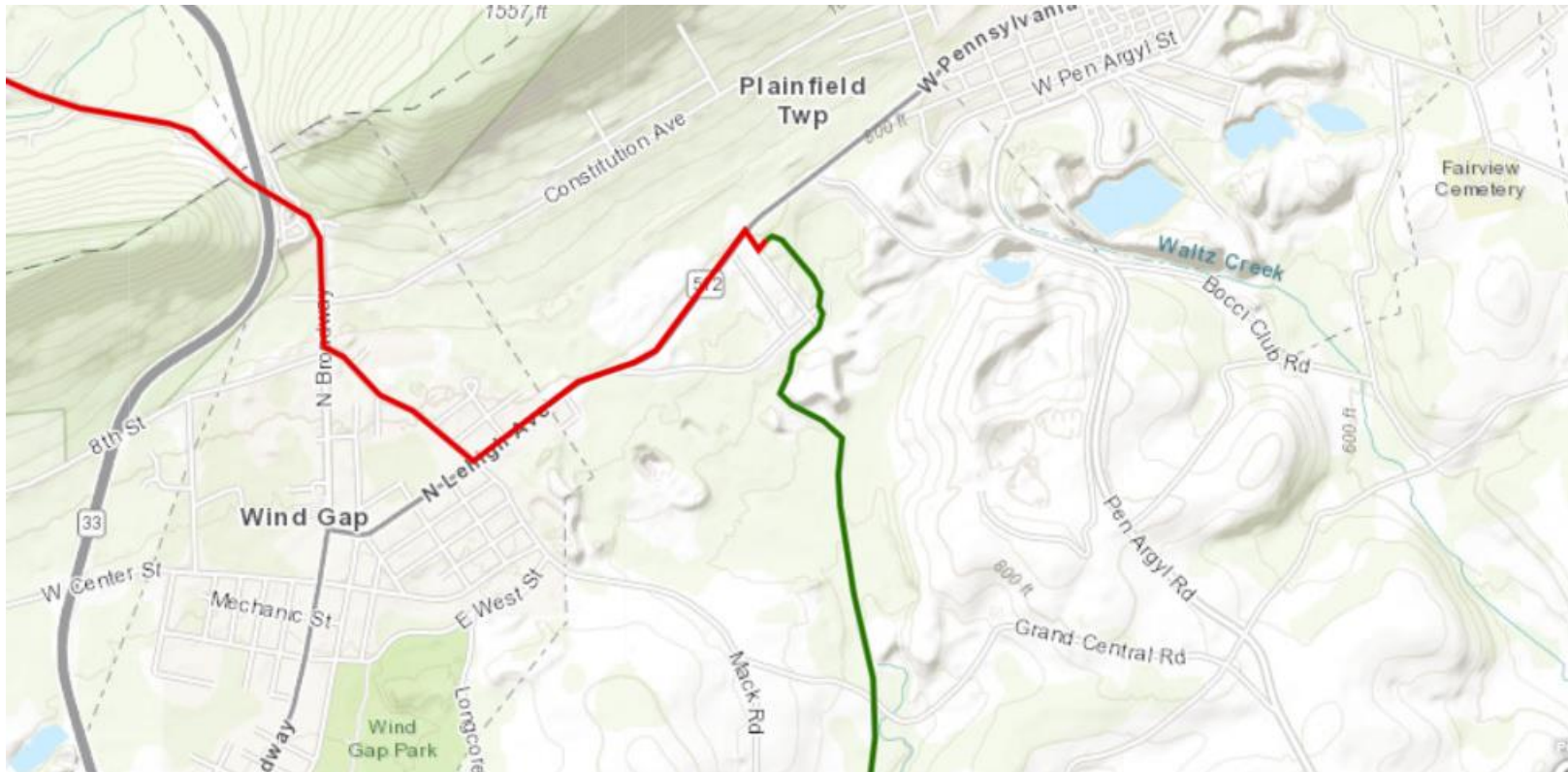
On October 13, 2021, President Joe Biden signed H.R. 2278 to designate the 9/11 National Memorial Trail. Prior to his signing, H.R. 2278 passed 423-0 in the House of Representatives and by unanimous consent in the Senate.





Your 911 Trail

The **September 11th National Memorial Trail** is a 1,300 mile multi-use route that links the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Flight 93 Memorial.

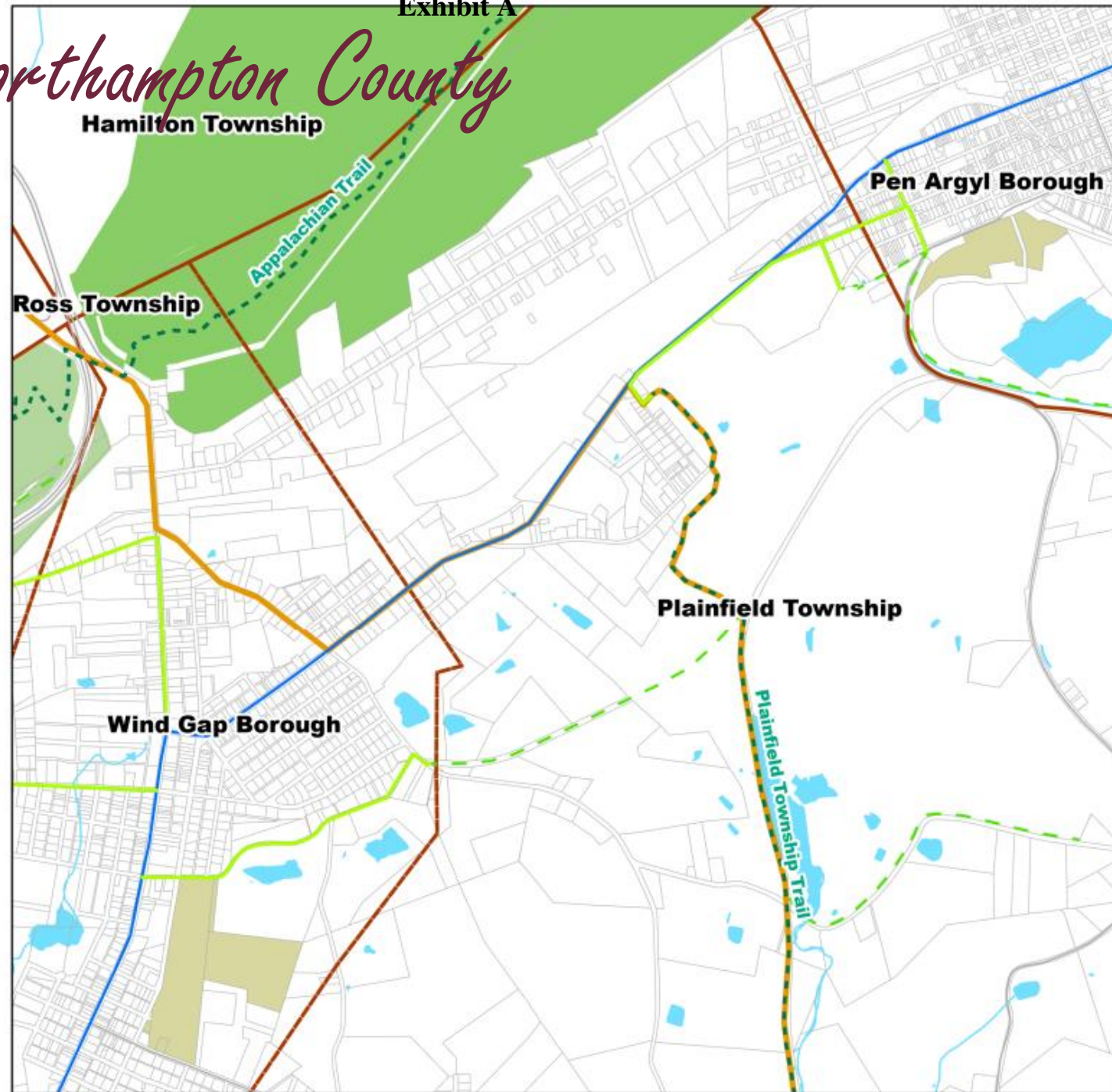
Join us on The Trail and embrace the commemorative history of September 11, 2001... remember, discover, and connect.



-  Plainfield Township Trail
-  On-Road Trail

On Behalf of Northampton County

We Request Plainfield Township Dedicate a Portion of Plainfield Township Trail to the Northern Tier Trail and especially memorialize or record a permanent easement or donated corridor for the September 11th National Memorial Trail



Trail Map

Plainfield Township
Northampton County, PA

- NT Country Road Alignment
- - - NT Off Road Alignment
- NT On Route Alignment
- - - PA Trails
- 911 National Memorial Trail Alignment
- Conserved Land - State
- Conserved Land - Local
- Conservation Easements
- Conserved Land - Federal



Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

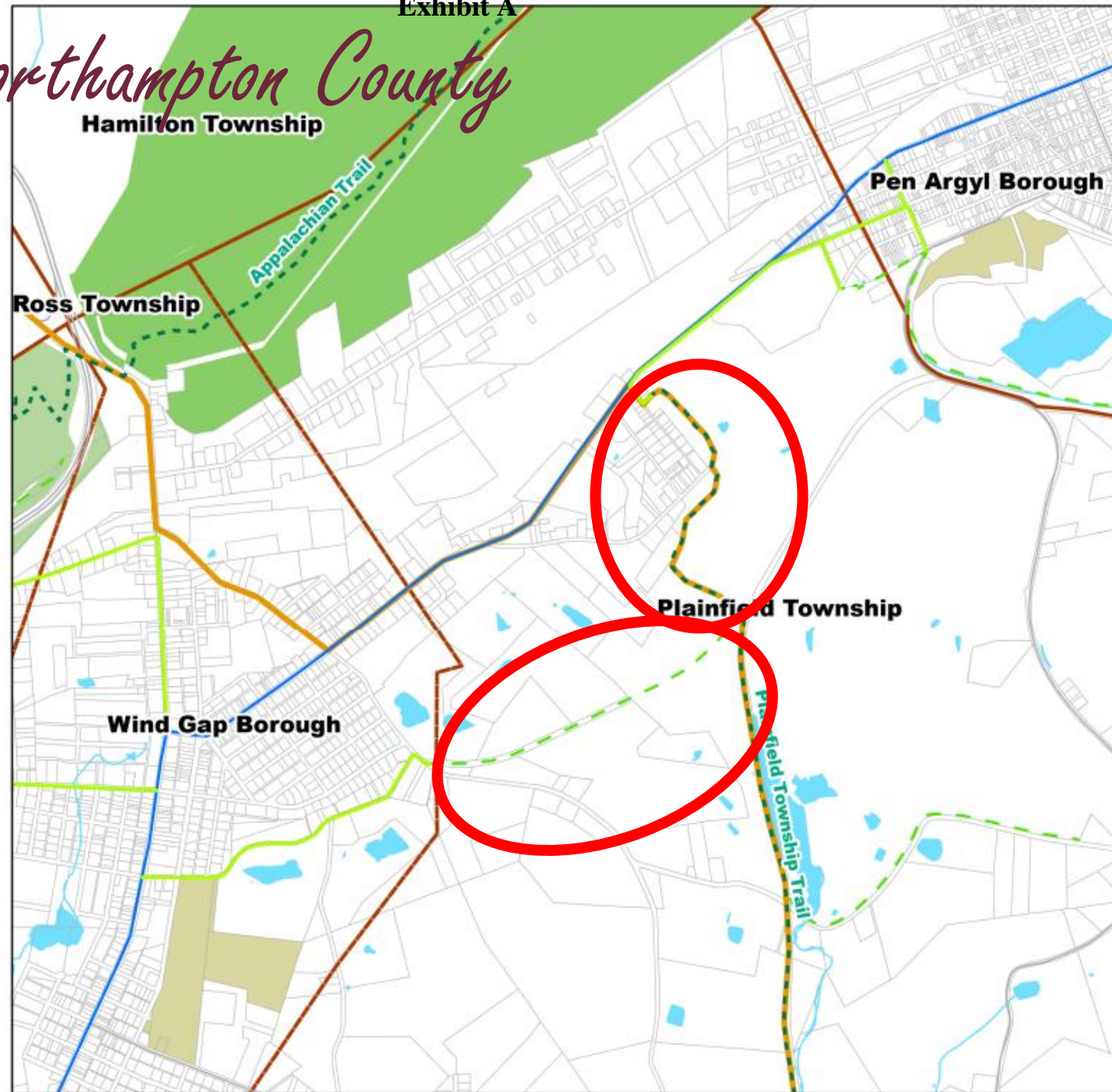
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HRG
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On Behalf of Northampton County

We Request Plainfield Township Dedicate a Portion of Plainfield Township Trail to the Northern Tier Trail and especially memorialize or record a permanent easement or donated corridor for the September 11th National Memorial Trail



Trail Map

Plainfield Township
Northampton County, PA

- NT Country Road Alignment
- - - NT Off Road Alignment
- NT On Route Alignment
- . . . PA Trails
- 911 National Memorial Trail Alignment
- Conserved Land - State
- Conserved Land - Local
- Conservation Easements
- Conserved Land - Federal



Mapping derived from data provided by ESRI, PennDOT, and USGS.

5/26/2022 | PM: XXX | GIS: XXX | QA: XXX | R002309.0477

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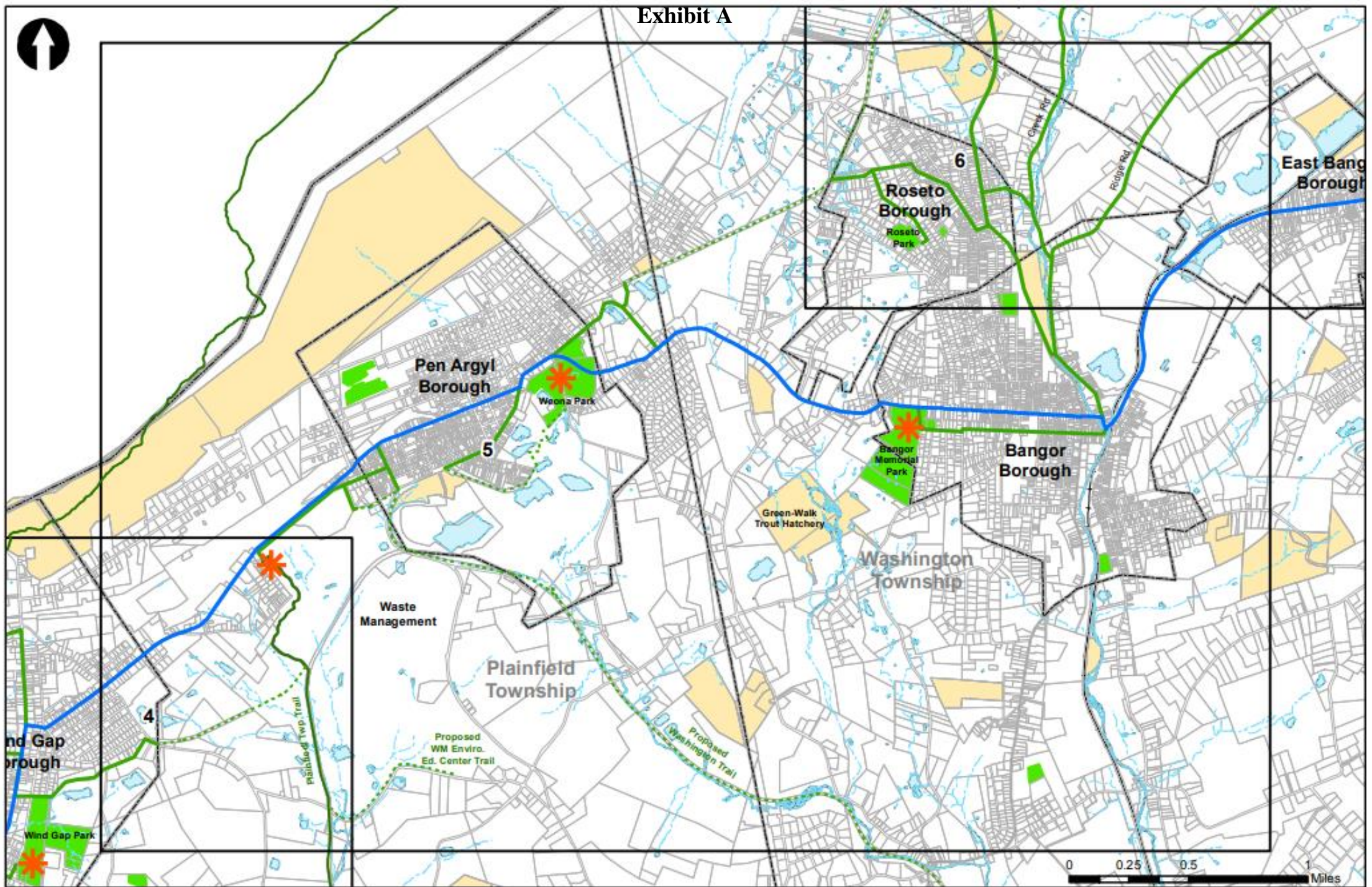
501 Allendale Road
Suite 203
King of Prussia, PA 19406
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www.hrg-inc.com

On Behalf of Northampton County
Thank You

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**CT
&C**

Exhibit A



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles