

Antietam Lake Park

water, forests, recreation, and education



Natural Resources Stewardship Plan

Lower Alsace and Alsace Townships, Berks, PA

Towering forests, cool streams, and historical structures make Antietam Lake Park an incredible escape into nature. This 643-acre county park once provided drinking water to the City of Reading. Today, the Park provides visitors a place for hiking, mountain biking, and fishing.

While implementing infrastructure improvements at Antietam Lake Park, as recommended in their 2010 Master Plan, Berks County decided to expand upon the existing plan to protect their valued natural resources. In 2016, they commissioned a stewardship plan for 454 acres of the Park. Over two-and-a-half years, Natural Lands assessed their forests, wetlands, waterways, and recreation areas to create a picture of their current use and conditions, and to provide recommendations for best management. Interviews with key community members, meetings with County staff, and a public meeting all helped inform the recommendations.

After assessing the Park and hearing from community members, Berks County and Natural Lands identified two main priorities: 1) protecting plants, water resources, and wildlife, and 2) promoting safe and enjoyable recreation. With these priorities in mind, Natural Lands created a blueprint for improving the forests and other habitats, protecting water quality, enhancing environmental education, and welcoming recreation in balance with natural resource protection.

The Stewardship Plan will help Berks County manage for the long-term health of their natural resources while preserving a beloved county park for future generations of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

services: natural resources stewardship plan for 454 acres
client: Berks County
key partner: Berks County

key recommendations

- Control invasive plants using provided techniques for each species identified at the Park.
- Increase plant diversity by adding additional native species, factoring in potential climate change impacts when choosing plants.
- Incorporate natural elements, such as logs, into the existing playground to be used as play equipment.

