

# Mineral Hill

*preservation and planning for a “gem” of a park*



## Facilitated Acquisition and Master Plan

Delaware County, PA

Mineral Hill is a succession of wooded valleys perched above Ridley Creek. The property is famous among rock collectors for its wealth of stone specimens and crystals. “Rock samples from Mineral Hill can be found in museums throughout the United States and Europe—from the Smithsonian to the Sorbonne,” stated a 1998 article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

In 2010, with state and private funds raised by Natural Lands and a contribution from Middletown Township, Delaware County purchased Mineral Hill to add to its park system. The 47 acres of wooded stream valleys—now known as Mineral Hill County Park—is part of a 123-acre open space area.

Three years later, the County took the next step to steward this gem of a property by hiring Natural Lands to draft a Master Plan for the park, as well as for the adjacent Louis Scott and Memorial parks, owned by Upper Providence and Middletown Township, respectively. The resulting Mineral Hill Area Master Plan provides an overarching vision to guide the three municipalities in enhancing and managing the parks in a cohesive and effective manner. The Master Plan includes recommendations for park uses, amenities, volunteer programs, and ongoing maintenance—all with the goal of providing a great experience for visitors while protecting the integrity and ecology of the site.

Though Mineral Hill’s cache of crystals and other minerals have been largely exhausted over the centuries, its other riches—picturesque views, rocky outcroppings, mature trees, diverse wildlife, and remarkable cultural history—remain... and are finally protected forever.



## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

**services:** transaction planning and coordination, grant writing and administration, development of park Master Plan

**client:** Delaware County

**key partners:** Aqua PA, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association, Delaware County Parks and Recreation Department, Delaware County Planning Department, Elwyn, Inc., PECO, Media Borough, Middletown Township, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Upper Providence Township, Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation

