

**MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE**  
**NELSONVILLE TRAIL NATURE CENTER AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

The Open Space Institute (OSI) has acquired a major expanse of lands known as the Lone Star properties within the Village of Nelsonville. OSI has informed the Village that the title to these approximately 113 acres will ultimately be transferred to the Village. However, before the transfer is to be effected, OSI has asked the Village to define, in general terms, the uses to which the Village would wish to put the property. To advance this discussion, the Village has convened a committee to prepare recommendations for the use of the subject lands. The following outline presents the uses and philosophy for uses which the Committee believes represents the long term desires of the Village with respect to the OSI lands. The attached map identifies specific places and opportunities referenced below.

1. It is the general intent of the Village that any use of the OSI property be of low intensity and of a scale in keeping with the historical and present character and appearance of the Village. The principal use of the site should be recreational, and the Committee lauds hiking trails as the primary use of the property. Other specific uses are proposed for nodes of the property which have existing ease of public access, for uses which have long occurred on them or which complement and extend the use of the hiking trail system.
2. Cross-country skiing could be allowed within the property, on trails specifically designated for that purpose. Such trails might also be designated on the trail maps prepared by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, and by others. The Committee also requests that uses and activities such as nature studies be allowed throughout the site. The site has been used for generations as an area of nature study, by local schools, community organizations and civic groups. This function will be augmented by formal informational plaques and trail side markers describing local ecosystems, flora and history.
3. At the entrance to the site closest to North Pearl Street, a private road, the Committee proposes that a gathering area for hikers be created (see the attached map). This area would be improved with a wind break and planted screening, some site furniture such as benches and tables, a kiosk with a mounted trail map and other features intended to create a space for hiking parties to meet and organize for an outing. It is also possible that some parking spaces might be created off street at this location. The committee envisions that this area might function as a link between the hiking trails and the public park on Main Street, which itself could contain a sign directing hikers to the North Pearl Street gathering space.