

AMD&ART staff starts pilot project construction

After five years of intense planning, AMD&ART's pilot project is finally in the building stages.

Project Co-Coordinator Ellen Micolli said she is glad to see years of planning come to fruition.

"After promising the residents that this will happen, it was a relief to see the logging begin because that meant the project was actually getting started."

Logging was done by R&R Wood Sales in preparation for widening the hillside at the site's entrance, re-



Anne Stone

Project Co-Coordinator Jessica Johnson poses with a sign announcing construction in Vintondale.

ferred to as the bottleneck.

Next, a contract with RNS Services must be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) so RNS Services can remove the waste coal (bone) from the site at no cost.

As a part of this, they will grade the hillside and expand the trail to provide access for construction vehicles.

After these improvements, the acid mine drainage treatment system construction can begin.

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Funders, community support AMD&ART

Greetings! As you will see in the following pages, many significant things have happened since we last sent a newsletter.

The AMD&ART staff has been busy preparing for construction in Vintondale.

For all of our recent progress, we are deeply thankful to our funders, as well as the dedicated community residents.

We are particularly grateful to the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency for their continued support, the Vira I. Heinz Endowment for their renewed commitment, and Governor Ridge's Growing Greener Initiative through the PA Department of Environmental Protection. These grants have allowed multi-disciplinary collaboration that has been a necessity to the success of this project.

Please see Page 5 for more information on other partnerships.

These partnerships have offered many opportunities for the

AMD&ART staff to work with the residents in Vintondale, Central City and Shade Township.

These residents have been instrumental in planning, and their participation in volunteer events has reassured the AMD&ART team that this project will succeed.

Thank you to all of those who have helped AMD&ART continue turning environmental liabilities into community assets.

—T. Allan Comp, Ph.D., Founder

Central City Project recognized as first abandoned mine brownfields

Central City Borough was awarded an EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot Project.

The grant awards \$200,000 to the Central City Borough and Shade Township areas within the Dark Shade Creek Watershed.

This grant is the first of its kind because Dark Shade Creek is the first brownfields project to address contamination on a watershed level, and include AMD in the list of contaminants discouraging economic development.

Brownfields, former industrial sites that may contain hazardous materials, seem to be a perfect way to describe the metal-laden water left behind after mining.

T. Allan Comp and the AMD&ART staff worked with the Central City Borough to write this grant and organize the volunteers. Comp continues to serve as the OSM Brownfields Adviser.

The designation of Dark Shade Creek as a brownfields pilot has ignited efforts across the watershed. The Brownfields Project is receiving funding to assess the current situation and develop a feasible plan to combat this problem.

The project, however, is not interested in solely treating the environmental problems of abandoned mine drainage through the watershed. Economic issues will be addressed as well. Due to a unique partnership between the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Initiative, a more comprehensive and integrative solution will be sought to provide a more successful approach to full watershed recovery.

The Brownfields Project has joined forces with the Brownfields Center at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh to commence a Brownfields training program funded by the EPA.

Project Coordinator Damion Ciotti said he hopes the work in Dark Shade Creek will serve as a model to others.



Ellen Micoli

Brownfields Project Coordinator Damion Ciotti explains plans for Dark Shade Creek Watershed to local residents.

See Page 4

Department of Environmental Protection showcases AMD&ART exhibit

One of the few agencies given this honor, the AMD&ART exhibit was showcased in the state headquarters of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The DEP usually creates exhibits about their own projects and initiatives, but has made an exception by inviting AMD&ART.

The exhibit was displayed in the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, PA from June 5th through the 30th.

The display used photographs, graphic images and text to explain the national model and

interdisciplinary process that is AMD&ART.

DEP Deputy Secretary of Mineral Resources Management Bob Dolence said AMD&ART is a model for small communities who are dealing with acid mine drainage and other watershed issues.

"What's nice about AMD&ART is that it's a unique way of educating people about the problem of acid mine drainage.

"It's also educating people about mining and the heritage of the community," said Dolence.

Dolence said the attention to community is vital in AMD

remediation. "It's engaging the local community, which is critical in watershed restoration."

The AMD&ART team found exhibiting in Harrisburg offered a great opportunity to present ideas at the state level.

The timing of this exhibit, just after major advances in both the Vintondale and Dark Shade Creek projects, is ideal.

Dolence said DEP is happy to give AMD&ART this rare opportunity.

"It's a badge we're glad to wear and a project we're proud to stand beside."

Help of Vintondale volunteers pushes pilot park project forward

Elizabeth Pillsbury

Vintondale volunteers help put up a sign in preparation for the beginning of construction of the Vintondale community park.

Vintondale volunteers have helped immensely with the park project, but there's much more to come.

So far, these active citizens have worked with AMD&ART in

all aspects of planning and building.

Vintondale youths helped put in a construction announcement sign last December.

This year, youths also helped put up warning signs, reminiscent of the old "Burma Shave" signs.

In June, over 15 volunteers gave up their Saturday to build benches for the park at the Vintondale Volunteer Fire Station.

The day was a big success with the volunteers assembling 10 benches for the park and exchanging ideas for what they were expecting from the park.

Those who haven't been

able to get involved so far have many more opportunities to work with AMD&ART.

Volunteers are needed for other building days, including a planter box building day in September. Also, volunteers are needed more than ever as construction of the Vintondale project begins.

Not all Vintondale projects deal with construction. Interested individuals can help with aspects of planting, wildlife identification, and writing.

Ideas for plan improvement are also always welcome.

To volunteer for an upcoming event, contact the AMD&ART office at (814) 539-5357. Vintondale residents can contact Jane Marines at (814) 749-0341.

Vintondale park, treatment system construction already underway

Continued from Page 1

L&M Excavating, Inc. was awarded the bid for the AMD treatment system. L&M representative Rick McNulty said he is interested both personally and professionally in the project.

"One reason I'm excited is I'm a big fisherman, and it's going to clean up the streams.

"It's going to clean up the environment and do it naturally."

McNulty said that although this is L&M's first passive AMD treatment system, it is similar to many of their other projects.

He is eager to see this first project succeed, he said.

"I'm excited to build it, but I'm more excited to see it work."

Some small but interesting changes have been recently made to improve the recreational area.

The BMX bike trail proposed by the Vintondale youth has found a possible sponsor — The National Bike League.

After hearing about the trail, the NBL is considering making Vintondale's trail the first NBL sanctioned bike park.

Other residents have also starting working to include a pavilion in the recreational area.

These improvements and additions will be further discussed in upcoming community meetings.

Information will also be available at the Vintondale Ground-breaking to be held this month.

Project Co-Coordinator Jes-

sica Johnson said she is excited for the groundbreaking celebration.

"I think it's great that this is finally going to happen."

"We've been promising for five years, and we are finally delivering something to the community that has worked so hard to make it happen."

Volunteers will be needed after RNS and L&M crews have finished construction and excavation of the site.

AMD&ART is planning to create tree teams. Each team of volunteers will be in charge of a different type of tree to be planted in the Litmus garden.

Also, teams of volunteers will be needed to plant the wetlands and complete other projects.

New Staff Steers AMD&ART Projects

AMD&ART's recent strides have been made possible through the help of a new AmeriCorps staff, and a talented summer crew.

Jessica Johnson and Ellen Micoli, former AMD&ART interns, have been full-time AmeriCorps volunteers since last fall and will be with the office for the next year.

The Dark Shade Creek Brownfields office is being headed by two dedicated people with experience in AMD remediation.

Dennis Beck, a resident of Portage, PA, is working toward his masters degree in Environmental Resource Management. He has been involved in local AMD remediation efforts, and is now the half-time Brownfields Project Manager.

AMD&ART

(814) 539-5357

Jessica Johnson - *Project Co-Coordinator*
Bachelors Degree in Landscape Architecture from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Ellen Micoli - *Project Co-Coordinator*
Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from Allegheny College

Summer Staff

Jenny Brown - *Press Relations*
Fourth year student of Journalism and Environmental Studies at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Sarah Palmer - *Site Planning*
Fifth year student of Landscape Architecture at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Charlene Replogle - *Wildlife Analysis*
Senior Environmental Studies student at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Anne Stone - *Recreational Funding*
Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from Lewis and Clark College

Damion Ciotti, a former Office of Surface Mining Watershed intern in Dark Shade Creek, is serving as the Brownfields Project Coordinator through AmeriCorps. Ciotti also will remain until next year, doing community outreach.

The two offices also awarded six internships for the summer to students skilled in landscape architecture, environmental studies, planning and writing.

AMD&ART and the Brownfields Project are looking for other staff and volunteers to help throughout the fall. If interested, contact the appropriate office.

The Brownfields Project

(814) 754-5953

Dennis Beck - *Project Manager*
Finishing Masters Degree at Pennsylvania State University in Environmental Resource Management

Damion Ciotti - *Project Coordinator*
Bachelors Degree in Soil Sciences from Penn State University

Summer Staff

Lynn Brooks - *Community Planning*
Environmental Studies graduate student at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Jonathan Logan - *Site Planning*
Bachelors Degree in Landscape Architecture from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Comp Awarded Headlands Residency

AMD&ART Founder T. Allan Comp has been awarded a Headlands Center for the Arts Bridge Residency, funded by the Institute for Noetic Science. He will reside at the Headlands in Sausalito, CA for several weeks in the fall.

Allan presented "A Conversation with T. Allan Comp" about AMD&ART on June 25th to a large gathering at the Headlands.



Dark Shade Brownfields

Continued from Page 2

"The Brownfields Project will act as an example to other watersheds throughout Appalachia cleaning up abandoned mine drainage while trying to revitalize their communities."

The project is encouraged by the efforts of some community members who are actually treating the AMD discharges on their own property.

Five residents and two groups are using some different techniques, at various technological levels, to improve the watershed.

Ciotti said this community involvement is essential to ensuring the community will stay involved with the brownfields project.

"We're restoring the watershed now by cleaning up the AMD, but to protect that restoration in the future, we need local involvement and an informed, educated and active community interested in what's going on in their watershed."

"That can not only sustain a healthy watershed, but also a prosperous community." For more information, contact Damion Ciotti or Dennis Beck at the Central City/Shade Township Brownfields Project office in Central City at (814) 754-5953.

AMD&ART tests new forms of public outreach

With the assistance of generous grants and computer technology, AMD&ART's message is spreading on all levels.

A donation from the Canaan Valley Institute allowed AMD&ART to print a revision of the Orange Book, an outline of the three AMD&ART project sites and the mission and goals of the organization. The book is being distributed to interested individuals throughout the country.

AMD&ART: Transforming Environmental Liabilities Into Community Assets is available from the AMD&ART office.

AMD&ART also recently developed a tri-fold brochure, which is also available, free of charge.

While there are a limited number of Orange Books, AMD&ART is able to send out multiple copies of the brochure for display in public offices, small businesses or conference displays. Contact the office for information.

AMD&ART has also been working on our website, www.amdandart.org.

The site will have updates on AMD&ART projects, as well as volunteer opportunities, photographs and background information.

The site is now available, although under construction, and is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

The professional team is happy to make presentations on AMD&ART to those interested in getting involved with artful remediation of AMD.

A documentary about Vintondale is also in the works. Brent Conrad of Vivicon Productions has been interviewing residents, getting site footage, and documenting the community process. A five minute video is now available.

AMD&ART is planning to do similar documentation of the Central City/Shade Township Brownfields Project.

Vintondale Project featured on CNN

Steps to spread the AMD&ART message have been helped by local and national media attention.

Local newspapers and television and radio stations have run event announcements and have covered everything from building days to funding awards.

Also, CNN producer Alison Lynn and her sound and camera crew traveled to Vintondale recently to interview T. Allan Comp, Julie Bargmann, Bob Deason and Stacy Levy, the Vintondale design team.

Lynn also interviewed several Vintondale residents about their memories of life in a company town.

The 10-minute segment, part of a show about innovators aired July 9th at 9 p.m on CNN.

Lynn said she is excited to return for a follow-up story next year to see the project's progress.

New partnerships and beneficiaries provide help, funds for projects

Since the last newsletter, AMD&ART has been successful in partnering with various agencies for our ongoing work.

The Pittsburgh-based Vira I. Heinz Endowment awarded \$50,000 for artistic interpretation and implementation in Vintondale.

AMD&ART received \$40,000 from the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program for interpretation, education, and documentation in Vintondale.

The Pennsylvania Depart-

ment of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded a \$20,000 Keystone grant for recreational facilities in Vintondale.

The U.S. Forestry Service donated \$8,592 for wood products and trees at the Vintondale site.

\$4,500 came from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for program and artistic support.

The Community Foundation of Bedford, Cambria, and Somerset Counties awarded \$3,000 to support community outreach efforts in Vintondale.

The Canaan Valley Institute provided \$2,500 for the publishing and distribution of our newly formatted Orange Book about the AMD&ART model.

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council awarded AMD&ART both a quick grant of \$498 for exhibit construction and a \$1,000 planning grant for a humanities workshop on Vintondale thematic interpretation.

AMD&ART is thankful for these funding partnerships and the opportunities they provide.

Upcoming AMD&ART Events and Volunteer Opportunities



VINTONDALE COMMUNITY PARK AND AMD TREATMENT SYSTEM GROUNDBREAKING

The culmination of five years of work will be at **1 p.m., August 14th** at the future site of the Vintondale community park and passive AMD treatment system.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held, followed by light refreshments and live music, as well as site tours. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

For more information see the enclosed flyer or visit us on the web at www.amdandart.org.

TREE TEAM LEADERS NEEDED

Interested individuals are needed to lead Tree Teams, which will be in charge of planting the acid mine drainage treatment system Litmus Garden.

Each team will be assigned a different plant, and training will be given. For information, call the AMD&ART office.

PLAYGROUND PLANNING



☀ Vintondale Borough Building

7 p.m., August 22

This meeting is open to all interested individuals to discuss ideas for the Vintondale community park playground.



411 Third Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15906
814-539-5357
Fax: 814-539-4345

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Thank you to the following contributors for their continued support

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Borough of Central City
Cambria County Conservation and Recreation
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Canaan Valley Institute
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Somerset Counties
Earthtech, Inc., Johnstown, PA
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Resources
PA Department of Environmental
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PA Department of Transportation
PA Humanities Council

PA Rural Arts Alliance
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation
Commission/Allegheny Heritage Development Corp.
STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, Carnegie Mellon Univ.
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
U.S. Office of Surface Mining
U.S. Forestry Service
The Vint I. Heinz Endowment
Western PA Watershed Protection Program

Come Celebrate As We Break Ground

AMD&ART cordially invites you to the Groundbreaking for the *Vintondale Acid Mine Drainage Treatment System and Community Park* at 1 p.m., August 14 in Vintondale, Pennsylvania.

The park will include a passive acid mine drainage treatment system with a succession of settlement ponds, a clarification marsh and a wetland. Colored trees and plants will line each pond and reflect the water's changing color to form an educational and visually stunning Litmus Garden. Within the History Wetlands, posts and plantings will outline the former location of Vinton Colliery structures. A recreation area will accompany these artistic, scientific and historical aspects and will feature a BMX bike park, playing fields, playground and picnic areas.

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate with AMD&ART as five years of planning come to fruition with the building of this innovative park and treatment system. The celebration will include refreshments, live music and site tours.

The ceremony will be held on the park site, right along the Ghost Town Rail Trail at the end of Main Street in Vintondale. Directions to the site can be found at the bottom of this page. If you have any questions, please call our office at (814) 539-5357.

DIRECTIONS

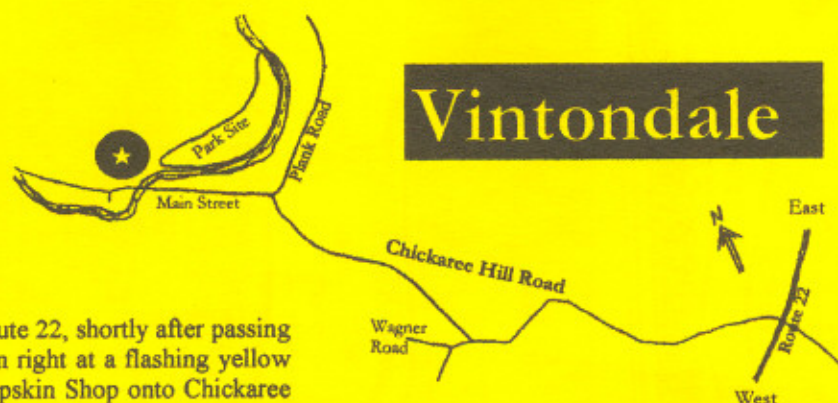
~ Traveling west on Route 22, shortly after passing through Nanty-Glo, turn right at a flashing yellow light just after the Sheepskin Shop onto Chickaree Hill Road.

~ Traveling east on Route 22, turn left onto Chickaree Hill Road at a flashing yellow light several miles after exits for Armagh and Dilltown.

~ After turning onto Chickaree Hill Road, continue on until you reach a "Stop Unless Right Turn." Stay to the right and travel another mile down Chickaree Hill Road into Vintondale.

~ When you come to an intersection, turn left onto Main Street. Go past the post office, the fire hall, the VFW, and over a bridge.

~ Over the bridge, immediately turn right into a gravel parking area. Please do not drive on the Ghost Town Rail Trail, which is directly in front of you. You may park on the grass if there is no other room.



AMD&ART - artfully transforming environmental liabilities into community assets

DESIGN TEAM

T Allan Comp, Ph.D, Project Founder & Historian
Julie Bargmann, Landscape Designer
Robert Deason, Hydrogeologist
Stacy Levy, Sculptor
Residents of Vintondale, Pennsylvania
Ellen Micoli, Community Outreach & Photography
Jessica Johnson, Community Design Development

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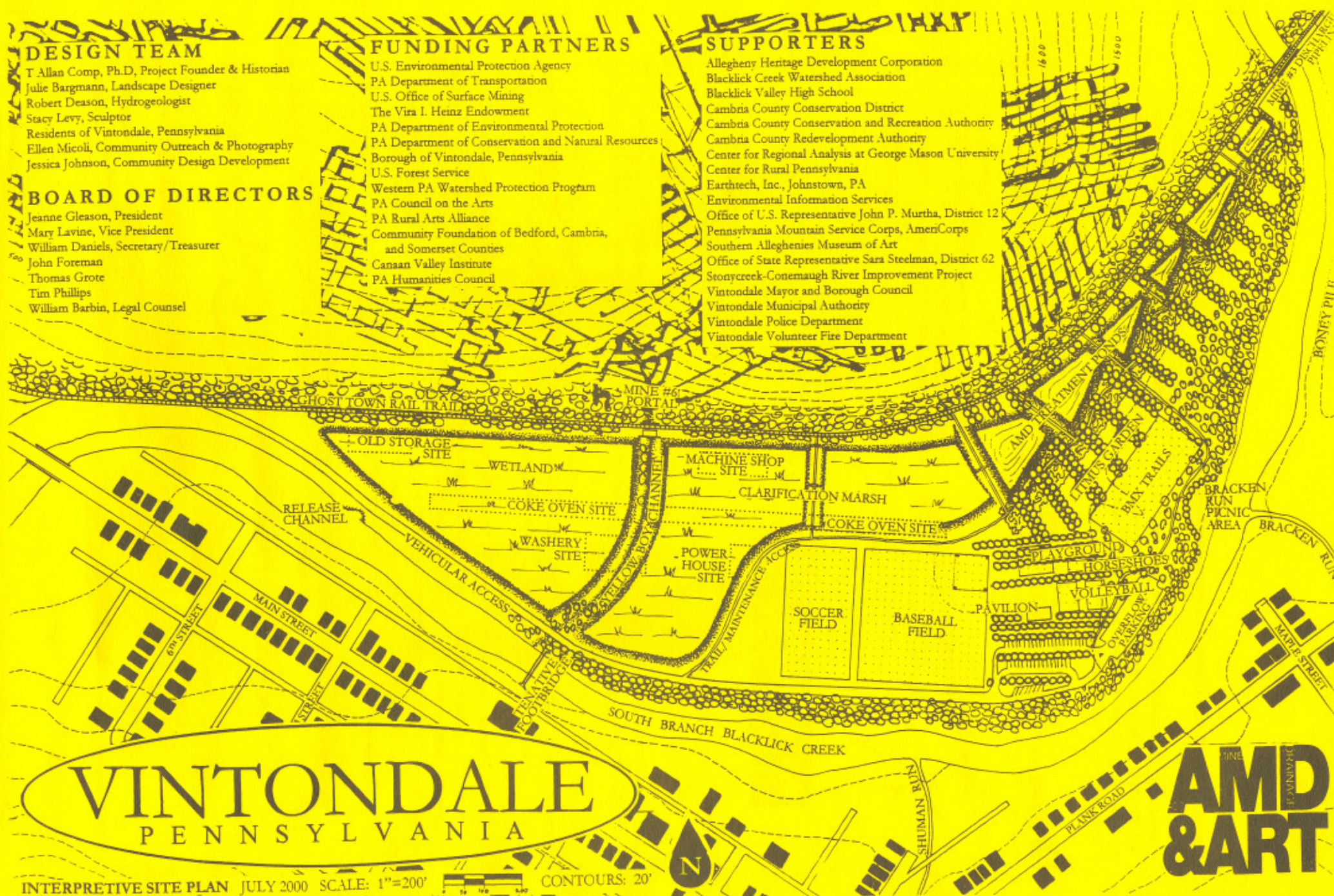
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
PA Department of Transportation
U.S. Office of Surface Mining
The Vira I. Heinz Endowment
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Borough of Vintondale, Pennsylvania
U.S. Forest Service
Western PA Watershed Protection Program
PA Council on the Arts
PA Rural Arts Alliance
Community Foundation of Bedford, Cambria,
and Somerset Counties
Canaan Valley Institute
PA Humanities Council

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Blacklick Valley High School
Cambria County Conservation District
Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority
Cambria County Redevelopment Authority
Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University
Center for Rural Pennsylvania
Earthtech, Inc., Johnstown, PA
Environmental Information Services
Office of U.S. Representative John P. Murtha, District 12
Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, AmeriCorps
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art
Office of State Representative Sara Steelman, District 62
Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project
Vintondale Mayor and Borough Council
Vintondale Municipal Authority
Vintondale Police Department
Vintondale Volunteer Fire Department



VINTONDALE
PENNSYLVANIA

INTERPRETIVE SITE PLAN JULY 2000

SCALE: 1"=200'

CONTOURS: 20'

**AMD
&ART**