Susquehanna Discovery Center at the Historic Mifflin House & Farm

Concept Plan
June 2021
As an alternative to demolition and development, preservation partners propose acquisition and adaptive use of the buildings and site as a regional heritage center and visitor attraction, with a historic park, nature preserve, and interpretive trails connected to a river park. The project concept plan includes over 80 acres of Blessing/Kinsley and other land linked to the river. Key features include:

**Susquehanna Discovery Center** — Adaptive use of the historic barn complex as the premier visitor welcome and interpretive center for America’s 55th National Heritage Area, including exhibit galleries, SNHA headquarters, field offices for conservation partners, and income-producing business uses compatible with the site's historic character.

**Mifflin House Underground Railroad Site** — Restoration of the c.1800 Mifflin House as a place for learning about the key role our region and people played in the Underground Railroad story, with an interpretive trail to the river tracing the route taken by those seeking freedom in the early to mid-19th century.

**Heritage Park** — Preservation of the Mifflin farm landscape as a historic park featuring the Civil War skirmish field where Union militia fought invading Confederates in June 1863, just before burning the covered bridge across the Susquehanna to stop their advance. This engagement set the stage for the Battle of Gettysburg three days later.

**Natural Lands Preserve, Greenway, & River Park** — Conservation of scenic natural lands linking the Mifflin farmstead to the Susquehanna River through a greenway along U.S. Route 30 and a riverfront park with picnic areas, paddle craft launch/landing, fishing access, and river viewing areas.

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**Estimated Project Costs**

- **Acquisition & Related Costs**: $5,500,000
- **Design & Construction (Buildings, Trails, Site Infrastructure)**: $9,150,000
- **Total**: $14,650,000