

CHAPTER 6

ANALYSIS OF UNPROTECTED RESOURCES

As outlined in chapter four, important vulnerable resources in Rockledge include scenic roads and historic structures. This chapter identifies areas where these resources are not permanently protected, proposes priorities for their future preservation, and establishes specific protection goals. Generally, the priority categories are based on the extent of resources found in a given area (particularly where a concentration exists), their location and contribution to community identity, and the open space goals established in chapter two. Figure 29 shows the locations of each site.

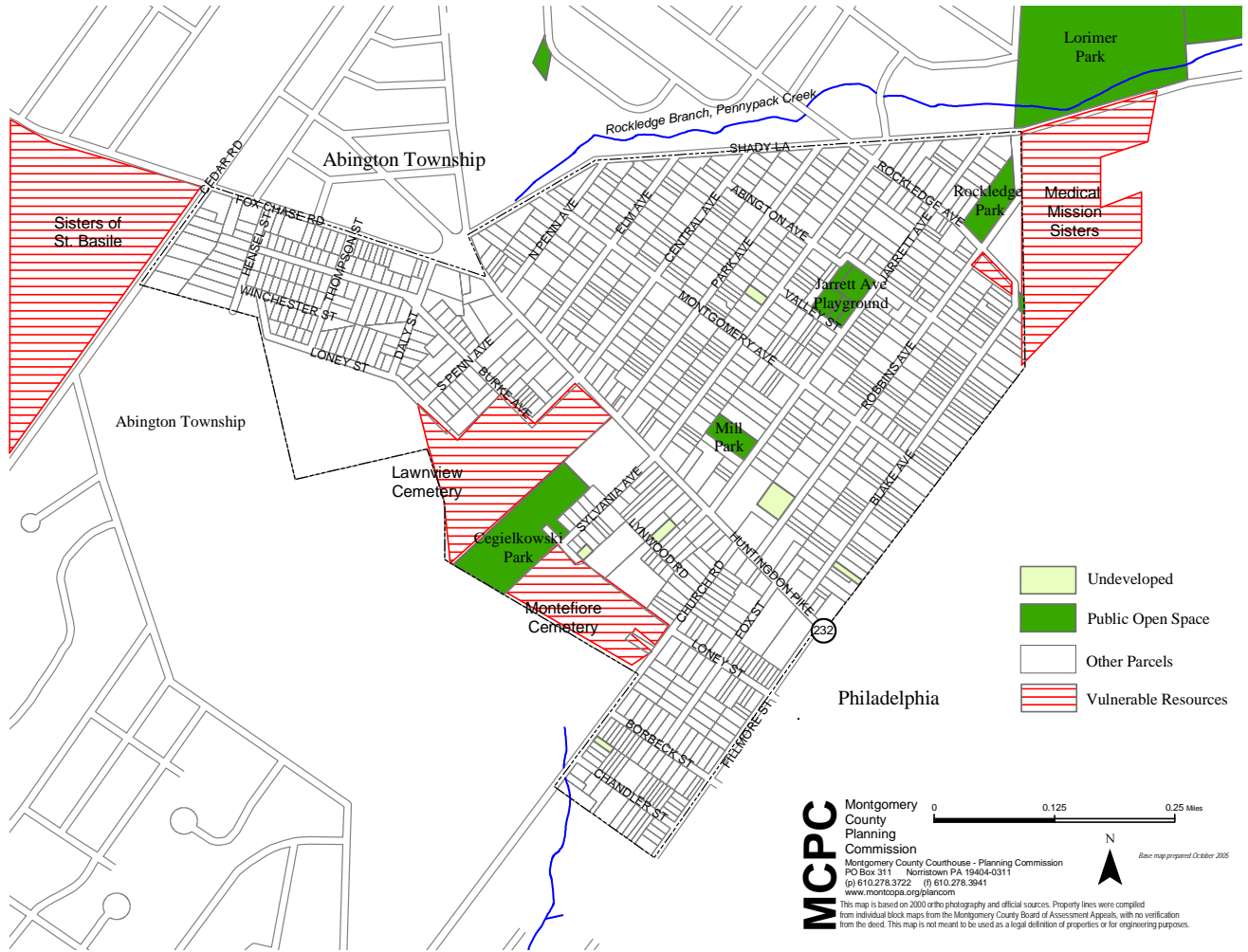
VULNERABLE RESOURCES ANALYSIS

Historic sites are one important vulnerable resource in a community. Individually and taken together, they provide a link to a community's past and thereby can make a valuable contribution to its current educational, cultural, and social environment. In the case of historic structures, often their architectural significance and/or uniqueness create visual interest by contrasting with surrounding development. Of course, the number and type of historic resources varies

from place to place, dependent largely upon the particular mix of political, social, cultural, and archeological factors.

At the national level, the National Register of Historic Places contains a record of properties considered worthy of preservation. This list contains a number of sites in Montgomery County, such as Valley Forge National Park. There are no such sites in Rockledge.

Figure 6.1
Vulnerable Resources



Scenic resources are elements of the natural and/or built environment that stand out among all the attributes of a community. They tend to be the most pleasant and interesting places, such as historic sites, natural features like lakes or creeks, and recreation areas.

PRIORITIZATION OF AREAS FOR PRESERVATION
HIGHEST PRIORITY AREAS

- LONEY STREET LINKAGE EAST—South Sylvania Avenue to Church Road (via easement or acquisition)—This area is located along the vacated Loney Street right-of-

way. It is currently a wooded area with an informal path. The fee simple acquisition (purchase) of this important area would enable the Borough to establish a more formalized path and improve access to Cegiolkowski Park from Church Road.

- STROCKVILLE LINKAGE—Strockville Section of Rockledge to Cegiolkowski Park (via easement over Lawnview Cemetery property)—An easement over the undeveloped portion of Lawnview Cemetery would allow a linkage to be established between the Strockville section of Rockledge (at Burke Avenue or West Loney Street) to Cegiolkowski Park. This would improve access to Cegiolkowski Park from

the Strockville section of Rockledge. The western portion of Strockville is virtually the only part of Rockledge that is more than one-quarter mile from a Borough park.

HIGH PRIORITY AREA

- **PENNYPACK TRAIL LINKAGE TO LORIMER PARK**—An easement on or adjacent to the unused Newtown Branch of the Reading Railroad would allow Rockledge residents and other members of the public to access the future Pennypack trail (after it is constructed) between Rockledge and Montgomery County's Lorimer Park in Abington.

The Pennypack Trail is planned for construction sometime after 2007, but the Borough would like to expedite development of this section of the trail to provide a linkage from the Borough to Lorimer Park for pedestrians, joggers, and bikers. The Pennypack Trail could be accessed from Rockledge Park and the small parcel of land the Borough owns where Rockledge Avenue meets Blake Avenue.

A key component of any such linkage would almost certainly be a new bridge crossing Shady Lane to provide a safe way of crossing that road (the existing railroad bridge dead ends high above the ground on the northern side of Shady Lane).

