

Statement on the Whaleback Property Acquisition Currently Underway,
Site Not Open to any form of recreation.

The Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) wants to share an update on the Whaleback and clear up any confusion about its current status.

The County of Northumberland is entering into a memorandum of understanding to acquire the Whaleback through a land swap, exchanging approximately 105 acres of county-owned land for the site.

This is an exciting milestone for our region – the Whaleback is a nationally significant geological formation and a valued piece of anthracite heritage, and county ownership will allow us to protect and eventually share it with the public in a responsible way.

However, we want to be clear: the Whaleback is not open for recreation, and the transaction itself has not been finalized. The land transaction is not expected to close until August. Until this work is completed and the site is formally opened, we are asking the public to stay away from the Whaleback property. The area presents real hazards – including unstable ground, steep drop-offs, and other legacy features of a former mine. The site has not yet been assessed or mitigated for visitor safety.

We understand the excitement around this acquisition and share in that excitement. Our hope is to celebrate a grand opening of the site later this year, pending completion of the necessary safety and preparation work. We will share updates on our website and social media channels as the project moves forward, and we thank the community for your cooperation, patience, and support.