

Mt. Lykaion as a Template for the Park

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[Park Brochure Cover](#)

Among the most important ancient sites within the proposed Parrhasian Heritage Park is the Sanctuary of Zeus on Mt. Lykaion in Arcadia. The Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project has been the catalyst for the establishment of the park, both as an archaeological resource and as a center of community led efforts to protect cultural traditions, promote tourism and bring economic benefit to the region. Since 2004 a landscape planning study at Mt. Lykaion has been underway. This is a partnership between the local communities, Greek planning professionals, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the University of Arizona, working under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies, under the direction of and in collaboration with the ΛΘ' Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Tripolis. The leaders of this planning study have been Costas Cassios and Mark Davison.

[Park Planning Mt. Lykaion brochure page](#)

Park Planning at Mt. Lykaion has focused on creating economic opportunities through community partnerships, establishing principles for conservation of the natural, cultural and scenic resources and protecting the character of the Lykaion landscape through proposed design guidelines. We are looking to create long term plans for funding, resource management, education and maintenance. In the future we wish to apply for UNESCO World Heritage status for the park.

[Academy and Museum of the Modern Lykaion Games](#)

Being built now by the village of Ano Karyes with EU funds and with some support from the Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project is the Academy and Museum of

the Modern Lykaion Games. This will be a place to house exhibits, provide a setting for programs and education and showcase the history of the area.

In connection with the Museum and Academy, the Mt. Lykaion Project is interested in the creation of the Mt. Lykaion Excavation Center in partnership with the village of Ano Karyes and two US universities leading to the creation of future educational initiatives in the community.

[Research Center page 1](#)

To be established in Megalopolis is a Research Center that will support archaeological work, offer space for small public symposiums and serve as a hub for the ongoing work on the heritage park. This facility would be a very welcome resource for students and scholars of archaeology, anthropology, ancient history, architecture, geology and heritage management working in this area of Greece for decades to come.

[Research Center page 2](#)

The center will house offices, laboratories, a library, as well as dormitory rooms for scholars, students and visitors. This is an elevation drawing of the proposed research center by Ximena Valle.

[Mt. Lykaion Park Map](#)

What will Mt. Lykaion look like as a part of a heritage park? I show you here the proposed Mt. Lykaion Park Plan as created by Mark Davison. You are looking at a plan view of the entire area, with both the north peak and the southern peak of the mountain included. Ano Karyes is in the lower right area of the map. You will see that there is a key at the bottom of the page. The areas of archaeological interest are featured in the center of the map inside a dashed orange ellipse ([Altar and Hippodrome area](#)) and symbols indicate different park functions. Trails, some of which already exist, will link Ano Karyes with the archaeological area and with other regions of the park. [There is for instance a trail that circumnavigates the](#)

southern peak of Mt. Lykaion that links all of the springs on the side of the mountain. There are also indicated areas of interest, camping areas, toilets, a series of equestrian trails, a museum, tourist information, accommodation as well as churches, roads and streams. We have also suggested an area for the permanent location of the Modern Lykaion Games.

Visitor Experience at Mt. Lykaion

What would the visitor experience be at Mt. Lykaion? Visitors coming to the site would be able to get information in Ano Karyes where they would also be able to find accommodation and food. Trails would lead directly from the village to the hippodrome and to the base of the peak, past fresh springs and end up at the temenos and the altar of Zeus. Rock shelters and small campgrounds would provide overnight camping facilities for tourists. Other villages will be connected via the trail system where visitors can spend the night and purchase local goods.

Park Map

Some of the trails will connect ancient sites, others will connect modern villages and some routes will traverse ancient roads. Here on the proposed park map the ancient cities are indicated in blue, the ancient sanctuaries in red and the modern towns and villages in black and grey.

Trails, Interpretation and Signage

Signs will highlight and interpret the diversity of the park including village festivals, archaeological remains, rare habitats, geology, flora and fauna and other points of interest. Here, for instance, at the bottom of this image is the map of a trail that leads

from Mt. Lykaion to the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae. Distance and difficulty of the trail will be indicated as will points of interest along the way.

Ximena Valle will be discussing the proposed signs for the park.