

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

CONSERVATION NETWORK

WINTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING













9:00 AM | Welcome

Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

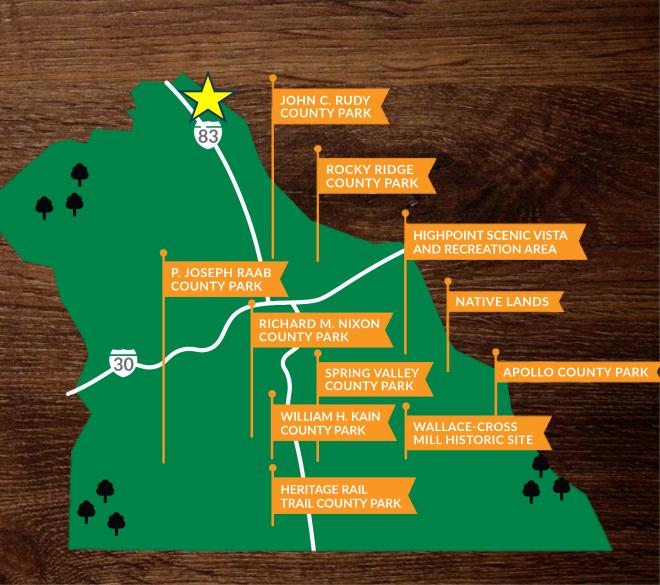
York County Commissioners Scott Burford and Doug Hoke

Teddy Fisher
York County Parks



York County Parks and Recreation

- Founded in 1968 with the creation of Rocky Ridge County Park
- Has grown to 11 county parks and over 4,500 acres of parkland
- Around 1.5 million visitors annually
 - 80+ miles of multi-use trails
 - 22 sports fields and playgrounds
 - 29 pavilions available for rent
 - 4 historical museums/sites
- 12th county park currently in the works



12th County Park – Fairview Township





9:15 AM | Spotlight on York: Creative Projects for Community Benefit

Melissa Beaverson, Explore York

Wade Gobrecht and Anne Walko, York County Planning

Commission

David Gonzalez and Brendan Salyards, York County Economic Alliance



Melissa Beaverson

VP of Marketing & Communications Explore York Melissa@YorkPA.org

About Us

York County's Official Tourist Promotion Agency

Membership-Based Organization

Not For Profit 501 (c)(6)

Funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax

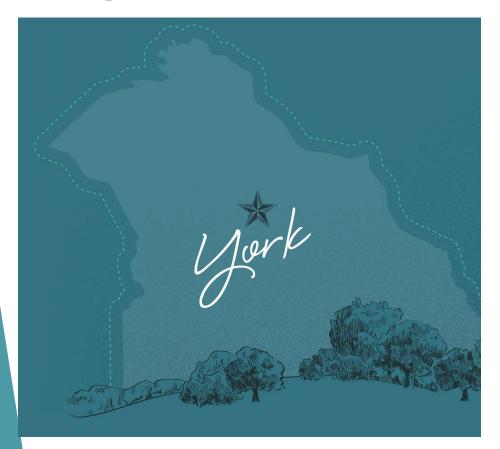
Sales, Marketing, Sport York, Grants

Major Marketing Pillar: Outdoor Destination

Supported KHOW

Sponsoring Outdoor Content Creators Meetup

Our Mission





To maximize tourism expenditures and their economic impact through our comprehensive sales and marketing programs.

Tourism is Big Business



Visitors Spent **\$1** Billion+ In York County

Tourism Supports 7,900+ Jobs in York County Tourism

Generated \$59 Million in State & Local Taxes

Tourism Impact Provides Direct Tax Relief for York County Residents

York County Currently Ranks Third in Our Region for Visitor Spending





ROUND ONE

January 1 – February 15

ROUND TWO

June 1 – July 15



Tourism Grant Program

Supports & Funds Visitor-Focused Projects

Funds Received Through Hotel Occupancy Tax

Funds Received are Reinvested in the County

Two Annual Grant Application Rounds

172 Total Grants Awarded

89 Unique Grant Recipients

\$7 Million+ Dollars Awarded





YORK COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM UPDATE

South Mountain Partnership Winter Meeting January 31, 2025

Wade Gobrecht and Anne Walko York County Planning Commission

APPRECIATION AND THANKS



To our past and current York County Commissioners for their thoughtful and generous support of the York County Open Space and Land Preservation Program. To our partners at the York County Ag Land Preserve Board, York County Parks, Farm and Natural Lands Trust and York County Conservation District.









- 1938 York County Conservation District Created
- 1959 York County Planning Commission Created
- 1968 York County Parks Created
- 1989 York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Created
- 1990 Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County Created
- 1992 First County Comprehensive Plan Created
- 2008 Land Protection Benchmark Established
- 2016 Land Preservation Committee Convenes
- 2019 York County Open Space and Land Preservation Program Created



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Land protection always important to York County
- In 2008, Open Space and Greenways Plan set preservation benchmark of 2,500 acres/year. County fell short of that goal each year.
- Limited by funding availability; needed sustainable, reliable funds
- Land Protection Committee formed to develop a land protection financial strategy for long term, reliable funding
- Public education campaign in summer 2019; public survey conducted funding from the York County Community Foundation and the Powder Mill Foundation
- December 2019, the York County Commissioners, backed by very strong public support, unanimously approved the York County Open Space and Land Protection Program

YORK COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The York County Board of Commissioners included in the 2020 budget dedicated funding for open space and land protection

The York County Land Protection Committee was formalized by County resolution

Proposed tax increase of 1/10 of a mill annually

\$2.5 million dedicated to land protection each year

2,500-3,500 acres protected/year

Open space is protected for future generations!



HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED



Support to our land protection partners-The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County, York County Parks and the York County Conservation District are allocated a percentage annually to continue their land preservation work.

York County Open Space and Land Protection Grant Program-Annual program making funds available to municipalities and 501c3 organizations for land acquisition and planning

And in 2022, at the Commissioners' request, the York County Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds were rolled into this application process to fund improvements.

*coordination with DCNR grant opportunities including an annual joint grants workshop in August

York County Open Space Grant Program 2020-2024

Acquisition



- 1,196.27 acres
- 11 properties/ 17 acquisition grants
- Ranging from 0.98 acres (Krebs Park, Glen Rock) to 370 acres (Camp Tuckahoe)

Planning



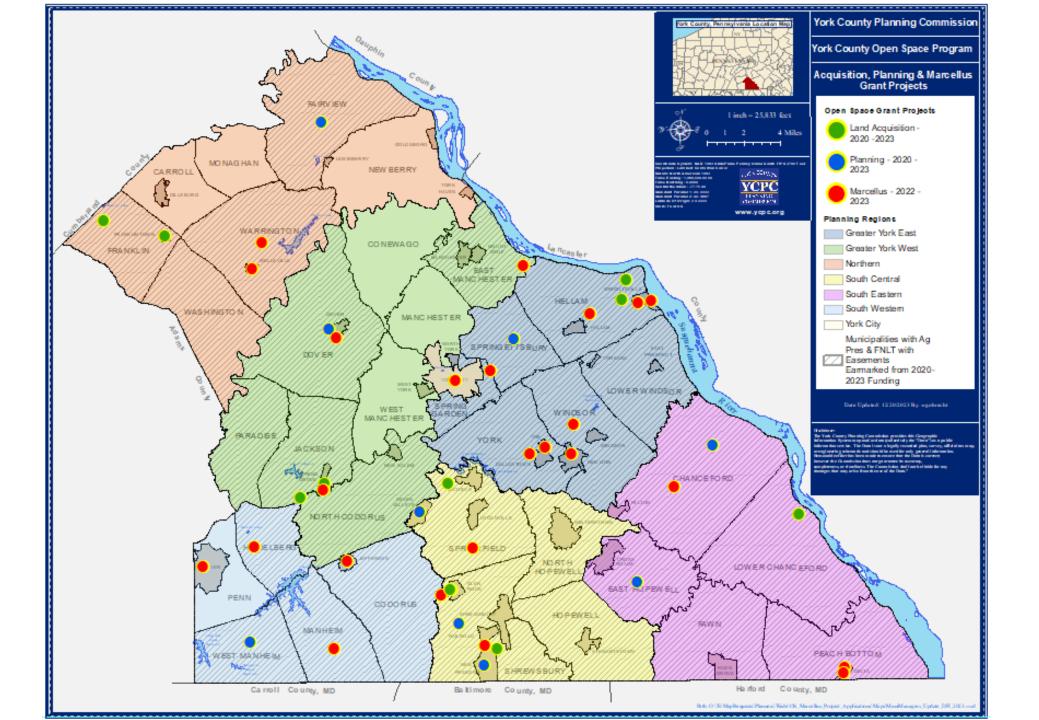
- 12 planning projects
 - o 4 master site plans
 - o 3 comp plan updates
 - o 2 park/rec/OS plans
 - o 1 feasibility study
 - o 1 restoration plan
 - o 1 zoning ordinance update

Improvements*

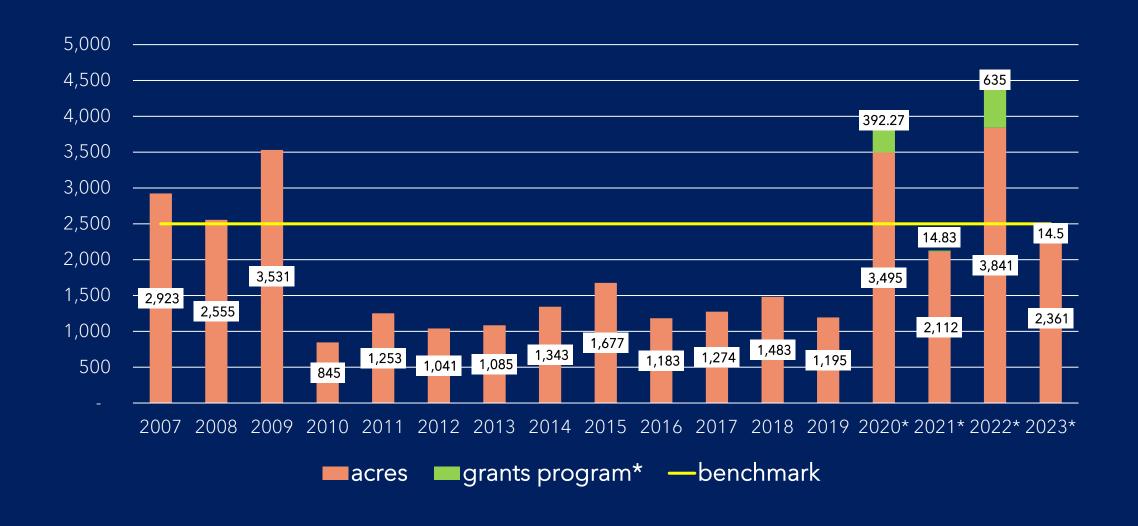


- 37 projects
 - park/playground improvements
 - o ADA boat launch
 - o preservation work
 - Municipal and nonprofit partners
 - Funding distributed around the County

^{*}since 2022



OPEN SPACE BENCHMARK 2007-2023





FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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Anne Walko <u>awalko@ycpc.org</u>

717-771-9870

www.yorkopenspace.org



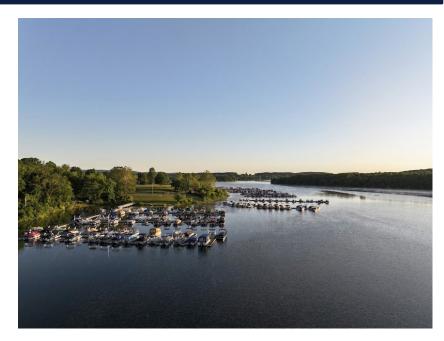
Overview January 2025





York County's Outdoor Economy

- 5,240 York County Residents are employed in the outdoor economy sector a 14% increase since 2010.
 - More than real estate, insurance, and financial services combined.
- \$135 million in wages each year.
- York County's four state parks host 2 million visits every year, generating \$44 million in consumer spending and sustaining 420 jobs.
- York County Heritage Rail Trail: at least \$8 million in tourism spending alone.









Our Response to Raising the Prominence of the Outdoor Economy Enter: The York County Trail Towns Program

• **Summary:** promote the role of outdoor recreational amenities in our county's economy and leverage the opportunity to develop small businesses and the communities that host these assets.



- Developed a Strategic Plan and Hosted "Walkshops" in the 5 Heritage Rail Trail (HRT) Towns.
- Promotion: Trail Towns website, social pages, e-news, promotional brochure, guides, and hype videos
- Expanded the program to Wrightsville and Hanover as Hubs of Outdoor Recreation.
- Provide focused economic/strategic development support to the communities and businesses.











Trail Towns Community and Business Resources

Over \$86,000 in micro-grants to 33 businesses across the Trail Towns network.

\$82,000 in façade grants within Trail Towns

\$100,000 over 4 years in arts programming and investment via PA Council on the Arts

\$3 million in public and private construction capital invested in Trail Towns projects

54 Trail Friendly Business (to date) who commit to welcoming trail users and offering premier services

\$6.7 million in financing now available via BLOOM CDFI with priority given to Trail Towns, women-owned, veteran owned, and businesses owned by persons of color.





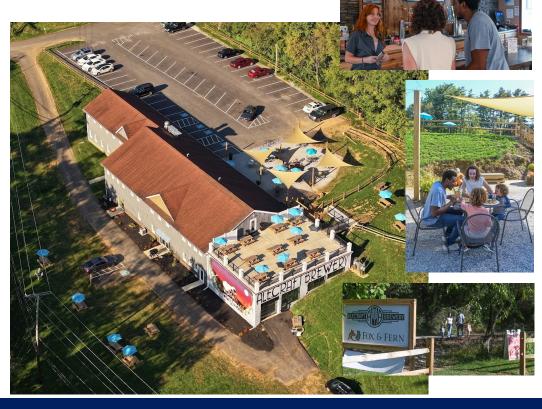




23 New Businesses in the Trail Towns

- New Businesses Since 2020
 - 12 Cafes/Restaurants
 - 7 Retail (Grocery, Bookstores, Galleries, etc.)
 - 3 Breweries (Pictured Below: AleCraft Brewery, Railroad Borough)
 - 1 Venue









Trail Towns Façade Grant Program - Status

Trail Towns Façade Grant

- Impact: 16 Grants Awarded
 - Projects located across all seven York
 County Trail Towns
 - 3 Projects were eligible for grants via the York County Land Bank Authority
 - The average grant amount offered was \$5,100
 - Final grant amounts may vary based on the final costs of the projects

• Status:

- Deadline for completion September 30th
 - With possibility of extensions on an as needed basis.
- Eight projects have been completed early









Project Background

- In 2022, Downtown Inc received a grant from the City of York Bureau of Health's Safe and Healthy Communities Grant
- Funding matched by York County Trail Towns
- Additional Funding Leveraged from Better York

Crosswalks Selected for Improvement

Five Crosswalks along the Heritage Rail Trail were identified



North Beaver



West Philadelphia



West Market



West King



West Princess





• Call For Art Issued – May 2023

- Public Call for Art Issued
- Artists Submitted Designs for Improvements to the Crosswalks
- Artists Selected by a Review Committee via Blind Review Process
 - Review Committee Assigned Artists to Crosswalks



Work Sessions

- Six work sessions were held in late July & August at the York Highway Bureau Facility
- Artists translated their designs to the material and began production of their designs.











- Installation: September 2023
 - Final Installation was performed with assistance from the Highway Bureau Crew

























Creative Communities Grant Program

Leverage Grant Funds via PA Council on the Arts

- Public Art Installation Carve Out for Ruins Hall Sculpture Design and Development – in line with an overall MSDP of the site, to aid with placemaking and the artwork of the existing site.
- Public Art Brochure (Design/Print and Programming) the creation of a brochure, cataloging public art (sculpture, murals, etc.) throughout the Trail Towns. Visitors can follow along to visit public art sites in the communities.
 - In alignment with the Cultural Alliance, who is leading the public art catalog and mapping.
- **Storefront Catalysts Initiative** spur ideas for businesses in vacant storefronts across the towns. Building on a common Main Street practice to spotlight underutilized sites and helping them be envisioned for a use that complements the towns.
- **Signature Public Art Event** an opportunity to build off the success of the previous Ice Festival (FestivICE), but transition to a more sustainable event in the towns.









Example: Light Up Storefront





Store Front Catalyst – Glen Rock Borough

Storefront Catalyst Pilot Program

Project Details

- Via a Partnership with the Cultural Alliance of York County, YCTT coordinated to install a public art installation at 31 Main Street in Glen Rock
- The installation ran from December to January 3rd.

Next Steps:

- Identify additional opportunities in each of the remaining Heritage Rail Trail Towns, goal is for 4 sites in 2025
- Increase marketing and awareness of the installation to draw attention to priority vacant structures in High Traffic areas.

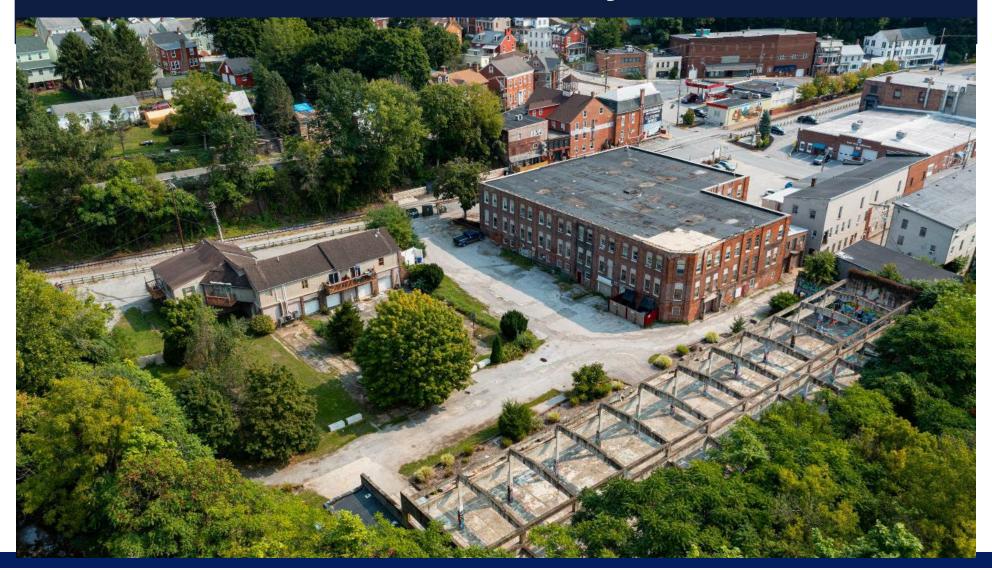








Glen Rock, Ruins Hall Site Today







Glen Rock Master Site Development Plan













The Codorus Innovation Corridor







Bascule Gate Demolition (Before & After)





















Questions?

David Gonzalez, Jr.
Director, Economic Initiatives
dgonzalez@yceapa.org

Brendan Salyards
Economic Initiatives Manager
bsalyards@yceapa.org





9:50 AM | Creative Funding for Cultural Benefit

- Sarah Merritt, PA Council on the Arts
- Madra Clay and Lisa Mrosczyk Murphy, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- Lori Yeich, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Frank Grumbine, PA State Historic Preservation Office
- Natalee Gunderson, York County Community Foundation



Building stronger communities takes creativity.

Creative Communities Initiative – multi-year support for place-based, art-based community and economic development projects (creative placemaking/placekeeping).

Creative Business Loan Fund

Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator

Creative Districts Program (in development)

Sarah Merritt
Director of PA Creative Communities & the Creative Economy
skmerritt@pa.gov





FUNDING RESOURCES



COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY

Established in 2004

 Independent Agency of the DCED

 CFA holds fiduciary responsibility over funding of programs and investments in PA economic growth

- All administrative work is completed by DCED
- Consist of 7 board members: four legislators, 3 Secretaries - DCED, Banking & Securities, and Office of the Budget
- All awards are voted on by the board.



FUNDING RESOURCES – GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM

- Eligible applicants municipalities, councils of government, authorized organizations, higher education, watershed orgs and forprofit businesses.
- Funding may not exceed \$250k, requires
 15% match
- Must secure all planning and permit approvals prior to reimbursement
- Project should not begin prior to award
- \$100 application fee
- Subject to the Prevailing Wage Act
- Opens Feb 1 May 31st.

- Eligible Projects include:
 - Public parks and recreation areas,
 Greenways/trails, and River
 Conservation.
- Uses
 - Development, rehabilitation, and improvement of public parks, indoor/outdoor recreation facilities, trails, greenways, and watershed projects.
 - Planning that lay the groundwork for the project
 - Acquisition of land



FUNDING RESOURCES - LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT STATEWIDE

- Funds are from the PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act.
- Eligible applicants Municipalities, Counties, Municipal Authorities, Economic Development Agencies, Redevelopment Authorities, Land Banks, and Councils of Government.
- Funding Minimum request of \$25k to \$1M for any project.
- May submit multiple applications
- Cannot begin work prior to approval
- \$100 application fee
- Opens Sept 1 Nov 30 annually.

- Eligible Projects include:
 - Projects that are in the interest of the public and improve the quality of life in the community.

Uses

 Acquisition, construction, demolition, Infrastructure (sidewalks), purchase of vehicles, machinery & equipment, planning, engineering, planning and design.



OTHER RESOURCES - DCED

- LIMITED INSTANCES:
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program (NAP)







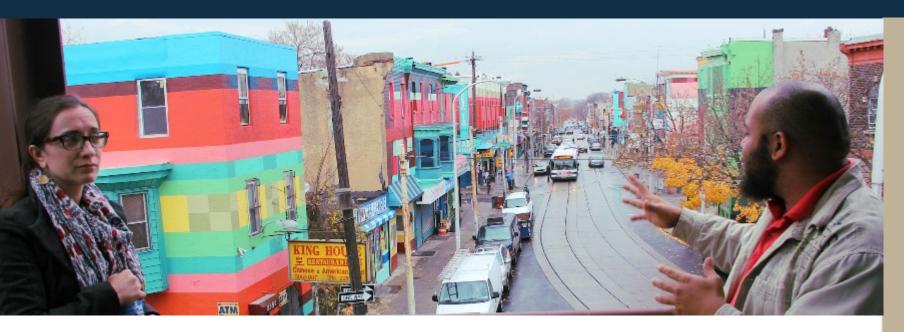
Madra L. Clay, Central Region Director DCED maclay@pa.gov 717-720-7397



The Governor's Center for Local Government Services Office of Community Planning

Pennsylvania Governor's Center for Local Government Services

The Governor's Center for Local Government Services



The mission of the Governor's Center is to provide a full range of vital programs, training, and services to resolve problems at a local level.

Technical & Financial Assistance

- Regional Police Services
- Regional Fire & Emergency Services
- Community Planning & Land Use
- Act 47: Municipalities Financial Recovery Act
- Municipal Statistics Office
- Grants, Loans, & other Funding
- PA Training Hub
- Local Tax Collector
 Qualification Program
- Tax Equalization Division/State
 Tax Equalization Board

More information

dced.pa.gov/local-government/



Office of Community Planning

As part of the Center for Local Government Services, the Office of Community Planning works with local governments to *foster vibrant communities through education, collaboration, and innovative local and regional planning.*

- Provides training and technical assistance on planning, land use, zoning, & development issues
- Municipal Assistance Program (MAP grant)
- State Land Use & Growth Management Report
- Supports the State Planning Board





Central Region Planning Contacts

Rachel Reznick <u>rreznick@pa.gov</u>
Local Government Planning Specialist

Fulton, Franklin, Cumberland, Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Huntington, Centre, Clinton

Nick Cannistraci <u>ncannistra@pa.gov</u>
Local Government Planning Specialist

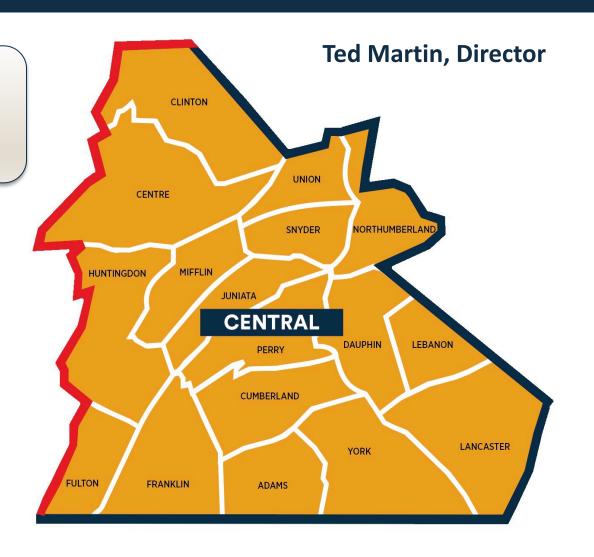
Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Snyder, Northumberland, Union

Lisa Mroszczyk Murphy, AICP

LMroszczyk@pa.gov

Eastern Region Planning Manager

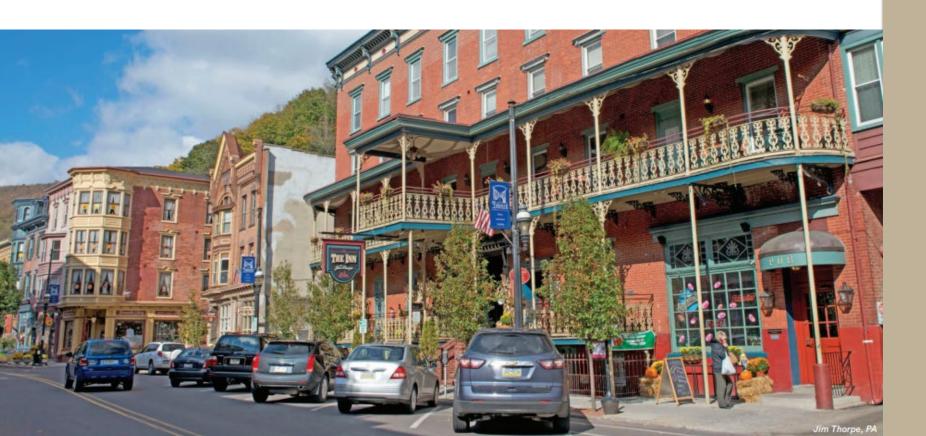
Central, Northeast, Southeast, Lehigh Valley





Municipal Assistance Program

Provides funding to assist local governments plan for and efficiently implement a variety of services and improvements, and soundly manage development with an emphasis on intergovernmental approaches.



FY 2019-2023 Highlights

- **108** grants
- \$4 million in funding
- 221 Municipalities
- 48 Counties
- 46 Multi-Municipal Projects
- **62** Comprehensive Plans
- 6 Emergency Service projects
- 20 zoning & SALDO updates
- 12 Heart & Soul Projects



Eligible Projects

Shared Service Activities

- Regionalization, Consolidation, and/or Sharing Services
- High Impact Projects
- Shared Capacity
- Boundary Change

Community Planning

- Community Plans
- Plan Implementation
- Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID) Planning Studies

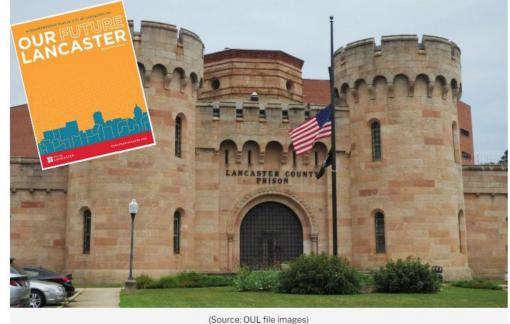


Pennsylvania Governor's Center for **Local Government Services**

MAP Grant Projects

City steps up its planning for redevelopment at County Prison site

GOVERNMENT BY TIM STUHLDREHER - MARCH 6, 2024



City secures funding for study of prison site

BY TIM STUHLDREHER - MAY 17, 2024



An overhead view of the Lancaster County Prison. (Source: Google Maps)

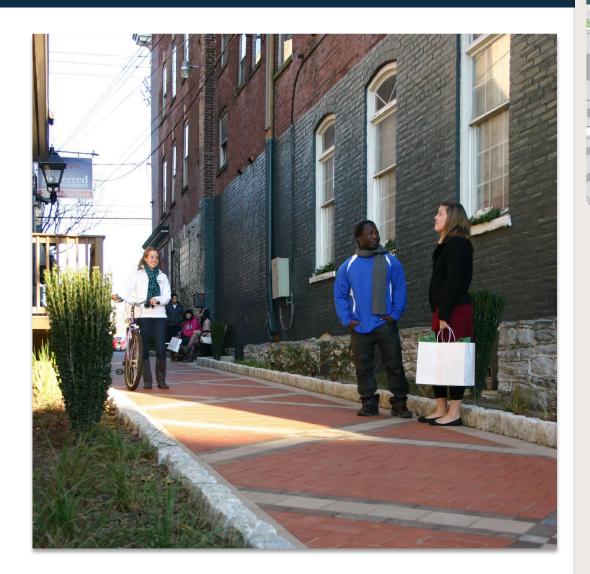
City Hall has secured the last component of the funding it needs for its upcoming study of the Lancaster County Prison site and the neighborhood around it.

The state Department of Community & Economic Development has approved Lancaster's application for a \$122,500 grant from the Municipal Assistance Program, Mayor Danene Sorace told City Council this week.

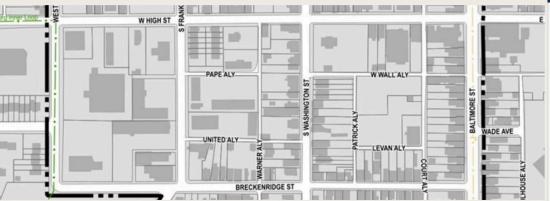
That will be added to a \$25,000 Keystone Communities grant, \$40,000 in fordered blook group founding and \$12,000 in air anotable of unding to upon by

Pennsylvania Governor's Center for Local Government Services

MAP Grant Projects



ELM STREET PROGRAM



Planning Grant in Action

Main Street Gettysburg was awarded a planning grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development to assess the Olde Town Neighborhood (the Elm Street Overlay). The Olde Town Neighborhood is bound by Middle Street to the north, Baltimore Street to the east, South Street to the south, and West Street to the west.

Main Street Gettysburg and a committee of neighborhood residents and stakeholders are working with Derck & Edson to update the plan.

A survey will go out soon for residents to complete that will help guide the priorities.

Completing the short survey will take about five minutes. Watch for the survey in your mailbox, or you will be able to scan a QR code to complete it online.



COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Borough Council Chambers 59 East High Street

MAP Grant Projects

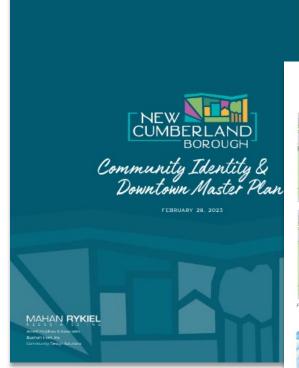


Figure 2. Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania – Eastgate Corridor (shared boundaries with North and South Middleton Townships). Dashed line on either side of East High Street represents the 40-foot boundary from the centerline, illustrating extensive nonconformity created over a generation ago.



MAP Grant Projects









- » Buildings in the downtown district should work together to create a "street wall" of buildings following the same build-to line, a typical characteristic associated with downtown New Cumberland and "Main Street" communities throughout the country.
- » New construction and infill buildings should maintain the alignment of façades along the sidewalk edge. Exceptions may be granted if the setback is pedestrian-oriented and contributes to the quality and character of the streetscape (an example would be for a park or outdoor dining space). Exceptions may also be granted for buildings whose functions are uniquely different from traditional downtown commercial buildings, such as churches and standalone civic buildings.
- » In instances where a building has been removed from the street wall, consider utilizing other devices-landscaping, sculpture, arches, walls, fencing, etc.-to maintain the continuity of the "street wall" edge. There may façade as a wall element.















Office of Community Planning

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dced.pa.gov



Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Lori K. Yeich, Recreation and Conservation Manager, Central Regional Offices

lyeich@pa.gov 717-303-8460 Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Deadline for submission April 2nd at 4 pm



ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES



COMMUNITY PARK
PLANNING



TRAILS



SMALL COMMUNITY PARK DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNITY WATERSHED FORESTRY



ACQUISITION



COMMUNITY PARK DEVELOPMENT



RIVER CONSERVATION



PARTNERSHIPS

DCNR Portal 2024 C2P2 Grant Workshop – General Overview



Pennsylvania Programs & Resources for Preservation

Frank Grumbine

Central Pennsylvania
Community Preservation
Coordinator

fgrumbine@pa.gov

717-772-5071







- •28 county region in Central Pennsylvania
- •Planning and training for local governments
- •Advise community organizations and individuals on preservation and conservation issues
- •Help municipal and county governments with policies, ordinances, and training

Frank Grumbine fgrumbine@pa.gov (717) 772-5071

400 North Street, Harrisburg PA 17120













Creative Funding for Preservation

- PHMC
- DCNR
 - Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants
 - Conservation Landscapes
 - Heritage Areas
- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Community and Economic Development
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- County Programs
 - Ag Preservation Program
 - Local Share
 - York Co Open Space and Land Pres Grant

Keystone Planning Grant

Available to nonprofit organizations and local governments for the planning and development for publicly accessible historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Maximum Award Amount: \$25,000 50/50 Match

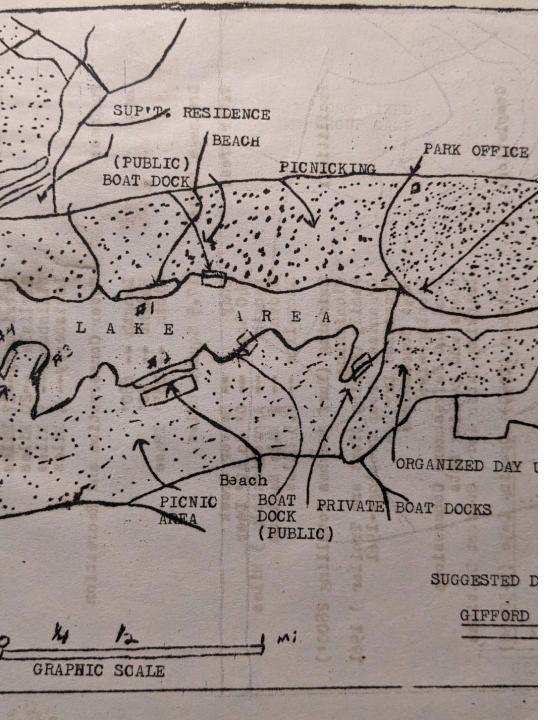


Keystone Construction Grant

Funding is available to nonprofit organizations and local governments for small construction projects for publicly accessible historic resources. The purpose of the grant is to support projects that rehabilitate, restore, or preserve historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Maximum Award Amount: \$100,000 50/50 Match





State Archives Grant Programs

Historical and Archival Records Care Grant

 Developed to assist non-profits and local governments with the preservation of historically valuable original documents.

Cultural and Historical Support Grant

 The PHMC offers grants to qualified museums and official county historical societies under the Cultural and Historical Support Grant program.



What is a Certified Local Government?

Across the nation, thousands of diverse communities have taken action to preserve their unique historic character. The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is the official preservation partnership connecting local, state, and Federal governments to help communities save their irreplaceable historic resources. Through the certification process, communities make a local commitment to historic preservation. This commitment is key to America's ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage across the country.

his national initiative provides valuable technical assistance and funding to local governments seeking to preserve what is special about their community. Annually the U.S. Congress appropriates funds from the Historic Preservation Fund to support preservation at the State, Tribal, and Local level. The National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) administer funds in each state and distribute those allocated to CLGs.

The CLG Program has helped to build preservation support at the local level where hands-on protection of local resources occurs. Because local planning office staff often play key roles in CLG projects, the thread of historic preservation becomes woven into the fabric of local land-use policy. Strong preservation partnerships have been forged among the local, state, and national networks.

Today, CLG grants from the Historic Preservation Fund support a wide range of projects, including building rehabilitation and feasibility studies, design guidelines and



Certified Local Government Program

Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits



PRESERVATION

Pennsylvania's Historic Tax Credit Increased to \$20 Million

JULY 22, 2024 | by Kimberly Haas

On July 11, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed its 2024-2025 budget. It was 11 days per the deadline, but offered some good news for historic preservationists and adaptive reuse developers. The new budget included tax code changes that raised the historic tax credit program to \$20 million from its previous cap of \$5 million.

Why the Historic Tax Credit?



Adaptive reuse repurposes dormant community assets, leveraging cultural heritage and attracting private capital



75% of the economic benefits of HTC projects generate local benefits: materials and wages



Historic building rehabilitations are more labor intensive than new construction: higher skilled workers + higher wages

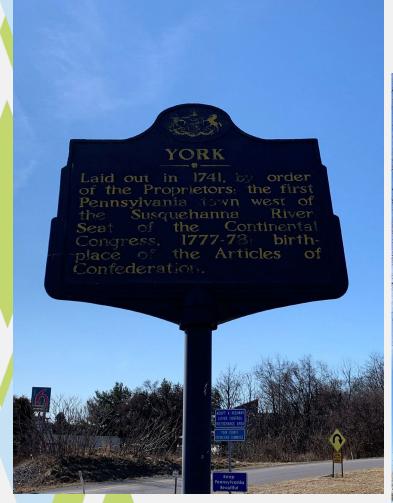


Restoring underutilized buildings sets the stage for additional community investment and catalyzes more revitalization projects

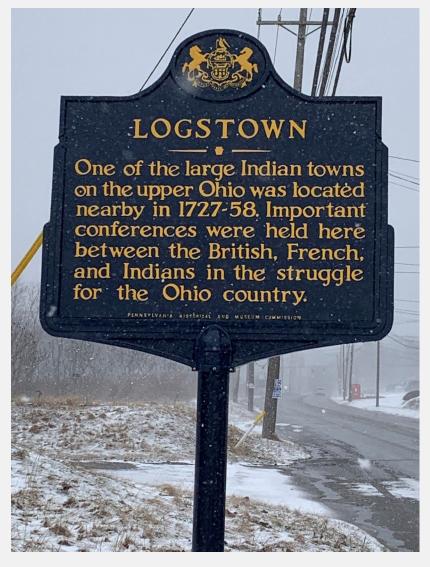




Historical Marker Program

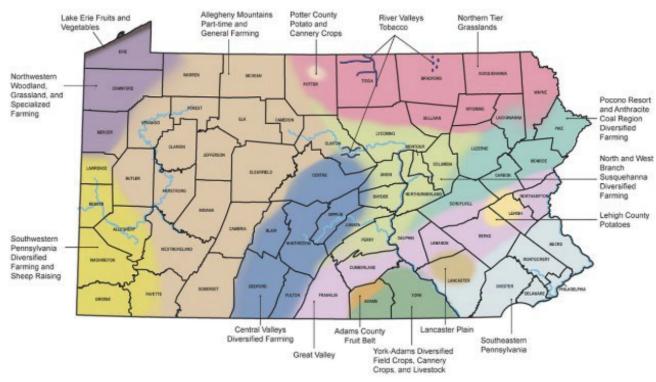






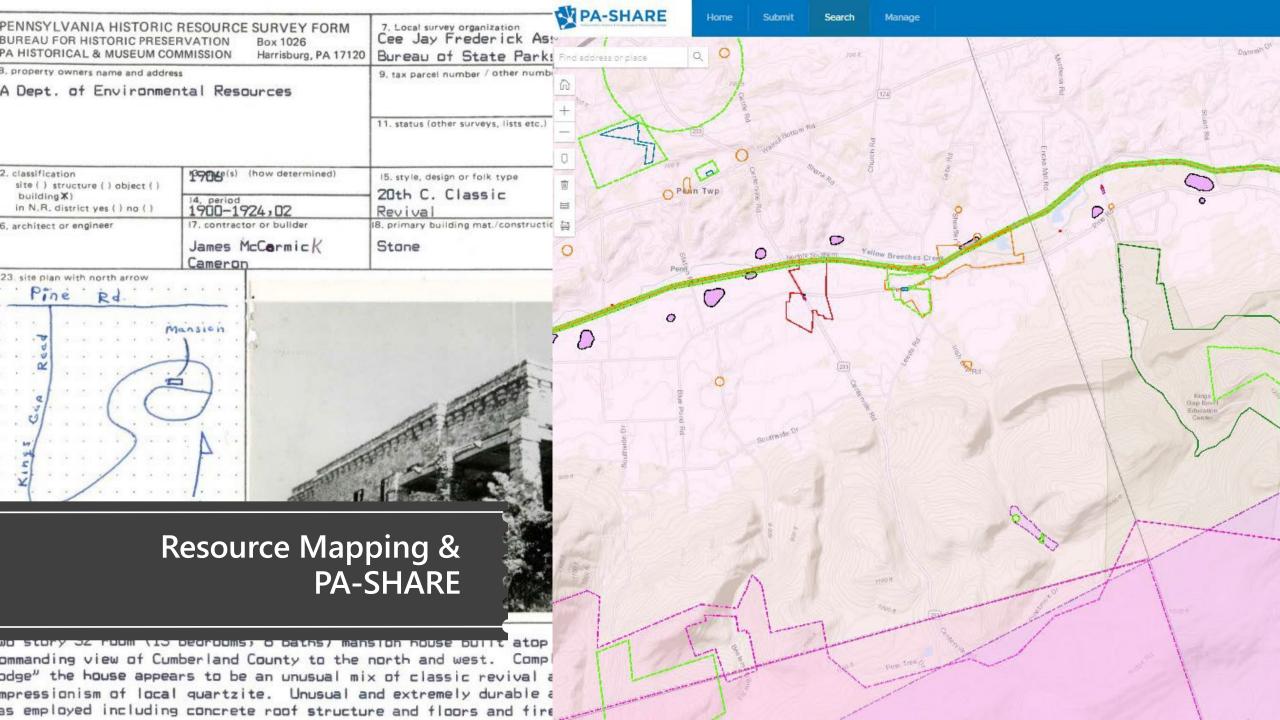


Pennsylvania's Historical Agricultural Regions





Technical
Assistance,
Education,
Identification
& Training



Environmental Stewardship Grants

Agriculture & Land Preservation

 Education, study, and research in agriculture to improve farms, farming, and land preservation in York County.

Codorus Watershed

- Develop strategic direction and action plans to build on the work of existing watershed improvement programs.
- Seeks to improve the health and vitality of the Codorus and its environs.

Sustainable Energy

- Education and technical assistance to help nonprofit organizations and municipal entities conserve energy and reduce operating costs.
- Seeks large-scale projects to transform the way we think about energy conservation.

Next Deadline is May 1, 2025
Visit www.yccf.org for more information

10:20 AM - 10:30 AM | BREAK



10:30 AM

Janet Pollard, Franklin County Visitors Bureau Events



10:35 AM - 11:05 AM | SMP Updates

Katie Hess, ATC and South Mountain Partnership

Denise Watts and Rachel Goad, Western Pennsylvania

Conservancy



SMP Updates & 2025 New Years Resolutions

2024 was a good year – what happened?

Plans for 2025



Year In Review

- Outreach, engagement up reached additional 10,000
- Robustly Local 87 people/orgs helped us lead, conserve, promote
- 43 organizations highlighted at SMP events
- \$59,900 awarded go to local governments, conservation groups, academic institutions funded by local private and DCNR funds

Behind the scenes

- Navigated tough situations and funding limitations
- Cultivated culture of joy & fun in committees and events
- Built new partnerships, deepened trust









WITF Spark

Community Media

ABC27

Rotaries

Wellspan Physicians











Annual Retreat

Local panels

Partner meeting breakout















Michaux State Forest, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, DCNR Regional Advisors, Mini-Grant







2025 Intentions

Hallmark programs and activities

- Final strategic plan implementation + strategic planning
- Convene, facilitate local leadership
 - Leadership Committee
 - Program, Communication Subcommittees
 - Fundraising Action Team
- Communications
 - o newsletter, website, social media
- Grant Programs
 - Mini, Research Corps, Flex



2025 Intentions

Hallmark programs and activities (continued)

- Save the Date! Regional Meetings
 - May 16, 2025 Spring Meeting & 1st Regional Trail Coalition Meeting Adams Co
 - Sept 12, 2025 Power of the Partnership Cumberland Co
 - Jan 30, 2026 Winter Meeting Franklin Co
- Bonus
 - Partner Summit; hot new take
 - April 21-24





What has happened? What's next?



Reaching target audiences with what was learned and inviting them to table.



PUBLIC – engage using Report Card



Secure high reach and high value TV, radio, text opportunities

Enroll healthcare providers to share



Table at events with diverse audiences

Develop community ambassadors

Engage in project planning, implementation



PLANNERS & CONSERVATION PARTNERS – engage using mapping

Hold tours/trainings and make recording available on demand

Engage in project planning, implementation



DECISION MAKERS & INFLUENCERS – engage using Final Report

Present to County Commissioners, planning commissions, municipalities

Direct contact with organizational leaders of Partner organizations

Engage in project planning, implementation

What has happened? What's next?



Update Natural Heritage Inventories (ongoing)



Convene a Regional Trail Coalition

- Expand regional trails
- Connect trails to parks and communities

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SMP adopted 5 recommended actions that fit our unique role in the region.



Establish wildlife corridors



Inventory the region's historic resources



Track land conversion

Action Plan project #2: Convene a Regional Trail Coalition

Intended Outcomes: support and facilitate the **acceleration of becoming a region with a robust multi-use pedestrian and non-motorized trail infrastructure** that connects communities with one another and open space. Sets the stage for Action Plan project #3: Plan for a cross county multi-use pedestrian and non-motorized trail.

Status: Funding secured (PA DCNR Round 30 C2P2, Nov 2024)

Deliverables:

1. Research other regional multi-use trail coalitions, charters, organizational structures

2. Map existing, planned, conceptualized trails throughout region

3. Plan & host regional trail summit

4. Organizational structure recommended, and decisions made

Action Plan project #2: Convene a Regional Trail Coalition



Kick-off! May 16, 2025

- Review draft RFP
- Temporary organizational structure
- Determine how to incorporate the public
- + more

2. Map existing, planned, conceptualized trails throughout region

3. Plan & host regional trail summit

4. Organizational structure recommended, and decisions made

1. Research other regional multi-use trail coalitions, charters, organizational structures

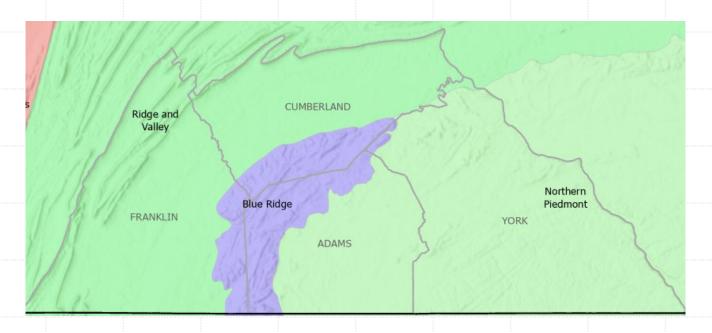
End June 2026 (best guess now)

Action Plan project #2: Convene a Regional Trail Coalition



You can be involved!

- Share your interest with us (today's survey)
- Attend May 16th meeting
- SMP newsletter
- Volunteer



Four County Inventory Update Adams, York, Cumberland, Franklin



South Mountain Partnership Meeting Presented by: Denise Watts & Rachel Goad



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

Providing scientific information for the for the conservation of Pennsylvania's biological diversity

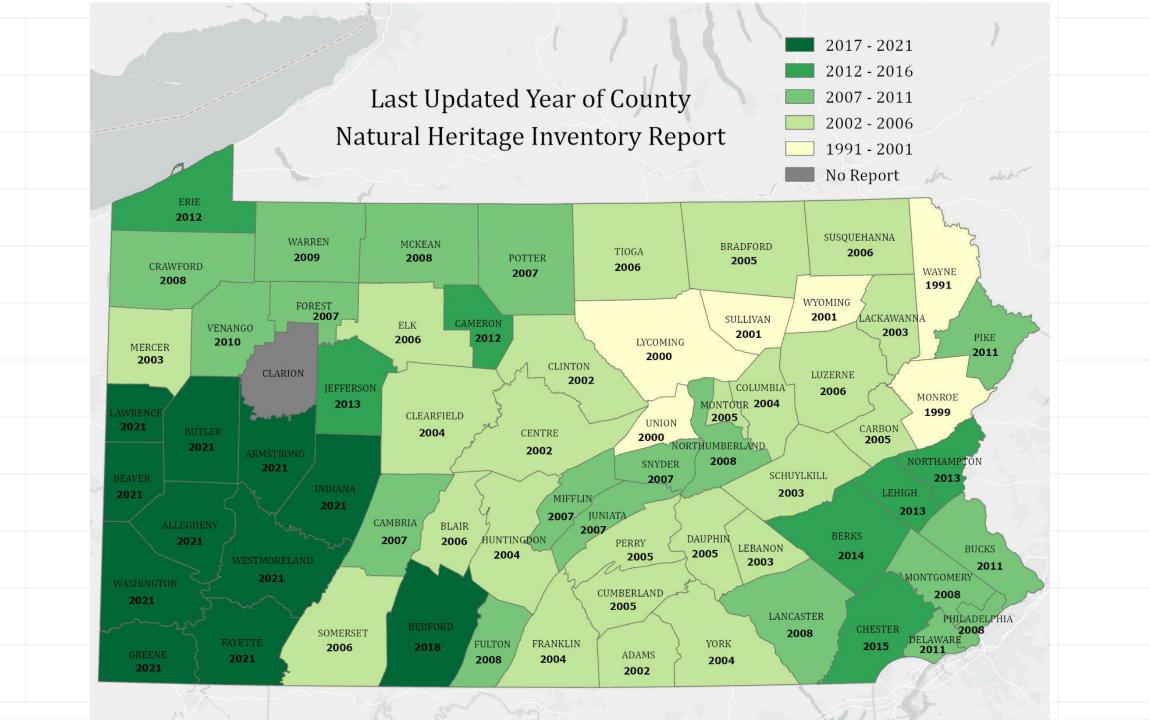
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

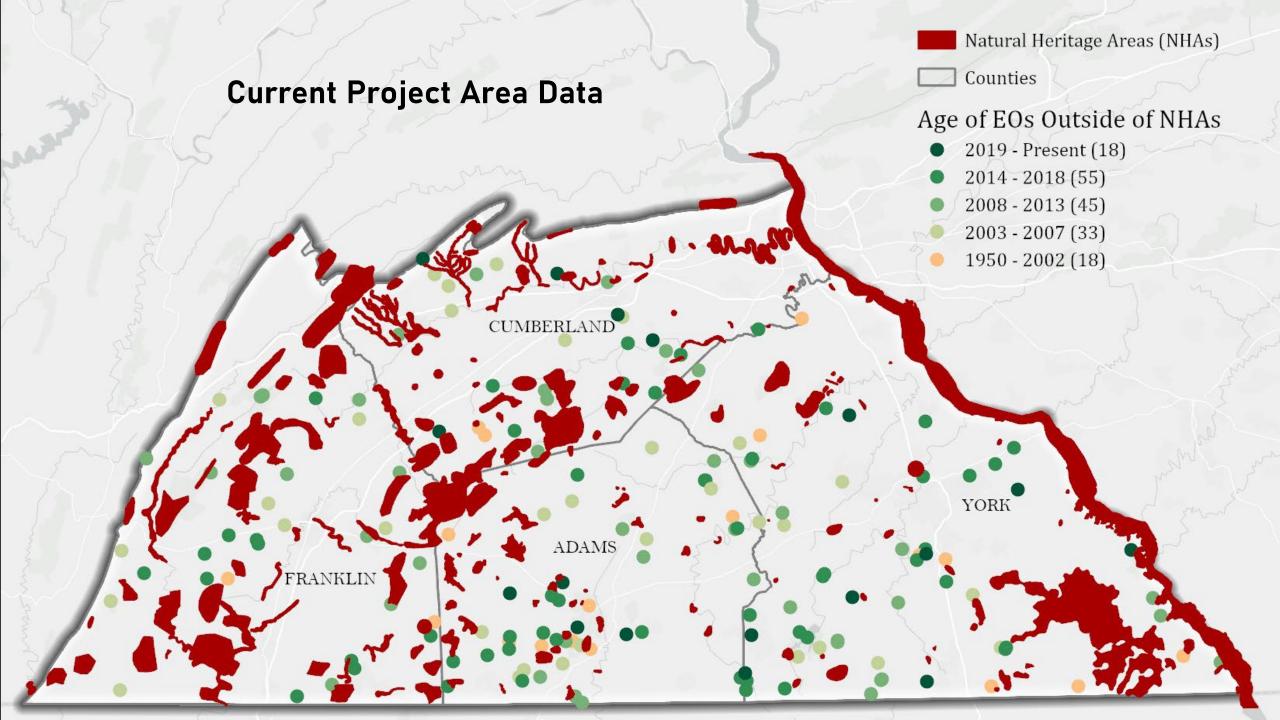












https://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/inventories.aspx

Inventories past

- Adams (2002)
- Cumberland (2005)
- Franklin (2004)
- York (2004)



Home > Conservation Tools > Natural Heritage Areas > County Natural Heritage Inventories



County Natural Heritage Inventories

PNHP regularly performs inventories throughout Pennsylvania and reports on the critical biological resources that are found within Natural Heritage Areas (NHA). The County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) reports resulting from this effort include an introduction to the ecology of the focal county, a description of methods used to collect data, and descriptions of each NHA in the county; including maps, images, lists of present species and natural communities, and conservation recommendations regarding their management and protection. CNHI reports are snapshots of the known biological information at the time of the inventory.

As data collection and reporting methods have changed over time, not all inventory reports are formatted in the same manner. However, they all provide information for the same purpose; namely to highlight the areas within each county which are known to host valuable components of Pennsylvania's natural heritage and provide guidance for the continued conservation of these sites.

To access data which has been collected since the publication of the last compiled county report or to access individual NHA reports, users should visit the Conservation Explorer Map and turn on the "Natural Heritage Area: Core Habitat" layer. A list of the NHAs and site descriptions is available here, Many of our Natural Heritage Area Reports follow a new format. Learn how to fully utilize the information in Natural Heritage Area Reports here.

If you are a conservation professional with data that are not represented in one of our CNHI reports, please use this <u>form</u> to send us information you would like us to review for inclusion.

County Reports	Year
Adams (4mb)	2002
Allegheny (21mb)	2021
Armstrong (16mb)	2021
Beaver (12mb)	2021

What do we do?

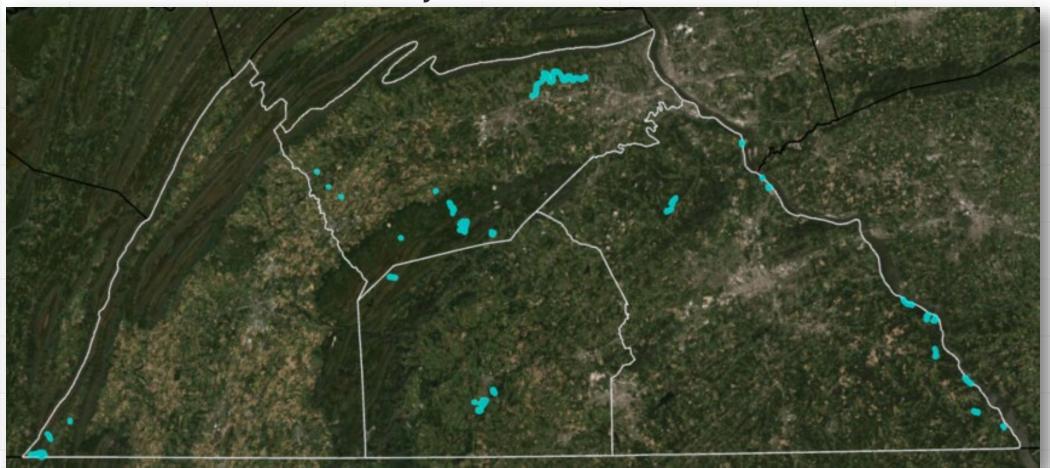
- Field-based surveys of plants, animals, and natural communities to identify important ecological areas
- Document and describe Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) that include:
 - Detailed maps for local and regional planners
 - Management recommendations
- Provide data to state agencies, landowners, county/regional planning, etc.
- Public outreach about ecological and biological resources

Where and Why We Survey

- Funding from counties, planning commissions, agency initiatives
 - CNHI Updates
 - Greenways Plans
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Aging and historical data points
 - Maintain accurate, up-to-date information
- Special projects
- Possible habitat loss or alteration
 - Natural resource extraction and related projects

What we did in 2024

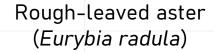
- 50 botanical and 12 zoological project-focused surveys
- Other herp, mammal, and fungal surveys will be included
- Lots of data entry and back-end work!



Allegheny live-forever (Hylotelephium telephioides)

2024 Botanical Surveys

Narrow-leaf horse gentian (*Triosteum angustifolium*)









Sticky goldenrod (Solidago racemosa)



Red Ring milkweed (Asclepias variegata)
photo by Richard and Theresa Ware

2025 Botanical Surveys



Shooting star (*Primula meadia*)

Northern leatherflower (Clematis viorna)



Short leaf pine
(Pinus echinata)
Photos by John Ruter and
Ellie Fowler University of
Georgia, Bugwood.org



Fungi

- Black Star (Glonium stellatum)
- Apparently rare in the state, but found 2x in Michaux SF in 2024
 - 43 global observations, 4 across PA
- Easy to overlook!





2024 Zoological Surveys

Right: AHDriFT array

Below: Camera trap image of a Short-tailed Shrew (Blarina brevicauda) and Least Shrew (Cryptotis parva)

Charlie Eichelberger, PNHP





Left: Splendid tiger beetle (Cicindela splendida)

Below: Sable clubtail (Stenogomphus rogersi)



2025 Zoological Targets



Appalachian Grizzled Skipper (Pyrgus wyandot), Betsy Leppo, PNHP



Upland Sandpiper (Bartramia longicauda) Greg Lasley Nature Photography



Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Heterodon platyrhinos), Denise Watts, PNHP



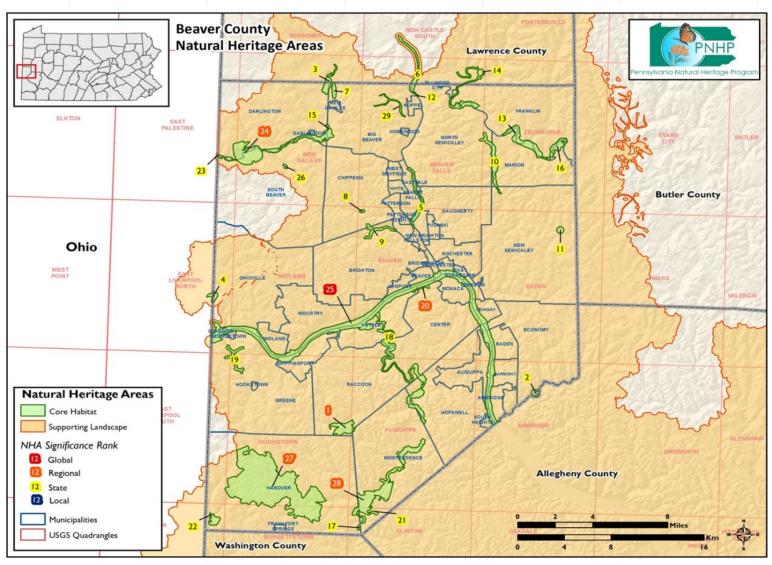
Jefferson and spotted salamander Egg masses (Ambystoma jeffersonianum and A. maculatum), PNHP



Brook Floater (Alasmidonta varicosa), Mary Walsh, PNHP

4 County Data Products

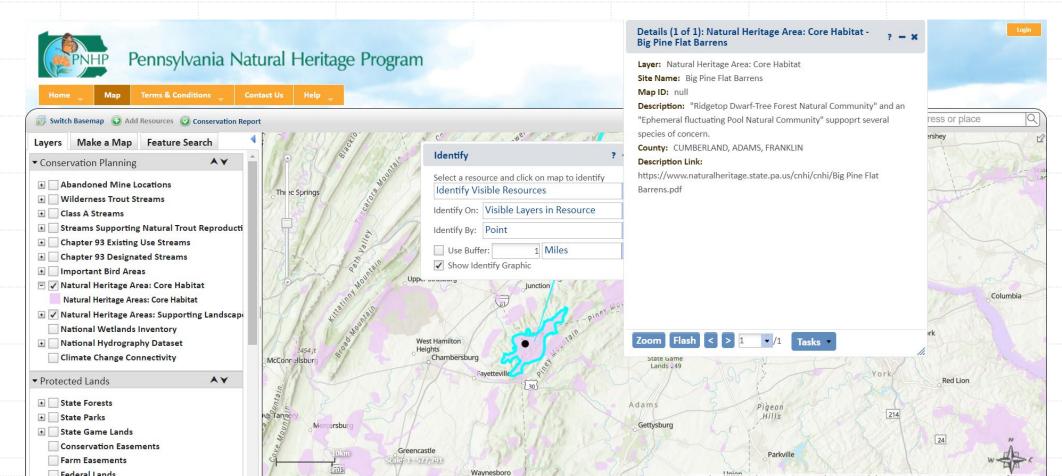
- Updated information for all existing and new NHAs
- GIS geodatabase with information for all NHAs
- An executive summary



NHI Data Uses

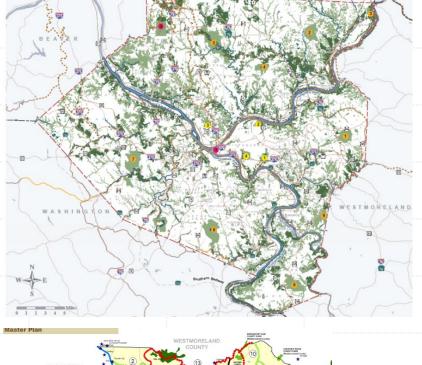
Conservation Explorer Online https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/

- Conservation Planning
- ☐ PNDI Environmental Review

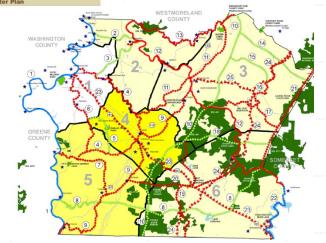


County Planning/Regional Uses Greenways Network

- Comprehensive Planning
- Greenway Planning
- Parks and Recreation Planning
- Land Preservation & Land Trust Planning
- Local Project Environmental Review







Project Contacts

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11:05 AM | Round Robin Share your updates!



