

Live,
Grow,
Lead
Healthy.

Adams,
Cumberland,
Franklin &
York Counties

2024

Year in Review



STATE OF THE REGION IN THE COMMUNITY

15
community
PRESENTATIONS



266
ATTENDEES

brought together at four regional events to network & learn
a broad variety of initiatives and issues affecting the region

8
partner
VIDEOS

created to share
their important work
in partnership with
Community Media



69
people provided
VIRTUAL
FEEDBACK



5
committed
STUDENTS

87
COMMITTEE MEMBERS / PARTNER ORGS
convened & led in conservation
and promotion activities

59
JOBS
POSTED
regional board

416
PARTNER
EVENTS
on calendar

47
FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES
on website

260,000
public
ENGAGED



Mini • Flex • Research Corps • **3**
GRANT
PROGRAMS



4,307
REACH ON INSTAGRAM



1 interactive
STORY MAP

explore the map:
arctg.is/1ePa4n0

16,000
UNIQUE WEBSITE VIEWS



\$129,431
LOCALLY INVESTED
in contractors & projects

72,077
REACH ON FACEBOOK



\$59,900
IN GRANTS
awarded to



- local government
- conservation groups
- academic institutions



43
PARTNERS
highlighted at South
Mountain Partnership
events

We are a network of partners guiding the efforts of the
South Mountain Conservation Landscape. Join us!

southmountainpartnership.org

State of the Region



A year of sharing, presenting, and getting people familiar with the project, as well as realigning SMP programming and funding to advance the recommendations that SMP adopted based on the State of the Region (SOTR) Report Card. As seen in the page 1 infographic, staff and committee members reached over 260,000 people this year and we hope to continue to engage people in this work through tools like the [new story map](#) created by Meghan Clark, Americorps VISTA Scholar. The Mini-Grant, Flex Grant, and Research Grant programs now all prioritize projects that push forward one or more SOTR recommendations.

State of the Region

What is already happening...

Project Implementation

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

Explore more about SOTR on our [website](#)

What's next...



Update Natural Heritage Inventories



Convene a Regional Trail Coalition

• Expand regional trails • Connect trails to parks/communities



Establish Wildlife Corridors



Inventory the Region's Historic Resources



Track Land Conversion

Project #1, the recommendation to update the region's Natural Heritage Area inventory data, began through SMP handling the funding strategy and hiring the contractor. SMP secured funding to take on Project #2, Convene a Regional Multi-Use Trail Coalition that will lay the groundwork for expanding the regional trail infrastructure and using trails to connect communities to each other and to existing parks and trails.

Future projects include planning for Wildlife Corridor(s) to connect South Mountain to the Kittatinny Ridge and PA Highlands; Inventory Historic Resources in the region; and develop a system for tracking land conversion in coordination with county planning agencies. There is considerable professional and academic interest in advancing the wildlife corridor work, as evidenced by several partner organizations and agencies meeting to explore funding opportunities and a robust student project that recommended wildlife crossing locations.

Thanks to these students for their work toward SOTR: Maggie Ayers (University of Virginia), Jack Joiner, Emily Kreider, Thomas Manning, and Madison Rowell (Gettysburg College).

SMP in the Community

You can find the South Mountain Partnership convening and supporting partners in a variety of other ways.

- We brought together 266 of our partners at our signature meetings: [Winter Meeting](#) held at Gettysburg College, [Spring Meeting and Science Summit](#) at Shippensburg University, and [Power of the Partnership](#) in downtown Waynesboro.
- We co-hosted a Walk and Talk with the Land Conservancy of Adams County to explore the beautiful new "Trail at Boyer" a first-of-its-kind private agricultural recreation opportunity.



- Two meet-ups of the "Topophilic Support Group" created to celebrate our love of place, and support one another in the challenging field of conservation.
- Supported Michaux State Forest on the vision and siting for their new visitors center.

Grants

SMP grants support initiatives within our community that further the goals of the Partnership and advance the capacity of partners throughout the region. Below are the projects funded in 2024:

GRANT PROGRAM	GRANTEE	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT AWARDED
Mini-Grants	Borough of Lemoyne	West Shore Gateway Trail Feasibility Study	A feasibility study for multi-use trail that will follow the alignment of the Norfolk Southern Shippensburg Secondary railroad line, the far eastern extent of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Greenway.	\$18,600
Mini-Grants	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	Northern York Landowner Meetings	A series of landowner meetings, targeting landowners of 30 acres or more, within (and in close proximity to) the footprint of the SMP. These educational meetings for landowners would seek to pair them with needed information to preserve their land.	\$5,000
Mini-Grants	Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council	Reach for Route 74	Create a conceptual plan for section two of trail and will allow for community engagement around this section to secure easements and support for the trail.	\$18,000
Mini-Grants	Newville Historical Society	Newville National Historic District Trail	Create a signed heritage walking trail that links the Newville trailhead of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail to Newville's quaint National Register Historic District and its small businesses.	\$3,800
Mini-Grants	Friends of Historic Heishman's Mill (FHHM)	Preservation and Interpretive Plan for the Adaptive Reuse of Heishman's Mill	Determine the feasibility of an adaptive reuse of Heishman's Mill as a community-focused educational resource.	\$5,500
Mini-Grants	Dillsburg Arts and Revitalization Council	Historic Monaghan Church Trim Restoration	Prime and paint the historic wood trim on the historic community building.	\$3,000
Flex Grants	Cumberland County Historical Society and Hamilton Library Assoc	Museum ADA Accessibility Project	Address crucial ADA accessibility issues at their location in historic Carlisle by increasing signage and ease of entry for their accessible entrance.	\$2,000
Flex Grants	YWCA of Carlisle and Cumberland County	Harvest Bounty: Community Gardening and Sustainability Club	Foster a sense of unity and environmental stewardship through the creation and maintenance of a community garden.	\$1,500
Flex Grants	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	Cumberland County Land Preservation Forum	Educate and connect Cumberland County municipal leaders and conservation partners about the many benefits of protecting land for the public, featuring successful models from other counties.	\$1,000
Flex Grants	LadyBug EarthCare	The Loveliness Program: Ecological Gardening Education and Mentorship Program	Pair experienced gardeners with young adults offering virtual learning, workshops, mentorship, and paid work to train new gardeners in stewarding landscapes that support pollinators and wildlife.	\$1,000
Flex Grants	Restore the Wittlinger	Wittlinger Fall Planting 2024	Clear our invasive plants and plant native shrubs and trees in the Wittlinger Nature Preserve.	\$500

Partnership Committee Members

Join us in thanking and recognizing these individuals who have shared so much of their time and wisdom with the Partnership.

WANT TO HELP?
Join a committee today!

Leadership Committee

Roy Brubaker	<i>Michaux State Forest</i>
Elizabeth Grant	<i>Cumberland County Planning</i>
Sarah Kipp	<i>Land Conservancy of Adams County</i>
Sarah Merritt	<i>PA Council for the Arts</i>
Patti Nitterhouse	<i>Penn National</i>
Brendan Salyards	<i>York County Economic Alliance</i>
Rob Thaeler	<i>Adams County Planning</i>
Steve Thomas	<i>Franklin County Planning</i>
Anne Walko	<i>York County Planning</i>
Stephanie Williams	<i>Cumberland County Planning</i>



Communications Committee

Jared Abell	<i>PA DCNR</i>
Melodie Anderson Smith	<i>Retired</i>
Andrew Gehman	<i>2085 Productions</i>
Janet Pollard	<i>Franklin Country Visitors Bureau</i>
Kristen Rowe	<i>Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation</i>

Fundraising Action Team

Dan Brannen	<i>Strawberry Hill</i>
Mike Eschenmann	<i>Retired</i>
Sarah Merritt	<i>PA Council on the Arts</i>
Janet Pollard	<i>Franklin County Visitors Bureau</i>

South Mountain Partnership Committees are networks of people that lead conservation efforts by providing strategic counsel, infrastructure, and organizational management. We can only operate through the support of diverse and active committees that move the organization forward through programming, communications, and special initiatives.

Program Committee

Elizabeth Grant	<i>Cumberland County Planning</i>
Frank Grumbine	<i>PA Historical and Museum Commission</i>
Christine Hegarty	<i>Volunteer</i>
Onnolee Jansen	<i>PA DCNR</i>
Sarah Merritt	<i>PA Council on the Arts</i>
Patti Nitterhouse	<i>Penn National</i>
Amy Renshaw	<i>Volunteer</i>
Brendan Salyards	<i>York County Economic Alliance</i>
Rob Thaeler	<i>Adams County Planning</i>
Denise Tushingham	<i>York County Rail Trail Authority</i>

Research Corps & Science Summit Committee

Joe Baker	<i>Retired</i>
Maria Bruno	<i>University of Nevada Reno</i>
Wesley Foltz	<i>Chambersburg Area Career Magnet School</i>
Suzanne Hartley	<i>PA DCNR</i>
Larry Klotz	<i>Retired, Shippensburg University</i>
Holly Smith	<i>Shippensburg University: Center for Land Use and Sustainability</i>
Aura Stauffer	<i>PA DCNR</i>



The South Mountain Partnership is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.





Thank You to Our Donors

Currently, the Friends of the South Mountain Partnership fund yearly Flex Grants to the community in addition to supporting Partnership events and opportunities. Join us in thanking and recognizing these donors.

Sponsors

Franklin County Visitors Bureau	Destination Gettysburg	Gettysburg College
Lady Moon Farms	York County Convention & Visitors Bureau	
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.	Cumberland County Economic Development Corp.	

Friends of South Mountain Partnership Donor

GearHouse Brewing Co.	Elizabeth Grant	Larry Luxenberg	
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Daniel Brannen	Tracy Holliday	Jenifer Newbould	
Steven Burg	Cindy Hooks	Tanya Nitterhouse	
Julia Chain	Kirsten Hubbard	Janet Pollard	
Sean Cornell	Carmen James	Brendan Salyards	
Allen Dieterich-Ward	Onnolee Jansen	Kathleen Seller	Chris Vorodi
Josh Donaldson	Gregory John	Tyler Semder	Andre Weltman
Frank Evelhoch	Mary Ann Leidigh	Wendy Smith	Martina White
Andrew Gehman	Richard Lewis	Bryan Van Sweden	Gail Witwer

The Friends of the South Mountain Partnership is a Project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor, and secures tax deductible donations from individuals and businesses to ensure the South Mountain Partnership is a resilient and powerful force for good in our region.

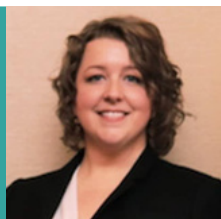
GET INVOLVED

DONATE

Our Landscape Our Home

The South Mountain landscape is our home. And despite the different opinions, perspectives, and worldviews that each of us carry, we all share a common trait: we call the South Mountain landscape home. We believe in the power of this common ground to build conversation around the future of this landscape - and our future while living within this landscape. The South Mountain Partnership brings people together across geo-political and sectorial boundaries to highlight the importance of our landscape and take action to secure its future.

Partner with us to ensure a bright future for our home.



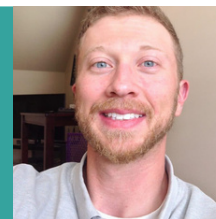
KATIE HESS
*Director of Pennsylvania
Landscape Conservation*

Appalachian Trail
Conservancy
khess@appalachiantrail.org



JULIA CHAIN
*Program Manager of the
South Mountain Partnership*

Appalachian Trail
Conservancy
jchain@appalachiantrail.org



TYLER SEMDER
DCNR Internal Lead

PA Department of
Conservation and
Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry,
Recreation Section
tsemder@pa.gov

MEET OUR TEAM

southmountainpartnership.org



MEGHAN CLARK
*AmeriCorps VISTA Scholar | Center
for Public Service at Gettysburg
College | South Mountain Partnership*

"Meghan Clark has been an incredible addition to our team and has been sharing the State of the Region findings in the community."

The **South Mountain Partnership** is managed as a public-private partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.