

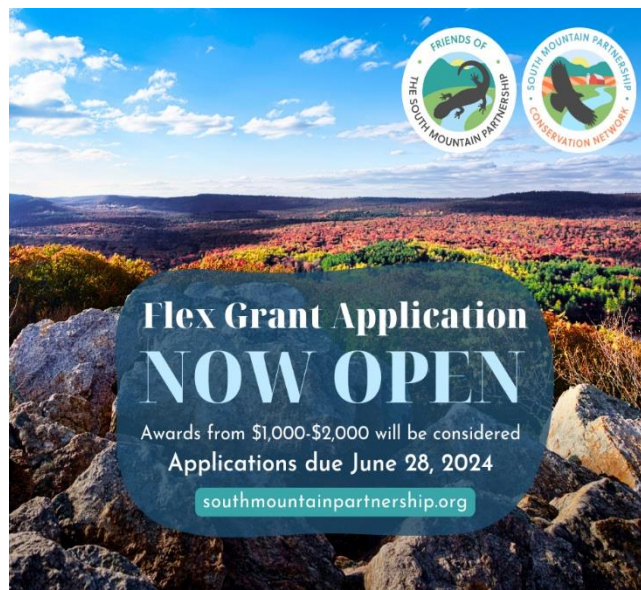


The South Mountain Partnership works best as a network of people and organizations working toward common goals.

**Our common goal? Making the future of our region better.**

## The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

**Flex Grants Due June 28th!**

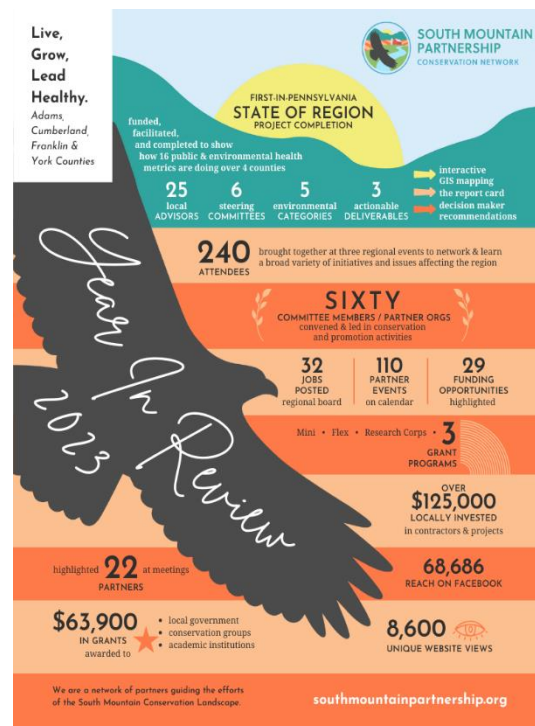


The Friends of South Mountain Partnership currently have funding available to support initiatives within our community that further the goals of the Partnership and advance the capacity of partners throughout the region.

Awards from \$1000-\$2000 will be considered, and any requests must be separate from projects submitted through the 2024 SMP Mini-Grant program. **Applications are due June 28, 2024.**

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE](#)

## 2023 Year in Review



We're excited to highlight our 2023 Year in Review! This report features all that South Mountain Partnership has accomplished in 2023. We are proud to share that we supported our wonderful community partners by posting 110 partner events on our calendar, highlighting 29 funding opportunities and posted 32 jobs on our regional board.

Thank you to all of our wonderful partners! We look forward to another great year of working together!

[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)

# State of the Region Update



**This spring we have been diligently working to explore and move forward the *State of the Region* Action Plan projects. What this has looked like for us:**

**Outreach:** We are working with our county planning partners to reach important county decision makers and influencers. In May we presented to the Cumberland County Planning Commission and we are securing presentation opportunities with Franklin and York county Commissioners. In addition, we are presenting to many local groups such as the Wellspan Physicians group in Chambersburg and the Chambersburg and Waynesboro Rotary Clubs.

**Natural Heritage Inventory:** We are securing contracts between Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York counties and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in order for the final green light to be given to Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to begin work. Three of the four county agreements are about to be finalized.

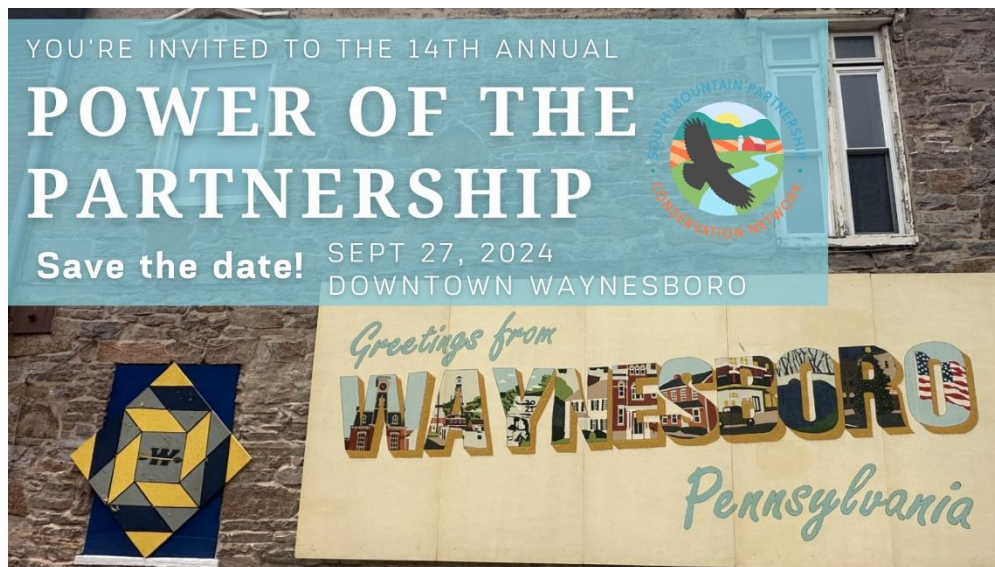
**Expand Regional Trails & Connectivity:** We submitted funding to PA DCNR to convene a Regional Trail Coalition. This step is meant to create the foundation for long term, regionally scaled strategic work run primarily by trail stakeholders and partners. If funded, the project includes research of other regional multi-use trail groups and develop the organizational structure of such a group here; create a map of existing, planned, and proposed trails in the region; and hold a regional summit.

**Wildlife Corridors and Greenways:** we convened the region's land trust and agricultural preservation groups in May to explore an application to the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnerships Program.

**Inventory cultural/historic resources:** We met with representatives of the State Historic Preservation Office to understand funding resources and collect example scopes of work and budgets.



# Save the Date for "Power of the Partnership" Celebration!



Save the Date: Sept 27, 2024 in Waynesboro, PA!

## Nominate a Special Person in South Mountain!



Each year the South Mountain Partnership recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has made significant contributions to advancing a positive and sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape for our ***Spirit of South Mountain Award***, and we need your help.

What qualities of the South Mountain Landscape does SMP seek to protect? Farms and Farmland, Historic Places, Natural Assets(water bodies, air quality, public health ), and Recreational Assets(trails, walkability, and open space).

The contribution we'd like to honor can take many shapes, such as:

- 1) an organization preserving farms and farmland
- 2) a citizen working in their community to promote sustainability or
- 3) a steward of our forest land
- 4) and so much more, we welcome your creative ideas.

*The Spirit of South Mountain award is to be presented at the Annual “Power of the Partnership” Celebration held on Sept 27th, 2024.*

**Submissions are due Aug 16, 2024 by 4PM.**

**[LEARN MORE AND NOMINATE HERE!](#)**

## Mini Grant Success Buttonwood Nature Center



The Buttonwood Nature Center, home of The Institute, recently completed their mini-grant program-  
Conserving Wild Wonders!

In 2023, they were awarded \$16,000 from our grant program, which supported the comprehensive design study to lead the restoration of a large pond on the nature center site. The Institute purchased the 40-acre property in Washington Township with the goal of creating a nature education center and living classroom for both students and residents in the greater Waynesboro community.

**[READ MORE HERE](#)**



### ***Become a Partner***

We are always looking to work with organizations in the community who share our goals! By becoming an official “Partner”, you can help support our vision and mission of the Partnership by attending meetings/events, keeping us informed of your organization’s related activities and increasing access to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our region to all! Becoming a partner is easy and free! Find more information [here](#).

## Partner News

### Michaux Plans New Visitors Center



*Tiadaghton Resource Management Center*

example of recently built LEED Gold State Forest Building  
in Lycoming County



Michaux State Forest is planning a new Visitors Center and Resource Management Office! We worked with the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to bring important steps and events together in a timeline and informational sheet.

[Read the timeline and more here.](#)



## More Partner News of Note:

- **Visit [Gearhouse Brewing Co in Chambersburg](#) for a signature SMP brew!:** Earth to Beer is an imperial Honey Wheat Ale brewed with Franklin County, PA wildflower honey. 7% ABV. \$1 from every draft and can will be donated to South Mountain Partnership! Join us in this fundraising effort while enjoying a great beer! See you soon!
- **Shippensburg Mini Grant Historic Preservation Workshop #2 Thurs June 13th 5:00PM:** [Register for the second of four workshops](#) designed to provide residents, local officials, and historical preservation enthusiasts in the South Mountain Region with the tools and educational resources to understand the methods available to preserve historical resources, and build capacity to preserve historic structures, landscapes, and farmland.
- **Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape:** We are thrilled for our landscape partners to the northwest, the [Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape](#) is now also a Sentinel Landscape!!! Learn more [here](#).
- **Nominate a project for the PA State Historic Preservation Awards:** It's time to nominate your project to be celebrated by the statewide preservation community! Since 1979, Preservation Pennsylvania has presented the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Awards to honor exceptional preservation work taking place across the commonwealth. There are three major categories for award recognition: the Honor Awards, Leadership Awards, and Construction Awards. [Read HERE for more information about each category](#)

## Employment and Funding Opportunities

### Job Opportunities

- **Environmental Educators/Naturalists-Buttonwood Nature Center:** The Buttonwood Nature Center, home of the Institute, is searching for two environmental educators/naturalists. The Institute is a non-profit organization serving the region with outdoor programming in environmental and cultural education, and a wide variety of family events. Activities are conducted at various parks and natural areas around the greater Waynesboro area. [Apply here](#).
- **Program Specialist, Landscape Conservation-Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape:** Apply today for an External Lead to coordinate work developed as part of the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape (KRCL). A staff position within Audubon Mid-Atlantic and based out of the Harrisburg area, this role requires strong communication skills, as a collaborative approach is required for advancing the goals outlined in both the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape Strategic Plan and Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Plan. Working alongside DCNR's Internal Lead for the KRCL, this position plays a key role in convening the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape Steering Committee to advance landscape-wide goals by creating sustainable, lasting external partnerships with other governmental agencies, environmental and other non-profit organizations, and community leaders along the Ridge. [Apply here](#).
- **Communications Coordinator-York County Community Foundation:** As part of the Marketing and Communications Department, the Communications Coordinator supports the

organization in relating the value of the foundation and our initiatives to the community and creating a compelling case for support across multiple communications channels to several target audiences. In this role, the primary focus will be advancing YCCF's Embracing Aging and TroveStreet® initiatives and goals through marketing and communication efforts. Apply by emailing your resume or CV and cover letter to [employment@yccf.org](mailto:employment@yccf.org) and indicate the position you are applying for in the subject line.

- **Agency Advocate-Ghost Writer:** At Ghost Writer, the Agency Advocate plays an important role as the primary point of contact for the client as well as the coordinator of the client's services across the Ghost Writer team. Agency Advocates are rewarded with job flexibility, autonomy, and work that is personally meaningful. The Agency Advocate assigns work, organizes, and updates agency files, keeps the agency informed, and tracks projects in Ghost Writer's project management software. [Apply and learn more here.](#)
- **Grant Writing Specialist-Ghost Writer:** Ghost Writer is currently seeking a Grant Writing Specialist. The Grant Specialist will assist the Agency Advocates in grant research, grant writing, and copy editing. This will include understanding needs, researching, and identify funding opportunities across a broad range of donors and funding organizations, and utilizing multiple research tools. The Grant Specialist will compile information and be able to paint a picture with words. [Apply and learn more here.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

- **PA Department of Community and Economic Development - Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP):** Application deadline is June 28, 2024. Funding will support projects that address neighborhood and community problems in low-income or distressed areas. *Find more information [HERE](#).*
- **WeConservePA - Forest Management Plan Grants:** Funding will support the completion of land assessments and resource management plans for largely forested lands already under conservation easement. Subject lands must be in the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Application deadline is June 27. *Find more information [HERE](#).*
- **York County Economic Alliance-LSA Funding:** Local Share Account (LSA) programs are funded by local and state gaming revenues, for which York County nonprofits and municipalities are eligible to apply for projects including construction, renovation, vehicles, and equipment. *Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) deadline for [Cumberland and York Counties](#) is **JUNE 30, 2024**. Find guidelines [HERE](#).  
NOI deadline for [Adams and Franklin Counties](#) is **AUGUST 30, 2024**. Find guidelines [HERE](#).*

Find our NEW listing of [Regional Funding Opportunities](#) on our website, and suggest funds we should add.

## Events

- [Summer Stories 2024 | June 12 @ 11 a.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center](#): Children gather under a tree in the park to listen to stories and enjoy related hands-on activities. This year, Summer Stories will be on Wednesdays, June 12, 19 and 26, and July 3, 10, and 17 at 11:00 a.m. The theme for the 2024 Summer Stories is "Tales of Tails."
- [Empowering Communities Historic Preservation Workshop #2 | June 13 @ 5 p.m. | Center for Land Use and Sustainability](#): Register for the second of four workshops



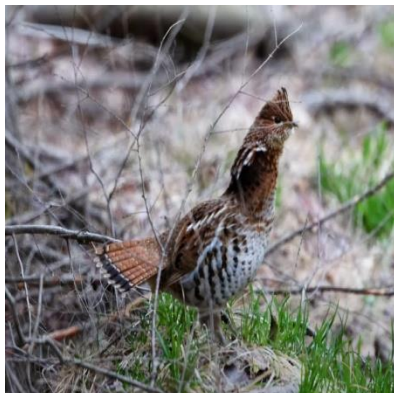
designed to provide residents, local officials, and historical preservation enthusiasts in the South Mountain Region with the tools and educational resources to understand the methods available to preserve historical resources, and build capacity to preserve historic structures, landscapes, and farmland. This second workshop is entitled, "Identifying Historic Places that Matter."

- [2024 Kings Gap Trail Challenge | June 15 @ 10 a.m. | Keystone Trails Association:](#)  
Can you hike every trail at Kings Gap? With 2600 acres of forest, Kings Gap has an extensive hiking system. Join us to get more comfortable hiking the trails. By the end, this challenging monthly hiking series will cover over 25 miles of trail at the park.
- [Growing Up Wild with Twig Craighead George | June 23 @ 2 p.m. | Craighead House:](#)  
Twig George, an author in her own right, and daughter of famous children's author and naturalist Jean Craighead George, will give a talk and tell stories from Jean's notes and diaries about spending summers at Craighead House as well as back stories for some of Jean's books, as well as her own.
- [Music on the Mountain | July 7 @ 2 p.m. | Friends of Kings Gap:](#) Join Friends of Kings Gap on the lawn in front of the Cameron-Masland Mansion on the first Sunday of each summer month for music and fun! Bring your lawn chair or blanket to the top of the mountain and settle in for an evening of music at its best. Food vendors will be ready to serve you. Don't worry if rain is in the forecast; the concerts run rain or shine!

View these events and more on our [Partner Events calendar](#)! You can add your events directly onto our calendar or email them to [jchain@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jchain@appalachiantrail.org).

## Social Media Catchup

*Click to explore our social media channels. Follow us for the latest news, upcoming events, and more!*



## Live, Grow, Lead Healthy.

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.

Learn more at [southmountainpartnership.org](http://southmountainpartnership.org)



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
PARTNERSHIP**  
CONSERVATION NETWORK



*The South Mountain Partnership [SMP] is managed as a public-private partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. SMP is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.*

Unsubscribe [here](#).