
Around South Mountain Newsletter: Resources and News!

1 message

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**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP**
CONSERVATION NETWORK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
AROUND
SOUTH MOUNTAIN



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

Winter Meeting Wrap-Up



On January 30th, we welcomed over 130 attendees to learn about timely topics like data centers, water aquifer recharge, and updates from area Land Trusts as well as to reconnect, and forge new relationships, all in support of our shared goal of protecting and preserving our home, the South Mountain Region.

If you didn't get a chance to attend in person, or want to reference what you learned, event notes, resources, and slides are all available on our website.

Including a recording of our speaker from Piedmont Environmental Council, Chris Miller.

[Read the Wrap Up](#)

SMP 2025 Year in Review

**Live,
Grow,
Lead
Healthy.**

Adams,
Cumberland,
Franklin &
York Counties



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP**
CONSERVATION NETWORK

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

COLLECTIVE *impact* OF THE PARTNERSHIP

We surveyed our partners to gather the collective impact of our shared efforts in the region in 2025. 16 of our 63 partners responded.

SMP'S *impact*

The following metrics provide a snapshot of South Mountain Partnership's (SMP's) impact in advancing conservation, collaboration, and community vitality across the region.

152 with **9,071**
EVENTS ATTENDEES

334
EVENT ATTENDEES

63
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS

37
PARTNERS HIGHLIGHTED
at SMP events

105,156
DIGITAL AUDIENCE REACH
via social media, e-newsletters, etc.

66
JOBS POSTED
regional board

520
PARTNER
EVENTS
on calendar

56
FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES
on website

6,760
ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED

\$58,800
IN GRANTS AWARDED
by SMP

\$117,265
LOCALLY INVESTED
in contractors & projects

146.2
EXISTING TRAIL MILES IMPROVED

5,755
ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL BEST
PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED

35
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

313
RESPONDENTS
to community
survey

\$5,667,070
IN EXTERNAL GRANTS
(non-DCNR funds)

36,000
ACTIVE WEBSITE
VISITORS

464,800
REACH ON
FACEBOOK

Partners that
responded to the
collective impact
survey:

Adams County Trout Unlimited
Land Conservancy of Adams County
Michaux State Forest, BOF, DCNR
Penn National Golf Course Community
Appalachian Mountain Club | Capital RC&D
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy | CVRTC
Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County
Franklin County | Friends of Michaux State Forest
Keystone Trails Association | Trust for Public Land
Strawberry Hill Foundation, Inc. | York County Rail Trail Authority
Cumberland County Planning, Cumberland County Conservation District,
Clean Water Cumberland

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

southmountainpartnership.org

From collaborative milestones to on-the-ground impact, this past year was one of momentum for South Mountain Partnership. Our Year in Review highlights the collective efforts that continue to strengthen the South Mountain region.

[View the Year in Review](#)

\$1.57 Million Investment in the South Mountain Region

★ *Time to Celebrate!* ★

PA invests **\$1.57 million** across 5 partners in the South Mountain Region for Conservation, Recreation, and Community Revitalization



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On January 12, Governor Josh Shapiro and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DNCR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced nearly \$82 million in grants for 295 projects across Pennsylvania, aimed at expanding recreational opportunities, conserving natural spaces, and revitalizing communities. These grants will support a wide range of projects, including improving local parks, expanding trails and river access points, and creating more green space in local communities.

We are excited \$1.57 million of that investment occurs within 5 projects located in the South Mountain Region.

[Check out the locally funded projects](#)

2022-2025 Strategic Plan Complete!



Cue the confetti! The South Mountain Partnership has completed our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan! This plan represents shared goals created and implemented through our collaborative network.

However, you might be wondering what a collaborative network is and how we created this plan...

[Read More](#)

Calling All Valentine's Puns!

Without you, I'd be
like our karst geology...
full of emptiness.

To:
From:



SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP
CONSERVATION NETWORK

Submit your witty pun ideas for a Valentine's card and we'll create it! Then you can share with your loved ones on Valentine's day to celebrate the South Mountain region...and love!

[Submit a Valentine Phrase](#)

Join South Mountain Partnership

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 SMP meetings and events
- Keeping us informed of your organization's related activities
- Increasing access to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our region to all.

Becoming a partner is easy and free!

[Become a Partner](#)

Partner News

7 PA Communities Join Inaugural Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative



Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative

A Community-Driven Project for
Conservation & Engagement



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is pleased to announce the inaugural cohort of the Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative (ATCCC), a new initiative designed to elevate local leadership, strengthen community-driven conservation, and support vibrant economies throughout the Appalachian Trail Landscape in Pennsylvania.

Following a competitive application process, seven community teams have been selected to participate in the inaugural ATCCC:

- Duncannon
- Port Clinton
- Shippensburg
- Boiling Springs & South Middleton Township

- Gettysburg & Adams County
- Stroud Township
- Berks & Schuylkill Counties

[Read More](#)

2026 Match Madness Campaign March 1-31, 2026

The Partnership for Better Health is pleased to welcome 64 local nonprofit organizations to this year's Match Madness campaign! These organizations address homelessness and food insecurity, build connection and community, promote access to health services and essential resources, and more as they promote good health for all members of our community.

[>> Learn More](#)

2026 Student Lyme Art Competition

Calling PA 1st-6th graders! Show off your creativity in the 2026 Student Lyme Art Contest. Submit a poster or short video to help spread tick and Lyme disease awareness! Deadline: March 13, 2026.

[>> Learn More](#)

DCNR New Volunteer System is Online

The PA DCNR's new Conservation Volunteer system is now LIVE! If you're interested in volunteering, create a profile in the new system, even if you were registered on their previous website.

[>> Learn More & Register](#)

South Mountain Counties Kick-off America250PA Celebrations

In 2026, the United States will mark a monumental milestone—the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. Across Pennsylvania, communities are preparing to honor this once-in-a-generation moment through America250PA. In the South Mountain region, our communities are leading the way with exciting programming to honor the Semiquincentennial celebration.

[>> Learn More](#)

Events

Sweetheart Sunset Hike

Saturday, February 14

4-6pm at Kings Gap

Bring your sweetheart for this approximately 2-mile hike. You will learn about Kings Gap's sweethearts and end with the sunset.

[Learn More](#)

Project Feederwatch Fridays: Birds & Beverages

Friday, February 20

9-10:30am at Kings Gap

Enjoy hot tea, cocoa, or coffee while we spend some time in the Education Building watching our birdfeeders and collecting count data.

[Learn More](#)

Appalachian Trail Hike Series

Sunday, February 22

Home School Series: George Washington

Wednesday, February 18

10am-12pm at Cumberland County Historical Society

To commemorate President's Day and the first person to fill the job, February's session will be all about the life and many different connections that George Washington has with Cumberland County.

[Learn More](#)

Intro to Forest Health

Saturday, February 21

2-3:30pm at Strawberry Hill

This workshop is intended for woodland owners and members of the public who want to learn more about forests.

[Learn More](#)

Maple Fest 2026

Saturday, February 28

8:30am-12pm at Strawberry Hill

1-3pm with Buttonwood Nature Center

Hike along a portion of the legendary Appalachian Trail! Led by a Buttonwood naturalist, the hike will explore some of the wonders to be found.

[Learn More](#)

Join us as we take a walk back through time and honor the traditions of long ago while learning new and exciting discoveries about the future of this uniquely North American treat!

[Learn More](#)

[View More Events](#)

Grants

Partnership for Better Health Grants - Grants fund work related to health equity and social determinants of health. Funding opportunities include General Operating Grants for Organizations Leading in Equity Work, Project Grants to Address Root Issues, and Spark Grants. Grant Deadlines: March 2, August 1, December 1

CAEDC Tourism Grants - Cumberland Valley Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) offers three tourism-related grant programs: Tourism Product Development Grant, Tourism Partnership Grant, and Destination Sales Grant. Grant Deadlines: May 8, August 7, and November 6.

[More Regional Funding Opportunities](#)

Job Opportunities

Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds - York County Parks - This position will assist the Superintendent in the management of maintenance staff and the maintenance of 11 county parks featuring over

4,300 acres of public land and 1.425 million visitors annually. [Learn more and apply](#)

Cumberland Valley Seasonal Ridgerunner - Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Ridgerunners provide information about the A.T. and its intended primitive experience, location, regulations, and traditions. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Environmental/Early Learning Educator/Naturalist - Buttonwood Nature Center - The environmental educator is responsible for delivering established programs of the center at the Pre-K–12 grade levels and developing creative new programs into the future. [Learn more and apply](#)

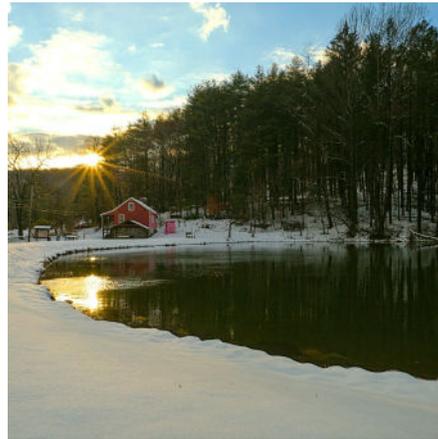
Manager of Natural Resources - York County Parks - The position is responsible for: Management of natural resources, development of improvement projects, management and operations of park concessions, design and maintenance of a multi-use trail system, coordination of a park wide volunteer program, and webmaster for parks social media. [Learn more and apply](#)

Are you hiring? Submit your organization's job posts to our board by emailing jchain@appalachiantrail.org.

[View Our Job Board for More](#)

Social Media Catch-up

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



**Forestry Roots:
Ralph Elwood Brock**

Pennsylvania's First African
American Forester and Laborer
of Urban and Community Forestry
We plant seeds in the woods
and they grow from Brock's legacy.
2016-2017



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

Support Our Efforts - Donate



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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](#).