

Land Partnerships Grant Awards

Land Acquisition

Total = \$181,000

- 1 - Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (\$50,000) Waggoner's Gap: Acquisition of 106 acre wooded tract in Lower Frankford Township. Tract is adjacent to Audubon PA's Hawk Watch site.
- 2 - Middlesex Township (\$11,000) Letort Falls Park: Acquisition of 2.35 acres of passive parkland along the Conodoguinet Creek.
- 3 - Middlesex Township (\$20,000) Municipal Well #1: Acquisition of 5 acre wellhead protection area.
- 4 - South Middleton Township (\$50,000) Leaman Farm: Acquisition of 55 acres for passive recreation and natural resource protection along Yellow Breeches Creek. Tract is adjacent to existing Township park.
- 5 - The Nature Conservancy (\$50,000) South Mountain-Sutton Acquisition: Acquisition of 70 acre wooded tract on South Mountain for vernal pool nature preserve. Tract is adjacent to King's Gap Environmental Education Center.

Park/Trail Development

Total = \$597,655

- 1 - Camp Hill Borough (\$2,000) Goddard Trail improvements.
- 2 - Carlisle Borough (\$50,000) Carlisle Community Pool Renovation.
- 3 - Cumberland Valley Rail to Trails Council (\$13,500) Cumberland Valley Trail Improvements.
- 4 - East Pennsboro Township (\$50,000) Point Park Improvements: Improvements to Point Park including boat launch, parking, trail and site amenities.
- 5 - Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (\$12,866) Anglers Access Trail: Development of trail and site amenities at Opossum Lake.
- 6 - Hampden Township (\$50,000) Recreation & Trail Improvements: Recreation and trail improvements including bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Sears Run, playground equipment at Hampden Township Park and tree plantings at McCord Commons Park.
- 7 - Hopewell Township (\$50,000) Hopewell Township Park Improvements: Park improvements including trails, parking area, playground, pavilion and restrooms.
- 8 - Lower Allen Township (\$50,000) Development of pedestrian and bicycle trail connections. Improvements to Lower Allen Community Park.
- 9 - Mechanicsburg Borough (\$50,000) Mechanicsburg Area Community Swimming Pool Renovation.
- 10 - Mount Holly Springs Borough (\$5,389) Playground Equipment: Playground equipment for Tichy and Trine Parks.
- 11 - North Newton Township (\$50,000) North Newton Township Park Development: Park improvements including excavation, paving, and athletic field development.
- 12 - Penn Township (\$50,000) Centerville Park Improvements: Park improvements including trails, site amenities, softball, volleyball and playground equipment.
- 13 - Shippensburg Borough (\$40,900) Dykeman Park & Greenway Trail: Expansion of trail system at Dykeman Park.
- 14 - Silver Spring Township (\$20,000) Willow Mill Park Improvements: Park improvements including canoe launch, volley ball, horse shoes and landscaping.
- 15 - Southampton Township (\$35,000) Multi Purpose Center Improvements: Park improvements including paving, playground equipment, and improvement to softball fields.
- 16 - Upper Allen Township (\$50,000) Simpson Park Improvements: Park improvements including trails, site amenities, creek access, sand volleyball and landscaping.
- 17 - West Pennsboro Township (\$18,000) West Pennsboro Township Park Improvements: Park improvements including pavement resurfacing and playground equipment.

Land Use Planning

Total = \$228,587

- Camp Hill/Lemoyne/Wormleysburg Boroughs (\$75,000) Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan: Joint Comprehensive Plan including Camp Hill, Lemoyne and Wormleysburg Boroughs.
- Dickinson Township (\$15,000) Comprehensive Plan Update: Update to 1991 municipal comprehensive plan.
- Letort Regional Authority (\$45,717) Master Trail/Urban Greenway Plan: Development of multi-municipal master trail/urban greenway plan for the Letort Spring Run including the Letort Regional Authority, Carlisle Borough, Middlesex, South Middleton, and North Middleton Townships.
- Middlesex Township (\$6,650) Conservation Subdivision Ordinance Amendments: Update to subdivision, land development and zoning ordinances to include conservation subdivision provisions.
- Monroe Township (\$15,000) Zoning Ordinance Update: Update to 1998 zoning ordinance.
- Monroe Township (\$20,000) Comprehensive Plan Update: Update to 1994 municipal comprehensive plan.
- North Middleton Township (\$20,000) Comprehensive Plan Update: Update to 1995 municipal comprehensive plan.
- Shippensburg Township (\$15,000) Zoning Ordinance Update: Update to 1990 zoning ordinance.
- Silver Spring Township (\$7,500) Conservation Subdivision Ordinance Amendments: Update to subdivision, land development and zoning ordinances to include conservation subdivision provisions.

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Land Partnerships

A Countywide Strategy for Open Space Preservation
 And Smart Growth Planning

Phase 1 Progress Report (2006-2008)

Introduction

Cumberland County is fortunate to have many unique natural and cultural resources that contribute to the high quality of life and strong economy. Preserving those resources, and in turn a high quality of life and business friendly climate, can prove to be especially challenging. In order to preserve the features that make Cumberland County a great place to live, work and play, it is essential to plan for the future. In April 2006, the Board of Commissioners adopted *Land Partnerships*. *Land Partnerships* is a countywide strategy designed to maintain and improve the quality of life in Cumberland County through open space preservation and smart growth planning. The plan seeks to encourage action in the community and facilitate *partnerships* among federal, state, county and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and landowners to achieve a common vision.

Goals of Land Partnerships

The goals of *Land Partnerships* are organized around four key areas: Farmland Preservation, Natural Resource Protection, Parks, Trails and Greenways and Livable Communities.

- The *Farmland Preservation* component centers on preserving our working farms and supporting the agricultural community so agriculture remains viable in the County.
- The *Natural Resource Protection* element focuses on protecting the forested ridges and streams of the County.
- The *Parks, Trails & Greenways* component focuses on acquisition of additional parkland and development of a connected system of trails throughout the County.
- The *Livable Communities* element encourages physical enhancements to boroughs and older communities so they remain attractive places to live; thereby discouraging the trend of population loss in our older communities.



Cumberland Valley Rail Trail

Implementation

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioner's earmarked over \$5.2 million in County funds (general fund and bond funding) for implementation of Phase 1 of *Land Partnerships*. Phase 1 included two primary funding areas; farmland preservation and development of a pilot *Land Partnerships* grant program. In total, the \$5.2 million County investment in Phase 1 of *Land Partnerships* has leveraged over \$9.9 million in local, state, federal and private dollars, for a total community investment of \$15.1 million. Further, the Plan has significantly increased public awareness for land preservation and helped to build support and capacity for smart growth planning.



South Middleton Township Officials with PA DCNR Secretary DeBerardinis

Farmland Preservation

Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program



Paul & Harry Hoch Farm

To implement the farmland preservation component of *Land Partnerships*, nearly \$4.2 million in County funding was directed to the Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to be invested in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. Through the Easement Program, a combination of county, state and federal funding was utilized to purchase agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners on prime agricultural lands. In 2006, the \$3.6 million County investment was strategically allocated to align with the Governor's Growing Greener 2 Program to garner \$6.3 million in matching state dollars. Between 2006-2008, 3,616 acres of prime farmland was permanently preserved as a result of Phase 1 of *Land Partnerships* at a total cost of approximately \$13.1 million. From the Program's inception in 1989 until 2008, nearly 14,000 acres of farmland has been preserved.

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Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program				
	County Funding	State/Federal Funding	Annual Acres Preserved	Total Program Acres
2006	\$ 3,637,092	\$ 6,275,305	2,838	13,142
2007	\$ 251,470	\$ 977,529	287	13,429
2008	\$ 282,761	\$ 1,705,268	491	13,920

Signage Program

In 2007, Cumberland County launched a signage program on farms preserved through the Easement Program. The purpose of the signage program is to raise awareness about the Program and highlight the properties preserved in Cumberland County. Landowners voluntarily post signs on their farm to identify the property as a farm preserved through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Landowners of preserved farms are provided signage free of charge.

Donation Program

In 2008, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners enacted a Farmland Preservation Donation Program. The purpose of the program is to protect prime farmland by acquiring agricultural conservation easements through voluntary donation for the benefit of the general public. Applications are accepted any time during the year and are considered on a case by case basis. Preservation of the farmland tract must be consistent with municipal land use plans and the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. All applications are reviewed by the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, which then makes a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the donation.

Land Partnerships Grant Program

Overview

To provide financial incentives to implement the goals and objectives of *Land Partnerships*, \$1 million in County funding was designated for implementation of the *Land Partnerships* pilot grant program. The pilot grant program provided grant assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations in Cumberland County for land acquisition, park and trail development, land use ordinance assistance and comprehensive planning for greenways and open space.

Overall support for the *Land Partnerships* pilot grant program was extremely positive and demand for the program far exceeded grant funds available. 53 grant applications totaling nearly \$2 million in projects were received from 24 municipalities and 6 non-profit organizations. 33 grants, totaling \$1 million, were ultimately awarded. In addition, another \$1 million in local, state and private dollars were leveraged for open space preservation and smart growth projects.

Program Outcomes

As a result of the *Land Partnerships* grant offering, the following projects were completed.

- 5 land acquisition projects totaling 240 acres in high priority conservation areas
- 6 updated land use ordinances including innovative smart growth techniques such as conservation subdivision/land development
- 4 updated comprehensive land use plans including 1 multi-municipal plan
- 1 multi-municipal master trail/urban greenway plan
- 17 park & trail development projects including 11 park improvement projects, 4 new park projects and 2 new trail projects

Land Partnerships grant awards are depicted on the map below and further detailed on page 4.

