





Fuller Lake, Pine Grove Furnace State Park



### Introduction

The goal of the Land Partnerships planning process should not be to simply produce a document. While the Land Partnerships planning document provides a tangible record of the planning process, it does not by its completion represent success. Rather, success should be judged by the implementation of the concepts and strategies contained in the plan.

The following implementation plan presents a fiscally responsible and balanced approach to land preservation in Cumberland County. The implementation plan is fiscally responsible in that it is developed in context with a current economic climate including limited private and public sector funding. The implementation plan is balanced in that the suggested strategies resulted from the input of a diverse group of stakeholders that included municipal governments, conservation organizations, industry associations, and the residents of Cumberland County. The implementation strategies suggested in this chapter are as diverse as the stakeholders responsible for suggesting them. From voluntary land acquisition to land use planning to education and outreach, Land Partnerships presents a balanced, multi-faceted approach to agriculture preservation, natural resource protection and parks, trails and greenways in Cumberland County.

### Implementation Strategies

A variety of types of strategies should be implemented to achieve Land Partnerships' goals and objectives. When implemented together, these strategies provide a comprehensive approach to agriculture preservation, natural resource protection and parks, trails & greenways. Specific implementation strategies were suggested for each of the core areas discussed in the preceding chapters. These strategies can be further organized by their respective types that include:

- Acquisition and Development - Acquisition and development strategies include voluntary land acquisition for farmland preservation, parks and recreation, natural resource protection or initiatives that make capital investments to construct or rehabilitate parks and recreation or other public facilities. Acquisition and development strategies are generally the most capital intensive yet the most permanent method of implementing the Land Partnerships concepts.



- **Planning** - Planning strategies involve the implementation of farmland preservation, natural resource protection and park, trail and greenway strategies into county and municipal comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development regulations and other land use policies. Planning strategies, when implemented and enforced, are effective and cost efficient.
- **Partnerships** - The responsibility of implementing the concepts found in Land Partnerships often falls with organizations outside of Cumberland County and its associated departments. Cumberland County, although not charged with direct implementation authority, should partner with other organizations to help implement and promote the concepts found in Land Partnerships. Promoting and assisting with the work of cooperating organizations can be a simple, cost-effective way to preserve prime farmland, protect natural resources and provide park and recreation opportunities.
- **Education** - In order to garner continued and enhanced support for the concepts found in Land Partnerships, strategies that provide education and outreach opportunities to a variety of stakeholder groups should be pursued. Municipalities, private land owners, farmers, conservation organizations, the development community, and the public at large should be the targets of future educational programs that outline county land conservation policy and the associated costs and benefits. Education strategies can be efficiently implemented and lay the foundation for ongoing support for Land Partnerships implementation.

### **Implementation Plan**

The implementation plan outlined for Land Partnerships has a five year time frame: 2013-2017. A summary of the strategies is outlined for Agriculture Preservation, Natural Resource Protection, and Parks, Greenways & Trails in Table 8-1, Implementation Plan. Strategies are organized by type and include the relative cost, resources needed and timeframe for implementation.

Implementation of Land Partnerships will be achieved through a variety of resources:

- **Staff Resources** – many of the concepts and strategies contained in the plan can be implemented through daily planning activities and special technical assistance offered by the Cumberland County Planning Department

- County Funding – county funding to be derived from the County general fund, Clean and Green rollback interest and Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund
- Leveraged Funding – outside funding will be pursued from the state and federal government as well as other non-profit and private sources to fund project implementation

### Staff Resources

The Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD) can implement many of Land Partnerships strategies through their daily planning activities and direct technical assistance. Such activities do not require additional funding and should be pursued regardless of other funding sources. Land Partnerships concepts should be integrated into the following elements of the Cumberland County Planning Departments annual planning program.

*Municipal Planning Assistance* – CCPD staff are required by the Municipalities Planning Code to review and comment on every subdivision and land development application, comprehensive plan update and ordinance amendment proposed in the County. As noted elsewhere in this plan, sound planning is the best method of farmland preservation, natural resource protection and creation of parks, trails and greenways. The CCPD offers free planning technical assistance to municipalities throughout the County. Municipalities have worked with CCPD staff on ordinance updates, comprehensive plan updates, GIS mapping and fiscal impact analysis. Through our Municipal Planning Assistance, CCPD staff can share Land Partnerships concepts with their municipal partners.

*Special Project Assistance* – In addition to planning assistance relative to land use planning, the CCPD staff regularly provides technical assistance to organizations, agencies and non-profits implementing programs and projects relative to Land Partnerships. Special Project Assistance services range from supporting a local land conservancy, to assisting with trail planning, to engagement with a regional landscape conservation coalition.

*Planning Outreach Meetings* – The CCPD hosts quarterly meetings with its municipal partners and other agency partners to discuss a wide variety of timely planning issues in the County. These meetings should be used as a platform to discuss Land Partnerships strategies. In addition, the Outreach meetings should be used to network with agency partners whose programs help achieve the goals of Land Partnerships.



## LAND PARTNERSHIPS

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*Training Program* – The CCPD conducts numerous training programs on an annual basis. As it reviews its annual training priorities, the CCPD should offer training programs related to farmland preservation, natural resource protection and parks, trails and greenways.

### County Funding - Land Partnerships Grant Program

As mentioned above, Cumberland County will have access to funding through the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund. These funds are distributed on a statewide basis and are derived from fees collected from natural gas drilling. Funds are to be used for the “planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management”.<sup>28</sup>

The Land Partnerships Grant Program should be revised to distribute all or a portion of such funds to municipalities and non-profits to implement projects consistent with Land Partnerships and fund restrictions. The annual funding levels are difficult to predict as fees will be dependent on market conditions relative to natural gas consumption and production.

### Leveraged Funding

There are numerous funding sources available to help implement the goals and objectives of Land Partnerships. The County and its municipal partners should seek out those funds to assist with plan implementation. Table 8-2, Funding Sources, includes a list of potential funding sources.

### **Program Evaluation**

The Land Partnerships Program should be evaluated every 5-years to assess progress on implementation strategies and adjust the program as necessary. Annually, the CCPD should review the strategies in Land Partnerships and work with the CCPC to develop short term goals for implementation.

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
<b>AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION</b>			
FP1. Continue implementation of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Program commensurate with State and County funding seeking to reduce the backlog of applicants in the Prime Farmland Area by 25% within 5 years.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
FP2. Encourage partnerships among the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and local municipalities, non-profits and conservancies to purchase joint agriculture conservation easements.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
FP3. Aggressively pursue funding available through the Federal Ranch & Farmland Program and other alternative funding sources for purchase of agricultural conservation easements.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
FP4. Conduct ongoing review and evaluation of the County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program guidelines to respond to changes in the agricultural industry, environmental regulation, etc.	Acquisition & Development	Low	Staff Resources
FP5. Increase outreach with preserved farm owners to: enhance landowner relations, ensure long term compliance with the easement provisions and protect taxpayer investment. Enhance monitoring efforts on preserved farms and pursue enforcement of violations, as necessary.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources
FP6. Encourage and support best management practices on farms to ensure compliance with Pennsylvania's erosion, sedimentation, stormwater control and manure management requirements, with emphasis on water quality improvements such as riparian buffers and restricting livestock access to streams. High priority shall be given to farms preserved through the County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, including financial assistance to develop conservation, erosion and sedimentation and nutrient management plans.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
FP7. Increase outreach and promotion of the County Farmland Preservation Donation Program to increase awareness and participation.	Acquisition & Development	Low	Staff Resources, County Funding

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
FP8. Provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities to develop and implement municipal comprehensive plans and land use ordinances that protect the right to farm and preserve prime farmland and the agricultural industry in the County.	Planning	Moderate	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
FP9. Support the development of guidelines and/or model ordinances to support agriculture in urban and suburban communities, including but not limited to the following issues: community gardens, CSA drop-offs, seasonal outdoor farmers markets, backyard chickens and urban bee keeping.	Planning	Moderate	Staff Resources
FP10. Promote the Agricultural Security Areas Program and assist municipalities with the development and periodic review of ASAs. Provide training and technical assistance on ASA implementation. Improve ASA data collection and create an enhanced database for ASA tracking.	Planning	Moderate	Staff Resources
FP11. Increase awareness of the benefits of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for the individual farmers, the agriculture industry and the community through educational seminars, workshops, printed materials and website.	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources
FP12. Support and promote the mission and objectives of the Cumberland County Partners for Excellence in Agriculture.	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources
FP13. Support and partner with local agricultural stakeholders to promote agriculture industry and preserve prime farmland through the County. (See Table 5-6)	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources, Leveraged Funding
FP14. Increase public awareness of the benefits of agriculture to the community. Special emphasis shall be placed on the importance and benefit of local food. Support local food efforts/initiatives including, but not limited to Farm to School Programs, community gardens, farmers markets, Buy Fresh Buy Local, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, etc.	Partnerships & Education	Moderate	Staff Resources

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>			
NRP1. Provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities and non-profits to acquire important natural areas through voluntary easements and fee simple acquisition. Priority should be given to areas identified as having highest conservation value.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
NRP2. Support implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Improvement Plan to include stormwater management technical assistance and funding to County municipalities.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources, Leveraged Funding
NRP3. Serve as the liaison between municipalities, the development community and the agriculture community to identify and implement water quality improvements in developed and rural areas.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources
NRP4. Support and promote the TreeVitalize Program as well as urban landscaping and street tree efforts in developed areas.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources, Leveraged Funding
NRP5. Provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities to develop and implement municipal comprehensive plans and land use ordinances that preserve the County's natural resources, with focus on protecting water quality/quantity.	Planning	High	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
NRP6. Promote the Natural Areas Inventory and encourage its use in municipal land use planning and development. Educate municipal officials and residents on the importance of biodiversity.	Planning	Moderate	Staff Resources
NRP7. Update the County Comprehensive Plan to include a Water Supply Plan consistent with the requirements of Article III, Section 301(b) of the MPC and subsequently support the development of municipal water supply plans consistent with the County Plan.	Planning	Low	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding
NRP8. Conduct annual meeting and 5 year updates to the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Identify municipal projects and assist with implementation, placing special emphasis on flooding mitigation.	Planning	Low	Staff Resources, County & Leveraged Funding

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
NRP9. Provide support and technical assistance to local watershed organizations to implement local river conservation plans and community based watershed initiatives.	Partnerships & Education	Moderate	Staff Resources
NRP10. Support and partner with local and regional conservation stakeholders on initiatives and programs to protect natural resources. (See Table 6-2)	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources, Leveraged Funding
NRP11. Develop guidance on green infrastructure applications for developed communities that will help to improve water quality.	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources
NRP12. Raise public awareness about the benefits and importance of protecting Cumberland County's natural resources.	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources
NRP13. Educate private landowners about voluntary conservation practices such as woodlot management, riparian buffers establishment, invasive plant control, native plant landscaping, wildlife habitat improvement, rain barrels, rain gardens, etc.	Partnerships & Education	High	Staff Resources
NRP14. Conduct educational workshops/training for municipal officials on the benefits of natural resource protection and tools to preserve those resources.	Partnerships & Education	Moderate	Staff Resources
<b>PARKS, TRAILS &amp; GREENWAYS</b>			
PGT1. Provide funding and technical assistance to assist municipalities and non-profits to acquire and develop parkland and trails to meet the needs of current and future residents. Funding priority shall be given to trail acquisition and development and redevelopment and upgrades to existing parkland.	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources County & Leveraged Funding
PGT2. Encourage park and trail development in accordance with DCNR's Creating Sustainable Community Parks and Landscapes publication.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources
PGT3. Provide funding and technical assistance to assist municipalities and non-profits to conserve the 10 County identified greenways for their recreational, cultural and natural resource value.	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources County & Leveraged Funding

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
PGT4. Coordinate and partner with The Nature Conservancy to maintain and enhance the Mount Holly Nature Preserve. Projects include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance the trail system, signage and parking facilities</li> <li>• Develop and implement a resource management plan</li> <li>• Continue invasive plant removal initiative</li> </ul>	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources County & Leveraged Funding
PGT5. Coordinate and partner with stakeholders to continue to promote, enhance and extend the Conodoguinet Creek and Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trails. Potential projects include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Obtain approved portage around the Carlisle Raw Water Intake Dam</li> <li>○ Extend trail west beyond North Middleton Park</li> <li>○ Enhance access and amenities at existing access points</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand Trip A west beyond South Middleton Township Park</li> <li>○ Expand Trip B west of Messiah College to Leidigh Park</li> <li>○ Enhance access and amenities at existing access points</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Acquisition & Development	Moderate	Staff Resources Leveraged Funding
PGT6. Coordinate and partner with the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council, municipal partners and private landowners to enhance and expand the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail. Projects include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and construct the Fogelsanger Road Bridge – Shippensburg Trail Connector Project</li> <li>• Design and construct a bridge (Big Spring Ave) and tunnel (Route 233) to connect the existing Cumberland Valley Trail with the PPL Tract</li> <li>• Develop and implement a Master Site Plan for the Newville to Carlisle Trail Extension</li> <li>• Explore feasibility of extending trail east from Carlisle to West Shore Area</li> </ul>	Acquisition & Development	High	Staff Resources Leveraged Funding

**Table 8-1  
Implementation Plan**

Strategy	Type	Priority	Resources
PGT7. Provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities to develop or update local comprehensive plans and greenway and open space plans to be consistent with Land Partnerships. Multi-municipal planning for trails and greenways is encouraged.	Planning	High	Staff Resources County & Leveraged Funding
PGT8. Encourage and assist municipalities adopt parkland standards and goals consistent with the needs of the community. 15 acres per 1,000 populations is a recommended goal.	Planning	Moderate	Staff Resources
PGT9. Encourage and assist municipalities to develop zoning, subdivision/land development and official map ordinance provisions that promote park, greenway and trail development.	Planning	High	Staff Resources
PGT10. Support and partner with local stakeholders to promote and expand parks, greenways and trails through the County. (See Table 7-4)	Partnerships & Education	Low	Staff Resources
PGT11. Raise public awareness of the benefits of parks, greenways and trails among all facets of the community through educational seminars, workshops, printed materials and website. Projects include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and distribute Simply Moving Guide in partnership with Carlisle Area Health &amp; Wellness Foundation</li> <li>• Update and distribute Local Food, Farm and Outdoor Attraction Guide in partnership with the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau</li> <li>• Update and distribute Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail Guide/Map and Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Guide/Map in partnership with watershed organizations</li> <li>• Assist with Cumberland Valley Official Visitors Guide/Map, Official Map and CVVB website</li> <li>• Ongoing promotion and enhancement of Cumberland County website</li> </ul>	Partnerships & Education	Moderate	Staff Resources County & Leveraged Funding

**Table 8-2  
Funding Sources**

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Eligible Uses</b>
Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau	Tourism Grant Program	Signage, Outdoor Recreation Promotion
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Farm and Ranchland Protection Program	Farmland Preservation
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants	Watershed Improvement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program	Farmland Preservation
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	Community Conservation Partnerships Program	Park & Trail Development Natural Resource Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resource	TreeVitalize Program	Tree Planting
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Growing Greener Watershed Grants Nonpoint Source Implementation Program	Watershed restoration
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Environmental Education Grants Program	Education
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Transportation Enhancements	Trail Development
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission	Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	Boating Access Improvements
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission	PA Access Improvement Program	Public Fishing & Boating Easements
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service	State Wildlife Grants Program	Protection of at-risk species
Water Resources Education Network	Watershed Education Grants	Natural Resource Protection - Education/ Awareness to protect water resources
Water Resources Education Network	Source Water Protection Education Grants	Natural Resource Protection - Education/ Awareness for source water protection
Water Resources Education Network	Opportunity Grants	Natural Resource Protection - Nonpoint source pollution prevention education
South Mountain Partnership	Mini Grant Program	Park & Trail Development Natural Resource Protection
USDA-NRCS/FSA	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Natural Resource Protection on private lands



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