



# Cumberland County Planning Commission

## 2017 Annual Report

Cumberland County Planning Commission  
310 Allen Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
717-240-5362

## ABOUT US

The Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) is comprised of nine members who serve four year terms. Appointments to the CCPC are made by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. Staff support for the CCPC is provided through the Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD). The CCPC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at 310 Allen Road, Conference Room B, Carlisle, PA.

The CCPC is charged with a variety of responsibilities as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) or as assigned by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners including:

- ✓ Municipal subdivision and land development plan review
- ✓ Municipal ordinance amendment review
- ✓ Municipal comprehensive plan review
- ✓ County Comprehensive Plan preparation and implementation
- ✓ Municipal technical assistance
- ✓ Transportation planning
- ✓ Farmland preservation

### 2017 CCPC Members

Rick Trynoski, Chairman  
John Epley, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Fisher, PLS, PE  
Ra Kligge  
Heather Sweitzer  
Chris Knarr, AICP  
Jack Showley, DDS  
James D. Ross  
Barbara Wilson  
Gary Eichelberger, Commissioner Liaison

### 2017 Planning Department Staff

Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning  
Jeff Kelly, AICP, Assistant Director of Planning  
Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager  
Steve Hoffman, Planning Specialist  
Barbara Sue Hershey, Office Manager

## CCPC MISSION AND VISION

**Mission:** The Cumberland County Planning Commission helps build strong urban, suburban, and rural communities by promoting responsible economic development, providing transportation choices, encouraging housing diversity, and conserving natural resources.

**Vision:** Planning with a purpose for today and tomorrow.

## CCPC CORE VALUES

- **Accountability** – Every project is completed according to established performance standards and demonstrates clear value to County residents.
- **Integrity** – Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest through the transparent, honest, and ethical execution of our responsibilities.
- **Competency** – We pursue planning excellence through continuous professional development and certification maintenance opportunities that expand the capacity and improve the quality of our planning services.
- **Partnerships** – Building strong relationships with municipal governments, the public, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector creates a collaborative environment that broadens the reach and impact of our planning initiatives.
- **Be Present** – Successful planning requires local familiarity and experience that can only be gained through our personal presence in every community throughout the County.
- **Respect Local Autonomy** – We support the local government structure in the County and commit to working cooperatively with communities to develop “grass roots” solutions tailored to meet local needs.

## 2017 IN REVIEW

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan guides all activities of the CCPC. The CCPC updated the plan in 2017 and organized the update around three key themes; conserve, grow and connect. Highlights of the CCPC's 2017 accomplishments in each theme area are summarized below.

### CONSERVING...

- ✓ **Prime Farmland** – As staff for the County's Agriculture Land Preservation Board, the CCPD worked with farmers to permanently preserve nearly 860 acres of prime farmland. To date over 18,000 acres of prime farmland have been preserved through the Cumberland County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, almost 12% of the prime farmland found in the county.



#### 2017 Land Partnerships Results

**34** acres of land preserved  
**12** total grants awarded  
**3** park improvement projects  
**2** miles of new trail  
**1** new park developed

- ✓ **Parks, Trails and Greenways** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenways projects that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$270,000 for projects in 2017.

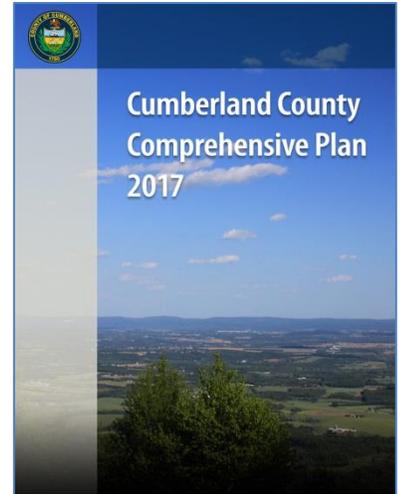
- ✓ **Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Extension** – CCPD staff has worked cooperatively with the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trail Council to construct a multipurpose trail that will ultimately connect Shippensburg and Carlisle. CCPD staff was instrumental in grant writing and technical assistance for CVRTC that ultimately led to the construction of a new bridge and underpass in 2017 that allows users to safely cross busy highways.



- ✓ **Mt. Holly Marsh Preserve** – Cumberland County owns the 900 acre Mt. Holly Marsh Preserve that is open to a variety of passive recreational pursuits. The unique ecosystems found in the Preserve are home to a variety of plant and wildlife including several threatened and endangered species. As assigned stewards of the Preserve, the CCPD conducted three volunteer clean up days in 2017 to remove trash and invasive plant species. The CCPD also completed a forest management plan that establishes a long term action plan to ensure the health of the Preserve.

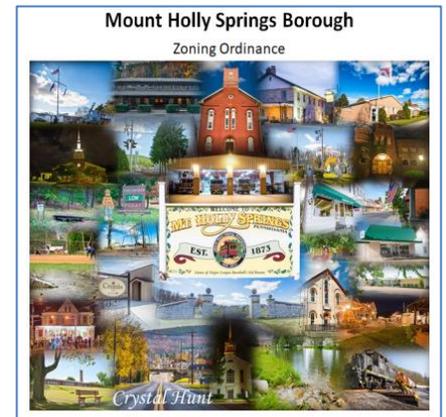
# GROWING...

✓ **Updated County Comprehensive Plan** – The MPC requires all counties to prepare a comprehensive plan and review that plan every 10 years. The plan serves as a policy blueprint for the orderly growth and development of the county. As the assigned caretaker of the County Comprehensive Plan, the CCPC performed a full update of the plan in 2017 with the goal of making the plan shorter, more user friendly, and focused on implementation. The fully electronic plan integrates the most up to date mapping and background information. The County Commissioners formally adopted the plan by resolution on November 30, 2017.



✓ **MPC Reviews** – The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires county planning agencies to review and comment on all municipal subdivision and land development plans, ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans. The CCPC completed over 200 MPC required reviews in 2017, a level of effort consistent with trends over the past 10 years. A summary of growth trends identified through the MPC reviews can be found in a separate document on the CCPC’s website.

✓ **Municipal Assistance** – CCPD staff provides technical assistance to individual municipalities through the Local Planning Assistance Program (LPA). Municipalities commonly use CCPD staff through the LPA Program to update comprehensive plans and ordinances that they otherwise would not have the staff or resources to complete. CCPD staff assisted our municipal partners on four zoning ordinance updates and two comprehensive plans in 2017. The updated plans reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan



✓ **Revitalizing Core Communities** – CCPD staff supported revitalization initiatives in South Middleton Township, East Pennsboro Township, and New Cumberland Borough. South Middleton Township is focusing its efforts on preserving Children’s Lake and the historic character in the Village of Boiling Springs. East Pennsboro Township hopes to spur economic growth by leveraging the assets of the former West Fairview Borough area. New Cumberland Borough is analyzing commercial and residential market trends to attract new businesses to downtown while providing a variety of housing options for new residents.

# CONNECTING...

✓ **County Bridge Program** – The County Commissioners tasks the CCPD with managing the county’s bridge program. The CCPD developed a capital improvement plan (CIP) aimed at repairing and replacing the county’s bridge infrastructure, some of which dates back to the late 1800s. Through CCPD leadership, the historic Green Lane Farm Bridge in Lower Allen Township and Ege Bridge in South Middleton Township received full rehabilitations in 2017. A new 2-lane bridge was built on Zion Road in South Middleton Township while its 1899 steel truss predecessor, Craighead Bridge, was permanently preserved in place.



✓ **Mobility and Safety** – Interstate 81 traverses the center of Cumberland County and serves as a powerful engine for growth locally while playing a vital role in national mobility and commerce. The CCPD initiated a study of Exits 48/49 of I-81 to evaluate options to improve mobility and safety around these half interchanges. Numerous municipalities, the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation, and the United States Army Heritage and Education Center are partnering with the CCPD on the effort.

✓ **Resident Survey** – The CCPD conducted a resident survey to support the development of the 2017 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. The goals, objectives, and strategies of the comprehensive plan reflect the input provided by the nearly 3,000 participants in the survey. The Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University partnered with the CCPD to design, host, and analyze the survey. The Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors provided funding for the effort.

*How can we plan for the future in Cumberland County?*

**Conserve**

- Natural Resources •
- Agricultural Preservation •
- Historic Preservation •

**Grow**

- Housing • Land Use •
- Economic Development •
- Community Facilities •

**Connect**

- Transportation • Stakeholder Engagement •

We need *your input* on the goals and objectives found in the 3 theme areas of the Comprehensive Plan: *Conserve, Grow, and Connect.*

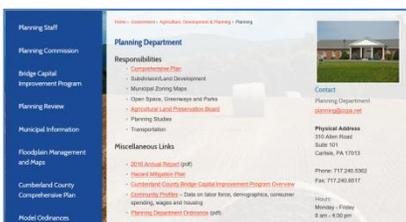
**We Need Your Input!** Take the survey by using the link below or QR code to the right:

[www.centerforlanduse.org/survey](http://www.centerforlanduse.org/survey)

✓ **Training Program** – The CCPD offered a 5-course training series on emerging planning issues designed to improve the capacity and understanding of municipal staff, elected officials, citizen planners and general. Over 150 participants learned about topics including economic development, farmland preservation, short-term rental regulation, the value of conservation, and best practices in subdivision/land development review. CCPD staff and outside experts instructed the training programs.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The CCPC’s website and social media accounts provide more detailed information on the activities of the CCPC as well as a wealth of data on County and municipal growth trends. The images below have live links to the CCPC webpage and Facebook account.



CCPC Website



CCPC Facebook Page