

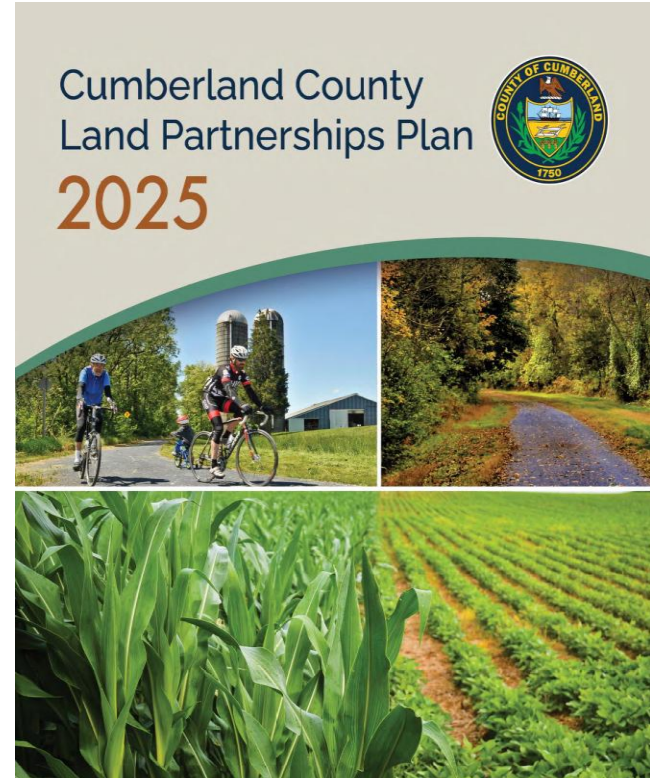
# Land Partnerships Grant Program



PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
Cumberland County

# 2025 Plan Update

- Cumberland County's plan for farmland preservation, natural resource protection and parks, trails & greenways
- Affiliated plan to County Comprehensive Plan
- Relaunch Land Partnerships Grants to encourage plan implementation



# Success to Date: Land Partnerships Grants



12

Land  
Acquisition



92

Park/Trail



31

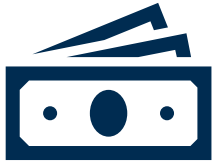
Planning



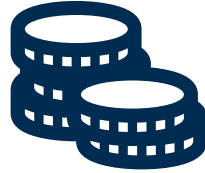
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Water

# Success to Date: Land Partnerships Grants



Total Investment  
\$15.9 M



County Funds  
\$3.2 M



Each County \$1  
Leveraged \$5 in  
Matching Funds

# Eligible Applicants

- Cumberland County municipalities
  - A private entity can partner with a municipality
- Non-Profit with 501(c)3 status

# Major Changes for 2025

- Remove Water Resource Management
- Remove Ordinance Assistance

# Types of Grants

- Land Acquisition
- Parks, Trails and Greenway Development
- Conservation & Recreation Planning

# Land Acquisition

- Eligible expenses:
  - Purchase price of land or easement:
    - Working Farmland
    - Natural Resource Protection
    - Parkland
    - Greenways & Trails
  - Legal Fees, Appraisals, Survey, Title Insurance, etc.
- Applications must include an appraisal
- Land must be restricted in perpetuity
- Public access is desirable
- \$100K Max request



# Park, Trails & Greenway Development

- Eligible expenses:
  - Labor and materials for site improvements and amenities
  - Equipment and capital purchases
  - Design and engineering
- Applications must include quotes or cost estimates from an engineer/architect
- \$100K Max request

# Conservation & Recreation Planning

- Eligible expenses = professional consulting fees for:
  - Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan
  - Park Master Plan
  - Trail Feasibility Study
  - Property Management Plan
- Multi-Municipal plans given funding priority; local match reduced to 30%
- \$25K Max request

# Funding / Awards

- Source: Act 13, Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund
- \$650,000 currently available + pending 2025 allocation (available by July 1, 2026)
- Range of Awards: \$5K - \$75K
- Typical Awards: \$20K - \$40K

# Match

- Generally 50% county - 50% other
- Multi-municipal plans up to 70% county - 30% other
- Match can be federal, state, local, non-profit or private
- Cash and in-kind allowed

# Application Process

- Pre - Application meeting required
  - Site visit, office meeting or phone call depending on the project
- Online Application



## Land Partnerships Grant Program Application

Section 1 - Applicant Information

Section 2 - General Project Information

Section 3 - Proposed Project Budget

Section 4 - Project Narrative

Section 5 - Supplemental Information

Section 6 - Verification of 501(c)(3) Status

Section 7 - Legal Understanding

Legal Name of Lead  
Applicant\*

Federal Employer ID  
Number\*

Applicant Mailing Address\* Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Phone Number\*

Website\*

Project Coordinator\*

Title\*

# Project Narrative - 4 pages max

- Description of the project including schedule
- Consistency with Comprehensive Plan
- Consistency with Land Partnerships Plan
- Consistency with other local, regional, state plans
- Benefits of the project

# Other Planning Studies to Reference

- PA Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Growing Outdoor Recreation for PA
- PFBC Strategic Plan for Fishing & Boating
- PA Wildlife Action Plan (PGC)
- HATS Active Transportation Plan
- Conodoguinet Creek Trail Feasibility Study
- Municipal Comprehensive Plans



# Grant Evaluation

- Consistency of the project with:
  - County Comprehensive Plan/Cumberland Principals
  - Land Partnerships Plan
    - ✓ Priority projects identified in Plan
    - ✓ Open space preservation including new parks
    - ✓ Connective trails
  - Other State/Regional/Local Plans
- Benefits to the implementing community and county as a whole
- Financial feasibility
- Project readiness

# Schedule

- Two rounds planned
  - Rd 1 Deadline = December 12
  - Rd 2 Deadline = June 26
- Grant awards announced in approximately 90 days

# Land Partnership Plan on Trails

- Outdoor recreation is economic driver
- Trails are good for our health
- Trails help build community/sense of place
- Creating a network of connected trails is a high priority
- Reconvene Cumberland Valley Trail Connections to network and coordinate trail development

# Cumberland Valley Trail Connections

- *An alliance of citizens, organizations, and governments who support the development, connection and promotion of trails in our region as critically important to our quality of life.*
- Goals:
  - Connect trail advocates in order to share knowledge and resources, advocate, and build momentum for trails
  - Build a region wide Cumberland Valley Trail Network, linking users to area resource hubs, and to natural and cultural assets
  - Promote the trail network and support the development of information on trail access and programs
  - Promote health and wellness through active lifestyles

# Potential Members/Partners

- Municipalities
- Trail Organizations
- Health Organizations
- Tourism/Economic Development
- Chamber/Downtown Associations
- Businesses
- Others with an interest in trails !

# Relaunch in 2026

- Primary Focus
  - Networking
  - Education - Ideas/needs?
- Logistics
  - Frequency: 2-3 times year?
  - Location: Carlisle/rotating/site visits?
  - Date/Times: TBD based on group?