

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

C u m b e r l a n d   C o u n t y

310 Allen Road  
Suite 101  
Carlisle, PA 17013

## PLANNING COMMISSION

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 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:

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

## Mission and Vision

**Mission:** The Cumberland County Planning Commission partners with our urban, suburban, and rural communities to implement plans that promote economic development, provide more housing and transportation choices, and protect clean air, land, and water.

**Vision:** Securing Cumberland County's future through collaboration, innovation, and planning excellence.

## 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.

### 2022 Planning Commission Members

Heather Sweitzer, Chairwoman

James D. Ross

George Tyson

Matt Fisher, PE

Tracey Vernon

Timothy Johnson, PE

Brenda Landis

Edward Franco

Joseph Zume

Jean Foschi, Commissioner Liaison

### 2022 Planning Department Staff

Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning

Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager

Steve Hoffman, Planning Manager

Elizabeth Grant, AICP, Planning Specialist

Justin Miller, Recycling Coordinator

Mark Kimmel, Planning Technician

Jessica Cohick, Office Manager



## 2022 In Review

Highlights of the CCPC's 2022 accomplishments are summarized below according to the three major themes found in the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan; conserve, grow, and connect.

### Conserve

#### ◆ **Clean Water Cumberland Countywide Action Plan -**

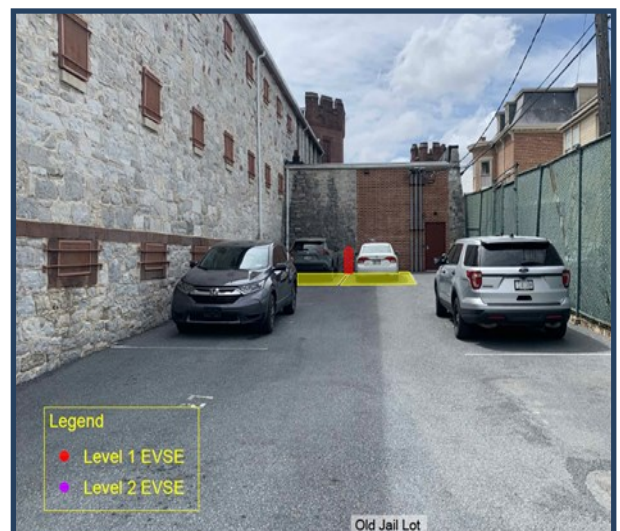
The CCPD continued its leadership of the Cumberland County Clean Water Action Plan. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided \$283,000 in 2022 for ongoing water quality improvement projects. Since the program's inception nearly \$1.7 million of funding has been leveraged for water quality improvements. Projects such as conservation landscaping, riparian buffers, barnyard improvements, stream bank stabilization, and conservation planning have reduced 1 million pounds of nitrogen and 36,000 pounds of phosphorus pollutant loadings to county waterways. To date, the county has achieved 37% of its nitrogen reduction goals and 38% of its phosphorus reduction goals.



- #### ◆ **Land Partnerships** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenway projects that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$266,607 for 9 projects in 2022. Since its inception in 2006, the program has funded over 137 projects and leveraged \$13.2 million for conservation and recreation initiatives. Implementation of those projects enables the county to achieve its conservation goals through partnerships with other stakeholder organizations.

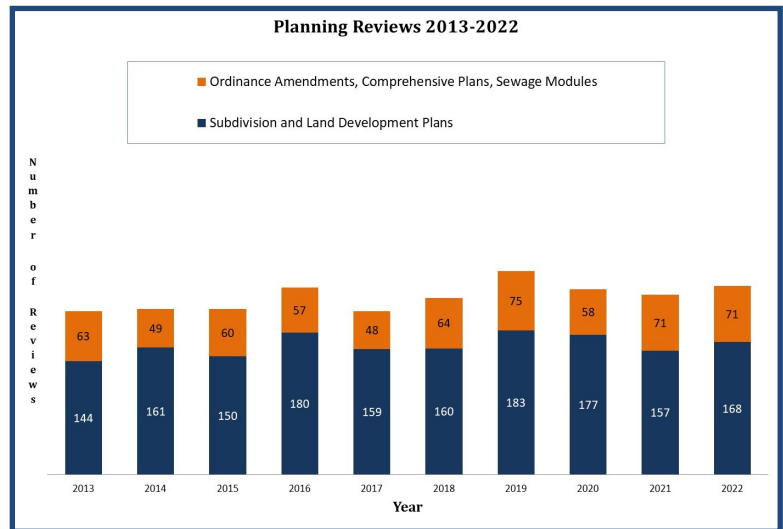
- #### ◆ **Climate Action Plan Implementation** - Cumberland County pursued several implementation projects from the 2021 Climate Action Plan. The CCPC in conjunction with the Facilities Department analyzed opportunities for conversion of the county's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. The county applied to a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant program to purchase electric vehicles and install charging infrastructure at centrally located county facilities.

The county also conducted a feasibility study for ground and rooftop mounted solar panels on county facilities. The study found that a 10-15 acre ground mounted solar array may be able to offset energy usage for county facilities in the Claremont Road area. Implementation consideration is ongoing.



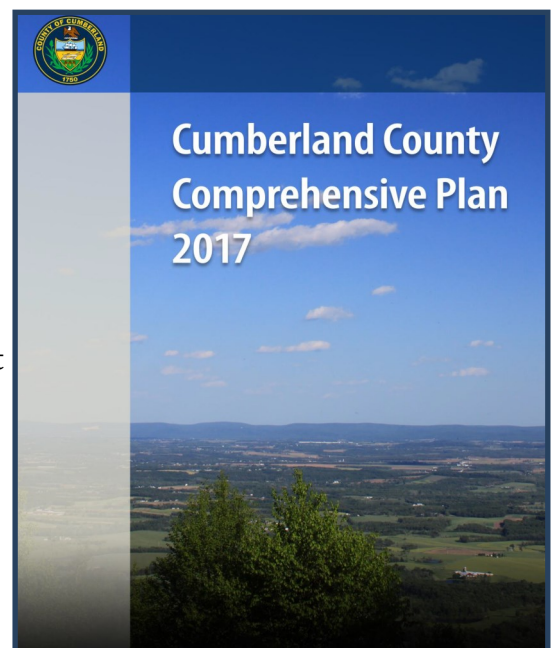
# Grow

- ◆ **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 220 MPC required reviews in 2022, a pattern that has been consistent over the past 10 years. Growth trend data summarized from these plans can be found on the CCPC website.



- ◆ **Municipal Technical and Financial 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 provided assistance to 12 municipal partners in 2022 to complete updates to zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, comprehensive plans and special studies. In addition, the CCPC awarded \$40,000 of grants through its Cumberland Plans Program that provides financial resources to municipalities to update local planning documents. The final products from financial and technical assistance projects reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.

- ◆ **Comprehensive Plan Update** — The CCPC received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to update the 2017 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. The plan update will include an enhanced future land use map that will provide visual and technical guidance on the County's recommended smart growth policies. The plan update will be completed in early 2024.



# Connect

- ◆ **County Bridge Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**– Cumberland County completed its County Bridge CIP in December of 2022 with the opening of Hertzler Bridge in Lower Frankford Township. Started in 2015, the CIP included \$40 million of repairs on 18 county bridges over the course of 7 years.



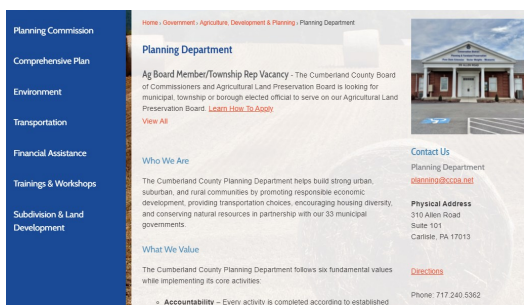
- ◆ **Infrastructure Investments** – Cumberland County received \$49 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in Covid-19 recovery efforts. The County Commissioners created a grant program to invest the funds in mental health, municipal infrastructure, nonprofits, and business assistance. The CCPC administered over \$7 million of grant funding that will upgrade municipal sewer, water, and stormwater infrastructure.

- ◆ **I-83 Tolling** – Cumberland County joined nine West Shore municipalities to file a successful preliminary injunction for PennDOT’s major bridge tolling proposal that included the I-83 South Bridge over the Susquehanna River. CCPC staff provided testimony in Commonwealth Court on the economic, transportation and safety impacts of the proposal that ultimately led to the court granting the injunction. Later, the courts invalidated the entire tolling initiative as PennDOT failed to follow legislatively required processes for bridge tolling.



## 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](#)