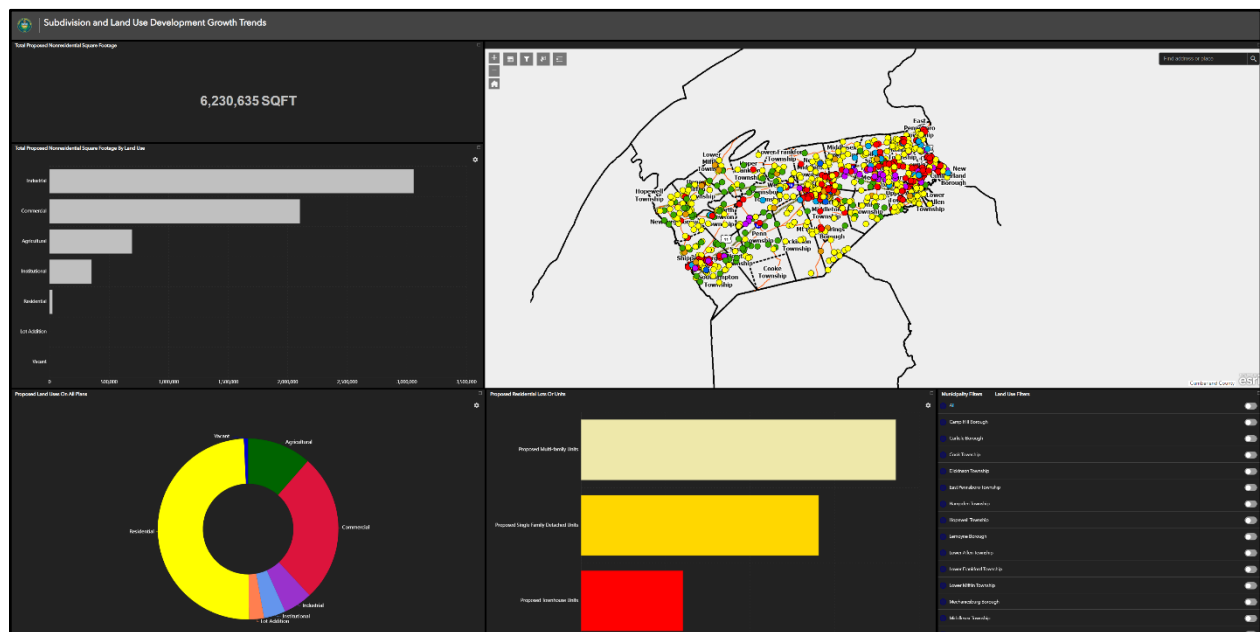## History of Growth Trends

The Cumberland County Planning Department has entered growth figures into a database since 2008. Until 2019, the data was provided by hand-written plan applications and manually entered in the database by the planning department staff. Likewise, the annual growth trends report, written by the planning department required data entry to show the charts and graphs depicting trends in land development.

Beginning in 2019, the planning department began to require electronic plan submissions using an online application. Using the application, submission data was automatically captured and stored into a database. While a review of the submission data is still required, the process became much more efficient and accurate.

Along with the new electronic plan submission, the planning department began to require additional information for each plan submission. The latitude and longitude provide an exact location for each plan. In addition, the applicant must provide a proposed square footage of nonresidential buildings. With the information collected, the planning department was able to locate and track both nonresidential growth (square footage) and residential growth (dwelling units).

The planning department began to work with the Cumberland County IMTO department and the GIS department to create tools and applications to demonstrate growth and development using the information in the database. The result of this work is access to current growth and development trends at any time. The image below includes plan submitted from 2019 – April of 2024 (Cumberland County Subdivision and Land Use Development Growth Trends: https://gis.ccpa.net/growthtrends/).
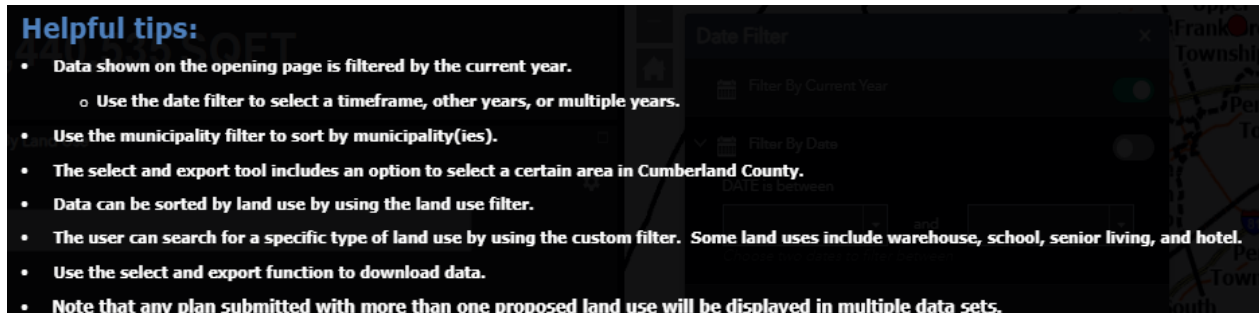
Using the Subdivision and Land Use Growth Trends website

When you open the growth trends website, the following splash screen appears. It includes several tools to assist the user.
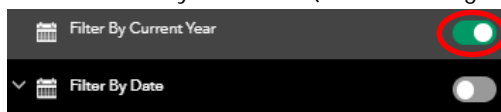

When you open the page, plan and growth information are automatically shown based on the **current year**. Every submission from January 1 – current date is displayed.

- The 'Date Filter' will pop up. You may enter a date range to see more information or close the pop up. If you choose to enter a date range, be sure to turn off the 'current year' tab and turn on the 'filter by date' tab (look for the green buttons)

- After closing the date filter, several icons are displayed on the map
  - o Date Filter. Use this to show data from a specified date range.

  - o Custom Filter. The user can enter a word to search in the plan purpose statement. Typical examples of a search words include 'warehouse', 'school', and 'hotel'.
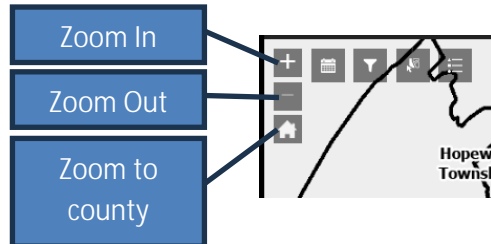
o   Select and Export. Use this to select a certain area within Cumberland County. For example, a user may want to see the growth in the Shippensburg area.
      ▪   Users may also download data and see statistics using this tool.
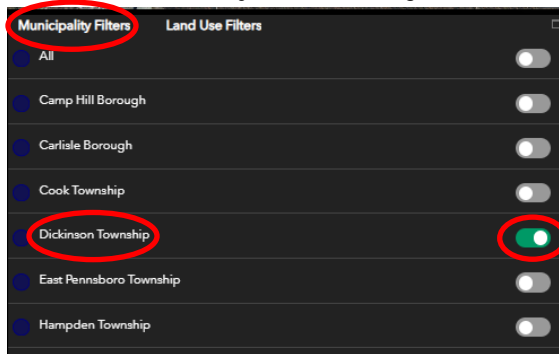

o   Map Legend. This button displays the map legend.

o   Other useful tools:

- The user may also sort the data provided based on municipalities, land uses, or both! For example, a user may want to see growth trends in Dickinson Township.

- You may also use the same table to sort by a type of land use. A user may want to see industrial growth trends.