

CUMBERLAND COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Cumberland County

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.

2023 Planning Commission Members

Heather Sweitzer, Chairwoman

James D. Ross

George Tyson

Matt Fisher, PE

Tracey Vernon

Timothy Johnson, PE

Fred Reddig

Edward Franco

Mike Snyder

Jean Foschi, Commissioner Liaison

Ian Thompson, Student Member

2023 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

2023 In Review



Highlights of the CCPC's 2023 accomplishments are summarized below according to the three major themes found in the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan; conserve, grow, and connect.

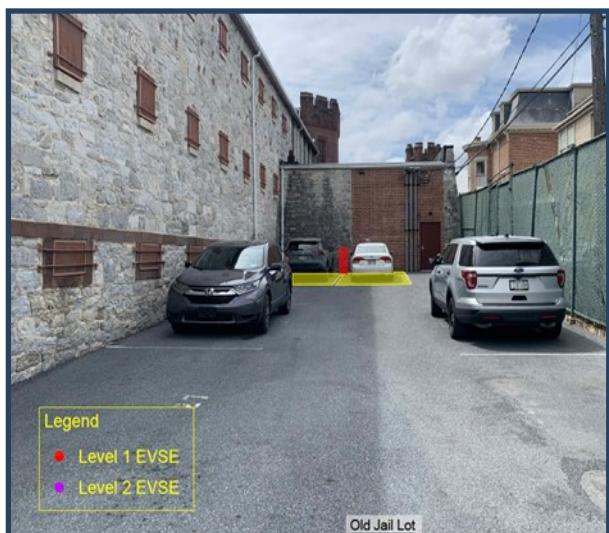
Conserve

- ◆ **Clean Water Cumberland Countywide Action Plan** - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided \$570,360 in 2023 for practices to improve water quality such as fencing for rotational grazing, in-stream and streambank restoration projects. When combined with prior years' funding allocations, this amounts to more than \$2.2 million in funding that has been leveraged for water quality improvements with the Cumberland County Planning Department and Clean Water Action Plan team.
- ◆ **Land Partnerships** - The Planning Department initiated an update of the Land Partnerships Plan in 2023. The plan, which was last updated in 2013, focuses establishes a countywide strategy for farmland preservation, open space, parks, and trails. The plan should be completed in 2024 and will be integrated into the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. The project is funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Act 13, Marcellus Shale fees.
- ◆ **Climate Action Plan Implementation** - Cumberland County made strides towards implementing major initiatives of the Climate Action Plan by applying for and receiving funds to replace an initial grouping of 8 vehicles and install 2 charging stations to power these county vehicles that serve adult and juvenile probation, conservation district and facilities management. CCPD facilitated applications to Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant and the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant so that \$347,503 could be secured for these projects.



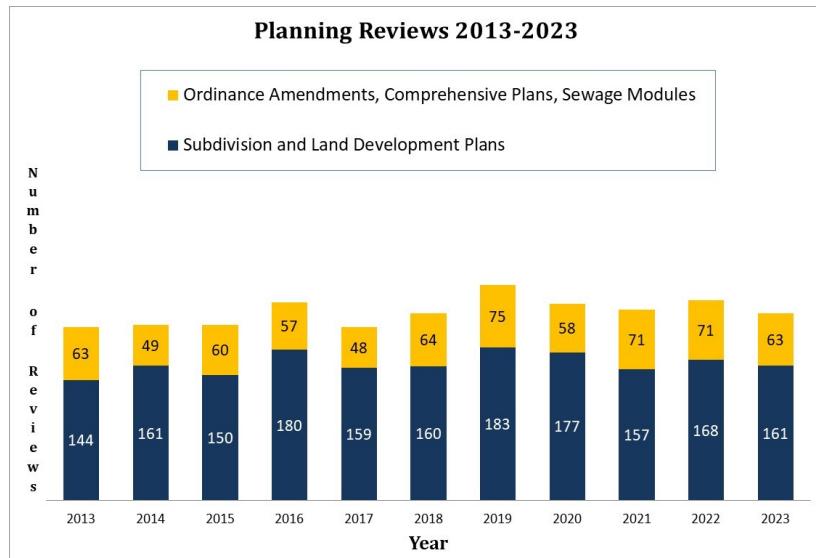
In addition, CCPD staff made modifications to a model ordinance on grid scale solar development to enable municipalities to incentivize solar development in appropriate areas by providing voluntary conservation measures for sensitive landscape features including prime agricultural soils. This ordinance was presented at a conference at Shippensburg University.

CCPD staff also participate in a climate resilience planning workgroup with Dickinson College and Carlisle Borough to enhance coordination around mitigation and adaptation strategies the county faces with respect to the impacts of climate change.



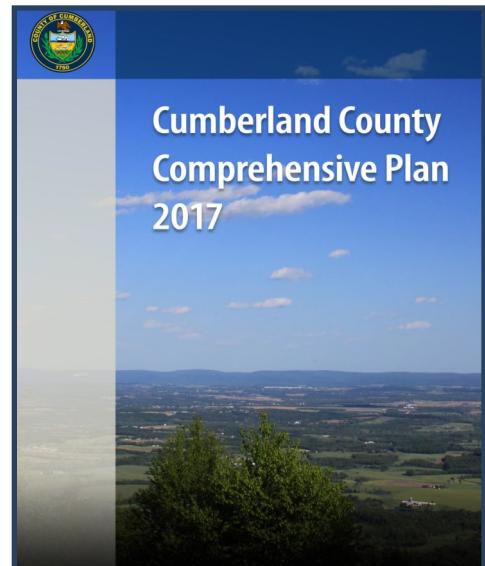
Grow

- ◆ **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 2023, a pattern that has been consistent over the past 11 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 13 municipal partners in 2023 to complete updates to zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, comprehensive plans and special studies. In addition, the CCPC awarded \$45,000 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 started an update of the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan in 2023. The updated plan will be based upon the “Cumberland Principles”, eight planning concepts that define effective planning. An updated future land use map will enable users to see renderings of the Cumberland Principles in practice and identify the characteristics of preferable future land use patterns.



Connect

- ◆ **Cumberland County Connects (3C)**— The county completed its bridge capital improvement plan (CIP) in 2022 with \$40 million of investment on 19 county-owned bridges over 7 years. With the completion of the CIP, the County Commissioners approved the 3C Program in 2023 that invests the county's \$5 Local Use Fee in municipally owned infrastructure. 2023 highlights of the 3C Program include:
 - Small bridges — began inspections of 145 municipal bridges under 20' long, many of which have unknown structural condition.
 - Poor conditioned bridges — secured funding for 4 municipally owned “poor” conditioned bridges with county-led project delivery.
 - Municipal roads program — conceptual approval of a program to invest in municipally owned roadways.
- ◆ **I-81 Improvements** — The Planning Department worked with PennDOT and the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study to kickoff engineering for improvements on I-81 from Exit 47 to Exit 49. The project includes adding auxiliary lanes that will decrease speed differentials and traffic weaving, the primary causes of crashes in that location. The project is anticipated to be completed by 2030.
- ◆ **Municipal Outreach Meetings** — The Planning Department held 4 Outreach meetings with municipal partners to discuss issues of mutual interest. Topics discussed in 2023 included the County Comprehensive Plan update, Short Term Rentals, improvements to the plan review process and grant writing.



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.

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Planning Department

[Ag Board Member/Township Rep Vacancy](#) - The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and Agricultural Land Preservation Board is looking for municipal, township or borough elected official to serve on our Agricultural Land Preservation Board. [Learn More](#) [Submit](#)

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Who We Are

The Cumberland County Planning Department helps build strong urban, suburban, and rural communities by promoting responsible economic development, providing transportation choices, encouraging housing diversity, and conserving natural resources in partnership with our 53 municipal governments.

What We Value

The Cumberland County Planning Department follows six fundamental values while implementing its core activities.

» Accountability — Every activity is completed according to established



Cumberland County, PA - Planning/Recycling & Waste Department

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