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## Chapter 7

# Parks, Greenways, and Trails

## Introduction

Some of the most beautiful and important lands and water areas in Cumberland County are the parks, trails, forests, streams, and game lands used for outdoor recreation. This section of *Land Partnerships* assesses park resources in Cumberland County by type and size for present and projected future needs. The purpose is to ensure that Cumberland County, its municipalities and other organizations secure enough of the right kind of land to provide the scale and nature of parks countywide for present and future generations.

### Parks & Natural Areas of Cumberland County

Cumberland County has a variety of parks and natural areas managed at the federal, state, county and local levels of government. Combined, they offer the people who live and visit Cumberland County a variety of year-round recreation opportunities. Table 7-1 presents a summary of parks and natural areas in Cumberland County.

Park systems are composed of an interrelated network of park types and park providers. In Cumberland County, municipal parks are the foundation of the park system, providing for active, close-to-home recreation needs. These include recreation facilities for scheduled organized activities as well as places for citizens to play and relax at their own discretion. County facilities are usually resource based parks that people visit for several hours to a day or even overnight if there are camping facilities. State parks are natural resource based parks that are significantly larger than county parks which people visit for a day as well as for overnight stays. State game lands, forests, and fish and boat areas are primarily focused on natural resources but often provide visitors with limited recreational opportunities. Federal parks have national natural, historical or military significance as units of the National Park Service.

**Table 7-1**  
**Parks and Natural Areas of Cumberland County**

Feature	Acreage
Appalachian Trail	2,734
Michaux State Forest	34,882
Tuscarora State Forest	4,988
Colonel Denning State Park	273
Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center	1,454
Pine Grove Furnace State Park	696
State Game Land #169	2,499
State Game Land #170	333
State Game Land #230	883
State Game Land #305	730
Fish & Boat Commission Facilities	815
Mount Holly Marsh Preserve	913
Municipal Park and Recreation Facilities	2,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,260</b>

Source: 2003 Comprehensive Plan, 2005 CCPC Park and Recreation Survey

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## Federal Resources

There are no traditional national parks in Cumberland County; however, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail traverses the County. The Appalachian Trail is a federal facility, operated under the auspices of the National Park Service in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as well as local maintenance clubs. The Appalachian Trail spans 46.5 miles within the County and includes 2,734 acres of public land. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is the world's longest foot trail, extending from Maine to Georgia and covering approximately 2,168 miles.

Within Cumberland County, the Appalachian Trail begins in the northeastern section of the county along the Blue Mountain ridgeline in Middlesex Township, crosses the valley to South Mountain and follows along the mountain until it exits into Franklin County at the southwestern corner of the county. The trail crosses through Michaux State Forest and Pine Grove Furnace State Park and is marked by white blazed signs.

## State Resources

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania manages thousands of acres of parkland and natural areas in Cumberland County via the Bureau of Forestry, Bureau of State Parks, Fish and Boat Commission and Game Commission.

**Bureau of Forestry** - There are two State Forest areas in Cumberland County. State Forests are mandated to provide a continuous supply of timber, lumber, wood, and other forest products; to protect watersheds and conserve water; regulate rivers and stream flow, and to furnish opportunities for healthful public recreation.

The Michaux State Forest consists of more than 85,000 acres and is located within Adams, Franklin, and Cumberland counties, with approximately 34,882 acres in Cumberland County alone. The forest is managed for many uses, including timber and wood products, but is better known as a source of potable water for many of the local communities. Recreational opportunities include: hunting, cold and warm water fishing, primitive camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and snowmobiling.

The Tuscarora State Forest consists of 91,165 acres and is located within Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry counties. Approximately 4,988 acres of the forest are located in northwestern Cumberland County. Recreational opportunities at the park include: cold water fishing and boating, hiking, sightseeing, hunting, snowmobiling, bicycling, cross-country skiing and picnicking.

**Bureau of State Parks** - Cumberland County has three State Parks. State Parks are natural resource based parks offering major outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities suitable for whole day and overnight park

### Go Figure!

#### Cumberland County has approximately:

- 2,060 acres of municipal parkland
- Nearly 200 miles of trails
- 52,000 acres of passive parkland and natural areas including:
  - 2,734 acres of federal land
  - 39,870 acres of State Forest
  - 2,423 acres of State Park Areas
  - 4,445 acres of State Game Lands
  - 815 acres of Fish & Boat Commission Areas
  - 913 acres of County land

visitation. They encompass several hundred acres at minimum and draw visitors from as far away as an hour travel time or more depending on the nature of the facilities and the quality of the resources.

Colonel Denning State Park is located in north-central Cumberland County. The park includes 273 acres of woodland nestled at the side of a mountain and a 3.5-acre scenic lake. Recreation opportunities include: swimming, fishing, 18 miles of hiking trails, hunting, camping, picnicking, environmental education, cross-country skiing and ice skating. Colonel Denning State Park is also a trailhead for the Tuscarora Trail.

Pine Grove Furnace State Park is located in the heart of Michaux State Forest in southern Cumberland County. This park was once the site of the Pine Grove Furnace Iron Works that dates from 1764 and operated for over 100 years. Historical buildings remain at the park and can be enjoyed through a self-guided historical trail. This 696-acre park centers on the 25-acre Laurel Lake and the 1.7-acre Fuller Lake. Recreational opportunities include: camping, organized group tenting, swimming, boating, picnicking, fishing, environmental education, hunting, bicycling, ice skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking. In addition, both the Appalachian Trail and Cumberland Hiker-Biker Trail pass through the park.

Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center sits astride South Mountain on 1,454 acres of forest and strives to educate visitors about the natural world and the critical environmental issues currently facing society. The programs offered by the center not only educate visitors about environmental issues but also give the visitors a better appreciation for and an increased enjoyment of the outdoors. There are three main areas of the park: the Pine Plantation Day Use Area, the Pond Day Use Area, and the Mansion Day Use Area. These areas are connected by sixteen miles of hiking trails that can be enjoyed by hikers of all skill levels.

**Game Commission** - There are four State Game Lands (#169, #170, #170A, #230 and #305) located within Cumberland County, covering a total of 4,445 acres. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is responsible for managing these lands and does so through wildlife management, wildlife law enforcement, land management and informational and educational programs. The primary purpose of state game lands is to preserve wildlife habitat and provide for public hunting and fur taking. Additional recreational uses, including the development of hiking trails, are allowed when they are compatible with wildlife values and Pennsylvania Game Commission management programs.

**Fish & Boat Commission** - The Fish & Boat Commission maintains and/or owns 815 acres in Cumberland County, including Opossum Lake, Children's Lake, Big Spring Fish Culture Station and Greenway, Huntsdale Fish Culture Station

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and several boat access points. The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is to provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources.

### County Resources

Cumberland County does not operate a traditional county park system. The County owns the Mount Holly Marsh Preserve and is responsible for the Cumberland County Biker-Hiker Trail.

The Mount Holly Marsh Preserve is an important natural area. The Nature Conservancy, working with local government officials and citizens, raised funds to purchase the 913 acre Mount Holly Preserve. In March 1992, The Nature Conservancy donated the preserve to Cumberland County as the county's first dedicated open space. The Conservancy continues to manage the core 200-acre wetland. Hiking is permitted. Fishing is allowed only along certain designated points on Mountain Creek, which borders the wetland, and hunting is permitted on the 700-plus acres of remaining wooded preserve.

### Municipal Resources

Municipal parks are the close to home recreation facilities that provide for the daily needs of the citizenry. They range in size from quarter acre mini-parks to large community parks with 100 acres or more. Approximately, 2,060 acres of municipal parkland is available in Cumberland County. Appendix E provides a detailed listing of municipal parks and recreation facilities throughout the County.

### Non-Profit Resources

Numerous non-profit organizations own and manage parks and natural areas throughout the County. These organizations supplement state and local efforts and are an important partner in land preservation. The following organizations have preserved land in Cumberland County: Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council, Pennsylvania Audubon Society, Appalachian Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, Natural Lands Trust and the Letort Regional Authority.

## Municipal Park and Recreation Management

As stated previously, municipal parks are the foundation of Cumberland County's park and recreation system. As such, municipalities will be vital partners in achieving *Land Partnerships* park and recreation goals. Table 7-2 presents acres of park and recreation land by municipality. Table 7-2 also shows the organizational operating structure for each municipality for park and recreation.

The municipalities of Cumberland County have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing park and recreation facilities

**Table 7-2**  
**Municipal Park and Recreation Acreages**  
**2005**

Municipality	Population (Projected)	Total Land Area (acres)	Municipal Park/ Recreation Acreage	Parks and Recreation Operations Structure
<b>Cumberland County</b>	<b>238,347</b>	<b>352,296</b>	<b>2059.95</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Eastern Region (10)</b>	<b>118,566</b>	<b>39,212</b>		
Camp Hill Borough	7,819	1,343	104	Director & Board
East Pennsboro Township^	20,460	6,897	197.92	Director & Board
Hampden Township	28,098	11,442	161.5	Director & Board
Lemoyne Borough	4,189	1,020	35	West Shore Recreation Commission
Lower Allen Township	19,085	6,633	174.91	West Shore Recreation Commission
Mechanicsburg Borough	9,538	1,541	65	Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation
New Cumberland Borough	7,522	1,099	33.5	West Shore Recreation Commission
Shiremanstown Borough	1,577	190	3	Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation
Upper Allen Township^	17,584	8,535	129.32	Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation
Wormleysburg Borough	2,694	512	12	Board
<b>Central Region (8)</b>	<b>79,002</b>	<b>134,806</b>		
Carlisle Borough	19,134	3,527	152.5	Director & Board
Dickinson Township	5,470	29,458	20	Board
Middlesex Township^	7,605	16,613	130	Director & Board
Monroe Township^	6,157	16,842	40.28	Board
Mount Holly Springs Borough	2,089	929	37	Board
North Middleton Township	11,301	15,062	80	Director & Board
Silver Spring Township^	12,375	20,992	183.7	Director & Board
South Middleton Township^	14,871	31,382	297.25	Director & Board
<b>Western Region (15)</b>	<b>39,777</b>	<b>178,278</b>		
Cooke Township	150	12,713	0*	None
Hopewell Township	2,424	17,808	31.34	Board
Lower Frankford Township	2,099	9,598	0	None
Lower Mifflin Township	1,836	15,295	0**	None
Newburg Borough	409	118	0	None
Newville Borough	1,440	274	21.73	Director & Board
North Newton Township	2,480	14,622	0	None
Penn Township	3,223	18,991	7	Board
Shippensburg Borough^	4,804	840	40	Shippensburg Area Recreation & Park Commission
Shippensburg Township	4,931	1,617	26	Board
Southampton Township^	4,662	33,011	50	Board
South Newton Township	1,707	7,318	0	None
Upper Frankford Township	2,063	12,554	0	None
Upper Mifflin Township	1,571	14,146	0	None
West Pennsboro Township	5,978	19,375	27	Board

\* Location of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

^ Have adopted park, recreation and open space plan

\*\* Location of Colonel Denning State Park

Source: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Municipal Recreation Facilities Survey (1996) and Update (2005).

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for the community. Twenty-six of 33 municipalities have at least one park within their boundaries. Currently, there are over 130 municipal parks, which encompass approximately 2,060 acres of land. In addition, 18 of 33 municipalities have a park and recreation professional on staff or coordinate with a regional park and recreation organization to administer recreation programs. Three regional recreation organizations exist in Cumberland County: Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation, Shippensburg Area Recreation and Park Commission and the West Shore Recreation Commission.

### **Regional Recreation Organizations**

**Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation** – includes Mechanicsburg Borough, Shiremanstown Borough, Upper Allen Township and Mechanicsburg Area School District.

**Shippensburg Area Recreation and Park Commission** – includes Shippensburg Borough, Southampton Township (Franklin County), and Shippensburg Area School District.

**West Shore Recreation Commission** – includes Fairview, Lower Allen and Newberry Townships, Goldsboro, Lemoyne, Lewisberry and New Cumberland Boroughs and the West Shore School District.

### **Park Classification**

Determining the type, size and nature of active recreation facilities is strictly a local decision. It is up to the municipalities to plan for their own park and recreation systems for close-to-home active recreation. Municipalities can do this on their own or in partnership with neighboring communities to take advantage of the benefits of regional recreation.

A park classification system for Cumberland County is provided in Appendix E. The park classification system defines the various types and characteristics of parks. This system is based upon the standard classification system set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Parks are classified by location, access, acreage, natural resources, and types of facilities. The municipalities and the County can use this system to plan, establish and enhance their own parks. The classification system serves as a guideline not a mandate.

Not every type of park has to be in every community. Municipalities can create the type of park system that will meet the needs of their community as well as to provide a legacy of parks for future generations. One community might decide to have a park in every neighborhood while another community may decide that only central, community parks will be developed to meet the needs of residents. Obtaining an adequate amount of parkland for current and future generations is critical. Planning for 10 to 30 years is essential.

## Need for Municipal Parkland

The existing protected federal, state, and county lands of Cumberland County are primarily natural resource based. They were established on lands where the quality of the natural or cultural resource is so important or of such a large scale that only the governmental organizations at the national, state or county levels have the funding to purchase them and the capacity to manage them. In these instances, how much is enough is purely focused on the need to preserve an important natural area. These natural areas provide limited, passive recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, hunting and camping.

Municipal parkland serves an entirely different purpose than natural resource based facilities. Municipal recreation areas provide for the day-to-day, close to home active, recreation opportunities. Municipal parks provide amenities such as baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis, playgrounds and paved walking trails suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have developed standards for local active parkland. In 1971, the accepted minimum standard was established at 10.5 acres per 1,000 populations. This standard has been evolving based upon the major trends in recreation over the last 30 years marked by new recreational pursuits and increasing participation that necessitate additional parkland. Updated NRPA guidelines in 1996 encourage municipalities to tailor their standards to meet recognized recreation needs.

### Parks Matter in Cumberland County

- 90% of survey respondents indicated that parkland was an important form of open space to them.
- 89% agreed that parks improve the quality of life in Cumberland County.
- 70% stated that parks are an appropriate use of public funds.

Source: *Land Partnerships* Public Opinion Survey, Fall 2003.

### Municipal Ratio of Parkland Acreage/Population

Based upon the projected 2005 county population of 238,347 and the current total of 2,060 acres of municipal parkland countywide, the de facto countywide parkland standard is 8.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 populations. Using the status quo of 8.6 acres and population projections through 2030, Table 7-3 presents the estimated parkland deficits for 2010 through 2030. In order to simply maintain status quo with an increasing population, approximately 177 acres of parkland will need to be acquired countywide over the next 10 years.

<b>Table 7-3</b> <b>Status Quo</b> <b>Countywide Municipal Parkland Deficit Projections, 2005-2030</b> <i>Based on 8.6 Acres/1,000 Population</i>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population Projections</b>	<b>Status Quo 8.6 Acres/1,000</b>	<b>Deficit Countywide</b>
2005	238,347	2,060	0
2010	249,813	2,148	88
2015	260,144	2,237	177
2020	269,375	2,317	257
2025	277,658	2,388	328
2030	285,089	2,452	392

### Cumberland County Preferences for Parks

Throughout the planning process, enhanced and expanded park and recreation opportunities were identified as a need. County residents voiced a desire for park and recreation opportunities beyond the existing “status quo.” The public opinion survey revealed that 89% of the respondents believe parks improve the quality of life for a community and over 70% believe that parks are an appropriate use of public funds.

In addition, when asked “If Cumberland County could achieve just one thing to improve quality of life for our residents, what would you like that one thing to be?” The most frequent response was related to parks, with approximately 100 park responses. These included: #1 - adding more parks, #2 - creating trails, and #3 - improving existing parks. Other suggestions ranged from more dog parks and playgrounds to places to enjoy nature and socialize.

### Comprehensive Plan Parkland Projections

The 2003 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan adopted the traditional minimum standard of 10 acres per 1,000 populations. Table 7-4 presents the estimated parkland deficits for 2005 through 2030. This minimum standard projects the countywide parkland deficit of 438 acres in 2010 to 791 acres in 2030.

<b>Table 7-4</b> <b>Comprehensive Plan Parkland Goal</b> <b>Countywide Municipal Parkland Deficit Projections, 2005-2030</b> <i>Based on 10 Acres/1,000 Population</i>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population Projections</b>	<b>Goal 10 Acres/1,000</b>	<b>Deficit Countywide</b>
2005	238,347	2,383	323
2010	249,813	2,498	438
2015	260,144	2,601	541
2020	269,375	2,694	634
2025	277,658	2,777	717
2030	285,089	2,851	791

### Model Parkland Community Projections

Many municipalities in Cumberland County have been working towards acquiring additional parkland and developing it to meet community needs. By example, they have set the standard for active recreational parkland in the County by providing adequate parkland for their population level as shown in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5 Cumberland County Municipalities Model Parkland Acreage Standards	
Municipality	Acres of Parkland Per 1,000 Population
South Middleton Township	20
Mount Holly Springs Borough	18
Middlesex Township	17
Silver Spring Township	15
Newville Borough	15
Camp Hill Borough	13
Hopewell Township	13

In following NRPA's recommendation to tailor standards based upon trends, conditions and community needs, Cumberland County could consider a goal of 15 acres per 1,000 as the desired amount of parkland in Cumberland County. Table 7-6 presents the estimated parkland deficits for 2005 through 2030 based on 15 acres per 1,000 populations. The Model Parkland Community goal projects the countywide parkland deficit ranging from 1,687 acres in 2010 to 2,216 acres in 2030.

Table 7-6 Model Parkland Community Goal Countywide Municipal Parkland Deficit Projections, 2005-2030 Based on 15 Acres/1,000 Population			
Year	Population Projections	Goal 15 Acres/1,000	Deficit Countywide
2005	238,347	3,575	1,515
2010	249,813	3,747	1,687
2015	260,144	3,902	1,842
2020	269,375	4,041	1,981
2025	277,658	4,165	2,105
2030	285,089	4,276	2,216

### Trends in Parks and Recreation

Societal trends also influence the parks and recreation needs of the community.

#### Aging

The population is aging, but it is healthier and more active. By 2030, the number of people over the age of 65 in Cumberland County is expected to double. This will increase the need for

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additional recreation facilities. Recreation adds years to life and life to the years.

### Obesity

The United States Surgeon General has identified obesity and the lack of physical activity as the number one public health issue in this country: two thirds of the population is overweight and almost one in three adults is obese. Parks provide residents convenient places for recreation and physical activity.

### Families

In an era where more than one out of two marriages ends in divorce, recreation is one of the “secrets of happy families”. Recreation has been shown to be one of the top factors in creating healthy family bonds.<sup>1</sup> Nearly half of all American families say they spend time together outdoors at least once a month. Recreation is important to families with young children.

### Outdoor Recreation

In 1994, seven out of ten Americans participated in outdoor recreation at least once annually. By 2000, participation had increased to eight out of ten. Today, two thirds of all Americans recreates outdoors monthly while in 1994 only half did.

### Organized Sports

Organized sports are proliferating. Participants are engaged year-round rather than for just one season. New league sports such as lacrosse are emerging. Participation is increasing at both older and younger ages. Also, more females are playing sports. In 1976, fewer than one out of 27 girls played high school sports. In 1996, about one out of three did. Additional parkland for ball fields and game courts are necessary to accommodate those needs.

### Cumberland County Greenways

The greenway network proposed for Cumberland County creates a grid-like web of linear green spaces throughout the County. Greenways can take many forms; some will be corridors of protected natural areas, or corridors that include a footpath for exploring nature, while others can be developed primarily as commuter or recreation trails. The ridge and valley characteristics of the County promote east-west corridors that follow streams, rail corridors, and ridge lines. The conceptual system of major and minor greenways provides a comprehensive network of greenways connecting the entire County and providing greenway opportunities near all citizens of Cumberland County.

### Fishing for Jobs

Annually, \$4.7 billion in Pennsylvania's economy is generated through the fishing industry. The fishing industry employs over 43,000 Pennsylvanians.

Source: Green Space Alliance. 2005. Fishing for Jobs: When will Pennsylvanian's Realize that Outdoor Recreation is Vital to Our Bottom Line? <http://www.greenspacefun.org/conservation/conservation2.html>. Accessed July 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Niven David. 2004. 100 Secrets of Happy Families. NY: Harper Collins.

The *Conceptual Greenway Map (Map 7-1)* illustrates these greenways. The greenway corridors build upon the recommendations of the Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study, 2000. This study identified natural and manmade resources that contribute to greenway development and recommended eight regional greenways. The ridges along Blue Mountain and South Mountain Ridge were added. The ten greenways are:

1. Conodoguinet Creek Greenway
2. Yellow Breeches Creek Greenway
3. Cumberland Valley Trail Greenway
4. Appalachian Trail Greenway
5. Big Spring Creek/Doubling Gap Creek Greenway
6. Letort Spring Run/Mountain Creek/Hiker/Biker Trail Greenway
7. Trindle Spring Run/Trolley Line Greenway
8. Susquehanna River Greenway
9. Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway is part of a regional greenway that runs over 200 miles from northern New Jersey, through central Pennsylvania and Cumberland County, to the Maryland state line. This corridor is important for its wildlife habitat and ecological value.
10. South Mountain/Highlands Greenway is located along the South Mountain ridge and aligns, in part, with the Appalachian Trail Greenway. The corridor is part of the multi-state Highlands Greenway that stretches from Virginia through eastern Pennsylvania through New Jersey and New York to northwest Connecticut, linking the Berkshires and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

These corridors are designated as major greenway corridors on the Conceptual Greenway Map. Major corridors are principal corridors of “regional significance”. The major corridors connect “hub components” and provide linkage opportunities. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has designated three of these greenways as having statewide importance to include: the Appalachian Trail Greenway, the Susquehanna Greenway, and the Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway (Tuscarora Trail).

Minor greenways are shown which extend the greenway network throughout the County along secondary corridors. Minor corridors are similar to a major corridor except that their reach and extent are limited to significant inter-municipal connections.

Minor greenways interconnect with the major greenways, creating loops and extending the function and benefits of the greenway beyond the regional greenway corridors. The 10 minor

**Statewide Greenways in Cumberland County**

- Appalachian Trail
- Blue Mountain/ Kittatinny Ridge Greenway
- Susquehanna Greenway

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greenways identified in the Cumberland County Greenway Study are illustrated on the Conceptual Greenway Map and include:

- Burd Run Greenway - Burd Run is a tributary to Middle Spring Creek which is tributary to Conodoguinet Creek. Burd Run's headwaters are located in South Mountain and the stream flows generally northwest, east of Shippensburg Borough to Middle Spring Creek north of Shippensburg Borough. This minor greenway will connect the Highland south Mountain Greenway to the Cumberland Valley Trail Greenway.
- Middle Spring Creek Greenway - Middle Spring Creek is tributary to the Conodoguinet Creek. The stream originates south of Shippensburg and flows north through the Borough. The Middle Spring Creek Greenway would link Shippensburg Borough, Shippensburg University, and the Cumberland Valley Trail Greenways to the Conodoguinet Creek Greenway.
- Bore Mill Run Greenway - This greenway connects the Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway to the Conodoguinet Creek Greenway along Bore Mill Run. The greenway will traverse State Game Land #169.
- Sears Run Greenway - Sears Run flows south from the Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway through Hampden Township to the Conodoguinet Creek Greenway. The stream crosses under U.S. Route 81.
- Spring Run Greenway - The headwaters of Spring Run are located in the area of State Game Land 230 and flow south through Middlesex Township to the Conodoguinet Creek Greenway, northeast of Carlisle.
- Cedar Run Greenway - Cedar Run is an intermittent tributary to the Yellow Breeches Creek located in Upper Allen Township and flowing east into Lower Allen Township. Cedar Run is classified as a Cold Water Fisheries stream by PA DEP and will connect residential areas south of Mechanicsburg to the Yellow Breeches Greenway.
- Mt. Allen/Spring Run Greenway - Spring Run is a tributary to the Yellow Breeches Creek. This stream has its headwaters in the Mt Allen area of Upper Allen Township and flows east to join the Yellow Breeches Greenway in Lower Allen Township just east of the Upper Allen Township boundary.
- Trout Run Greenway - Trout Run is a small perennial tributary to the Yellow Breeches Creek located on the west side of Upper Allen Township. This stream joins the Yellow Breeches Creek near the village of Grantham. Portions of this stream are protected as part of the Trout

Run Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Center Square Park, and Grantham Park. The stream supports a marginal wild brown trout fishery (Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission data) and connects the Trolley Line Greenway to the Yellow Breeches Greenway.

- Yellow Breeches Creek Headwaters Greenway – The headwaters of the Yellow Breeches Creek within the Michaux State Forest are designated as a minor greenway to connect the South Mountain/ Highland Greenway, the Appalachian Trail Greenway, and the Yellow Breeches Greenway.
- Yellow Breeches Creek to Big Spring Creek Greenway – This minor greenway is designated along roadways (Stoughstown Road, Rt. 11, and Big Spring Road) to functionally link the Big Spring Greenway and the Yellow Breeches Greenway.

The Conceptual Greenway Map identifies Network Hubs and Journey Points which are part of a connected network of community places that are proposed for Cumberland County. Network Hubs provide a multitude of community services including commerce areas, residential areas, schools, parks, churches, service areas, and transportation centers. They serve as primary origination and destinations for the movement of people within greenway corridors.

Journey Points are smaller in scale than Network Hubs yet serve as important focal areas providing important destination and origination and offering additional primary opportunities for access to the greenway network.

Mechanicsburg, Carlisle, and Shippensburg are designated as Network Hubs. They are important areas of origin and destination within the proposed greenways system. The communities of Enola, Wormleysburg, New Cumberland, Camp Hill, Shiremanstown, Boiling Springs, Mt. Holly Springs, Newville, and Newburg are designated as Journey Points.

Greenways typically extend beyond government boundaries due to the character of the resources these corridors are associated with such as streams, abandoned rail lines, and ridge lines. Of the 20 major and minor greenways identified for Cumberland County, eight extend beyond the County boundary. Two of these regional greenway corridors are associated with trails and include:

- Cumberland Valley Trail Greenway
- Appalachian Trail Greenway

The other regional greenways are associated with river, streams, and ridge resources to include:

- Susquehanna River Greenway
- Yellow Breeches Creek Greenway
- Conodoguinet Creek Greenway

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- Middle Spring Creek Greenway
- Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway
- South Mountain/Highland Greenway

Adjacent counties have also identified greenways as part of their planning efforts and the following lists corridors in common between adjacent counties and Cumberland County.

- York County – York County has identified the Yellow Breeches Creek, Susquehanna River, and the South Mountain/Highland greenways as part of their York County Greenways and Open Space Plan. York County has not identified any trails that extend to or near the Cumberland County boundary but does include the Yellow Breeches Water Trail under development.
- Franklin County – The Franklin County Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan identified two trails that connect to Cumberland County: the Appalachian Trail and the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail. This plan also identifies the ridge lines of the Blue Mountain and South Mountain as Greenway/Open Space Conservation Areas.
- Adams County – The Adams County Vision for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan promotes the development of a county-wide greenway system and the County is currently developing a separate greenway plan. Cumberland County and Adams County share a boundary that includes lands of the Michaux State Forest and is designated as the South Mountain/Highland Greenway. The northern boundary of Adams County comes within approximately one-half mile of the Appalachian Trail and Adams County will be exploring opportunities to link trails to this regional long-distance trail.
- Perry County – Perry County and Cumberland County share the border encompassed by the Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge Greenway. The Susquehanna River Greenway extends from Perry County to neighboring Cumberland County.
- Dauphin County – The Susquehanna River lies within Dauphin County and its western shore is the county boundary. Dauphin County does not have a park and open space or greenway plan but has received funding to begin the planning process. The Susquehanna River Greenway is the primary linear corridor that the two counties have in common. Potential connections and linear initiative that also relate to both counties include the Susquehanna

River Water Trail and the recent pedestrian and bicycle accommodations as part of the improvements to the Harvey Taylor Bridge spanning the river. In 1996 the Walnut Street pedestrian bridge, which also spans the river, was damaged and the western leg connecting City Island to Wormleysburg in Cumberland County was destroyed. Efforts are underway to fund reconstruction of the bridge to reconnect the two shores of the river.

Cooperation and partnerships with adjacent counties and municipalities to promote these connections will promote greenway and conservation objectives regionally.

### **Cumberland County Trails**

Cumberland County has nearly 200 miles of trails throughout the County. Trails are the most preferred and used public recreation facility. Walking is the chief form of outdoor recreation in the United States. They are important for tourism as well as for close to home recreation. In addition to recreation, trails offer non-motorized transportation alternatives. Table 7-7 provides a list of major trails in Cumberland County.

#### **Cumberland County Rail Trails**

Rail trails are recreational greenways developed along abandoned railroad lines. Three rail trails exist in Cumberland County. They include the Letort Spring Run Nature Trail, Cumberland Valley Trail and the Cumberland County Biker/Hiker Trail.

**Letort Spring Run Nature Trail** - The Letort Spring Run Nature Trail is a 1.4-mile trail that extends from Letort Park to Bonneybrook Road, Carlisle. The Letort Regional Authority purchased the right of way for the trail from the Reading Railroad in 1974. The scenery along the trail is primarily wooded, with a variety of deciduous trees. The trail is suitable for walking, jogging and cross-country skiing. The trail consists of original ballast and an added amenity along the trail is the excellent trout fishing in the Letort Spring Run. Trailheads are located at Letort Park and Bonneybrook Road.

**Cumberland Valley Trail** - The Cumberland Valley Trail is an 11-mile recreational corridor that extends from Shippensburg to Newville. The trail follows the path of the abandoned Cumberland Valley Railroad, which ran from Harrisburg, PA to Hagerstown, MD. The trail is owned and maintained by the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council, Inc (CVRTC). The CVRTC is a non-profit, volunteer organization established to promote development of multi-use trails in south-central Pennsylvania.

**Table 7 - 7**  
**Trails of Cumberland County**

<b>Trail Name or Location of Trail</b>	<b>Region of County</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>
Maurice Goddard Trail	E	4.5
Adams Ricci Park	E	1.25
Hampden Township Park	E	1.1
Creekview North Recreation Trail	E	1
Lower Allen Township Community Park	E	1
Darlington Trail	E, C	8
Castle Course	C	.5
Spring Meadows Park	C	.75
Center Point Knob	C	2
White Rocks Trail	C	.75
South Middleton Park	C	.8
Fielding Belt Trail	C	2.2
Whittlinger Trail	C	.5
Mount Holly Marsh Preserve	C	2
Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center	C	16
Letort Spring Run Nature Trail	C	1.4
Dickinson Park	C	.5
Thornwald Park	C	.75
Seven Gables Park	C	1.5
Village Park	C	.7
North Middleton Park	C	.5
Carlisle Barricks Golf Course Trail and Army Heritage Trail	C	2
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	C, W	46.5
Tuscarora Trail	W	30
Cumberland County Biker/Hiker Trail	W	5.5
Cumberland Valley Rail Trail	W	11
Colonel Denning State Park	W	18
Pine Grove Furnace State Park	W	4
Buck Ridge Trail	W	6
Michaux State Forest	W	15
State Game Lands #169	W	3
Southampton Township Park	W	.5
Shippensburg Memorial Park	W	.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>190±</b>
E=East C=Central W=West		
Source: Simply Walking: A Guide to Walking and Biking in Cumberland & Perry Counties		

At present, the 11-mile Cumberland Valley Trail is open to the public. 5 miles of the trail corridor (Shippensburg to Oakville) has been developed; including grading, trail surface material and signage. The remainder of the corridor (Oakville to Newville) is under development. The scenery along the trail varies from farmland to woodlands. The trail is ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

The community has expressed interest in seeing the Cumberland Valley Trail continue to Carlisle. In 2005, Cumberland County began development of a feasibility study is to determine the practicality of extending the Cumberland Valley Trail an additional 9 miles from Newville to Carlisle. The abandoned Cumberland Valley Railroad corridor between Newville and Carlisle is utilized by PPL Corporation for utility transmission lines.

The Feasibility Study will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will include a preliminary determination of feasibility based on the status of ownership and the overall support for the project. If the determination is favorable, Cumberland County may authorize completion of Phase II, which includes further assessment of the corridor and development of a conceptual trail plan and implementation strategy. Special consideration shall be given to design and maintenance of the corridor as well as personal safety of trail users given the proposed shared use. If developed, the extension would create a total of 20 miles of trail connecting Carlisle, Newville, Oakville and Shippensburg.

**Cumberland County Biker/Hiker Trail** - The Cumberland County Biker/Hiker Trail is a 5.5-mile trail that extends from Pine Grove Furnace State Park to Mountain Creek Campground along the abandoned railroad that had served the iron-making industry. The scenery along the trail is primarily wooded but also includes the remnants from the iron industry at Pine Grove Furnace. The trail is suitable for walking, jogging, bicycling and cross-country skiing.

At present, approximately 1.5 miles of the Biker/Hiker Trail (between Mountain Creek Campground and Pine Grove Road), is permanently closed due to private property issues. Cumberland County is working with the Michaux State Forest and Mountain Creek Campground to reroute a portion of the trail.

### **Parks, Greenways and Trails (PGT) Strategies**

To achieve Cumberland County's parks, greenways and trails goals, a variety of types of strategies are needed. *Land Partnerships* includes strategies for acquisition and development, planning, promotion and education; together they offer a multi-faceted approach to parks and recreation:

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## Acquisition & Development

- PGT1. Cumberland County should provide funding and technical assistance to assist municipalities and non-profits to acquire and develop parkland and trails to meet the needs of current and future residents through easements, fee simple acquisition and use of an official map.
- PGT2. Cumberland County should provide funding and technical assistance to assist municipalities and non-profits to conserve the 10 County identified greenways for their recreational, cultural and natural resource value.
- PGT3. Cumberland County should coordinate and partner with the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, PA Fish & Boat Commission, York County, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and local municipalities to plan and develop the Yellow Breeches Water Trail.
- PGT4. Cumberland County should coordinate and partner with the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council, municipal partners and private landowners to complete Phase 2 of the Cumberland Valley Trail - Newville to Carlisle Extension feasibility study.
- PGT5. Cumberland County should coordinate and partner with Michaux State Forest, Mountain Creek Campground and other local partners to reroute the location of the Cumberland County Biker/Hiker Trail and enhance trail signage and amenities.
- PGT6. Cumberland County should coordinate and partner with The Nature Conservancy to improve the trail system and parking area at the Mount Holly Nature Preserve.

## Planning

- PGT7. Cumberland County should provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities to develop greenway and open space plans and to update local comprehensive plans to be consistent with *Land Partnerships*. Multi-municipal planning is strongly encouraged.
- PGT8. Cumberland County should encourage and assist municipalities adopt parkland standards and goals consistent with the needs of the community. 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 populations is a recommended minimum standard. 15 acres per 1,000 populations is a recommended goal.

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PGT9. Cumberland County should encourage and assist municipalities develop mandatory dedication or fee in lieu of regulations. Land dedication requirements should ensure the quality and usability of the dedicated land for recreation purposes. Fee requirements should be reviewed regularly to respond to changing land values.

PGT10. Cumberland County should encourage and assist municipalities develop ordinance provisions that require greenway and trail development through the subdivision and land development process.

### Promotion

PGT11. Cumberland County should partner with the Carlisle Area Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (CRANA) to promote parks and trails through the Keystone Active Zone program and to develop a printed guide to parks and trails in Cumberland County.

PGT12. Cumberland County should support and partner with local stakeholders to promote and expand parks, greenways and trails through the County; including, but not limited to the following:

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Local park and recreation boards/commissions
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council
- Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Pennsylvania Park & Recreation Society

### Education

PGT13. Cumberland County should raise public awareness of the benefits of parks, greenways and trails among all facets of the community through educational seminars, workshops, printed materials and website.