



The South Mountain Partnership works best as a network of people and organizations working toward common goals.

Our common goal? Making the future of our region better.

The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

Spring Partnership Meeting and Science Summit Registration is OPEN!

SPRING PARTNERSHIP MEETING & SCIENCE SUMMIT

Shippensburg, PA | April 12, 2024



Twice annually (Spring and Winter), the Partnership holds a **Partnership-wide meeting** for all partners and any interested individuals or organizations to come together and build relationships and collaborations around the promotion and preservation of our region's landscape resources. This event includes breakfast snacks and coffee.

The same afternoon we are excited to host our third **South Mountain Science Summit**. The summit will feature presentations of important research conducted here in the South Mountain Landscape. This is also intended to be a gathering where students, faculty, land managers, planners, and land use professionals can meet, network, and envision the future of science and research in South Mountain.

[REGISTER FOR ONE OR BOTH EVENTS HERE](#)

Winter Meeting Wrap-Up



We enjoyed seeing so many new and familiar faces and getting caught up on the meaningful work happening across the region on the beautiful campus of Gettysburg College. We want to thank [Gettysburg College's Center for Public Service](#) for having us, and the generous support of our two sponsors, [Penn National Community](#) and the [Adams County Trout Unlimited Chapter](#).

We heard from some incredible speakers on a variety of topics. [We have posted the presentations for your reference here.](#)

A couple of final thoughts:

1. Adams County is leading a cross-county conversation on the importance of [broadband internet](#) to connect our communities with the technology they need for a high quality of life. Adams County is updating the Heritage Component of the County Comprehensive Plan. Stay involved to help ensure the preservation, protection, and promotion of historic and cultural resources that are important to you by visiting their [plan website](#) or [reviewing their presentation](#).
2. We are so excited to begin work on our recommended Action Plan projects following the release of our State of the Region Report Card and Final Report. [Access the final report online here](#). These big goals will need all of us working together and we were so excited to learn how you see yourselves in these projects. Please also consider helping us distribute copies of the report card. [Request your free copies here](#).
3. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy demonstrated their new tool "ATLAS IT" (Beta) designed to allow you to quickly and easily identify trustworthy data in PA's A.T. Landscape. Learn more about this in their [presentation](#) or follow up with [Max Olsen](#) with questions or to continue the conversation.

SMP on the "The Spark", "Good Day PA" and More!



Have you heard our interviews on The Spark with Scott LaMar, ABC27's Good Day PA, and the Community Media of South Central PA about our State of the Region report card? We're so grateful to share this important work with their audiences!

Listen to the interviews and what the Report Card reveals in the links below.

The Spark Interview

Community Media of South Central PA Interview

ABC27 Good Day PA Interview

SMP Mini-Grant Pre-Application Deadline: April 26, 2024



Application Packet to be Released March 1 - Mark Your Calendar!

The South Mountain Partnership's Mini-Grant Program is intended to catalyze on-the-ground projects that further the goals of the Partnership, and to advance the capacity of partners to complete projects throughout the region. The Program provides funding, on a competitive basis, to projects that sustain the South Mountain landscape's sense of place by protecting and promoting the region's Landscape Resources.

[Learn More HERE](#)

March Madness "Best View in South Mountain" Photo Contest



What's the best view in South Mountain? During March, we'll hold a bracket competition between images to let the people decide. We are currently accepting photo submissions! Learn more and submit your photo for a chance to have your spot dubbed "Best View in South Mountain."

[Submit your photo HERE](#)

Become a Partner

We are always looking to work with organizations in the community who share our goals! By becoming an official "Partner", you can help support our vision and mission of the Partnership by attending meetings/events, keeping us informed of your organization's related activities and increasing access to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our region to all! Becoming a partner is easy and free! Find more information [here](#).

Partner News

State Park Concession Opportunity



Pine Grove Furnace has two business opportunities for those who enjoy working with the public in an outdoor setting. The Laurel Lake Snack Bar and Watercraft rental concessions are both currently open for bids. These are two separate concessions.

Bids will be opened on February 28, 2024 at 12 pm and must be received and in hand prior to that time. If you desire a tour of the facilities, please contact the Park Manager at 717-486-7174.

[Bid package and more information can be found HERE.](#)

Strawberry Hill's Maple Fest March 2 and 3



Strawberry Hill's
Maple Fest
2024
a reimagined twist on an old classic

One full weekend!
March 2nd & 3rd

Immerse yourself in the history, culture, science, and FUN of maple sugaring while still enjoying a traditional pancake breakfast with friends old and new.

SPACE IS LIMITED!
Purchase your tickets today!

Learn more about this fun educational event and pancake breakfast, supported partially through a 2023 SMP Mini-Grant [here](#).

Michaux Trail Love Weekend May 31 - June 1



Save the date for the 2023 Mini Grant Project, "KTA Trail Love" Weekend in Michaux State Forest. Plan for this event to include fun and hard work as we perform trail care work in the forest.

More Partner News of Note:

- **EXPLORE Act Passes House Natural Resources Committee:** The Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act passed the House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on January 17. The EXPLORE Act is the first-ever outdoor recreation-specific bill package and does not cost taxpayer dollars. It will boost local and national economies, give more Americans—especially those in underserved areas—greater access to green spaces and public lands and waters, while also modernizing policies and procedures to support the recreation businesses that connect people to outdoor experiences. [Read more about the EXPLORE Act and its momentum in Congress.](#)
- **Cumberland Valley Coffee & Chocolate Trail Launched Feb.1:** In its second year, the Cumberland Valley Coffee & Chocolate Trail has returned with 15 participating locations specializing in locally-crafted coffee and chocolate across Cumberland County. You can join in the fun during this FREE event through May 12 to earn prizes and receive discounts along the way at participating locations! Prizes include a keychain, sticker, coffee scoop, and stone car coaster. Sign up today and find more information at VisitCumberlandValley.com.

Employment and Funding Opportunities

We are pleased to share a [Regional Job Board](#). Check back often as positions are listed weekly, like these:

- **West Shore Wildlife Center - Animal Care and Education and Outreach Internships:** Internships are available with the West Shore Wildlife Center for any individual interested in wildlife rehabilitation, animal behavior, zoology, conservation biology, veterinary medicine, animal rescue, animal husbandry, environmental education and non-profit operations.
- **Partnership for Better Health - Executive Director:** The Executive Director works in partnership with the Board of Trustees and staff team to provide leadership, vision and direction for the organization and develop organizational strategies in pursuit of the foundation's mission. **Apply by February 20.**
- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Seasonal Ridgerunner Cumberland Valley:** Ridgerunners provide information about the A.T. and its intended primitive experience, location, regulations, and traditions. They work to encourage the best behavior on the part of hikers to facilitate a positive Trail experience (particularly for those who are poorly prepared), and to elicit the support of those who live nearby. Term Length: Approximately May 13, 2024 to September 2, 2024
- **The Institute - Environmental Educators:** The Institute is searching for two environmental educators/naturalists. The Institute is a non-profit organization serving the region with outdoor programming in environmental and cultural education, and a wide variety of family events. Activities are conducted at various parks and natural areas around the greater Waynesboro area.

Check out our list of [Regional Funding Opportunities](#) to learn more about potential funding sources like this:

- **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants:** The Pennsylvania DCNR is accepting applications through 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024. Community Conservation Partnership Program grants can fund planning, acquisition, and development of public parks, recreation areas, motorized and non-motorized trails, river conservation and access, conservation of open space, and community and watershed forestry. Applications for these grants are accepted once a year.

Events

- **Little Learners Program | Feb. 21 @ 10 a.m. | Friends of Kings Gap:** The Little Learners program includes hands-on outdoor engagement with the natural world in a safe learning environment. Each lesson will include storytime, an activity, and something to take home. This program is age-appropriate for preK – 2nd grade. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Chasing Darkness: Total Eclipses of the Sun and The Great American Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024 | Feb. 22 @ 7 p.m. | The Institute:** Dr. Laurence Marschall, Professor of Physics Emeritus, Gettysburg College, returns to The Institute annually to discuss a topic of astronomical interest. On April 8, 2024, the shadow of the moon will sweep across the entire United States from the Texas-Mexico border through the midwest to upstate New

York and New England over the course of several hours, bringing totality to many major population centers.

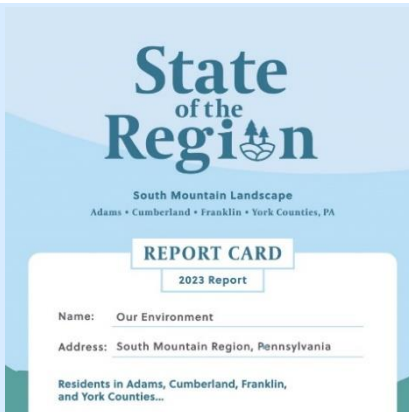
- **Environmental Advisory Council Network Virtual Conference | Feb. 24 @ 9 a.m. | WeConservePA**: The EAC Network Conference is the annual, statewide training and networking event for people engaged in or interested in establishing an Environmental Advisory Council in their municipality, as well as municipal officials, staff, and others interested in improving their communities.
- **Mount Hope Maple Madness 2024 | March 2-3 @ 8 a.m. | Strawberry Hill**: A hands-on look at the history, culture, and science of maple sugaring, paired with a delicious pancake breakfast – what could be sweeter? Immerse yourself in the history, culture, science and fun of maple sugaring while still enjoying a traditional pancake breakfast with friends old and new.

View these events and more on our [Partner Events calendar](#)! You can add your events directly onto our calendar or email them to jchain@appalachiantrail.org.

DCNR Calendar of Events is another great place to find important learning opportunities and fun activities. Check it out [here](#).

Social Media Catchup

Click to explore our social media channels. Follow us for the latest news, upcoming events, and more!



Live, Grow, Lead Healthy.

Despite the different opinions, perspectives, and worldviews that each of us carry, we all share a common trait: we call the South Mountain landscape home. We believe in the power of this common ground to build conversation around the future of this landscape - and our future while living within this landscape.

Learn more at southmountainpartnership.org



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP**
CONSERVATION NETWORK

The South Mountain Partnership [SMP] is managed as a public-private partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. SMP is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.



Unsubscribe [here](#).