



South Mountain State of the Region

Action Plan - December 2023

Note page size: 11x17

<u>Recommended Action</u>	<u>Lead Entity</u>	<u>Potential Partners</u>	<u>Timeframe</u> <i>(in years)</i> Short = 1-2 Mid = 2-5 Long = 5-10	<u>Potential Funding Sources</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Resources Available</u>	<u>Measurements</u>
1. Update Natural Heritage Inventories	SMP, with Counties as close partners and Western PA Conservancy providing technical assistance	Watershed orgs, Shippensburg Univ., other local colleges/universities, PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, land conservancies, DCNR staff	Short term	DCNR (C2P2 , Wild Resource Conservation Program), Counties, PA Fish & Boat Commission (State Wildlife Grants Program , York Co Habitat Improvement Grant , Coldwater Heritage Partnership), PennDOT (see Lehigh-Northampton inventory); HDR Foundation ;	1. Secure funding 2. Execute contract with Western PA Conservancy 3. Hold kick-off meeting with consultant and all Counties 4. After completion of inventory, communicate and celebrate	Municipalities, land conservancies, landowners, developers, civil engineering firms, PennDOT, utilities, local watershed groups, funders of conservation/preservation efforts	Existing Natural Heritage/Area Inventories	# of NHIs completed; % of areas that are within preserved land
2. Expand Regional Trails & connectivity to parks & towns – Create Regional Multi Use Trail Coalition	SMP	County planning agencies, County parks departments, CVRTC, Health Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian (HABPI), Susquehanna Mountain Bike Association, Bicycle South Central PA, York County Rail Trail Authority, PA Rails to Trails Conservancy, Keystone Trail Alliance, Partnership for Better Health, WellSpring, PA DCNR BRC Regional Advisor	Short term	WeConservePA (Regional Trails Workshop Grant); Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Trail Grants ; DCNR (Peer Grant)? Target Community Engagement or Key Market Grants (NOTE: by invitation only); Walmart Local Community Grants (NOTE: through individual locations)	1. Research other regional multi-use trail coalitions (e.g. The LINK , The Circuit , NEPA Trails Forum) 2. Map existing trails 3. Hold regional summit & invite stakeholders/partners, 4. Prepare charter/MOU with goals/purpose/roles	Counties; municipalities that have planned trails; cyclists; hikers/walkers; residents	SOTR Metrics Map trail layer; county and non-profit trail plans; Intersections Initiative ; US DOT Navigator ; Rails-to-Trails Federal Funding Tool ;	Coalition created/not created; Charter/MU created/not created; # of partners participating in summit; # of partners participating in coalition; creation of aggregated list & map of planned trails; annotated list of funding sources

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3. Expand Regional Trails & connectivity to parks & towns – Plan for a cross county multi use trail	SMP	County planning agencies, County Parks Departments, CVRTC, York County Rail Trail, PEC, BRC Regional Advisor, municipalities	Long term	PennDOT, DCNR , CFA (GTRP , LSA), Franklin County, WellSpring Summit Endowment Grant , Walk Works PA; US DOT (various); Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Trail Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use SOTR Metrics map (trails layer) identify corridors with places/parks to connect 2. Review municipal and county trail plans to identify potential corridors 3. Prioritize a corridor 4. Secure funding for feasibility study 5. Prepare RFP 6. Hire consultant 7. Undertake public outreach/advocacy 	Counties, municipalities along potential corridors, cyclists, hikers/walkers, landowners along potential corridors, funders	SOTR Metrics Map trail layer; county trail plans; Intersections Initiative ; US DOT Navigator ; Rails-to-Trails Federal Funding Tool ; Pennsylvania Environmental Council trail inventory GIS data	# of corridors identified; plan created/not created
4. Plan for a wildlife corridor to connect to Kittatinny Ridge and perhaps Highlands & establish greenways	SMP	Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership, County planning agencies, DCNR, PA Game Commission, Research Corps, Shippensburg University., The Nature Conservancy, Highlands Coalition	Mid-term	DCNR , PA Fish & Boat (State Wildlife Grants Program); CFA (GTRP , LSA); HDR Foundation ; USDOT (Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program); USDA NRCS (Wetland Reserve Easement Program); US FWS (North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program); NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (SWG or WILD grant programs); Dr. Lawrence Foundation); Dr. Scholl Foundation ; DCED (LSA); PEMA (BRIC); US FWS https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350615 ; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use County greenway maps and High Priority Conservation map and prioritize general area to focus on 2. Secure funding 3. Prepare RFP 4. Hire consultant to delineate corridor 5. Undertake public outreach/advocacy 	Counties, municipalities along potential corridors, PA Game Commission, landowners along potential corridors, Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership	High Priority Conservation Area map; County Greenway Plans, PA Game Commission Wildlife Action Plan ; Natural Area Inventories; state legislative report (expected Nov. 2024)	Corridor defined/not defined; plan written/not written; # of endangered species targeted for corridor use

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5. Undertake a South Mountain Inventory of Historic Resources	SMP	PHMC, County planning agencies, County historical societies, local historical societies, National Park Service, DCNR, Preservation PA	Mid-term	PHMC (Keystone Historic Preservation Planning Grants);	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene a meeting of key stakeholders 2. Secure funding 3. Develop RFP 4. Hire consultant 	Counties, municipalities, historical societies, landowners with historic resources, developers, civil engineering firms	SOTR Metrics Map historic resources layer; Existing historic resource inventories/plans; County historical societies; municipal historical societies; South Mountain Partnership Cultural Landscape Assessment for Michaux State Forest	# of resources; % of resources preserved/historically designated
(Extra) Track Land Conversion	SMP	County planning agencies, County Boards of Assessment & Property Assessment Offices	Mid to long term		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene meeting of planning agencies to determine scope 2. Assess current county protocols/methods for determining land use 	Counties; municipal officials; residents		Acres outside designated/desired growth areas; acres of development by land use type, # of residential units built outside of designated/desired growth areas