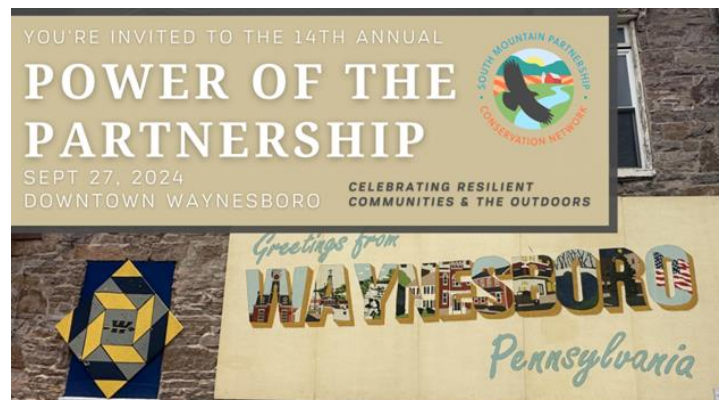




The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

Register now for the Annual "Power of the Partnership" Celebration!

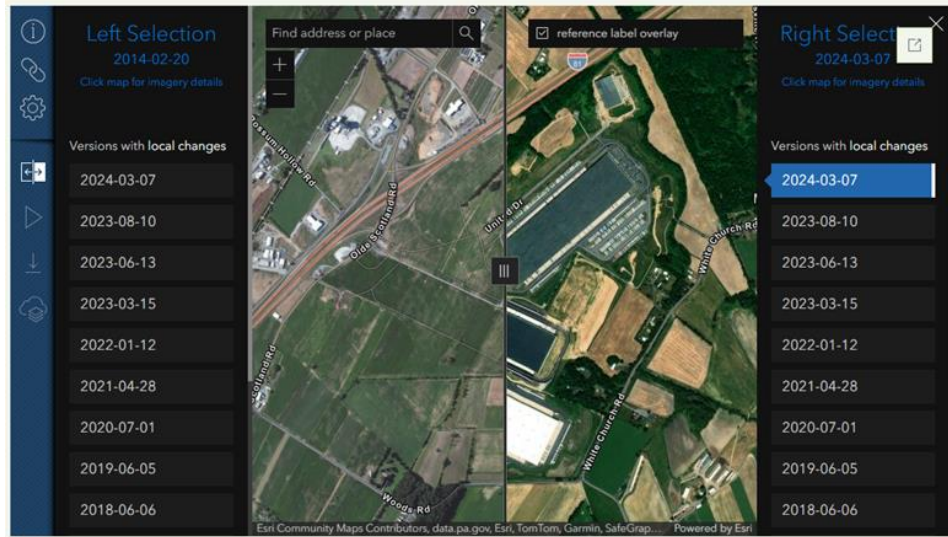
Join us for the 14th Annual "Power of the Partnership," celebrating resilient communities and the outdoors. This year's event, held on **Friday, September 27** from 11 am to 3 pm in downtown Waynesboro, will honor the people and groups dedicated to preserving our cherished farms, historic sites, vibrant downtowns, and natural habitats. Registration includes networking, a locally-sourced lunch by the Chef at Summer Creek Catering, and access to the celebration program featuring inspirational panel discussions, the South Mountain Grant Program, and the Spirit of South Mountain awards. Registration is \$25 per person, with a deadline of September 16, 2024, or until the cap of 120 attendees is reached. New this year, we have a limited number of complimentary tickets available for those who wish to volunteer! Don't miss this chance to celebrate with us and contribute to the future of our beautiful South Mountain region! Register now to secure your spot.



[For more information and to register, visit our event page.](#)

Sponsors Needed! Did you know Sponsors allow us to keep a low ticket price, offer free tickets for volunteers and speakers, and helps us to invest in high quality local vendors? Consider sponsoring this event, opportunities are available from \$250-\$1,000. [Learn more here.](#)

Explore the *State of the Region* Story Map



How are you affected by environmental health? This story map will help you explore the ways. This amazing place that is our home is facing change. The loss of working farms, woods and wildlife, runaway development, water pollution, air pollution, less active lifestyles, flooding, and new pest problems are picking up speed. You can make a difference by learning more and taking steps to do your part. We created this project along with partners in tourism, economic development, public health, historical, outdoor recreation, agriculture, business, and faith-based so that everyone can do things that create balance, safety, and health for all of us and future generations!

[Explore our Story Map!](#)

Nominate now for the *Spirit of South Mountain* award

Each year the South Mountain Partnership recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has made significant contributions to advancing a positive and sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape for our ***Spirit of South Mountain Award***, and we need your help. The Spirit of South Mountain award is to be presented at the Annual “Power of the Partnership” Celebration held on Sept 27th, 2024.

What qualities of the South Mountain Landscape does SMP seek to protect? Farms and Farmland, Historic Places, Natural Assets(water bodies, air quality, public health), and Recreational Assets(trails, walkability, and open space). [Learn more about previous awardees here.](#)

Submissions are due Aug 16, 2024 by 4PM.

[LEARN MORE AND NOMINATE HERE](#)



Become a Friend To Support Important Projects



Become a Friend of South Mountain Partnership

When you donate to the Friends of South Mountain Partnership, you invest in the future of this place. Donations to the Friends helps people and organizations throughout the South Mountain region to connect with the natural and historic world and improve the quality of life for all of us. One such success story is the York County Envirothon expansion project that introduced new students to environmental education and conservation while preparing them to be future leaders. This support was needed because the number of participating schools and students decreased following the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Friends of the South Mountain Partnership Flex Grant, this project extended outreach efforts and recruited new schools and students to participate!

Becoming a Friend at any level is greatly appreciated as it ensures South Mountain Partnership (SMP) is a resilient and powerful force for good in the region, including funding annual Flex Grants that support grant projects throughout the region and SMP events and opportunities.

Announcing the Topophilic Support Group

You may be wondering, what IS a Topophilic? Topophilia (From Greek topos "place" and -philia, "love of") is a **strong sense of place, which often becomes mixed with the sense of cultural identity among certain people and a love of certain aspects of such a place.** We know this love of place is something we all share in both our work and personal lives. However, this work can also be really hard, and we are exploring this lighthearted "support group."

Gather with us! Our first meet up is scheduled for **Friday, September 13th at Bill Hill Ciderworks from 5-7pm.** This is an informal "drop in" all welcome event. No registration or rsvp needed. No facilitation or programming, just an opportunity to catch up. Bring family, dogs, or just yourself!



Mini Grant Success: Trail Love 2024



Keystone Trails Association hosted a successful Trail Love event, thanks in part to a mini-grant they received from South Mountain Partnership. Fifty dedicated volunteers from across Pennsylvania gathered for an incredible weekend of trail building and maintenance at Pine Grove Furnace State Park and Michaux State Forest. The event was a huge success, showcasing the community's commitment to preserving and enhancing our beloved trails. [Watch the video from the event 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

You Can Build Capacity With DCNR’s Partnership Grants

South Mountain Partnership is interested in advancing regional recreation and conservation efforts with DCNR’s Peer and Circuit Rider Partnership Grants. These grants provide flexible, year-round funding to address small-scale needs in local communities. The Peer Program helps municipalities hire consultants for specialized projects like improving park services or forming intergovernmental agencies. The Circuit Rider Program funds full-time

professionals to initiate new programs for counties or regional entities. These grants aim to build local capacity to better manage resources and meet conservation needs.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau Unveils New Branding

The Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (CVVB) is thrilled to unveil its brand-new logo and updated website. “After 13 years, we wanted to create something that better represents our vibrant landscape and is easier to use for promotions,” said Kristen Rowe, Director of Tourism & Marketing. The Cumberland Valley Visitor Bureau is the destination marketing arm of the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC). The new logo reflects CVVB’s evolution, but it does not change CAEDC’s branding. [Check out the new look and feel the vibe!](#)



More Partner News:

- **The Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor seeks proposals to update its Management Action Plan (MAP) and Interpretive Plan (IP) with funding from Pennsylvania's DCNR.** Consultants skilled in public participation, community planning, heritage preservation, and economic development will be considered for this project. Proposals are due by September 2, 2024, and will be reviewed by LHHC. Contact Kimberly Cady at kimberly@lhhc.org for more information. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Seeking Partners for Go Green, Gettysburg!**

Are you doing environmental sustainability work in Adams County and want to share it with incoming college students? Join our VISTA Scholar Meghan Clark at her first-year orientation event on the Gettysburg College campus known as Go Green, Gettysburg taking place on Thursday, August 22nd from 1-3pm. Please reach out to mmclark@gettysburg.edu for more information or if you are interested in joining!

- **Franklin County Stream Team - Information Session and Training Workshop**

Franklin County Conservation District is partnering with the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) to create a Stream Team. The Stream Team will consist of volunteers who will conduct chemical and biological stream monitoring. This includes water temperature, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen, pH, stage and water clarity, and conduct biological (macroinvertebrate) and visual assessments of their assigned streams. To learn more about Stream Team visit the ALLARM website. ALLARM will be holding an information session for those interested in joining on September 10th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. [Register for the Zoom meeting here:](#) <https://bit.ly/FranklinSTInfo>

Employment and Funding Opportunities

Grants

CAEDC Now Accepting Applications for LSA Grants: The Local Share Account (LSA), Category 4 Facilities Program, is now open for non-profit applicants in Cumberland County. Supports projects with economic development or tourism components. Eligible uses include acquisition, construction, demolition, infrastructure, vehicle and equipment purchases, planning, design, and related costs. **Applications must be submitted online by August 29, 2024**, at CumberlandBusiness.com/lisa-application. For questions, contact CAEDC at 717-240-7180.

YORK COUNTY LSA: Local Share Account (LSA) programs are funded by local and state gaming revenues, for which York County nonprofits and municipalities are eligible to apply for projects including construction, renovation, vehicles, and equipment. We are encouraging interested nonprofit organizations that wish to apply via YCEA to submit their Notice of Intent to Apply ASAP. NOW: Submit Notice of Intent to Apply to KHansen@yceapa.org. NOI deadline for Statewide is AUGUST 30, 2024

York County Open Space Grant Program: York County Municipalities and 501c3 organizations are welcome to apply for funding through the York County Open Space Grant Program and the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund grant program! Grants are available for parkland acquisition/expansion, planning, and park improvements. For more information, please visit www.yorkopenspace.org.

DCNR Grant Workshop Registration Open: Registration is now open for DCNR's free annual grant workshop. The virtual workshop will take place on Thursday, November 7 from 9:00 AM to noon. Anyone interested in applying for Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants in 2025 is strongly encouraged to attend. The 2025 grant round will open on Tuesday, January 21 and close on Wednesday, April 2. The workshop will take place virtually via a Microsoft Teams Live Event. Videos of workshop presentations will be made available on the DCNR YouTube channel for those who cannot attend. Attendance is free, but pre-registration is required to ensure participants receive needed materials.

The workshop will explain:

- Who can apply
- What can be funded
- When funding will be available
- How to make project applications more competitive

View our listing of [Regional Funding Opportunities](#) on our website, and suggest funds we should add.

Job Opportunities

- **Director of Education - The Buttonwood Nature Center:** The director is responsible for overseeing established programs of the nature center at the K-12 grade levels, plus Naturalist Series programs for people of all ages through community offerings. In addition, they will develop new naturalist experiences into the future, as well as develop new curricular programming for students; they will also deliver programming on occasion. They also provides support for community events and fundraisers. [Learn more and apply](#)
- **Agency Advocate - Ghost Writer:** At Ghost Writer, the Agency Advocate plays an important role as the primary point of contact for the client as well as the coordinator of the client's services across the Ghost Writer team. Agency Advocates are rewarded with job flexibility, autonomy, and work that is personally

meaningful. The Agency Advocate assigns work, organizes, and updates agency files, keeps the agency informed, and tracks projects in Ghost Writer's project management software. [Apply and learn more here.](#)

- **Grant Writing Specialist - Ghost Writer:** Ghost Writer is currently seeking a Grant Writing Specialist. The Grant Specialist will assist the Agency Advocates in grant research, grant writing, and copy editing. This will include understanding needs, researching, and identify funding opportunities across a broad range of donors and funding organizations, and utilizing multiple research tools. The Grant Specialist will compile information and be able to paint a picture with words. [Apply and learn more here.](#)
- **Communications Coordinator - York County Community Foundation:** As part of the Marketing and Communications Department, the Communications Coordinator supports the organization in relating the value of the foundation and our initiatives to the community and creating a compelling case for support across multiple communications channels to several target audiences. In this role, the primary focus will be advancing YCCF's Embracing Aging and TroveStreet® initiatives and goals through marketing and communication efforts. [Learn more](#) and apply by emailing your resume or CV and cover letter to employment@yccf.org and indicate the position you are applying for in the subject line.

View our [Regional Job Board](#) on our website, and send jobs we should add.

Events

- **[Cumberland County Farmland Preservation Community Meetings | Aug 22 @6PM and Sept 18th @10am](#)**

Cumberland County Farmland Preservation staff are hosting two workshops for farmers to learn about the program and how to participate. RSVP to Steph Williams at sjwilliams@cumberlandcountypa.gov or 717-240-5383

- **[Music on the Mountain | Sunday, September 1, 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Featuring Celtic music from Devilish Merry and Across the Pond](#)**

Join us for a free lawn concert at the Cameron-Masland Mansion! Bring your lawn chair or blanket to the top of the mountain and settle in for an evening of music at its best. The view will be spectacular. Food vendors will be ready to serve you. Don't worry if rain is in the forecast; the concerts run rain or shine!

- **[Allegheny National Forest Hiking Weekend | August 16 @ 8:00 am – August 18 @ 5:00 pm](#)**

A long-standing tradition, KTA's Allegheny National Forest Hiking Weekend is great for hikers looking for a laid-back weekend with friends (or friends-to-be). Explore the beautiful forests on guided group hikes during the day. Then enjoy relaxing evenings around a bonfire, attend a special guest presentation, or head into town for a night out! Find more information and register [HERE](#).

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.

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.