



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP**
CONSERVATION NETWORK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

AROUND SOUTH MOUNTAIN

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

Winter Meeting Wrap-Up



Please join us in thanking our generous sponsors:



More than 100 folks gathered January 31st at Keystone Kidspace in the City of York for our 2025 Winter Partnership Meeting. The energy and connection was palpable in the room as the speakers shared critical information with attendees.

[Click here to read the event wrap up and access speaker information.](#)

State of the Region Update



The South Mountain Partnership is kicking off the new year with some exciting “resolutions”! While we already have great intentions to continue regular events, offer three grant programs, and see you out in the community, we also have some exciting new actions from the State of the Region! Our first SOTR project, the Natural Heritage Inventory, is underway thanks to the work of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy who reported their research of critical plants and animal species has resulted in 62 surveys with more field work to occur this season!

We know our community needs more access to trails! Creating multi-use trails is often a long process, and a key first step would be the creation of a regional coalition to support and advocate for more trails. The coalition can also be the driver of planning for a cross-county trails that are multi-use pedestrian and non-motorized trails and for other trail development recommendations. This project will accelerate us becoming a region with a robust multi-use pedestrian and non-motorized trail infrastructure that connects communities with one another and open space.

Want to get involved in our trail coalition? Fill out this [form](#).

Federal Funding Changes

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.

To understand if any of the recent events or changes affecting the federal government are affecting our communities, we are asking you to let us know. [Please share any of your experiences via this form.](#)

First 2025 Research Grants Awarded



SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH CORPS GRANTS

FUNDING FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

ROLLING APPLICATION DEADLINES:
JANUARY 3RD | JUNE 6TH | SEPTEMBER 5TH

All projects must be completed by December 31, 2025

We are excited to announce the first round of 2025 Research Grants awarded to support students digging into local issues! Don't worry, if you missed this deadline, consider applying for the [June 6th deadline](#). We can't wait to hear the results of these projects.

Franklin & Marshall College was awarded \$3,000 for their project titled "**Investigating the sources of water discharging from The Bubble (Boiling Springs) and the Huntsdale Fish Hatchery Springs (Huntsdale)**"

Shippensburg University was awarded \$4,000 for their project titled "**Warehousing Development and Air Quality in Cumberland and Franklin Counties**"

Save the Date for Partnership!



SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP
CONSERVATION NETWORK



SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Partnership Meeting
Adams County | May 16, 2025

Power of the Partnership
Cumberland County | Sept 12, 2025

Winter Partnership Meeting
Franklin County | January 30, 2026

Flex Grant Update



Say hello to the Adams County Farmers Market's brand-new logo! This new look is an homage to the brand's former rooster, which debuted back in 2008, while adding a fun, fresh, and uniquely 'Gettysburg' top hat twist.

A 2023 Flex Grant recipient, the Adams County Farmers Market was in dire need of refreshed branding and a stronger, more recognizable logo for the organization. This project helped them develop a new brand standards guide that aligns with their growing market...

[Keep Reading](#)



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

Volunteer Board Members Needed!

If you work in the legal field, humanities, or real estate, or have strong non-profit board facilitation skills, let's talk. Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) conserves and manages important land that is important habitat for wildlife and recreational access for public health. Making this happen is a large and complex effort and an important part of the work is the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have a front-row seat to all that it takes to save land and preserve our region's quality of life. There is a seat at the table for you! If you are interested in using your expertise and leadership to help strengthen and enrich these conservation efforts, let's talk. Please reach out to Katie Hess at khess@appalachiantrail.org or 717-609-4581.



More details: CPC has defined "Board Development" as a Strategic Goal for 2024-2027 and is seeking individuals to lead the effort to increase board effectiveness and connection to communities. Expanding the board's geographic footprint to match the service area (Cumberland, Perry, and Franklin counties) and diversifying the board with private sector support for its conservation mission are priorities.

Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership 2025 Annual Partner Summit



Save the Date for the ATLP 2025 Annual Partner Summit!

The Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership (ATLP) will be holding its 2025 Annual Partner Summit from April 21-24 at The Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA. We are excited to host this upcoming meeting at a larger venue that can accommodate the growing interest and partner engagement with the ATLP.

The 2025 Annual Partner Summit will entail inspiring keynote speakers, partner presentations highlighting replicable success stories, insightful panel discussions, networking opportunities, and partnership progress sessions that will inform our next strategic plan.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Employment and Funding Opportunities

Grants

- **PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program:** The annual Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant application window is now open. The DCNR oversees the grant program, which funds local recreation and conservation projects in communities across Pennsylvania. Last year, the program awarded more than \$79 million to more than 300 projects statewide. Grant applications are only accepted through the DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal. A [portal tutorial video](#) is available to help applicants learn about grant requirements and how to navigate the application. Even though the grant round just opened, it's never too early to contact your [regional advisor](#) for assistance. Regional advisors are available for site visits, questions, and project-specific advice (it is recommended to contact them early for assistance.) Applications are due by 4:00 PM, Wednesday, April 2. **Learn more [here](#).**
- **Keystone Historical Conservation Grant program:** The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is accepting applications for their Keystone Historical Conservation Grant program. This program supports initiatives that bring history and historic preservation into communities or historic sites programming. To

celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Second Continental Congress' adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, applicants are encouraged to consider projects that further the initiatives of this upcoming celebration during this grant round. Applications are due Monday, March 3. **Learn more [here](#).**

- **Partnership for Better Health Grants:** The Partnership for Better Health is accepting grant applications due March 3, 2025. Grants fund work related to health equity and social determinants of health. Funding opportunities include General Operating Grants for Organizations Leading in Equity Work, Project Grants to Address Root Issues, and Spark Grants. **Learn more [here](#).**
- **Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund:** The Chesapeake Bay Trust is seeking applications for its grant program that leverages forestry to address environmental justice issues in the Mid-Atlantic. The goal is to disperse and democratize the range of co-benefits that healthy community forests have for decades into the future. Applications are due March 14. **Learn more [here](#).**

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

Job Opportunities

- **Director, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, DCNR-**The Department of Natural Resources is on the lookout for a Director to lead the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. **Learn more and [apply by 2/19/25](#)**
- **GIS Technician for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy-** This position is responsible for GIS analyses, maps, and products that play a crucial role in protecting, managing, and advocating for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. **Learn more [here](#).**
- **Environmental Educator:** Buttonwood Nature Center is partnering with Core Susquehanna to host an AmeriCorps member as a half-time environmental educator for 2025. The Half-Time position runs February–July, 2025, working 37.5 hours per week. Position begins February 17. **Learn more [here](#).**
- **Cumberland Valley Seasonal Ridgerunner:** ATC 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. **Learn more [here](#).**
- **Seasonal Crew Leader, Assistance Crew Leader, Land Stewardship Technician, and Trail Crew Camp Coordinator:** The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is currently seeking applicants to fill these four seasonal positions in the Carlisle, PA area. **Learn more [here](#).**

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

Events

- **[SCORP Public Release Webinar – Inclusion and Equity | Feb. 10 @ 12 p.m. | PA DCNR:](#)** Join for a 30-minute webinar where DCNR will discuss the Draft of the 2025-2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and each of the five Priority Areas. The Feb. 10 webinar will focus on Supporting Inclusion & Equity. More priorities will be discussed at additional webinars through Feb. 19.

- **EXPLORE! Clever Camouflage | Feb. 11 @ 4 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center:** Some animals use camouflage to hide in plain sight. Students learn about winter camouflage while playing games and making crafts.
- **Hunger Moon Hike | Feb. 12 @ 7 p.m. | Strawberry Hill:** Join for a free nighttime nature hike under the Hunger Moon. This time of year is hard. The days often seem to drag on as the cold presses in, unyielding in its persistence. The forest remains deep in seep and it's a hardscrabble life for those who venture out of their dens in search of food. Join to explore and learn about this miraculous and strange, frozen landscape.
- **Sweetheart's Archery | Feb. 14 @ 6 p.m. | Friends of Kings Gap:** Grab your mom, dad, sister, significant other, neighbor, or other loved one and join Sweetheart's Archery. This indoor program is appropriate for beginner and intermediate archers at least 13 years or older. All training and equipment provided.
- **Webinar Series: Hiking with your Dog | Feb. 18 @ 6 p.m. | Keystone Trails Association:** Safely Hiking with your Dog is co-hosted by Humane Society of the United States, Pennsylvania State Director, Kristen Tullo and Dr. Resnick, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Alliance Member Veterinarian. Registration is free but required.
- **Astronomy and Our Place in the Universe | Feb. 20 @ 7 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center:** Look to the stars with guest speaker William Laska, an astronomy instructor at Shepherd University's Lifelong Learning program. Laska will also talk about what we can expect to see happen over the next 20 years with regard to space exploration. Admission is free and all are welcome.
- **C-PACE Seminar | Feb. 27 @ 1 p.m. | Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation:** Learn how to use the C-PACE program to finance energy efficiency, water conservation or clean energy projects.
- **Kip Redick at Bosler Library | March 16 @ 1:30 p.m. | Appalachian Trail Museum:** The AT Museum welcomes Kip Redick, author of *American Camino: Walking as Spiritual Practice on the Appalachian Trail*. Kip is professor of philosophy and religion at Christopher Newport University. In *American Camino: Walking as Spiritual Practice on the Appalachian Trail*, Kip Redick engages in a phenomenological exploration of the relationship between long-distance hiking and spiritual pilgrimage.

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!



Dead geese found at Gettysburg College pond test positive for bird flu

Share



WGAL 8

Updated: 7:15 PM EST Jan 27, 2025

Infinite Scroll Enabled



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](#).