

Protective Districts and Programs of the Pennsylvania Highlands

County-level Conservation Districts, Programs and Resources

Appalachian Mountain Club

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Introduction

The Appalachian Mountain Club has created an informational section of various county-level protective districts and conservation programs within the Pennsylvania Highlands. The information that we have available for each county varies just as the availability of online information and county-level programming varies.

You may also find our compilation of model ordinances, handbooks and plans useful. It is available at the Pennsylvania Highlands Conservation Information Center.

This compilation is meant to be a resource for those living and working in the Pennsylvania Highlands. However, because districts and programs are constantly evolving and being created, please understand that the information in this guide will also change. While we will do our best to keep the information current, please make sure to check other sources, the county that you are working in and the internet for the most current information.

If you know of county-level districts or programs that we should add or updates that we need to make, please let us know by emailing pahighlands@outdoors.org.

We hope you enjoy this resource,

Appalachian Mountain Club

Adams County

Below are some of Adams County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Adams County, please visit the county webpage at <http://adamscounty.us> and the Adams County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/1>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Agricultural Preservation District - "provide[s] for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of agricultural operations in appropriate locations within Adams County" Adams County Zoning Ordinance §600 (1990) available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADbYkLrZTgs%3d&tabid=154&mid=523.

Agricultural Security Areas are located throughout Adams County (Map 2.15). In addition, eight townships (Conewago, Cumberland, Freedom, Hamilton, Mt. Pleasant, Reading, Tyrone, Union) have enacted agricultural zoning that strictly limits the development of farmland. Three additional townships (Latimore, Huntington, and Franklin) have adopted alternative forms of agricultural zoning. The county has also applied the effective agricultural provisions of the **county zoning ordinance** in Butler Township, which has not enacted a local ordinance." www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=j-B2_YoMNWI%3d&tabid=154&mid=759 (p. 2-27).

Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is appointed to oversee the selection and purchase of agricultural conservation easements in the county. See <http://adamscounty.us.dnnmax.com/CountyOffices/Administrative/Agland>

[Preservation.aspx](#) .

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Zoning Ordinance includes **Land Conservation District** with the purpose of "Conserv[ing] and protect[ing] open space and agricultural areas, to enhance the rural character of appropriate portions of Adams County, and to provide design alternatives to standard residential development in rural settings. A. To preserve open land by setting development apart from sensitive natural features such as woodlands, slopes, streams, floodplains, and wetlands. B. To preserve scenic views and elements of rural character by minimizing perceived density and views of development from existing roads. . . E. To protect local groundwater supplies by minimizing reductions in aquifer re-charge potential that may result from development. F. To reduce erosion and stream sedimentation by the retention of existing vegetation, and by the minimization of development on steep slopes." Adams County Zoning Ordinance §640 (1990) available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADbYkLrZTgs%3d&tabid=154&mid=523.

Adams County Conservation District

<http://adamscounty.us.dnnmax.com/CountyOffices/Administrative/ConservationDistrict.aspx>

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Zoning Ordinance includes language on **Impervious Coverage** -"The maximum impervious coverage of any parcel shall be sixty percent (60%) of the total area of said tract, parcel, or lot, less any the additional area required to be free of impervious material as part of any required storm water management facilities." Adams County Zoning Ordinance §405(A)(4)

(1990) available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADbYkLrZTgs%3d&tabid=154&mid=523. Zoning Ordinance includes **Land Conservation District** (see above) available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADbYkLrZTgs%3d&tabid=154&mid=523.

General Notes

Adams County Comprehensive Plan available at www.adamscounty.us/MunicipalitiesPlansOrdinances/AdamsCounty.aspx.

Zoning Ordinance enacted for Municipalities that have not enacted local municipal zoning ordinances. The ordinance was last updated in 1990. Available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ADbYkLrZTgs%3d&tabid=154&mid=523.

Adams County Water Supply and Wellhead Protection Plan, 2001 available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=25QEY5dhGDE%3d&tabid=154&mid=524.

Adams County Greenways Plan available at www.adamscounty.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=-B2_YoMNWI%3d&tabid=154&mid=759.

South Mountain: Conservation Landscape Initiative Strategic Plan, available at <http://adamscounty.us.dnnmax.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pprhM8QsXB0%3d&tabid=76&mid=2259>.

Berks County

Below are some of Berks County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Berks County, please visit the county webpage at www.co.berks.pa.us and the Berks County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/6>

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board - permanently preserve large clusters of viable agricultural lands by acquiring agricultural conservation easements (ACE) available at www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/AgLandPres/Pages/default.aspx and www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/AgLandPres/Documents/pdfs/Guidelines2006.pdf.

Agricultural Security Areas. Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program allows municipalities that have zoning regulations meeting the conservation zoning minimum criteria to access funding for the purchase of easements that are consistent with the County's planning priorities. See http://test3.pacounties.org/Dept/Planning/Documents/Greenway_Plan/Final_Doc/BerksGreenway_3_Intro_3.1_CountyWide.pdf.

Agricultural Zoning Incentive Program - in return for successful adoption of effective agricultural zoning by any municipality in Berks County, the County Community Development Office will reimburse up to \$6,000, the costs associated with amending or revising the municipality's zoning ordinance available at www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/AgriculturalZoningIncentivePro

[gram%28AZIP%29.aspx](#).

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Conservation Zoning Incentive Program (CZIP). “The CZIP establishes minimum standards to be included in municipal zoning to help protect environmentally sensitive and ecologically important areas. These smart growth regulations include: Floodplain protection, Wetland protection, Riparian Buffers, Steep slopes, Moderate slopes, Vegetation Management, Timber management, Historic Preservation, Protection of EV and EQ streams, Wellhead Protection, Trail Protection, Interconnection of Undisturbed Areas.” **Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program** allows those municipalities that have zoning regulations that meet the conservation zoning minimum criteria to access funding for the purchase of easements that are consistent with the County’s planning priorities. For both see http://test3.pacounties.org/Dept/Planning/Documents/Greenway_Plan/Final_Doc/BerksGreenway_3_Intro_3.1_CountyWide.pdf and <http://greenberks.com/pdf/SOTE42-51.pdf>.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Conservation Zoning Incentive Program and **Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program** See above. Available at http://test3.pacounties.org/Dept/Planning/Documents/Greenway_Plan/Final_Doc/BerksGreenway_3_Intro_3.1_CountyWide.pdf and <http://greenberks.com/pdf/SOTE42-51.pdf>. Berks County maintains an **Act 167 Page** which is available at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/BerksCounty%27sAct167>

[Page.aspx](#).

General Notes

Agricultural Conservation Easements - as of 2008 -494 farms preserved and 53,306 acres preserved See www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/AgLandPres/Documents/pdfs/ACE_Program_Brochure_%28May2008%29.pdf.

Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan (2007) available at www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/TheBerksCountyGreenway,ParkandRecreationPlan.aspx.

Berks County currently has **18 active Environmental Advisory Councils** active for the County of Berks, Amity, Bethel, Cumru, District, Earl, Exeter, Heidelberg, Hereford, Kutztown, Longswamp, Pike, City of Reading, Robeson, Robesonia, Tilden, Union, Upper Bern, Washington. **Joint Comprehensive Plans** available at www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/JointComprehensivePlanningProgram.aspx. **Joint Zoning Program** available at www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/JointZoningProgram.aspx.

Bucks County

Below are some of Bucks County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Bucks County, please visit the county webpage at <http://buckscounty.org> and the Bucks County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/9>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Agricultural Preservation Program - joint state/county easement purchase program provides funds for agricultural conservation easement purchase. These easements limit use of the land to agricultural operations in perpetuity. See www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission/OpenSpace/OpenSpaceAgPresIndex.aspx

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

The **Bucks County Open Space Program** "focuses on preserving farmland, providing park and recreation areas, and protecting unique natural and environmental features. Overall, the Open Space Program has achieved great success and will leave its mark on the Bucks County landscape for generations to come. As of October 2007, the Bucks County Open Space Program has completed over 290 projects totaling more than 13,500 acres." The **Natural Areas Program** "preserve[s] and protect[s] important examples of Bucks County's plant and animal habitats, significant geological features, and vital ecological services, such as water and air purification, that sustain all life. The County has partnered with municipalities and nonprofit land trusts to preserve 2,480 acres of significant natural resources and habitats." The **Municipal Open Space**

Program "aids municipalities in the acquisition of land for agricultural preservation, natural resource protection, or recreation. Each municipality has created an open space plan outlining the natural resources and conservation priorities important to their community. To their credit, local municipal efforts have protected 2,577 acres of land." For all above, See www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission/OpenSpace/OpenSpaceAgPresIndex.aspx.

Bucks County Conservation District's "mission is to provide for the wise use, management and development of the county's soil, water and related natural resources. This is accomplished with the cooperation of public agencies, private groups and individuals." See www.bucksccd.org.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Bucks County Conservation District's "mission is to provide for the wise use, management and development of the county's soil, water and related natural resources. This is accomplished with the cooperation of public agencies, private groups and individuals." <http://www.bucksccd.org/index.htm>

Natural Areas Program - "preserve[s] and protect[s] important examples of Bucks County's plant and animal habitats, significant geological features, and vital ecological services, such as water and air purification, that sustain all life. The County has partnered with municipalities and nonprofit land trusts to preserve 2,480 acres of significant natural resources and habitats." www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission/OpenSpace/OpenSpaceAgPresIndex.aspx.

General Notes

Bucks County Municipal Open Space Guidelines are available at

www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission/MOSPlanGuidelines.pdf.

Chester County

Below are some of Chester County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Chester County, please visit the county webpage at <http://chesco.org> and the Chester County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/15>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

The **Agricultural Land Preservation Board** implements the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program and the Chester County Challenge Grant Program. See www.chesco.org/agriculture/site/default.asp.

The **Preservation Partnership Program** provides funding to nonprofit conservation organizations and land trusts for land preservation projects. See www.chesco.org/openspace/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=650324&PM=1&openpaceNav=|.

Agricultural Security Areas are administered at the township level. See www.chesco.org/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=650695&agricultureNav=|.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Municipal Park and Open Space Acquisition and Development Program - offers grant funds to municipalities and land-owning municipal recreation authorities to buy land to support parks, trails and greenways. See www.chesco.org/openspace/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=615471&openspaceNav=|.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Model Stormwater Ordinance available at www.chesco.org/water/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=612062.

Sustainable Water Management guidelines are available at www.chesco.org/water/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=652900&waterNav=|.

Chester County is in the process of creating a **county-wide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan**. Specific strategies, criteria, and recommendations for municipalities and others to protect water resources while accommodating for planned growth are available in **Chester County's Watershed's**, a 2002 planning document is available at <http://dsf.chesco.org/water/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=610690>.

General Notes

The County's **Comprehensive Policy Plan** is available at www.landscapes2.org/ls2online/files/ls2document.pdf.

Chester County Open Space Advisory Committee - **A Call to Action, Plan and Prepare for 2025** available at <http://www.chesco.org/openspace/lib/openspace/pdfs/osac01-06.pdf>.

Cumberland County

Below are some of Cumberland County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Cumberland County, please visit the county webpage at <http://ccpa.net/> and the Cumberland County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/21>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Agricultural Land Preservation Board is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program. The purpose of the ACE Program is to protect viable agricultural lands by acquiring agricultural conservation easements that prevent the development or improvements of land for any purpose other than agricultural production. See www.ccpa.net.

Clean and Green is a differential assessment that is available and widely used in Cumberland County. See www.ccpa.net/DocumentView.aspx?DID=368.

The **Farmland Protection Program** permits municipalities to establish Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs).

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Conservation areas as defined in the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan are "comprised of environmentally sensitive land features and land targeted for conservation and preservation. These conservation lands . . . include floodplains, wetlands, areas with steep slopes, large wooded areas and the eight regional greenways." See

www.ccpa.net/DocumentView.aspx?DID=7180

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

The **Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program** addresses the protection of water resources from the impacts of accelerated erosion and the sedimentation that results during earthmoving activities. See www.cumberlandcd.com/miscpdfs/2009annualreport.pdf.

General Notes

1998 Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Guide provides information on a variety of options available to local municipalities to promote farmland preservation. Available at www.ccpa.net/index.aspx?NID=287.

Municipal Zoning Maps are available at www.ccpa.net/index.aspx?NID=947.

South Mountain: Conservation Landscape Initiative Strategic Plan is available at <http://adamscounty.us.dnnmax.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pprhM8Q5xB0%3d&tabid=76&mid=2259>.

2003 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan is available at www.ccpa.net/index.aspx?NID=3086.

Dauphin County

Below are some of Dauphin County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Dauphin County, please visit the county webpage at www.dauphincounty.org and the Dauphin County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/22>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

The majority of the **Agricultural Security Areas** in the county are found in the north and south, although a few security areas are found in central Dauphin, east of Lower Paxton Township. See www.dauphincounty.org/content/12233/data.pdf.

The **Agricultural Easement Program** has placed easements on 114 farms totaling 11,569 acres. 10 easements representing 819 acres either approved and awaiting finalization or pending and expected to be approved in early 2009. See www.dauphincounty.org/content/12233/data.pdf.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

An **Erosion and sedimentation pollution control program** is designed to minimize accelerated erosion and sediment pollution from earth disturbance activities. www.dauphincounty.org/erosion/eands.html.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

The purpose of the **water resource management initiative** is to assess, mitigate and prevent nonpoint source pollution of Dauphin County's

water. Available at www.dauphincounty.org/water/water.html.

Dauphin County **Model Stormwater Ordinance** (2010) is available at www.dauphincounty.org/swm/ACT%20167%20PLAN-FINAL/Dauphin%20County%20Model%20SWM%20Ordinance.pdf.

The Dauphin County **Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan** (2010) is available at www.dauphincounty.org/swm/ACT%20167%20PLAN-FINAL/Dauphin%20County%20Phase%20II%20Plan.pdf.

Erosion and sedimentation pollution control program is designed to minimize accelerated erosion and sediment pollution from earth disturbance activities. www.dauphincounty.org/erosion/eands.html.

General Notes

The **Manada Conservancy** has preserved a total of 467 acres in Dauphin County and is actively working on an additional 257 acres and had work scheduled for 2009 on an additional 250 acres.

The **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy** has preserved 609.12 acres in Dauphin County as of November 2008 and is actively pursuing a project involving an additional 135 acres. See www.dauphincounty.org/content/12233/data.pdf.

Dauphin County Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Greenways Plan is available at www.dauphincounty.org/content/12233/data.pdf.

Franklin County

Below are some of Franklin County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Franklin County, please visit the county webpage at www.co.franklin.pa.us and the Franklin County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/28>

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

The **Agricultural Land Preservation Program** is a voluntary program that pays the landowner a price per acre for an agricultural conservation easement to be placed on their farm. The county partners with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to purchase the easements that are placed on the property in perpetuity. See www.planning.co.franklin.pa.us.

The County has granted municipalities permission to create **Agricultural Security Areas** see <http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8public/0/doc/1237163/Electronic.aspx>.

The County's Comprehensive Plan recommends **Agricultural Conservation Zoning**. See <http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8public/0/doc/1237163/Electronic.aspx>

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

The County developed a **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan**, which supports use of density transfers and conservation easements to preserve woodlands and open spaces. Available at

<http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8Public/DocView.aspx?id=1243649&dbid=0;>
<http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8public/0/doc/1237163/Electronic.aspx>

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

The **Comprehensive Plan** includes conservation of major stream corridors, steep slopes as goal. The County plans to purchase conservation easements of in important watershed/stream areas and limit industrial use in key watershed areas. See <http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8public/0/doc/1237163/Electronic.aspx>.

General Notes

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan (1999) is available at <http://portal.co.franklin.pa.us/WebLink8public/0/doc/1237163/Electronic.aspx>.

South Mountain: Conservation Landscape Initiative Strategic Plan is available at <http://adamscounty.us.dnnmax.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pprhM8QSxB0%3d&tabid=76&mid=2259>.

Lancaster County

Below are some of Lancaster County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Lancaster County, please visit the county webpage at <http://co.lancaster.pa.us> and the Lancaster County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/36>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

The **Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board Agricultural Land Preservation Program** had, as of December 22, 2010, "preserved 67,315 acres of farmland on 780 Lancaster County family farms. The Preserve Board has a responsibility to monitor these farms for compliance with the terms of the conservation easement placed on the landowner's deed when the development rights are sold." See www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lanco/cwp/view.asp?a=371&Q=384772.

Agricultural Zoning District Guidelines updated in 2010 are available at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/toolbox/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=642309&PM=1.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

The **Lancaster County Conservation District** "promote[s] stewardship of the land, water, and other natural resources; to make all citizens aware of the interrelationships between human activities and the natural environment; to provide assistance for current efforts in natural resource conservation; and to develop and implement programs which promote the stewardship of natural resources" See www.lancasterconservation.org.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Lancaster County Water Resources Plan focuses primarily on public water supplies. Geared to presentation of options for local municipal action. Available at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning/cwp/view.asp?a=2&q=387229&planningNav=|5851|5852.

General Notes

Balance: The Growth Management Element - Lancaster Co. Plan, 2006 www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning/lib/planning/balance_full_report.pdf.

Model Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, 2008 is available at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/toolbox/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=620182. The 1996

Water Resources Plan is available at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning/cwp/view.asp?a=476&Q=387355

Greenscapes: The Green Infrastructure Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan is available at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning/lib/planning/green_infrastructure_docs/greenscapes.pdf.

Lebanon County

Below are some of Lebanon County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Lebanon County, please visit the county webpage at <http://lebcounty.org> and the Lebanon County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/38>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Lebanon County does not participate in **Clean & Green Act** preferential tax assessment for productive farmlands because County's current assessment values (from 1968) are lower than the present use value. As of November 2007, 57,787 acres were enrolled in the **Agricultural Security Area** program by 747 landowners. Lebanon County's **Agricultural Land Preservation Program** requires eligible farm tracts to meet certain standards to be able to qualify for Agricultural Conservation Easements. See www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Documents/Comp%20Plan-Plan%20Chapters/LCCP_PLAN09_NaturalResourcesPlan.pdf. As of 2010, 16,000 acres of **farmland were preserved** in county. See www.lccd.org/farmpres.php.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Lebanon County Conservation District's mission is to make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources. See www.lccd.org. Several of the municipalities in Lebanon County have incorporated steep slope protection provisions into their zoning ordinances. See p. 23 in

www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Documents/Comp%20Plan-Plan%20Chapters/LCCP_PLAN09_NaturalResourcesPlan.pdf.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Lebanon County Planning Department ("LCPD") and local municipalities have implemented the existing **Act 167** plans by amending their subdivision and land development ordinances to: (1) adopt required criteria for the Tulpehocken and Cocalico Creek watersheds; and (2) extend water quality standards, infiltration requirements, best management practices, and other PA DEP stormwater management guidelines to the remainder of the county under the jurisdiction of the county ordinance. **Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans** are available at www.lvpc.org/lvpc_site/commission/act167plans.html. LCPD enforces the

Lebanon County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which contains stormwater standards for Lebanon County. See www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Documents/LebanonCountySALDO-2008.pdf.

General Notes

Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan is available at www.lebcounty.org/Planning/Pages/CompPlan.aspx.

Lehigh County

Below are some of Lehigh County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Lehigh County, please visit the county webpage at www.lehighcounty.org and the Lehigh County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/39>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Agricultural Security Areas created by local municipalities in cooperation with individual landowners. See www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/AgriculturalLandPreservation/AgriculturalSecurityAreas/tabid/353/Default.aspx.

Information about **Agricultural Conservation Easements** within county is available at www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/AgriculturalLandPreservation/ConservationEasements/tabid/354/Default.aspx

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

Protect the Trail: A Guide to Protecting the Appalachian Trail for Lehigh Valley Municipalities is available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/appalachianTrail.pdf.

Woodlands - Guide and Model Regulations is available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/woodlands.pdf.

Conservation Subdivisions recommendations are available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/conservationSubdivisions.pdf.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Riparian and Wetland Buffers Model Ordinance "The riparian buffer shall be: a. Seventy-five feet from the top of the streambank of a watercourse, b. Seventy-five feet from the outer edge of a wetland. Principal structures and areas of impervious coverage, unless permitted in Section E of this article, shall be set back from the outer edge of the riparian buffer a minimum of twenty-five feet. Lawful, but not required, to supplement the riparian buffer with planting of native vegetation." See www.lvpc.org/pdf/riparianBuffers.pdf.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans available at www.lvpc.org/lvpc_site/commission/act167plans.html.

General Notes

Lehigh County is part of **Lehigh Valley Planning Commission** (www.lvpc.org). 19,619 acres of farmland are preserved in the county.

A list of **Preserved Farmland by Municipality** is available www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/AgriculturalLandPreservation/PreservedFarmlandbyMunicipality/tabid/356/Default.aspx.

Montgomery County

Below are some of Montgomery County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Montgomery County, please visit the county webpage at www.montcopa.org and the Montgomery County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/46>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program purchases agricultural easements from productive farms in Montgomery County. See <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=1856>.

The **County Land Use Plan** presents 3 options for preservation - (1) agricultural zoning, (2) Transfer of development rights (TDR) programs - farmers and other large rural landowners to sell their right to develop to developers who are building in a different part of the community. Developers buy the right to put up more homes than they would have been allowed otherwise. Rural landowners get money for their land and get to keep the land, although they are no longer allowed to develop the land and must deed restrict it. (3) Low intensity industrial zoning - areas could be zoned for low-intensity industrial uses if scattered industrial uses already exist in an area. See Ch. 5, Land Use Plan available at <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,3,q,1947.asp>.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

The **Green Fields/Green Towns Program** has three basic components: municipal grants (\$67 million), private organization grants (\$8 million), and county open space expenditures (\$75 million). See

<http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,1564,q,75006.asp>.

A suggested type of zoning for county municipalities is **Land Resource Capacity Based Zoning** (Net-Out of Resources): "Performance based zoning that addresses the land resource capacity is a zoning technique that deducts environmentally constrained lands from development density calculations" Montgomery County Open Space Plan 2005, p. 54 <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,3,q,1982.asp>.

Land Preservation District Model Zoning Provisions available at <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,1462,q,41420,planningNav,l.asp>.

Municipal Open Space Plans available at <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,3,q,37703.asp>.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

"A municipality can restrict development within a 25-foot area surrounding a wetland area or measure the building setback line from the edge of the wetland. This will create a buffer area that may be used for various activities that will not impact the wetland. Also, municipalities can ensure that wetland areas remain viable by requiring stormwater management and drainage improvements to address the hydrologic needs of wetland areas." See **Montgomery County Open Space Plan**, 2005, p. 50 available at <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,3,q,1982.asp>. The county planning commission also maintains a **model riparian buffer ordinance** that recommends buffer zones based on water resources and also makes recommendations for new developments See <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,1462,q,41420,planningNav,l.asp>.

Water Resources Plan -

<http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=2283>.

General Notes

By December 2010, 137 farms had been approved for permanent preservation, for a total of 8,226 acres of **preserved county farmland**. See <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=1856>. There are **Four Regional Planning Areas** in Montgomery County. See <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/cwp/view,a,1462,q,39775.asp>.

Northampton County

Below are some of Bucks County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on Northampton County, please visit the county webpage at www.northamptoncounty.org and the Northampton County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/48>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Information about **Agricultural Security Areas in Northampton County** is available at www.northamptoncounty.org/northampton/cwp/view.asp?a=1532&Q=620966&northamptonNav=|&northamptonNav_GID=1987. The County supports Conservation Easements. See www.northamptoncounty.org/northampton/cwp/view.asp?a=1532&Q=620980&northamptonNav=|&northamptonNav_GID=1987. By July 2010, 102 farms and 11,004 acres were preserved in the County. A list of **Farms Preserved by Municipality** is also available. See

www.northamptoncounty.org/northampton/cwp/view.asp?a=1532&Q=621022&northamptonNav=|&northamptonNav_GID=1987.

Notes about Woodlands/Forest/Open Space Programs and Districts

The **Northampton County Conservation District's** mission is to promote soil conservation, to alleviate resource problems, to maintain or improve water quality and to promote environmental education. See <http://northamptoncd.org>.

Clean & Green Act assessments in county. See www.northamptoncounty.org/northampton/cwp/view.asp?a=1532&Q=620959&northamptonNav=|&northamptonNav_GID=1987.

Protect the Trail: A Guide to Protecting the Appalachian Trail for Lehigh Valley Municipalities available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/appalachianTrail.pdf.

Woodlands - guide and model regulations available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/woodlands.pdf.

Conservation Subdivisions guidance is available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/conservationSubdivisions.pdf.

Notes about Water-Related Programs and Districts

Riparian and Wetland Buffers Model Ordinance – “The riparian buffer shall be: a. Seventy-five feet from the top of the streambank of a watercourse, b. Seventy-five feet from the outer edge of a wetland. Principal structures and areas of impervious coverage, unless permitted in Section E of this article, shall be set back from the outer edge of the riparian buffer a minimum of twenty-five feet. Lawful, but not required, to supplement the riparian buffer with planting of native vegetation.

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Available at www.lvpc.org/pdf/riparianBuffers.pdf.

Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans available at www.lvpc.org/lvpc_site/commission/act167plans.html.

General Notes

Part of **Lehigh Valley Planning Commission** (www.lvpc.org).

York County

Below are some of York County's programs and districts related to conservation and preservation of resources. For more information on York County, please visit the county webpage at www.york-county.org and the York County Conservation Tools page at <http://conservationtools.org/organizations/general/county/67>.

Notes about Agricultural Programs and Districts

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program is administered by Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County (FNLT) and the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. See www.york-county.org/gov/AUTH/agri.htm.

York County Agricultural Land Protection Plan, 2008 is available at www.ycpc.org/County_Long_Range_Docs/Comp_Plan/AgProtectionPlan.pdf. As of 2008, 28 municipalities (24 townships and 4 boroughs) in York County incorporated **Agricultural Protection Zoning** provisions into their zoning ordinances. 11 municipalities in York County, including 10 townships and 1 borough all with lands located in a rural area, that have

incorporated **Transfer of Development Rights** provisions into their zoning ordinance. See Table of municipal use of Ag Protective Tools - (Table 8) http://www.ycpc.org/County_Long_Range_Docs/Comp_Plan/AgProtectionPlan.pdf.

York County Conservation District participates in environmental education, erosion and sedimentation control, agriculture, and watersheds. See www.yorkccd.org

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The County's **Water Resources Plan** is available at www.ycpc.org/County_Long_Range_Docs/Comp_Plan/WaterResPlan.pdf.

Act 167 Activities - www.ycpc.org/Municipal_Current_Pages/act_167_activities.html

General Notes

York County Planning Commission - www.ycpc.org.