

# MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

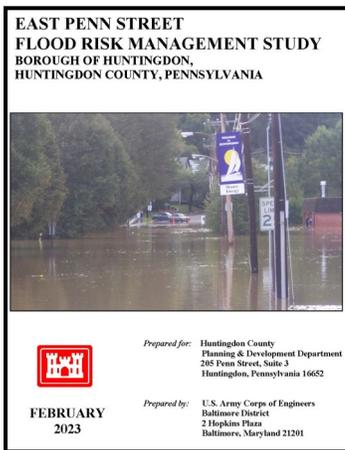
With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities and agencies upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning, and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services and various planning studies.

## INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2022:

### Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough staff and Council to discuss current and future entitlement CDBG projects. In addition, a Planning Department-initiated flood mitigation study for East Penn Street was funded by the USACE Baltimore District in February 2022. The study's primary purpose is to develop flood



mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate flooding along East Penn Street - allowing access to the Borough by emergency vehicles during flooding events and mitigating flood damage to several privately owned businesses along this street. The completed study was received February 3, 2023 and forwarded to Huntingdon Borough officials for consideration.

### Mount Union Borough

Staff coordinated a demographic survey with Borough and Water Authority staff to determine CDBG eligibility for a proposed waterline replacement project using FY 2022 funding. Staff also provided model subdivision and land development ordinances for Borough Council consideration.

### Smithfield Township

Staff attended meetings with Township staff and Supervisors to discuss current and future entitlement CDBG projects.

## ACT 13 MARCELLUS SHALE LEGACY FUND

One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)), which allows each county in the commonwealth to receive a share of the Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee based upon county population. These funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of

greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to drainage by storms or flooding." These funds may be leveraged with other funding sources to complete a project, and mostly serve as gap financing.

Since September 3, 2013, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available annually, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project. Six percent of each award is retained for administrative expenses.

On April 21, 2022, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission reviewed five applications for Act 13 funding totaling \$66,400.00. The Planning Commission's award recommendations were forwarded to the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$30,000.00 to three projects on April 26, 2022. The three 2022 Act 13 Legacy Fund awards included \$10,000.00 each for:

- Renovation of the Broad Top City Borough Community Building;
- Improvements at Riverside Park in Smithfield Township; and
- Upgrades to the Little League Field in Warriors Mark Township.

Of the \$262,945.53 in Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds awarded for 32 eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$210,830.89 was spent by the end of 2022 - \$201,385.55 for project costs and \$9,445.35 for program administration. \$36,746.86 of the total funds awarded, was reallocated because four projects were no longer viable and six projects did not utilize their entire award. Projects utilizing awarded funds are located in Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton,

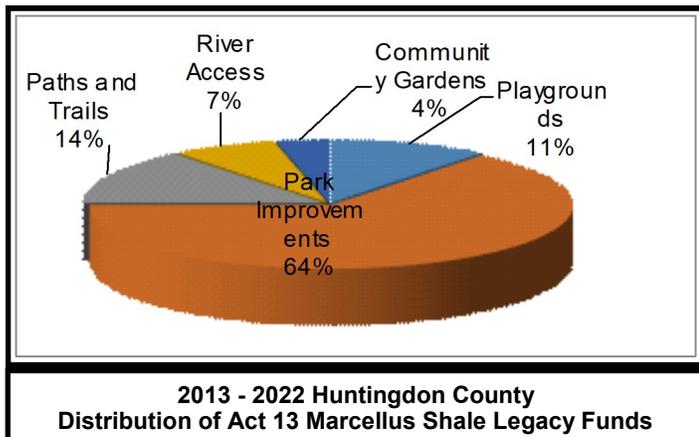


New Bleachers, Warriors Mark Township

Mount Union, Shirleysburg and Three Springs Boroughs; and in Morris, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell, Walker, Warriors Mark and Wood Townships.

## MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

The distribution of awarded Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, summarized by category, is detailed in the chart below:



### JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC) UPDATE

Formed in 2014 with coordination by the Huntingdon County Planning & Development Department, the JRBC was one of only six participants in the Blueprint Communities program within Pennsylvania. The initial “Core Team” was tasked with committing themselves to trainings and focus groups that would aid in the education and experience required to create a comprehensive five-year plan for the communities of Mapleton Borough, Shirley Township, and Mount Union Borough. Through their extensive efforts, the group compiled a thorough strategic plan outlining seven themes: Business and Economy, Housing and Neighborhoods, Image and Identity, Quality of Life, Workforce and Education, Infrastructure, and Social and Political.

The current JRBC group consists of a mixture of original and new members sharing a common interest of continuing the work by driving the identified goals and plans forward to improve the quality of life and support the growth of the Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township communities. The JRBC members have been working as one committee with mini

committees to accomplish multiple facets of projects. In 2022, a list of potential members was created for an additional committee to coordinate the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue mural project - from original concept, to fundraising, to execution and any other issues that may arise. The first committee meeting regarding the mural is scheduled for 2 p.m., March 13, 2023 at the Mount Union branch of the Center for Community Action (CCA). The JRBC has also been meeting at this location. CCA anticipates this branch office will open to the public in March 2023.

The Huntingdon County Community Development Administrator is involved in the promotion and marketing sub-group. She is working directly with JRBC staff on content for the Facebook page; ways to encourage community participation; and ways to grow followers to allow shared social media information to reach as many residents as possible. In addition, she has been designing several promotional pieces for the purposes of attracting the public and showcasing the JRBC. These promotional pieces are expected to take shape in early 2023.

One of the upcoming JRBC projects discussed in 2022 and funded through a mini-grant is a time bank. Tentatively, the time bank will launch in Spring 2023. A great community response is anticipated. This asset, available to residents of Mount Union, is seen as a means to trade services or talents. Someone with one set of skills or talents needing help can trade their skills with someone having the needed skills or talents. While the time bank will be a learning process, this concept is an exciting feature that can show worth in our area regardless of anyone’s type of employment, lifestyle, pay rate, address, or any other diversity factors. It can showcase that everyone has value that is measured in means of hours rather than skill or educational background.

A redesigned website for the JRBC was launched mid-February 2023. Information about the JRBC can be found at <https://www.jrblueprint.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mublueprintcommunity>.

