

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 2018:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended Community Development Committee and Safety Committee meetings to discuss the Active Transportation Committee's (ATC) sidewalk lighting and designated bike lane projects.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to discuss the Pennsylvania Avenue Project and Multimodal Transportation Fund grant dollars.

Smithfield Township

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

Todd Township

Staff attended a meeting to discuss the Township Building Renovation project utilizing CDBG dollars.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Since December 1997, Planning Department staff have worked with the Huntingdon County Housing Authority (HCHA) to complete the required Environmental Review Reports (ERRs) needed for modernizations and improvements to the five facilities owned by the HCHA. These ERRs must be complete before the HCHA can receive money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A revised agreement was signed in September 2017.

In 2018, Melody Mason completed the following ERRs:

- FY 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village and Taylor Apartments;
- Capital Fund Program for Crawford Apartments; and
- Operating Subsidy Funds Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village, Taylor Apartments and Crawford Apartments.

ACT 13 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."

Since September 3, 2013, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available each year, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission accepts and reviews applications, and makes recommendations to the Huntingdon County Commissioners.

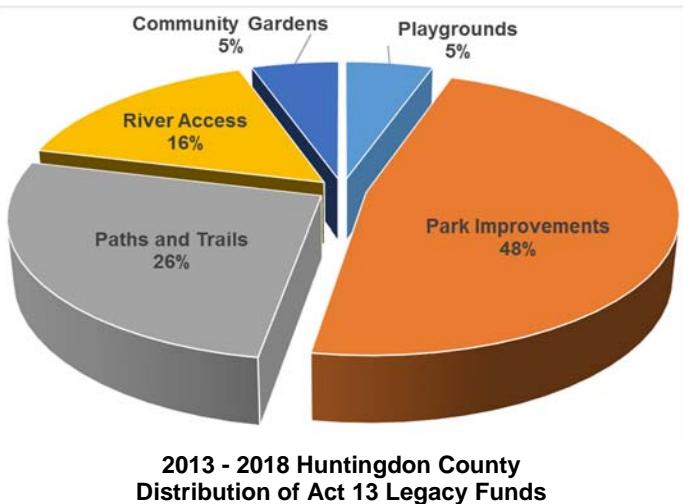
In 2018, three applications totaling \$29,900.00 were received and reviewed by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the Huntingdon County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$28,000.00:

- \$8,500.00 to construct a pavilion at Mount Union Borough's Diven Park;
- \$10,000.00 for Phase Two of the Blairs Mills Sportsman's Association Renovation Project in Tell Township; and
- \$9,500.00 for boat launch improvement at Mapleton Borough's Riverside Park.

Of the \$145,345.53 approved for eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$94,907.36 was spent by the end of 2018 - \$89,578.01 for project costs and \$5,329.35 for program administration.

The 19 projects that have been awarded funding are located in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mapleton, Mount Union and Shirleysburg Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell and Walker Townships. A chart showing the distribution of Act 13 funds is on page 15.

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)



FIRM AND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT ORDINANCE UPDATE *by Leslie Rhodes, PA Municipal League*

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was originally established by Congress in 1968 in an effort to provide affordable (subsidized) federally backed flood insurance to property owners. Many of our communities were established near fresh water out of necessity. With modern water supply and sewer systems proximity is no longer required for access to clean water. Unfortunately, affordable insurance resulted in continued appeal to settle near watercourses. The actual risk to property is much greater than the premiums being paid, and, as of 2018, the NFIP is \$20,525,000,000 in debt.

Legislation has made attempts to rectify this issue. In 2012 Biggert-Waters was passed, which eliminated subsidies for second homes, business properties, severe repetitive loss, and substantially improved/damaged properties. Rates were to increase 25% per year until at full actuarial cost. New policies were to start at actuarial rates. This caused drastic economic harm and outrage from citizens across the country. In an effort to appease property owners, the Affordability Act was passed in 2014 which did not stop the transition to actuarial

rates but temporarily slowed it down. The rate increases created an ideal environment to promote higher standards in floodplain ordinances because investment in these areas was no longer going to be profitable for those that could afford it, and impoverishing for those that could not.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partners with other groups and communities through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program to identify flood hazards, assess risks, and provide data through Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS). This data becomes the basis for floodplain management at the local level (statutory authorization given by the passage of the Floodplain Management Act of 1978).

In 2002, FEMA changed its mapping process and began digitization of paper maps. Whenever there is a map update, any community affected by such updates must also review and update their floodplain ordinance to ensure continued compliance with the NFIP. There are a number of steps to take before a new map (FIRM) becomes effective, such as: scoping and map production, community review period, community meeting, and sending the Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The LFD provides notice that the new maps have been finalized and will go effective exactly six months from the date on the letter.

On November 2, 2017, the LFD was sent out to five Huntingdon County communities: Birmingham Borough, Franklin Township, Morris Township, Spring Creek Township and Warriors Mark Township. Lincoln Township, Shade Gap Borough, Broad Top City Borough and Cassville Borough were the only communities that do not have any Identified Special Flood Hazard Areas and were not required to adopt. Lincoln and Shade Gap are the only Huntingdon County communities not currently participating in the NFIP. The remaining communities, while unaffected by the latest map update, were required to have their ordinances reviewed and updated if found to be non-compliant. To assist the municipalities through the ordinance update, DCED hired Leslie Rhodes, with the PA Municipal League, to help. Planning Director Mark Colussy then reached out to Rhodes to assist with municipal outreach. All participating NFIP municipalities in the County were invited to an in-person workshop that was hosted by the Planning and Development Department on February 26, 2018 in the Bailey Building. Additionally, there were

