

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 2017:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with borough staff and the Community Development Committee to discuss CDBG administration.

Juniata Township

Staff met with Township Supervisors to discuss township ordinances.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to assist with implementation of the Borough's Strategic Plan and a Zoning Ordinance update.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff provided assistance with Township website updates.

Smithfield Township

Staff attended meetings with township staff and Supervisors to discuss CDBG administration and Act 13.

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 approved by the County Commissioners in August 2017 and signed by the HCHA in September 2017.

By mid-2017, Iona Conner had completed five ERRs:

- Chestnut Terrace Drainage;
- Greene Street Village Lighting;
- Hartman Village Parking Lot;
- Security Cameras (Taylor Apartments, Hartman Village, Chestnut Terrace, Crawford Apartments) and Computer System Upgrade at the HCHA Federal Drive Office; and
- Taylor Apartment Windows

Under the revised agreement, Melody Mason anticipated completion of ERRs for the following projects by the end of 2017:

- FY 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village and Taylor Apartments;
- Crawford Apartments Kitchen Renovation;
- Crawford Apartments Parking Lots and Landscaping; Site Lighting and Replacement of Boilers and Hot Water Heaters;
- Administration and Management Activities, Procurement of Tools and Equipment, and Maintenance Activities for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village, Taylor Apartments and Crawford Apartments;
- Taylor Apartments Fire Alarm System Upgrade; and
- Chestnut Terrace Parking Areas Resurfacing and Boiler Replacement

PA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT (PHARE)

In June 2015, Huntingdon County was awarded a \$125,000 PHARE grant to work with the Center for Community Action (CCA) to provide rental and utility options for older adults, low- and moderate income families and people with special housing needs to prevent homelessness.

All funds were expended by June 30, 2017, with 94 households in 17 Huntingdon County zip code areas receiving assistance. Intake data revealed that 98.9% of the participating households had income below 50% of the median area income for the county.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

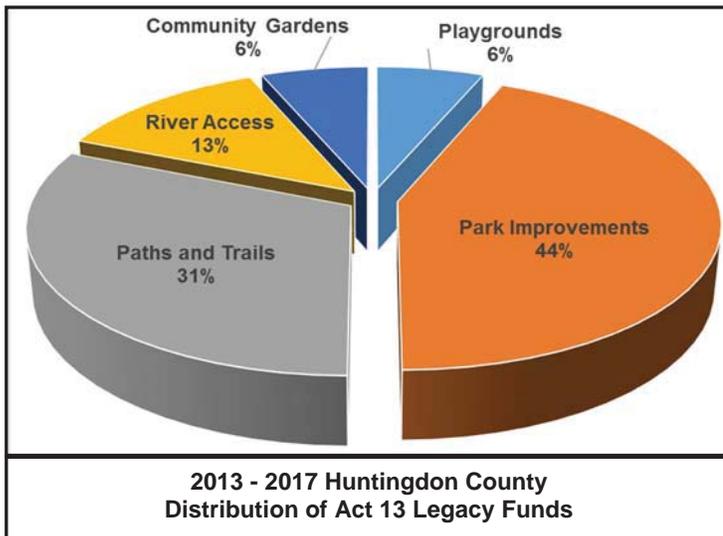
One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)), which allows each county in the commonwealth to receive a share of the Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee based upon county population.

These funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification

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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 County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available each year, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project.



The Planning Commission has been appointed to accept and review applications, and make recommendations to the County Commissioners.

In 2017, three applications totaling \$18,350.00 were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$19,000.00:

- \$5,500 toward engineering costs to prepare construction drawings for Mount Union Borough’s Lower Municipal Park;
- \$10,000 for Phase One of the Blairs Mills Sportsman’s Association Renovation Project in Tell Township; and
- \$3,500 for the purchase and installation of security cameras in Walker Township’s Woodcock Valley Community Park

Of the \$117,345.53 approved for eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$66,425.72 was spent by the end of 2017 - \$59,834.99 for project costs and \$6,590.73 for program administration.

Projects have been approved in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mount Union and Shirleysburg Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell and Walker Townships.

LITTLE JUNIATA RIVER FIRM UPDATE

The last Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that were adopted in Huntingdon County occurred in October of 2012. This map update was part of the Map Modernization Project. It is not often that these maps are updated, as Warriors Mark Township learned while trying to fix the error on the maps in the Dry Hollow area. Substantial amounts of hydraulic and hydrologic analysis need to be done to any watershed for FEMA to consider updating the FIRMs. Tyrone Borough, just west of Warriors Mark Township in Blair County, had been on a quest to update the FIRM maps in the borough. Tyrone was able to get the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in the analysis and work needed to submit to FEMA. FEMA reviewed the information and ultimately published draft FIRMS for the entire watershed affecting the borough. That watershed also impacts Warriors Mark Township, Birmingham Borough, Spruce Creek Township, and Morris Township.

JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC)

The Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) adopted a Five-Year Strategy based on comprehensive input from several public meetings held throughout the Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township area. Due to such a wide array of needs and ideas presented, the five-year strategy was bold and wide-reaching. After a few years of getting some initial ground level projects off the ground, the community was anxious to see results. 2017 marked a change in direction for the communities and the JRBC Core Team of facilitators. Visible impact projects was the new name of the game. Mount Union PA Avenue, Mapleton Boat Launch, Mount Union Farmer’s Market, and the Regional Tool Shed all gained traction in 2017.

The Mount Union Farmer’s Market was widely regarded as a success out of the gate, due to the fact



that the organizers of the very successful Huntingdon Market decided to expand their services and form the