

MOUNT UNION BOROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December 2013, Mount Union Borough adopted the Mount Union Strategic Plan, prepared through a public process involving Council members, staff and citizens in three public visioning discussions. The plan is a brief, five page, action-oriented guide for community involvement, over the coming five years. Recommended objectives are focused around the following five goals identified by the community:



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- Rejuvenate rail infrastructure and activities in Mount Union;
- Increase River Tourism;
- Increase jobs and tax base in Mount Union;
- Revitalize and beautify Mount Union's homes and buildings; and
- Build community pride

The Plan directs implementation by assigning responsibility for each objective to a specifically named individual, agency or organization. Mount Union Borough nominated a steering committee to oversee Plan implementation. Efforts of Planet LoveJoy are central to many Plan recommended objectives.

Mount Union Borough contracted with the Penn State University (PSU) Cooperative Extension to lead the planning process and to prepare the written strategic plan for a cost of approximately \$700. This effort was directed by Economic and Community Development Educator, Judy Chambers of the PSU Cooperative Extension.

The Mount Union Strategic Plan credits the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department as a champion for the process, for initiating the discussion, providing data and maps, and committing to help the Borough with Plan implementation.



ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

The PA Legislature passed a bill entitled Act 13, which Governor Corbett signed into law in 2012. The purpose of this comprehensive bill is to handle unconventional well drilling due to the recent industry breakthrough of extracting natural gas from the Marcellus Shale, a subsurface geologic formation.

The bill covers a plethora of topics related to gas drilling, but one provision that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)). Each county in the Commonwealth received a share of the impact fee based upon the county's population. The 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."

Starting on September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners established a grant process that made a total of \$30,000 available to any of the County's townships and boroughs with a maximum award of \$10,000 per municipality. The Commissioners appointed the Planning Commission to accept applications, review them, and make recommendations similar to the way the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process operates.

The Planning Commission held a special meeting on October 3, 2013 to review applications. The Planning Commission then recommended that the Mount Union Pavilion construction project be funded at \$10,000; the Broad Top City Park Walkway Restoration to be funded at \$4,000; and the Huntingdon Borough and Porter Township Boat Launch engineering and permitting to be funded at \$8,000 each. The Commissioners accepted the Planning Commission's recommendation, and funded each of the four projects at the level recommended. The Commissioners also agreed to award an additional \$5,000 to the Farmland Preservation program.