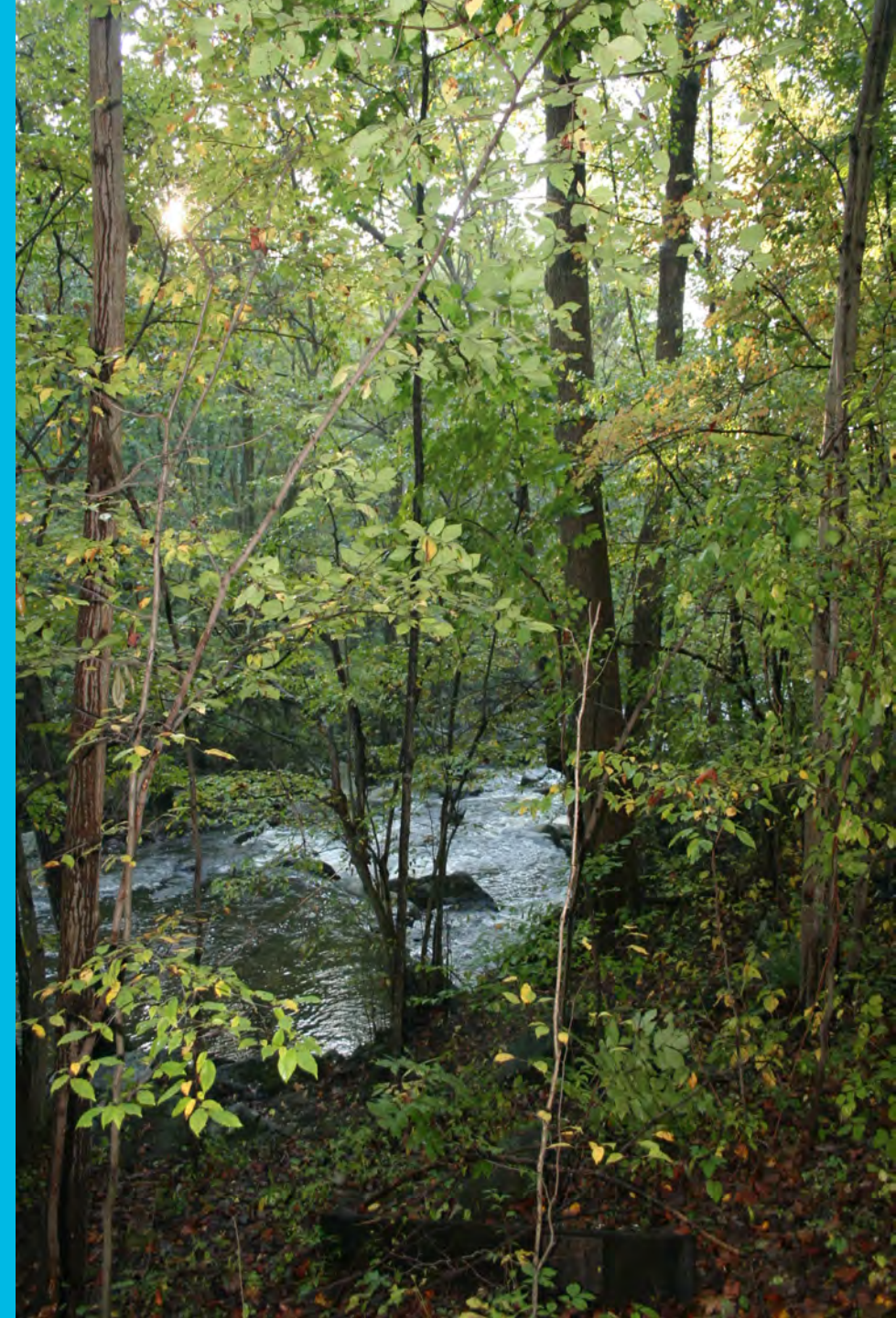


Chester County Policies and Resources

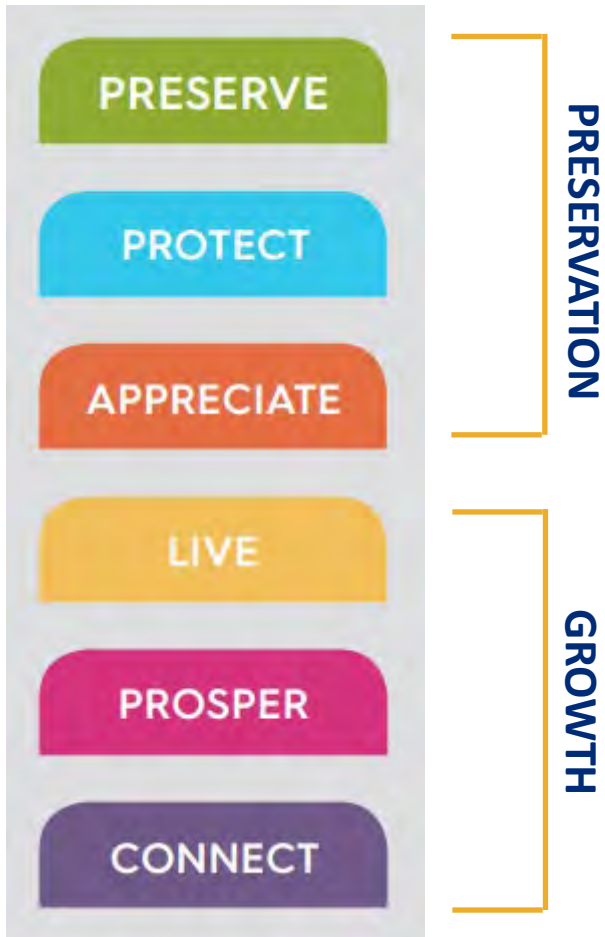
In Support of Green Stormwater
Infrastructure and Low Impact Design

January 19, 2023



Landscapes3 Goals and Objectives

Goals:



PRESERVE Objectives:

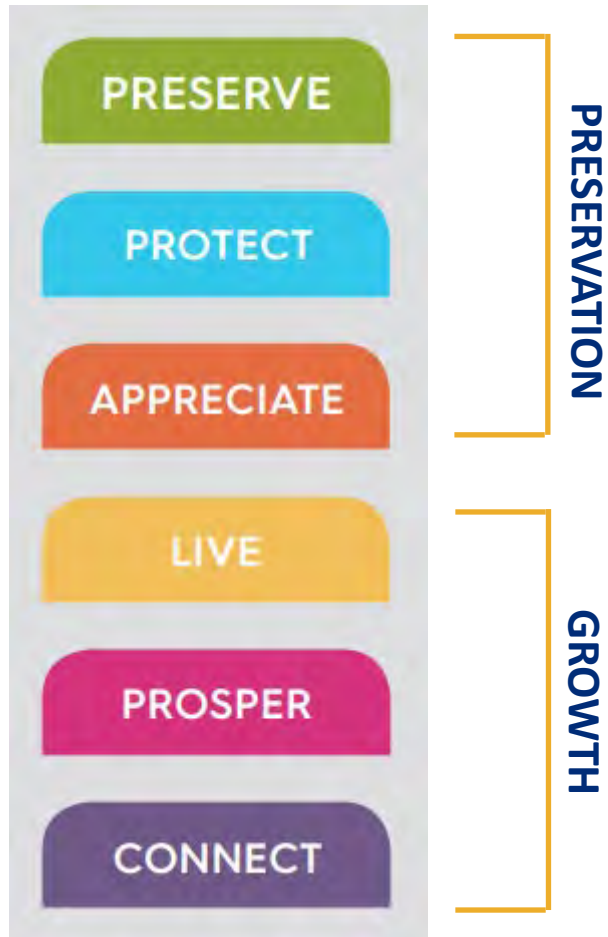
- Preserve a significant portion of Chester County
- Prioritize preservation of agricultural soils, wildlife habitat, water resources, and public recreation opportunities.
- Support a regional approach to preservation that enhances the resiliency of ecosystems
- Promote stewardship
- Promote the benefits of protecting and appropriately managing open space

<https://www.chescoplanning.org/Landscapes3/0-Home.cfm>



Landscapes3 Goals and Objectives

Goals:



PROTECT Objectives:

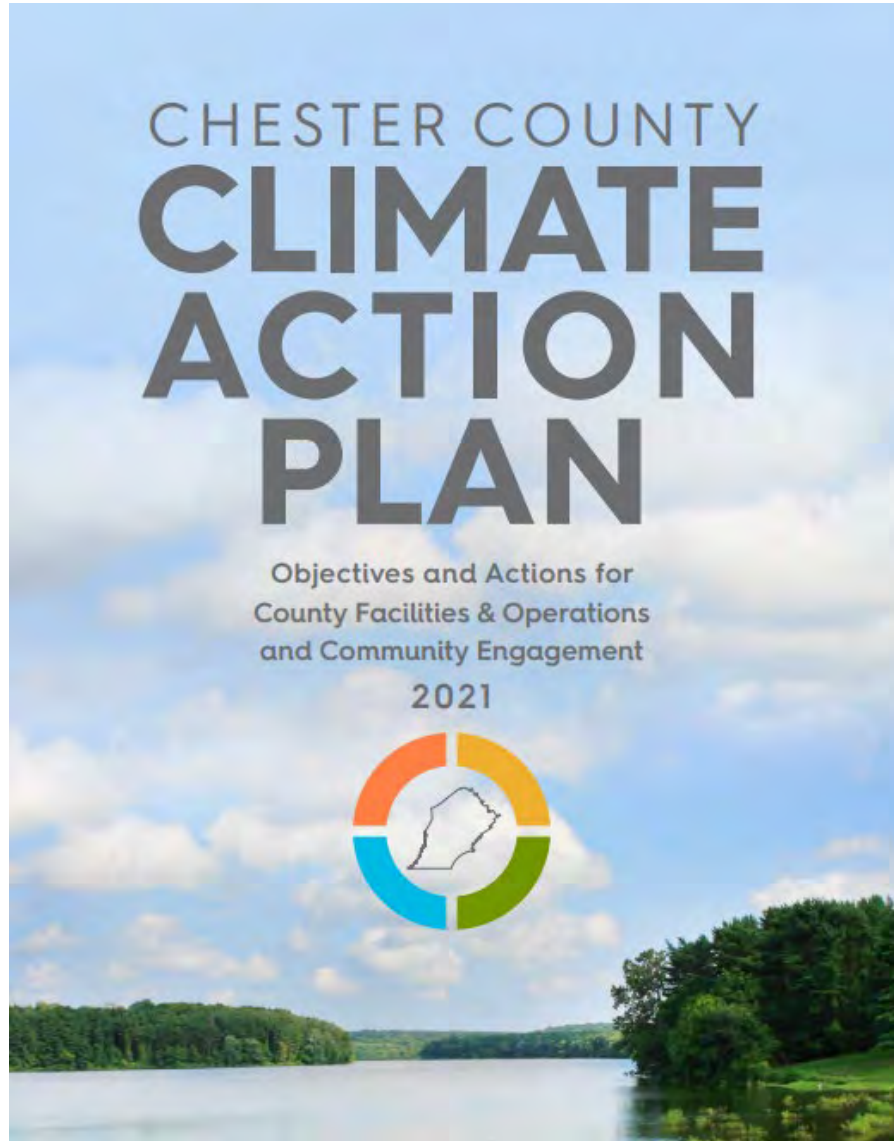
- Guide development away from sensitive natural resources
- Support comprehensive protection and restoration
- Support municipal and regional natural resource protection efforts
- Promote the environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of protecting and restoring natural resources
- Promote groundwater recharge, stormwater runoff and pollution reduction, flood mitigation and resiliency, and water quality improvement and protection
- Ensure a safe, clean, long-term supply of water

<https://www.chescoplanning.org/Landscapes3/0-Home.cfm>

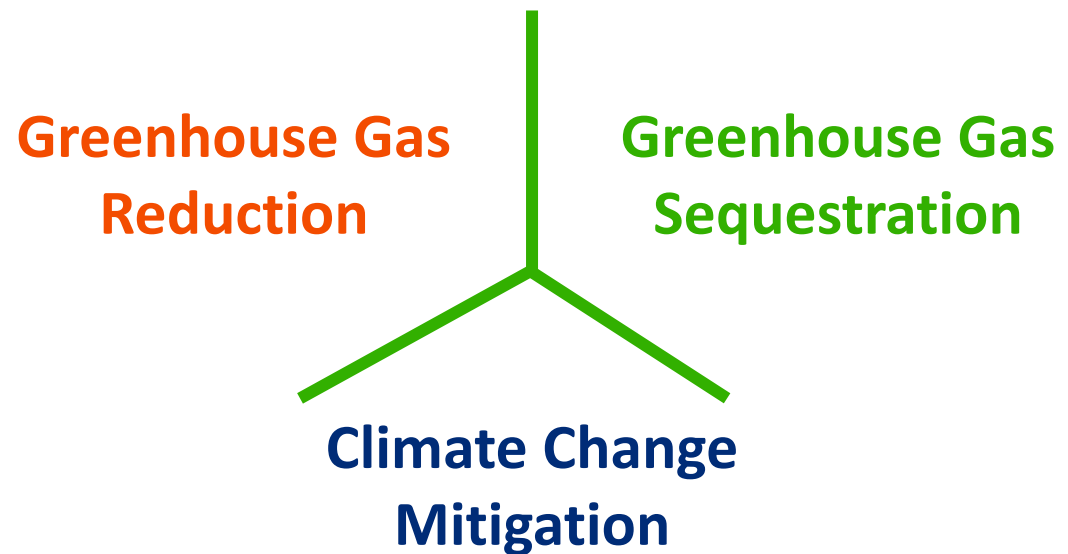


Landscapes

Climate Action Plan



- **Goal: 80% Reduction in GHG emissions by 2050**
- Actions for County Government and the greater community



<https://www.chescoplanning.org/Environmental/ClimateAction.cfm>

Climate Action Plan

Greenhouse Gas Sequestration

- Protect and steward open space, farmland, woodlands, wetlands, etc.
- Implement a “no net loss” tree policy
- Put in place management policies and plans to protect and manage publicly owned forested lands

Climate Change Mitigation

- Support and promote planting trees in urban settings
- Implement green stormwater infrastructure solutions

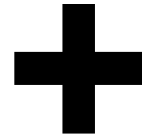


Environmental Services

Open space naturally protects property, filters drinking water, and cleans the air.

\$97 million

annual cost savings
through the provision of
environmental services



\$120 million

in carbon storage within the
trees on protected open space

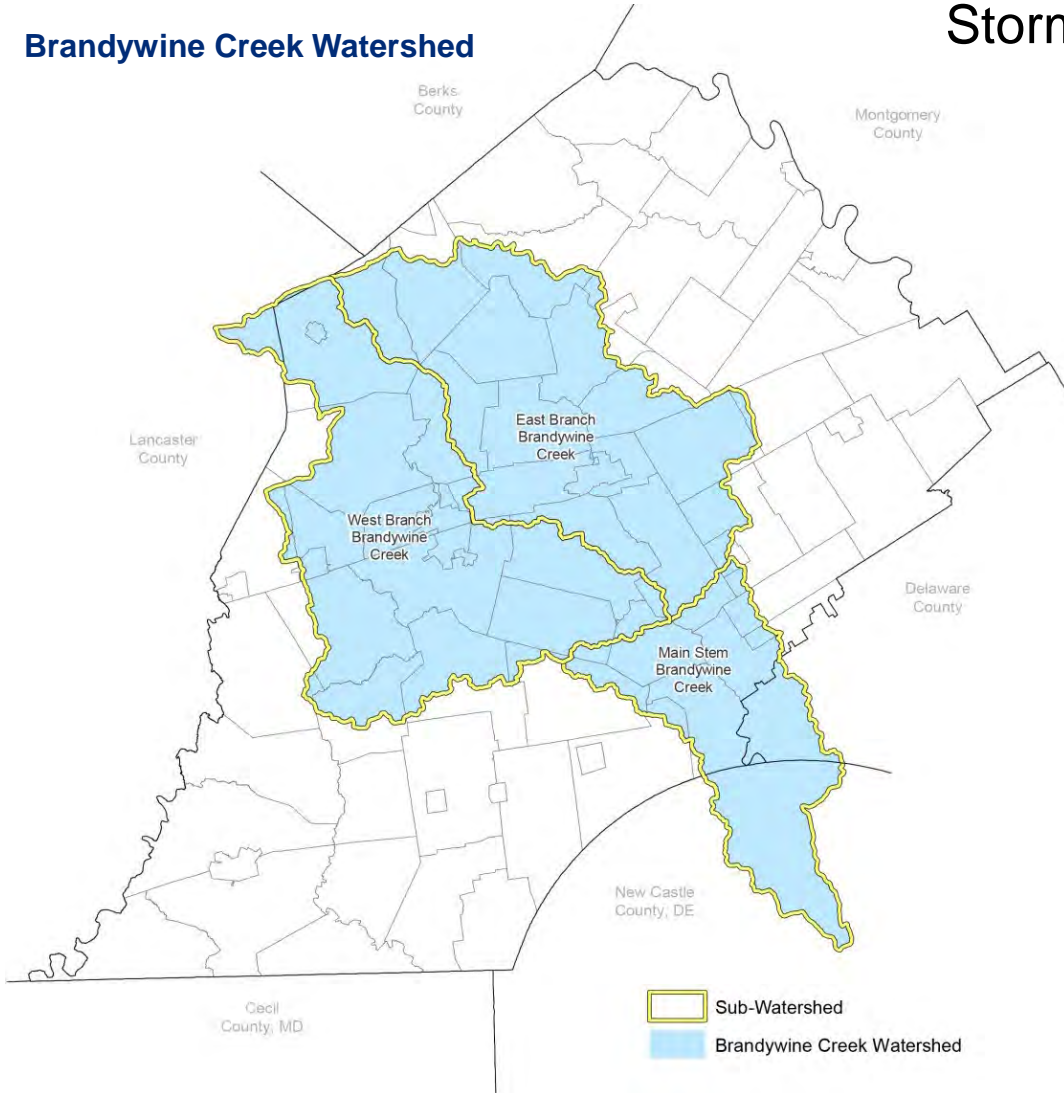
- Water quality and supply provision – \$47.6 million
- Flood mitigation – \$18.3 million
- Wildlife habitat – \$13.1 million
- Air pollution removal – \$13.5 million
- Carbon sequestration – \$4.6 million



Environmental Services

Stormwater Management

Brandywine Creek Watershed

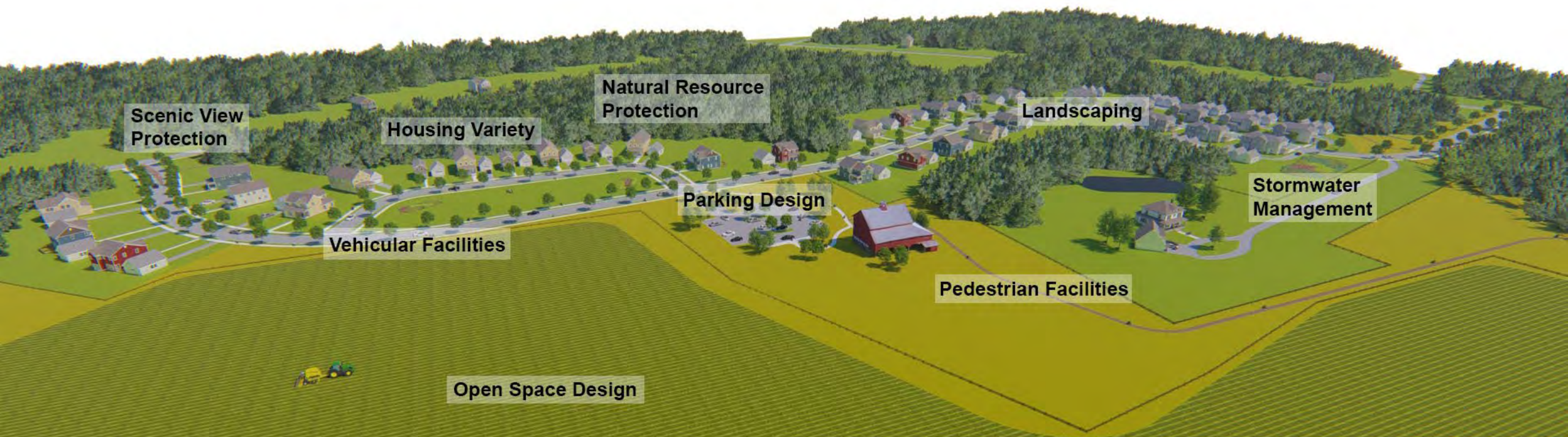


If all the protected open space in the Brandywine Creek watershed were developed, Chester County (mostly local governments and individuals) would have to pay:

- **\$263 million total capital costs**
- **\$27 million in annual O&M costs**
- **\$107 million in annual pollutant removal costs**

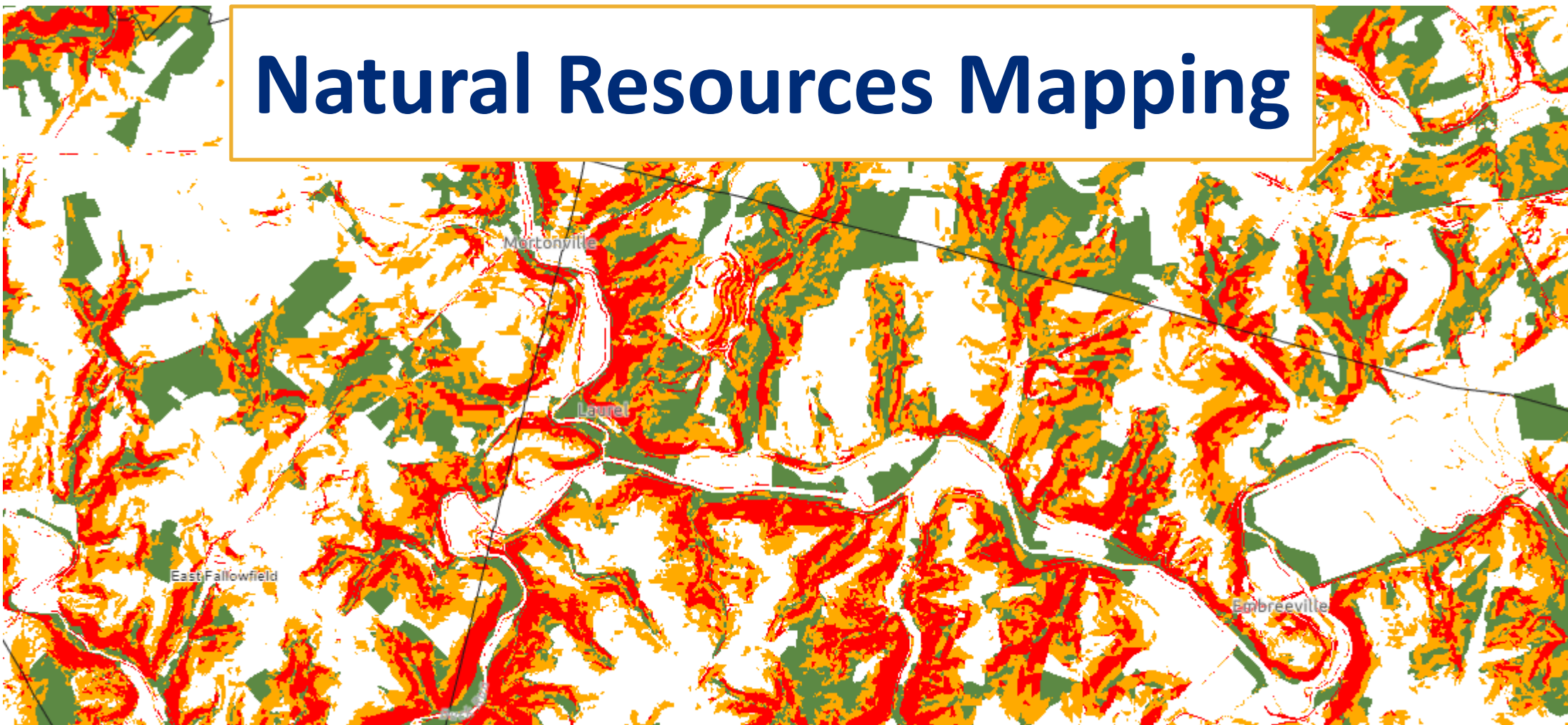
County Resources

Conservation Subdivision Design Guide



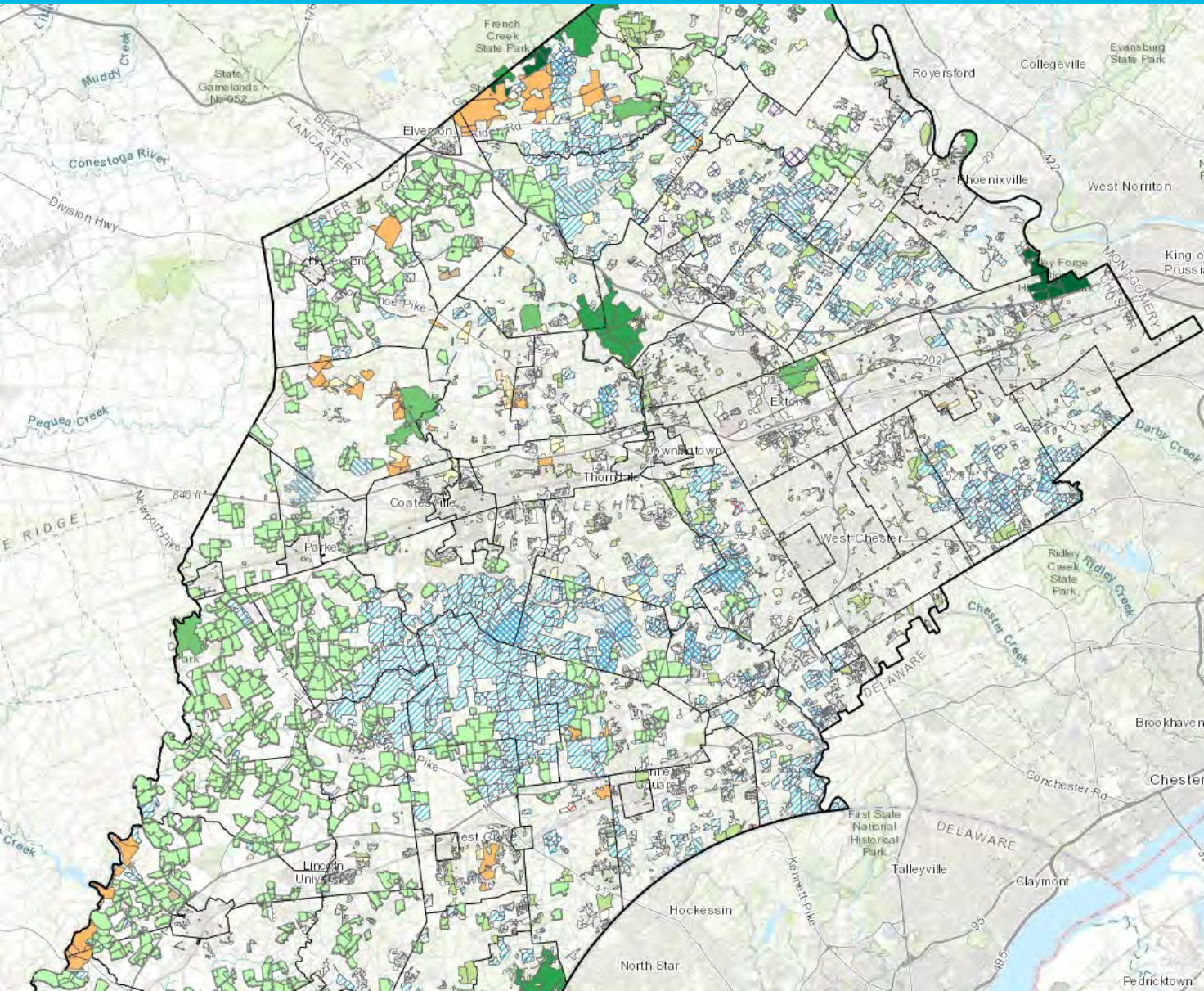
County Resources

Natural Resources Mapping



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e0a917588a8742c38178dc820f9abe28/page/About/>

County Resources



Open Space Tracking

<https://www.chescoplanning.org/OpenSpace/POST.cfm>

County Resources

Municipal Grants Webpage

Open Space and Environment

Grant Name	Administrating Agency	Description	Application Period	Past Awards	Website
Brandywine Headwaters Preservation Program	Chester County Department of Parks and Preservation	This program help conservancies and municipalities advance the complementary goals of water quality improvement and land preservation by focusing on high priority areas and partnerships. The program is limited to land in or adjacent to Priority Preservation Areas delineated in the City of Wilmington (Delaware) Source Water Protection Plan.	Letters of Intent are due on 11/1 of each year for the following year's applications. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.	To date, 8 grant projects have been awarded, totaling over \$366,000 in County funds.	chesco.org/parks-preservation ▶
Boating Facility Grant Program	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	This program provide grants for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of the Commonwealth. The goal of the program is to ensure Pennsylvania's recreational boaters have the highest quality boating facilities.	The application period is now closed.	There is no county specific information regarding funding.	fishandboat.com ▶
Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	This grant provides funds for the planning, acquisition, and development of public parks, recreation areas, motorized and non-motorized trails, river conservation and access, and the conservation of open space. Eligible applicants include municipalities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and State Heritage Areas.	The 2022 application period is now closed.	In 2021, 17 projects in Chester County received this grant, totaling over \$8 million.	dcnr.pa.gov ▶
Community Recreation and Conservation Planning Funding	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Planning projects laying groundwork for land acquisition, development and/or management of parks, rec facilities, critical habitat, natural areas, greenways, and river/watershed corridors. (Part of C2P2)	The application period is now closed.	No information at this time.	dcnr.pa.gov ▶

<https://www.chescoplanning.org/Municipal/GrantOpportunities.cfm>

County Resources

Municipal Ordinance Inventories

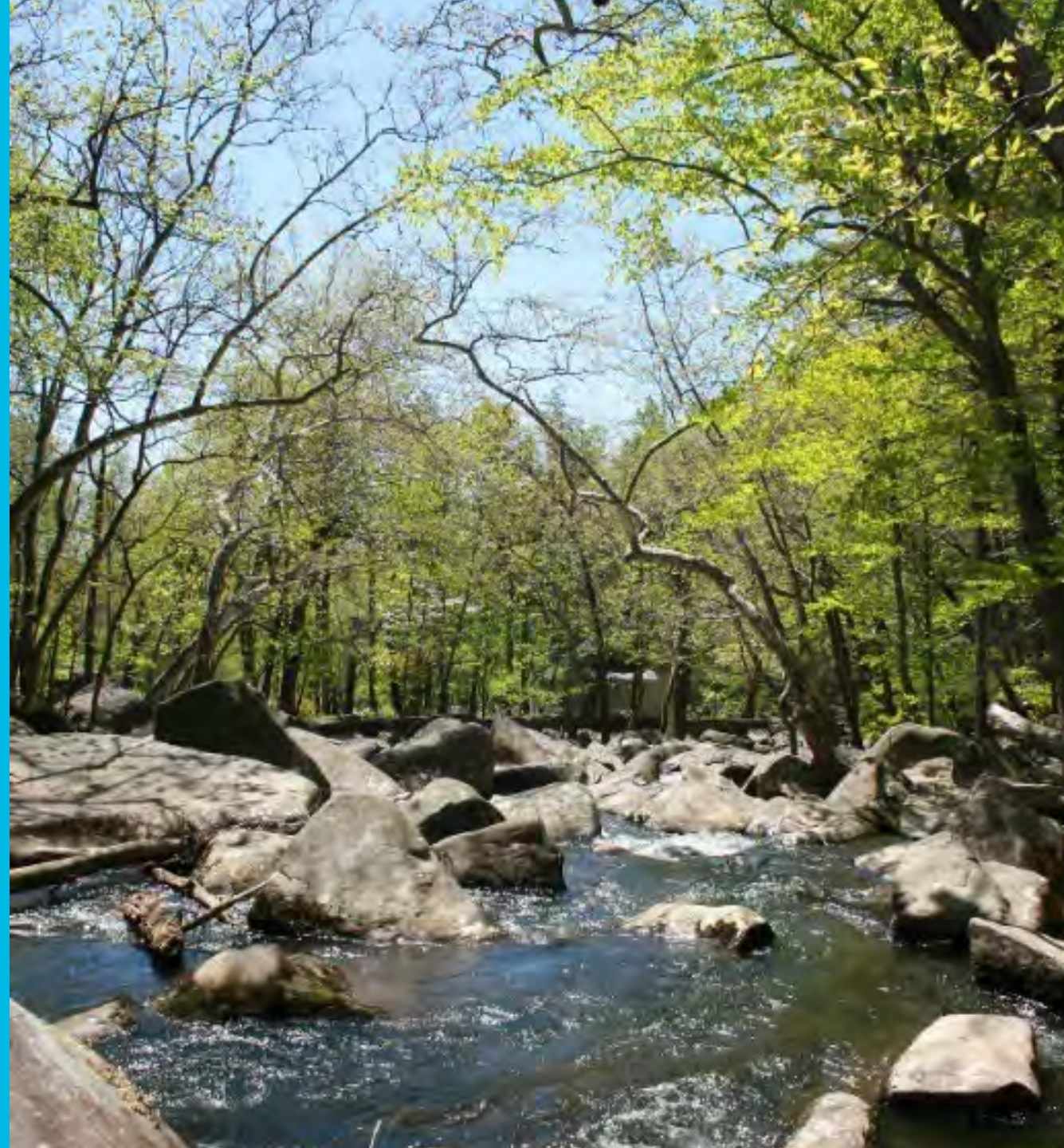
- [Open Space Tools and Policies](#)
- [Active Transportation](#)
- Agriculture-friendly zoning (coming soon)
- Solar power (in progress)
- Natural resource protection

Contact us to discuss the findings of your municipality's inventory! ccplanning@chesco.org

Protecting Natural Resources

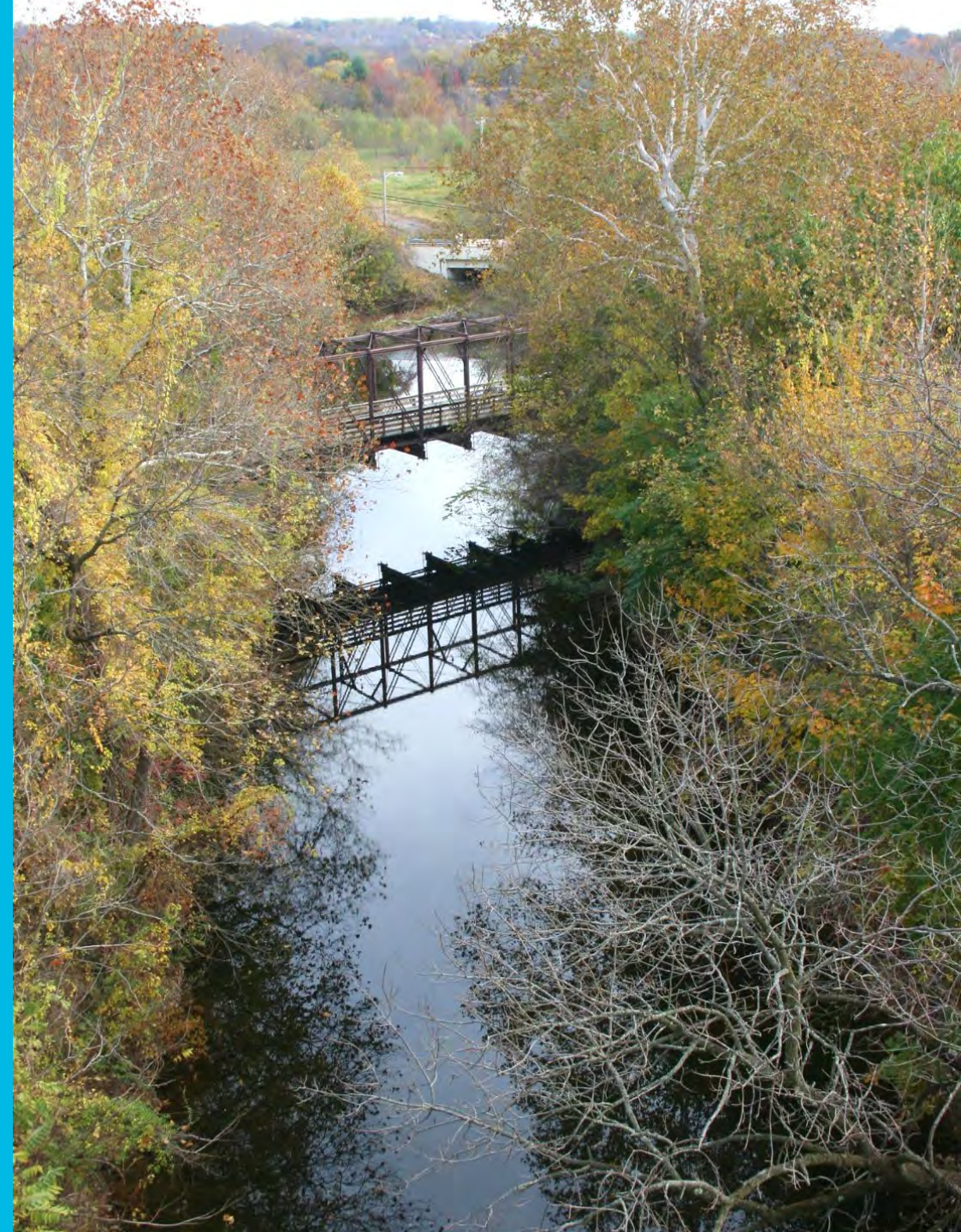
Through Local Ordinances

January 19, 2023



Benefits of Natural Resource Protection Standards

- Comprehensive resource protection provides multiple layers of protection – land, water, and biotic resources are interrelated
- Centrally located ordinance standards are easier to reference, enforce, and amend
- Ordinance standards are one of many protection mechanisms



Natural Resource Planning

- The first step to protection is understanding what resources you have!
- Natural Resource inventory and maps often included in comprehensive plan
- Comprehensive plan goals and recommendations can guide ordinance amendments
- Generally, most effective to group regulations together in the zoning ordinance and subdivision and land development ordinance

Zoning vs Subdivision and Land Development Regulations

- **Zoning Ordinance (generally recommended)**
 - Offers broader protections
 - Requires variance for relief/modifications
- **Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance**
 - Applicable only under subdivision and land development
 - Requirements can be waived during review process

Ordinance Essential Considerations

- Ensure standards are **measurable and enforceable**
- Establish specific **maximum disturbance limits**
- Consider **regional implementation**
- Create standards for each **individual resource**



Individual Natural Resources



Woodlands



Wetlands



Steep Slopes



Floodplains



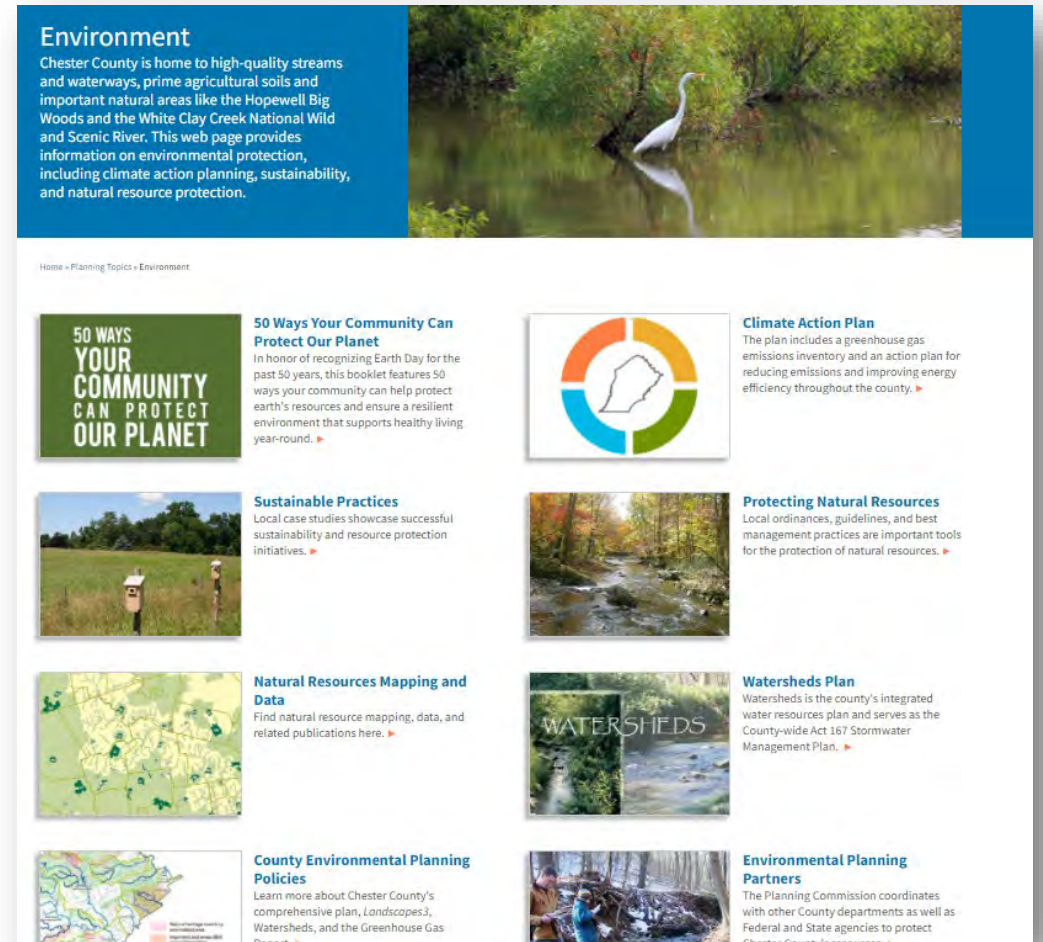
Riparian Buffers

County Natural Resource Inventory

	Steep Slopes	Woodlands	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Flood-plains	Total Consistency *
Protected	34	41	40	40	55	29
Limited Protection	36	25	30	19	17	11
Not Protected	3	7	3	14	0	33

CCPC General Resources

- Check out CCPC's Environment [information page!](#)
- CCPC's [eTools](#) offer specific natural resource protection guides
- Model ordinance language can be found in the [Brandywine Creek Greenway Strategic Action Plan](#)



The screenshot shows the "Environment" page of the CCPC website. At the top, there is a header with the title "Environment" and a paragraph: "Chester County is home to high-quality streams and waterways, prime agricultural soils and important natural areas like the Hopewell Big Woods and the White Clay Creek National Wild and Scenic River. This web page provides information on environmental protection, including climate action planning, sustainability, and natural resource protection." To the right of this text is a photograph of a white egret standing in a pond.

Below the header is a navigation breadcrumb: "Home » Planning Topics » Environment". The main content area is a grid of eight resource cards, each with a title, a brief description, and a right-pointing arrow:

- 50 Ways Your Community Can Protect Our Planet**: In honor of recognizing Earth Day for the past 50 years, this booklet features 50 ways your community can help protect earth's resources and ensure a resilient environment that supports healthy living year-round.
- Climate Action Plan**: The plan includes a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and an action plan for reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency throughout the county.
- Sustainable Practices**: Local case studies showcase successful sustainability and resource protection initiatives.
- Protecting Natural Resources**: Local ordinances, guidelines, and best management practices are important tools for the protection of natural resources.
- Natural Resources Mapping and Data**: Find natural resource mapping, data, and related publications here.
- Watersheds Plan**: Watersheds is the county's integrated water resources plan and serves as the County-wide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.
- County Environmental Planning Policies**: Learn more about Chester County's comprehensive plan, Landscapes3, Watersheds, and the Greenhouse Gas Report.
- Environmental Planning Partners**: The Planning Commission coordinates with other County departments as well as Federal and State agencies to protect Chester County's resources.

CCPC Vision Partnership Program

	Cash Grant	County Consulting
Eligible Projects	Plans, ordinances, ordinance amendments, planning studies that advance Landscapes3	Plans, ordinances, ordinance amendments, planning studies that advance Landscapes3
Funding: Adopted Plans or Ordinances	Maximum \$50,000 (plus \$10,000 per additional municipality for multi-municipal plans)	Maximum \$50,000 for contracts (plus \$10,000 per additional municipality for multi-municipal plans); <u>maximum \$5,000 project cost for agreements</u>
Funding: Accepted Planning Studies	Maximum \$30,000 (plus \$5,000 per additional municipality for multi-municipal plans)	Maximum \$30,000 for contracts (plus \$5,000 per additional municipality for multi-municipal plans); maximum \$5,000 project cost for agreements
Municipal Contribution	40% of project cost; a higher municipal match can be provided under application criteria	40% of project cost

Q&A

More information on the Vision Partnership Program can be found at: <https://www.chescoplanning.org/MuniCorner/vpp.cfm>

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