



ENVISION Smart Growth Toolbox Goes Live on LCPC's Website

A new online planning resource for communities that want to translate smart growth principles into action went live today on the Lancaster County Planning Commission's (LCPC) website, www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning. See the navigation bar on the left of the screen for the toolbox.

The Envision Smart Growth Toolbox provides "how to" resources to improve the quality of life in Lancaster County's 60 municipalities through better planning. The Envision Toolbox contains a wide variety of strategies, ordinances, programs and best management practices that can be applied by communities to

implement the goals and objectives of *Envision Lancaster County*, the County's Comprehensive Plan, as well as regional and local comprehensive plans.

"This toolbox provides municipalities and planning stakeholders with up-to-date reference materials and benchmark successes directly relevant to the implementation of *Envision Lancaster County*," said James R. Cowhey, executive director of LCPC.

For ease of use, the Envision Smart Growth Toolbox is organized according to the following categories: Community Capacity, Economic Development, Heritage, Housing, Gray Infrastructure,



Green Infrastructure, Rural Areas, Sustainable Growth, Tourism, Traditional Communities and Transportation.

"Each tool ties directly to the goals
(Toolbox continued on page 2)

Lancaster County's Green Infrastructure Plan Unanimously Adopted by County Commissioners

Slated to guide the County's plans to preserve, conserve, restore and enhance natural resources through the establishment of a countywide, integrated green infrastructure system, *Greenscapes*, an amendment to Envision Lancaster County, the County's Comprehensive Plan, was unanimously adopted by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

"*Greenscapes*, the Green Infrastructure Plan, now becomes an important element of the County's Comprehensive Plan," said Dennis Stuckey, chairman of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. "Using a holistic approach to natural resource conservation, our planners and partners will work closely

with all sectors of our community to protect the ecological functions and services that natural resources provide for the health and quality-of-life of residents and visitors."

The Green Infrastructure Plan highlights the importance of protecting large blocks of contiguous land and

improving connectivity as it aims to establish a network of natural areas, conservation lands, and working landscapes.



"The plan provides a blueprint for accommodating appropriate growth and development, while preserving the region's most valuable natural resources and native species," said County Commissioner Scott Martin.

"Only 16 percent of the county's landscape is forested," said County Commissioner Craig Lehman. "We depend on these forest lands to provide clean air and water and habitats for our native plant and animal species. Conservation, as outlined in the plan, adds value to the environment and our local economy as it is vital to maintaining our quality of life and our unique landscapes attract visitors."

(Green Infrastructure continued on page 2)

(*Toolbox* continued from page 1)

and objectives in *Balance*, the Growth Management Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, which was developed with extensive citizen input and is based upon an Urban Growth Area Strategy and a Rural Area Strategy,” said Scott Standish, director of LCPC’s Long Range and Heritage Planning Division.

Each entry features case studies, including local examples that demonstrate how other communities have addressed similar challenges to those facing Lancaster County.

Tools will be added and updated on a regular basis,” said Mary Frey, principal planner, LCPC’s Long Range and Heritage Planning Division. To encourage people to check back often, LCPC developed a “Featured Tool” category containing information that is particularly important to communities.

For additional information on the toolbox, contact Mary Frey at 299-8333 or frey@co.lancaster.pa.us ❖

(*Green Infrastructure* continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, the county’s remaining natural lands are under threat from large-lot rural land development and action is needed now to ensure that these scarce natural resources are used wisely,” said James R. Cowhey, executive director of the Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC).”

“The green infrastructure system outlined in *Greenscapes*,” said Scott Standish, director of LCPC’s Long Range and Heritage Planning Division, “provides a framework for sustainable growth and economic vitality in Designated Growth Areas, for agriculture and other compatible uses in rural areas, and for parks, open space

outdoor recreation and related activities such as walking and biking throughout the County.” A framework for roles and responsibilities for implementation is part of the plan and already moving forward. “The system is challenging and depends on our existing strong partnerships, developed over years, between the public, semi-public and private sectors,” said Standish.

For more information on *Greenscapes*, check out Lancaster County Planning Commission’s website under “This Just In” at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning. For specific questions, contact Michael A. Domin, Principal Planner at LCPC at domin@co.lancaster.pa.us or 717-299-8333. ❖



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2009 fmi Team

Editor: Liz Smith
 Graphic Designer: Marie Quigg

For e-mail & address change, please contact:

fmi Newsletter
 150 N. Queen Street, Suite #320
 Lancaster, PA 17603
 (717) 299-8333
 or e-mail: hahn@co.lancaster.pa.us
www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning

fmi Newsletter is published by the Lancaster County Planning Commission and is dedicated to sharing knowledge about information on urban and regional planning issues affecting Lancaster County. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and promote more effective and equitable planning. fmi is free and made available by contacting Liz Smith at (717) 299-8333.

You are cordially invited to...

Save our Land, Save our Towns: Growing Communities, not Sprawl

Featuring Thomas Hylton

*Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist
 Author of "Save Our Land, Save Our Towns"*

Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

**Leffler Chapel and Performance Center
 Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa.**

Limited seating is available. Admission is free, but tickets are required and can be reserved by calling Elizabethtown College’s ticket hotline at **717-361-4757**.

This program is being sponsored by the Borough of Elizabethtown, the Hourglass Foundation, the Coalition for Smart Growth, the Lancaster Alliance, the Lancaster County Planning Commission, and Elizabethtown College.

