



# 2019 Annual Report

Franklin County Planning Commission



## 2019 Planning Commission Annual Report

The guiding principles of the Franklin County Planning Commission are to foster the proper growth of Franklin County to ensure the enjoyment of life by each citizen in a pleasant, healthful and harmonious environment. The guiding principles of the Franklin County Planning Commission include:

- Promoting economic development to revitalize communities,
- Sustaining open space and the aesthetic and historic characteristics of the County,
- Protecting farms, forests, and streams, and;
- Safeguarding our recreational and valuable natural resources.

The Planning Commission intends to maintain these principles by:

- Providing guidance and sound community planning advice to local governments,
- Emphasizing regional cooperation in planning efforts, and;
- Fostering growth and development that will complement existing infrastructure.

The 2019 Annual Report was prepared in compliance with the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Section 207 which stipulates a report of the Planning Commission’s activities be completed by March 1st each year.

Over the last year, the Planning Commission met twice and was provided with reports from staff on the accomplishments in the Planning Department. This included updates on agriculture preservation, subdivision and land development reviews, housing and transportation initiatives, and goals for the coming year. The current members of the Planning Commission are listed below:

<b>Franklin County Planning Commission</b>		
<b>Member</b>	<b>First Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Dr. Jack Benhart	1996	2023
Cindy Lawver	2000	2023
Dr. George Pomeroy	2012	2023
Ed Wells	2009	2020
David Mackley	2009	2021
Chris Ardinger	2018	2021
Andy Paszkowski	2018	2021

## Franklin County Planning Department

The Franklin County Planning Department provides staff support primarily to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board, the Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Blighted Property Review Commission. Staff support is also provided to the County Board of Commissioners as requested. The staff is also responsible for managing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Housing Trust Fund, Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant (TQLEG), Mosquito and Tick Borne Disease Prevention, and transportation initiatives.

Staff are involved with many different professional organizations and committees related to the planning profession. This includes the American Planning Association - Pennsylvania Chapter (APA-PA), Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority, and Council of Governments (COG).

In 2019, the former Planning Director, Phil Tarquino, retired after 40+ years of service in the department. During his tenure, Phil's dedication to the planning department led to the successful implementation of many initiatives throughout the County. Most notably, these accomplishments included:

- Developing the comprehensive plan that led to the opening of Exit 7 (now Exit 17) on Interstate 81 which brought economic opportunities to the County.
- Establishment of the Franklin County Rural Planning Organization (RPO) in 2009 and its re-designation as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 2013.
- Heightening of Route 30 as a major economic and transportation hub servicing the needs of the residents of Franklin County.
- Providing support to the reworking of Letterkenny Army Depot sustaining many jobs in the County and working closely with those affected during the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 1995. Measures within the BRAC also sought to improve quality of the environment in the surrounding area.
- Instrumental in working on Solid Waste Management by providing locations and developing environmental standards in the County.
- Coordination with the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission to invest in agriculture preservation and establish the Agricultural Preservation Board.
- Offering internship opportunities for students striving to work in the planning field.
- Overseeing the review of hundreds of land development and subdivision plans.

As noted by Planning Commission Chairman Dr. Jack Benhart, Phil is *"a man of character who respected all of the individuals he worked with over the years and is a model citizen in the County"*. The Planning Commission and staff would like to commend Phil and all of his hard work over the last several decades.

In addition, the Planning Department welcomed new staff members and programs during 2019. For 2020, the department has established the vision of "Visibility and Value". The Planning Department will continue to carry out the County mission of enriching the lives of the residents of Franklin County and will strive to create a continued presence among the residents, municipalities and agencies served.



**Steven Thomas, AICP** is the Planning Director of the Franklin County Planning Department. Steve joined the team in 2019 with a background of fourteen-plus years of planning experience in transportation planning, community development, comprehensive planning, site plan reviews and municipal outreach. He received dual Bachelor's Degrees in History and Geography from Shippensburg University. In his role at the County, Steve oversees the daily operations of the Planning Department, ensuring that all roles, responsibilities, and tasks of the Department are executed in a timely manner and in accordance with the overall Mission and Vision of Franklin County.

**Nicole Boling** is the Senior Planner in the Franklin County Planning Department. Nicole received her Bachelor's degree in Geography from Shippensburg University in 2012 and her Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech in 2018. Nicole joined the department in 2019 and focuses on coordinating the implementation of various programs and activities within the department in addition to facilitating municipal and public outreach initiatives.

**Rochelle Barvinchack** is a Planner III in the Franklin County Planning Department. She received her Master's in Geoenvironmental Studies from Shippensburg University in 2005 and has been with the department since January of 2006. Her main focus is on administering the County's Agricultural Preservation Program. She also assists residents with recycling resources, issues new addresses, and reviews subdivision plans and ordinances for the County's municipalities.

**Garrett Vandebroke** is a Planner III in the Franklin County Planning Department. He recently graduated from Shippensburg University with a Master's degree in Geoenvironmental Science, with a focus on hydrology, resource management, and planning. He joined the Planning Department to manage the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and assist with other general planning needs. The CDBG program is essential in our effort to provide various infrastructure improvements and public services to low/moderate income citizens within Franklin County.

**Kenana Korkutovic** is a Planner III in the Franklin County Planning Department. She recently joined the department and her focus will be on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning. She concentrates on Transportation Improvement Programs, Long Range Transportation Plans, coordinating with PennDOT and local municipalities in planning for the growing transportation needs within the County, and assists with other general projects. Kenana will graduate from Shippensburg University in May 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

**Jason Goetz** is the Mosquito and Tick Borne Disease Control Specialist in the Franklin County Planning Department which is largely funded through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Jason received his Bachelor's degree in Social Science Education from Shippensburg University in 2012 and joined the department in 2019. His main duties for the County include mitigating the risk of mosquito and tick borne diseases through surveillance, control, and education.

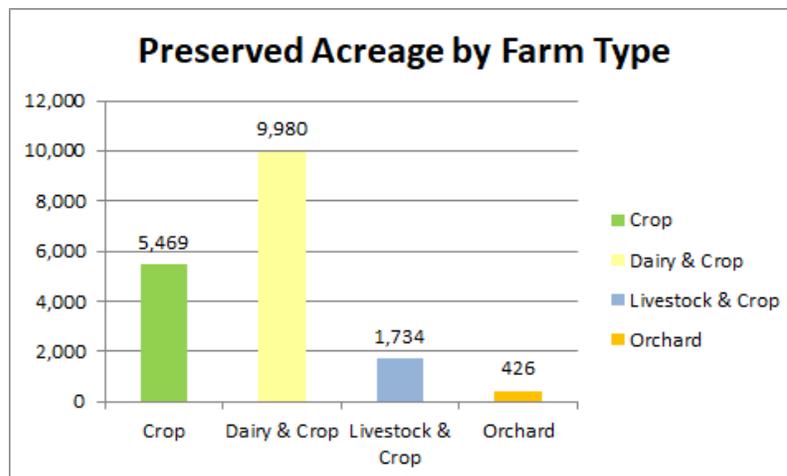
**Pam Peters** is the Administrative Assistant in the Franklin County Planning Department and the first contact for the department. She has over 20 years of experience in secretarial and administrative work. Her main

function is to assist everyone in the department to assure efficient operations of the department. She acts as a liaison between our department and other county agencies, departments and municipalities.

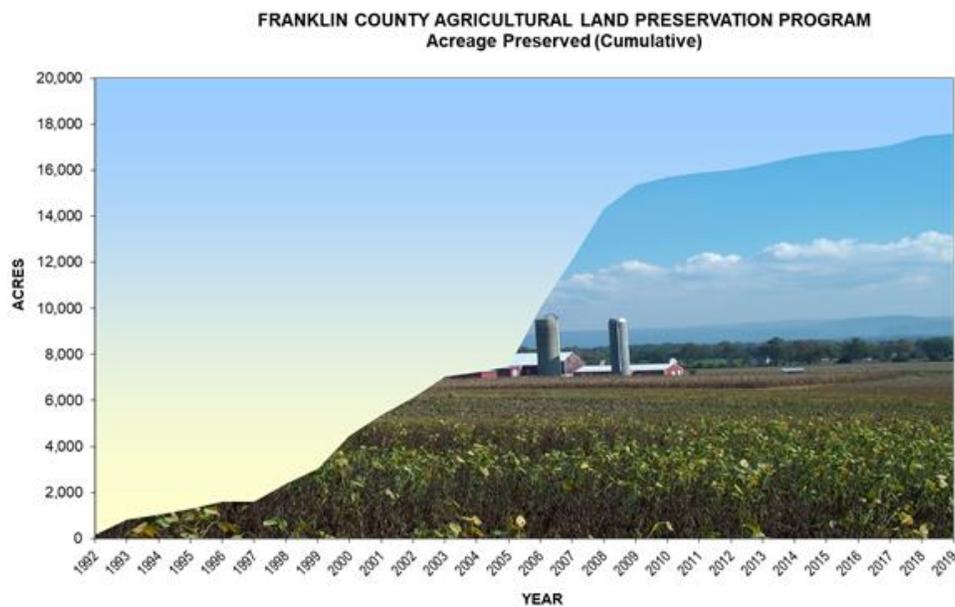
Planning Department - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Continue to support and implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2012. Prioritize action items in the plan and explore cooperative efforts with local municipalities. Strategize and begin to prepare for the next update to the plan.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Support the objectives in the Franklin County Greenway and Open Space Plan. Consider updates to the plans and involvement with other environmental initiatives. Continue to participate in the South Mountain Initiative. Facilitate and coordinate local efforts to ensure consistency and connectivity.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Cooperate and provide support for new economic development initiatives that meet with the objectives of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan and the vision for the future.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Connect with municipalities to continue providing technical assistance.
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Develop a department strategic plan.
<b>Goal 6:</b>	Encourage water resource planning by continuing to coordinate with County departments to facilitate the implementation of the Watershed Implementation Plan and stormwater management activities.

## Franklin County Planning Department Activities and Accomplishments

### Agricultural Land Preservation



Agriculture remains a leading industry in Franklin County, accumulating more than \$413 million in cash receipts annually. With continuing support of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board continued their efforts with the purchase of conservation easements on two (2) farms in 2019 for a total cost of \$333,106.73. These two (2) farms comprised an additional 132.64 acres of farmland that will be preserved for future generations. The program received seven (7) new applications for consideration for the 2019 ranking year and there are currently 122 farms on the waiting list.



Pennsylvania continues to rank first in the nation in the preservation of farmland with the preservation of 5,636 farms, comprising 577,092 acres. Franklin County currently ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for the number of acres preserved through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The program has preserved 137 farms comprising 17,609 acres. The average farm size in the program is 128.54 acres. It is anticipated that during 2020, Franklin County will purchase easements on an additional six (6) farms comprising nearly 500 acres.

Agricultural Preservation - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Coordinate with local municipalities and provide assistance through education, tools and resources to continue to foster agricultural production in the county.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Explore ways to supplement County funding for the agricultural preservation program. Additional upfront funding would enable the program to take better advantage of the State's match and preserve more farms within the County.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Work with state, regional and local agencies to promote and enhance agriculture.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Support Agricultural Land Preservation by promoting agricultural security areas and land preservation.
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Coordinate with NRCS and encourage easement owners to update their Conservation Plans in order to help maintain soil and water quality, which will also help achieve the goals of the County's Watershed Implementation Plan.

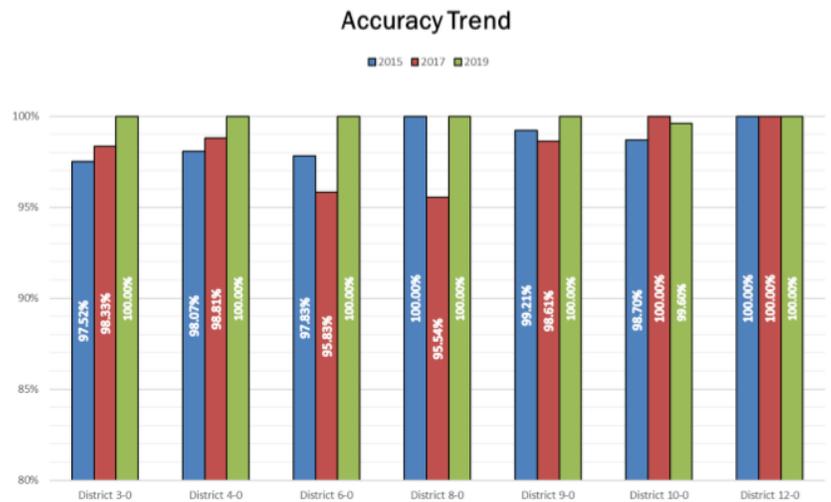
**Transportation Planning**

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an entity with transportation policy-making and decision-making abilities which ensures decisions and spending are based on a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative process. Federal law requires the formation of an MPO to represent localities with an urbanized area over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census, which Franklin County reached in the 2010 census cycle. MPOs are comprised of community members who represent transportation and business interests, and state and local governments. The Franklin County MPO coordinates with PennDOT and local governments in planning for the growing transportation needs within the county and is responsible for developing a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), among other planning tasks.

**MPO Updates**

Throughout 2019, the MPO conducted PennDOT Connects meetings with municipalities and PennDOT to discuss and collaborate on priority projects and to ensure the best allocation of resources. The goal of this initiative is to make the planning process more efficient and cost-effective. Antrim, Lurgan, Washington, and Montgomery Townships and Mercersburg Borough were among the municipalities that were involved in meeting with PennDOT to discuss concerns, current conditions, and future plans of action.

On November 20, 2019, the MPO adopted a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Franklin County. This encompassed the transportation planning activities for Franklin County for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022. The priorities of the UPWP are to update the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Long Range Transportation Plan, conducting studies, and participating in regional planning centered on Congestion Management and Environmental Justice best practices.



**PENNDOT ENGINEERING OFFICES**

The MPO also began the process of updating the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and adopting a Title VI Plan. The PPP was adopted in February 2013 in compliance with federal and state regulations. The update focused on consistency in outreach and access to information, improving public awareness and involvement of ongoing and upcoming projects, and addressing environmental justice throughout the county. The Title VI Plan assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, income, or limited proficiency in English be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity.

Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) sampling was completed in partnership with PennDOT. Franklin County is located within PennDOT’s District 8-0 and maintained a 100% accuracy rate in HPMS sampling for 2019. The annually collected data is used as a source of the conditions, use, and operational information for the nation’s roadways. It is used for monitoring trends and impacts and is analyzed by the U.S. Department of Transportation to support national budgeting for highway improvements.

In a continued effort to ensure the health and safety of all Franklin County residents, in November of 2019, the MPO adopted PennDOT’s safety targets for fatalities, serious injuries and non-motorized fatalities/serious injuries in accordance with the Safety Performance Measures outlined in the FAST Act. The MPO will use the targets to help select and prioritize projects in both the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be programmed and constructed. Part of the continuous planning process will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the programmed and constructed projects and measuring the MPO and PennDOT’s progress towards those targets.

Transportation - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Increase assistance to local municipalities for transportation related needs.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Maintain positive correspondence and relationships with PennDOT.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Maintain positive correspondence and relationships with local municipalities.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Develop a Technical Advisory Committee to consult with and advise the MPO on key issues.
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Develop and implement an updated Title IV and Public Participation Plan.

**CDBG Program**

Each year the County receives entitlement funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The source of the entitlement funding is provided by the federal government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The County Commissioners allocate funding to selected and approved projects that meet one of the following three national objectives:

1. Low-to-Moderate Income persons
2. Urgent Need
3. Blight

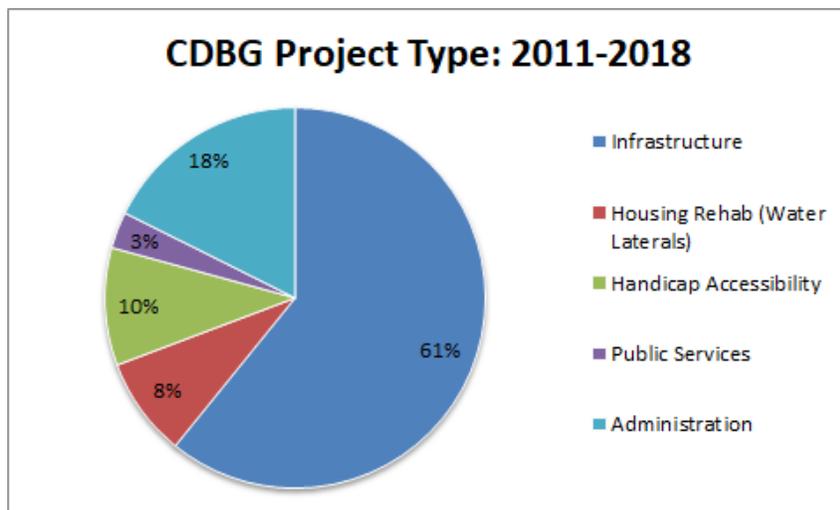
Over the years, the majority of the projects that Franklin County has funded address the first objective, with Low-to-Moderate Income Persons being identified by either the U.S. Census or by conducting income surveys. However, a variety of projects can be completed under this objective. Program funds can be used to ensure affordable housing, provide services and vital infrastructure improvements to the most vulnerable communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. This program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation. A key part of this program's success is citizen participation, especially those that are low-to-moderate income. Citizens are encouraged to attend local meetings, review proposed activities, and provide feedback to identify how best to use the funds provided.

HUD determines the amount of each grant by using a formula that includes community needs, extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relation to other areas. For 2019, Franklin County will receive \$353,505 in CDBG funds from HUD through DCED to address various infrastructure, housing, and public service needs throughout the county. The following projects were selected for funding:

1. Quincy Township: Mentzer Gap Road Public Water Main Line Extension - **\$264,874**
2. Mercersburg Lions Club: Mercersburg Lions Club Park Renovations - **\$25,000**

The first project provides crucial infrastructural improvements to the water system in Quincy Township in order to provide clean water to citizens without an easily accessible source. The second project provides updated park equipment and facilities that serve as a recreational hub for the local Mercersburg community.

From 2011 to 2018, Franklin County has received a total of \$2,338,855 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This was divided among various projects designated as public services, handicap accessibility improvements, housing rehab, and infrastructure improvements. In addition to these projects, 18% of each year’s allocation was used for administering the CDBG program. A breakdown of CDBG funds can be seen below.



**\$2,338,855** of CDBG funds from 2011-2018:

- **\$1,422,946** – Infrastructure Improvements
- **\$233,621** - Handicap Accessibility Improvements
- **\$197,184** - Housing Rehab (Water Laterals)
- **\$72,800** - Public Services (SCCAP, PathStone)
- **\$412,304** - Administration

Moving forward, our plan for the CDBG program will be to use these funds on projects that are most important to members of our community. This will be determined through the development of our new Comprehensive Plan and improved public engagement in the planning process.

CDBG Program - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Review all existing plans and policies relating to the CDBG program. Any plans or policies with outdated language must be updated for 2020 to properly reflect current program requirements.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Push for more public engagement on project selection and implementation. The CDBG program is meant to benefit citizens of Franklin County, and it is crucial that they are involved in the planning process. This guarantees that all decisions are made with the best interests of our community in mind.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Identify new ways CDBG funds can be used to benefit low-to-moderate income families across Franklin County. In the past, infrastructural improvements have been the main focus of the CDBG program, but other opportunities exist to benefit the citizens of Franklin County.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Maximize the benefits of federal funding by determining the specific needs of different communities within the county. With a new comprehensive plan being developed in the coming years, Franklin County will be using 2020 census data to better align our planning goals with the needs of our citizens.
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Increase project monitoring and perform more site visits to better manage projects.

**Housing Investment Partnership Program (HOME)**

In December 2019, the County partnered with Luminest (*formerly known as Valley Community Housing Corporation*) to apply for a HOME grant through DCED for \$540,000 to demolish two (2) blighted structures in the Borough of Waynesboro and construct two (2) single-family homes for income eligible homebuyers. If funding is awarded, this project would increase the number of affordable housing units in the County and revitalize a portion of the Borough of Waynesboro. As of February 2020, the department is waiting for response from DCED on recipients of grant funding.

Housing - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Evaluate guidelines and procedures for housing programs - determine if there are efficiencies that can be implemented.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Improve coordination with recipients throughout project implementation.

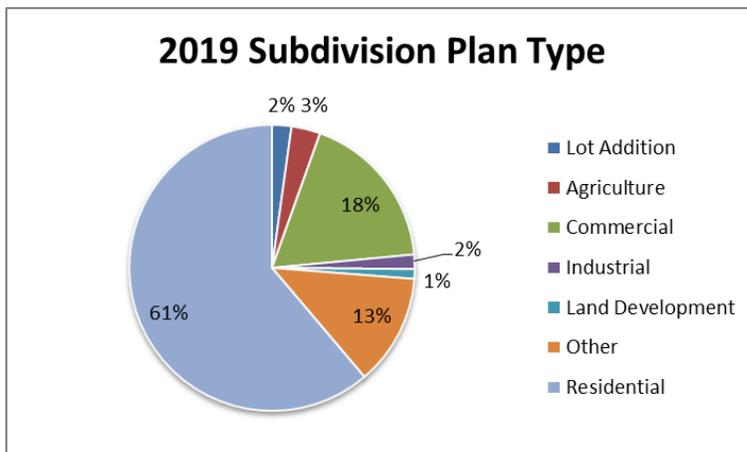
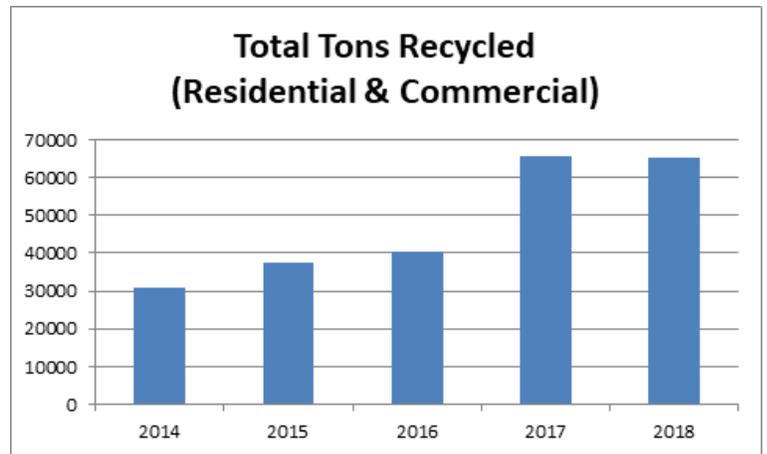
**Housing Trust Fund**

In 2019, Housing Trust Fund awards were given to four (4) organizations:

- House of Hope, a women's recovery program in Chambersburg, received \$10,000 for costs associated with property improvements needed to meet Commonwealth code requirements.
- Habitat for Humanity received \$50,000 to construct a new affordable home in Waynesboro and rehabilitate a home in Chambersburg.
- Franklin/Fulton County MH/IDD/EI received \$11,548 to be used as a cash match for the 2019/2020 HUD Permanent Supportive Housing Program grant. This organization assists with housing and supportive services for chronically homeless and diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Luminest (*formerly known as Valley Community Housing Corporation*) received \$105,000 to assist with providing a mixed use structure with first floor commercial space and eight (8) affordable one (1) and two (2) bedrooms rental units on the first and second floors.

**Solid Waste and Recycling**

In 2018, (2019 reports are currently being compiled), Franklin County residents generated 109,285 tons of municipal waste and recycled 34,855 tons of material for a recycling rate of 31.9%. Increasing the recycling rate by focusing on capturing recycling data that is currently not reported remains as one of the objectives of the Franklin County Municipal Solid Waste Plan. The proper disposal of electronics such as televisions and computer monitors and household hazardous waste continues to be an ongoing solid waste issue within the County.



**Subdivision and Land Development Reviews**

In 2019, there were a total of 186 applications reviewed by staff. The majority of applications were received from Antrim Township. The applications reviewed were primarily for residential subdivisions, followed by commercial development within the County.

<b>Municipalities - 2019 Subdivision Report</b>			
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Total Plans Reviewed</b>	<b>Area (ac.)</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Antrim	27	5,968.13	\$14,249.50
Chambersburg	15	71.08	\$2,591.20
Chambersburg / Guilford	1	11.74	\$200.00
Fannett	8	128.46	\$1,001.00
Greene	12	78.9	\$1,664.50
Greencastle	1	0.68	\$220.00
Guilford	14	227.32	\$1,980.00
Hamilton	19	323.66	\$1,920.28
Letterkenny	6	80.04	\$650.00
Lurgan	3	267.16	\$888.88
Mercersburg	1	0.014	\$70.00
Metal	6	122.2	\$951.32
Montgomery	10	175.98	\$780.00
Peters	11	429.22	\$2,053.00
Quincy	10	440.9	\$2,196.00
Shippensburg	1	51.79	\$200.00
Southampton	9	123.36	\$6,680.76
St. Thomas	4	377.03	\$720.00
Warren	2	13.02	\$140.00
Washington	22	825.14	\$4,313.14
Waynesboro	4	454.36	\$648.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>10170.18</b>	<b>\$44,118.08</b>

**Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant (TQLEG)**

During 2019, the Planning Department received 18 applications for the Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant (TQLEG). The following applications were allocated funding for projects that support the County's tourism efforts and develop the County's quality of life related assets.

<b>2019 TQLEG Grant Applications</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Allocation Amount</b>
Ft. Loudon Community Center	\$17,800	\$17,800
Washington Twp. Monterey Pass	\$100,000	\$50,000
Ebbert Springs	\$11,825	\$10,000
Zion Union Cemetery Association	\$5,000	\$5,000
Tuscarora Wildlife Education Project	\$5,000	\$5,000
Ft. Loudon Historical Society	\$107,335	\$73,000
Mont Alto Historical Society	\$3,190	\$3,190
Historical Letterkenny Chapel	\$8,375	\$8,375
Totem Pole Playhouse	\$230,000	\$50,000
Franklin County Historical Society - Kittochtinny	\$25,875	\$20,000
Capitol Theater	\$24,214	\$15,000
Allison-Antrim Museum	\$57,450	\$10,000

### **Mosquito Data and Control 2019**

Franklin County monitors mosquito and tick data to mitigate the risk of mosquito and tick-borne diseases through surveillance, control and education.

The following table shows the mosquito data for 2019 as well as the percent difference in the appropriate categories for 2018 and 2019 data. The program coordinator can select specific site locations and traps, but the remaining data is largely dependent on the weather and precipitation. Additional mosquito sites were added this year to ensure mosquito monitoring in highly populated areas of Franklin County, where surveillance had been vacant in the past. Gravid and BG trapping was also increased for more efficient monitoring of mosquito species, numbers, and virus rates.

<b>2019 Mosquito Data</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent Difference 2018-2019</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Mosquito Sites	175	212.5% increase	Total number of different locations a mosquito trap was placed in Franklin County.
Gravid Traps Placed	639	24% increase	Total number of Gravid traps placed. Used to catch female mosquitos who have already taken a blood meal and are looking to lay eggs.
BG Traps Placed	70	89% increase	Total number of BG traps placed. Used to catch mosquitoes seeking a blood meal, mostly used in response to complaint calls and nuisance mosquitoes.
Mosquitoes Collected	44,473	2.6% decrease	Total number of adult mosquitoes collected in traps.
Dip Samples	154	44% decrease	Total number of different mosquito larvae samples taken across Franklin County.
Larvae Collected	2042	37% decrease	Total number of larvae collected in dips.
Pupae Collected	218	61% increase	Total number of pupae collected in dips.
Larval Control	81	34% decrease	Total number larval control operations.
Adult Control	14	56% increase	Total number of adult control operations.
WNV Positives	6	96% decrease	Total number of pools of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus.
Complaint Calls	26	766% increase	Total number of citizens generated mosquito concerns.

### **Tick Data 2019**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received grant money to disseminate to the counties beginning in 2018. In 2018, the surveillance only included fall drag surveys for the Black-Legged tick adult (better known as the deer tick). In 2019, spring drag surveys were incorporated for the Black-Legged tick nymph and non-target tick species. All tick drags were conducted at both the state and municipal level. The following table shows the tick data for 2019.

2019 Tick Data		
Category	Number	Explanation
Tick Sites	15	Total number of different locations a tick drag was conducted
Tick Samples	60	Total number tick drags conducted
Black-legged Tick Adults	71	Total number of Black-Legged tick adults collected
Black-legged Tick Larvae	13	Total number of Black-Legged tick larvae collected
Moose Tick Larvae	47	Total number of Moose tick larvae collected
American Dog Tick Adults	17	Total number of American Dog tick adults collected
Lone Star Tick Adults	1	Total number Lone Star tick adults collected
Lone Star Tick Larvae	6	Total number of Lone Star tick larvae collected
Asian Longhorn Tick Larvae	1	Total number of Asian Longhorn tick larvae collected (new invasive species)

### **Past Tick Surveillance**

The following table shows the tick data and bacterial rate test results for the Black-Legged ticks collected in Franklin County in 2018. DEP labs tested these ticks for three different bacteria, all of which can cause infection in humans. The results from the 2019 collection will be concluded later this year.

2018 Black-Legged Tick Bacterial Rate Test Results		
Category	Number	Explanation
Black-legged Tick Adults	56	Total number of Black-Legged tick adults collected
+ <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	28	50% of the total number of ticks tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease
+ <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>	5	8.9% of the total number of ticks tested positive for a bacteria that causes co-infection
+ <i>Babesia microti</i>	1	1.8% of the total number of ticks tested positive for a bacteria that causes co-infection

**Education**

Education is key in Franklin County’s mission to mitigate the risk of mosquito and tick-borne diseases. The learning experience is based on how to recognize tick and mosquito habitats, their behaviors, and how to protect yourself against bites. In 2019, Franklin County presented at eight educational outreach events reaching roughly 1,800 Franklin County citizens.



Figure 1: Jason Goetz demonstrates how DEET repels mosquitoes at Waynesboro's National Night Out



Figure 2: Wyatt Craig fogs an area with a large mosquito population in Guilford Township



Figure 3: A larval sample taken from a retention pond in Washington Township



Figure 2: The Deer Tick in its adult and nymphal stages with size comparison.

Mosquito Program - 2020 Goals and Initiatives	
<b>Goal 1:</b>	Increase gravid trap numbers by 25%.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Increase BG trap numbers by 25%.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Increase educational outreach.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Erect CDC "Prevent Tick Bites" in public areas where ticks have been caught during our surveillance.
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Offer Franklin County citizens a low cost tire recycling event (aids in reducing mosquito habitat).
<b>Goal 6:</b>	Begin a campaign to educate and reduce the expansion of Asian Tiger Mosquitoes across the county. Since being discovered in 2007, in which a single Asian Tiger was found at one location, their population and range has expanded. In 2019 we caught a total of 4884 at 78 different sites. These mosquitoes are a high priority due to their ability to vector WNV, and their preference for humans as a blood meal.

## Conclusion

The Planning Commission and Planning Department staff look forward to accomplishing the goals outlined in the Annual Report for 2020. The Planning Department experienced tremendous change over the last year and each member of the team is looking forward to contributing to the advancement of programs and initiatives that will improve the quality of life for residents of Franklin County. By focusing on the vision of **“Visibility and Value”**, the County’s mission will be met through efforts to continue building relationships and fostering proper growth within Franklin County.

