



FRANKLIN COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Franklin County Planning Department

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2023

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT



Special Thanks

After more than 30 years of service on the Franklin County Planning Commissions, Dr. Benhart has decided to pass the baton of community service. In Dr. Benhart's service to Franklin County, he has overseen the implementation and completion of several long-range plans, played a key role in developing Exit 17 along I-81, and served as a staunch advocate for sound land use planning. On behalf of the County, the Planning Commission, and Planning Department staff past and present, I would like to offer a special thanks to Dr. Benhart for his service to his community.

Respectfully,
Quentin Clapper
Planning Director

Introduction

Imagine Franklin 2035, the county comprehensive plan, establishes a mission to ensure opportunities for a high quality of life, apply a balanced approach to growth, and develop innovative policies through collaboration. Throughout 2024, Planning Dept. staff, with guidance from the Planning Commission worked in a number of ways to enact this mission. The following report identifies many of the accomplishments and highlights goals for the next year.

Over the last year, the Planning Commission met four times and was provided with reports from staff on the accomplishments of the Planning Department. This included updates on agricultural preservation, subdivision and land development reviews, housing and transportation initiatives, and goals for the coming year.

2024 FRANKLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Dr. Jack Benhart	David Mackley
Dr. George Pomeroy	Chris Ardinger
Ronald Madison	Andrew Paszkowski
John Poniske	Austin Rosenbaum



Franklin County Planning Department

Steven Thomas, AICP served as Planning Director until September 2024.

Quentin Clapper was promoted from Senior Planner to Director during 2024. He joined the Planning Department in May 2022. He graduated from Shippensburg University with a Bachelor's in Political Science. In his new role, he oversees the daily operations of the department.

Elizabeth Butler is a Community Planner and joined the Planning Department in July 2023. She graduated from Lock Haven University with a Bachelor's in Geology. In her role, she is primarily responsible for administering the Agriculture Land Preservation Program to protect Franklin County's prime farmland.

Matthew Romero is a Community Planner who joined the Planning Department in October 2023. He graduated from California State University, Northridge with a Bachelor's in Psychology and Urban Planning and Development. In his capacity, he focuses on transportation projects to help ensure the continued maintenance of existing infrastructure and effective implementation of new developments by working with state, federal, and local government agencies.

Colleen Tidd is a Community Planner who joined the department in January 2024. Colleen brings a wealth of experience in grant writing and project management. In her role, she primarily oversees the Community Development Block Grant awards and compliance.

Jason Goetz is the Mosquito and Tick-Borne Disease Control Specialist and joined the Planning Department in April of 2019. He graduated from Shippensburg University with a Bachelor's in Social Science Education. In his position, he works to prevent mosquito and tick-borne diseases in Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Bedford counties.

Zak Long was the department's Administrative Assistant until December 2024.



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

Land Use and Natural Resources

1. Continue funding for purchase of agricultural conservation easements

In 2024, 928 acres of farmland were preserved in Franklin County, bringing the County's total to 19,647 acres preserved. Additionally a total of \$912,541.63 was allocated toward preserving 570 more acres over the next several years.

The chart below breaks down the sources of funding in 2024:



2. Support Projects that conserve open space and promote tourism-related activities

Franklin County has taken many steps to ensure we are supporting projects that conserve open space and promote tourism. We have done this by working internally to provide Peer Support for the Central PA Conservancy Strategic Plan, partnering with organizations such as Cumberland Valley Rail Trail (CVRT) Council, Wellspan, Keystone Health, Franklin County and Chambersburg Area Development Corporations, and Wilson College to develop a CVRT Feasibility Study, and offering our support through letters, guidance, and/or approval of the following:

1. South Mountain Partnership's Natural Heritage Inventory Update
2. Greene's Phillaman Run Restoration Project application for DEP's Growing Greener Plus program
3. The development of Downtown Chambersburg Amphitheater, which would create another avenue for tourism



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

3. Ensure Long-Range Transportation Planning is aligned with planning policies of Character Areas

In 2024, the Planning Department provided a letter of consistency to Greene Township in support of their North Chambersburg Improvement Project-Phase II, which is listed in the LRTP's illustrated projects list. This project focuses on improving safety and connectivity in the Northern Chambersburg area and will help to promote growth in an appropriate area. In effort to expand on this goal, we will begin updating the LRTP in 2025.

Strengthen Our Urban Centers

1. Promote mixed-use zoning along with design standards within identified growth areas and where new commercial corridors are planned to ensure that uses are at a compatible scale

Currently the Franklin County Planning Department is advocating for municipalities to update their zoning policies to support mixed use where appropriate. In 2024, one rezoning affecting the Chambersburg area expanded zoning for mixed use.

2. Provide model zoning language that helps address non-traditional types of land uses such as ADU, inclusionary zoning, and short-term rentals

Franklin County is sharing toolkits and model ordinances from other counties to give guidance to municipalities on non-traditional land types.

3. Provide direct assistance to municipalities through low or no cost auditing of local land use policies including zoning and SALDO

Audits are being offered on an as requested basis. To date, no requests have been received.

4. Promote the use of LERTA in areas for preferred redevelopment

The county is not aware of any new LERTAs being established since the comp plan. However, some redevelopment has occurred in the last year.

The planning department was made aware of two sites for redevelopment in 2024:

1. Standard By Gearhouse in Chambersburg
2. Business development by Stohan Property Investments to revitalize urban economic center

In 2025, the department hopes to establish improved methods for capturing redevelopment in the county.



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

5. Host coordination meetings and legislative briefings with municipalities to address needs and concerns of the county

On September 13th, 2024 Franklin County hosted our planning department's annual Municipal Summit at Norlo Park Community Center where the department discussed program updates and upcoming projects. Antrim Township and the Franklin County Conservation District were also invited to present. These yearly summits create an opportunity for the municipalities and the county to discuss needs, updates, and joint successes ultimately establishing collaboration among local government and legislative policy.

6. Offer technical support, such as grant writing or admin support, and assist with RFP development

Technical support is being offered on an as requested basis. To date, no requests have been received.

7. Identify tools to promote development around established communities Promote Zoning Tools as part of land development review (Get updates from comp tracker)

Franklin County received a handful of plans in 2024 which promoted new development surrounding the Urban and Suburban centers. Examples include Downtown Chambersburg's Amphitheatre and business development by Stohan Property. As shown on the pie chart, 191.51 acres of development are in Urban/Suburban centers while 1,531 acres of new development are in Rural/Agricultural/Suburban centers. The county aims to encourage future urban/suburban development as we progress through 2025.





Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

8. Advocate for zoning policies that allow for mixed use and higher density housing development within Urban and Suburban Character Areas

While Franklin County's goal to encourage and support higher density in U/SC/S areas showed few results in 2024 (see chart below), we are pleased to have open communication between the county and municipalities in working towards this goal in 2025. Ultimately, we still have work to do in planning for higher densities where they are appropriate.



Housing

1. Develop a municipal and employer supported initiative to work with housing developers to increase housing at strategic locations in Franklin County

In 2024, this did not occur, however one of Franklin County's 2025 goals is to begin working on this initiative.

2. Develop an employer-supported initiative to create long-term solutions that address childcare and transportation

Franklin County held a Child Care roundtable on December 12, 2024. The meeting consisted of various employer industries who came together to discuss the need for childcare in the workforce and opportunities to improve access to childcare.

3. Encourage replacing site design standards that create barriers to attainable housing such as parking minimums for senior housing, suburban style building setback in urban areas, and low density in developable areas

Franklin County maintains the goal of making home prices and rent more attainable, which will result in a decrease in housing insecurity. We intend to reach this goal by working with townships and advocating for location appropriate design standards during site plan review, zoning amendments and other outreach.



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

The graph below shows the comparison of severe housing cost burden in Pennsylvania as a whole and Franklin County from 2017-2021. Severe housing cost burden is defined as a household that spends more than half of its income on housing. While Franklin County is outperforming the state, nearly 9% of households in Franklin County, roughly 5,400 households, are experiencing severe housing cost burden.

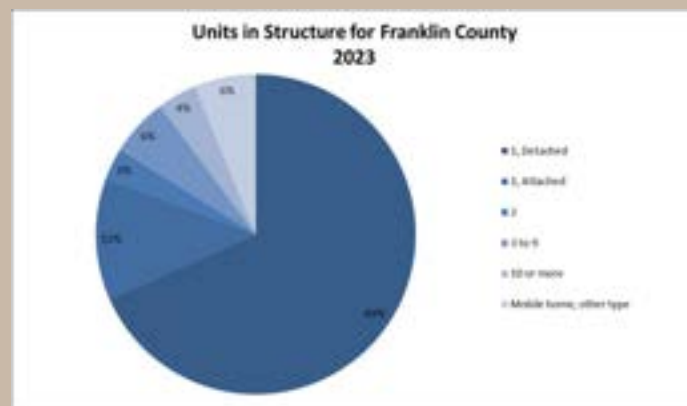
4. Provide planning support for municipalities to prepare multi-municipal plans with the goal of balanced distribution of land uses, including housing types

In an attempt to increase housing options throughout the county, Franklin County has worked closely with municipalities, offering support and guidance in preparing multi-municipal plans. Since adoption of the County comprehensive plan, the Planning Dept. has participated in the Mercersburg-Montgomery-Peters joint comprehensive plan which is now in draft form and has offered input into the Letterkenny-Lurgan-Fannett joint comprehensive plan, which is currently under development.

One targeted outcome of this work is to improve the balance and distribution of housing types in the county. The following chart breaks down the total number of homes (66,787) in 2023 by structural type.



*Data is aggregated from Table 7 (Tenure (2) by Household Income (5) by Household Type (5) by Housing Cost Burden (3)) of HUDS CHAS Table



*Census Data Table B25024 Units in Structure for Franklin County. (5-year)



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

Community Facilities

1. Update the County's Municipal Solid Waste Plan

In December of 2024, the county kicked off plan development which is funded in part by a Section 901 Grant through DEP. This plan will evaluate additional opportunities to promote recycling and to manage waste throughout the county.

2. Explore the feasibility of hosting recycling and waste collection events on a recurring basis

Franklin County is currently reviewing other counties models to determine if special collection events are feasible in Franklin County. In recent years, DEP has begun funding other local entities that are also organizing recycling opportunities in Franklin County. In 2024, Goodwill partnered with Reworld in providing free electronic waste recycling throughout 22 central and southeastern Pennsylvania counties, which launched in May. Franklin County was included in that selection.

3. Provide support to the Adam/Franklin Broadband Study implementation goals

Franklin County has made ourselves available to aid and assist programs and organizations who intend on promoting broadband expansion that align with the study. In April of 2024, PA's Broadband Infrastructure Program awarded \$4.2 million to Zito West Holding, LLC to increase broadband coverage in the County.

4. Regularly publicize the mapping application to share opportunities that the public can utilize for outdoor recreation

Franklin County has added rotational reminders about the application on social media to emphasize the opportunities that are available for recreation in Franklin County.

5. Update Open Space and Greenways Plan to prioritize projects of a regional significance

In effort to coordinate recreation and preservation throughout the county, Franklin County is reviewing available grants to assist with the costs of updating the Greenway Plan.

6. Offer support to municipalities to develop additional recreation opportunities

Franklin County continues to make ourselves available to aid and assist municipalities with letters of support or other technical assistance as appropriate.

7. Prioritize implementation of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail (CVRT)

In 2024, the county partnered with CVRTC as well as other organizations such as Keystone Health, FCADC, CADC, and Wilson College to develop a CVRT Feasibility Study. The Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization has hosted two open houses to solicit public input on the expansion of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail. The study is expected to be published in 2025.



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

8. Organize and train a professional workforce to be responsive, efficient, and effective in protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Franklin County

Franklin County Department of Emergency Service (DES) is in the process of creating a wider base of staffing for ES personnel, allowing more room for a growth in public safety through training and outreach.

9. Develop and execute a robust public outreach and training program to inform, educate, and partner with stakeholders and the public on emergency preparedness

In 2024, DES hosted the following events to promote public outreach and increase public understanding of county needs.

1. Two Career Days
2. One Job Shadowing
3. Four Community Outreach Events
4. Five Open Houses
5. Three Preparedness Drills
6. One Senior Fair

Human Services

1. Host workforce summits with education and training providers, major employers, and childcare service providers to strengthen the connections between each industry

Franklin County's Child Care roundtable in December not only initiated the discussion for childcare in the workforce but it also brought together major employers and childcare providers to connect and open up opportunities for support in each industry.

2. Work with early learning programs to support local efforts that provide early learning initiatives in the community

Franklin County Commissioners recommended a portion of FY 2024 CDBG funds be allocated to a Day Care Initiative that provides curriculum among other tools. This program will potentially provide growth to microenterprise child care providers; supporting early learning initiatives (ELI) in the community.

At December's Child Care Roundtable, hosted by the county, ELI stakeholders were present to talk through the need for quality initiatives.

3. Continue implementation of the Franklin County Human Services Transportation Plan

In February of 2024, Franklin County partnered with Rabbitransit in the launching of "Veterans Medical Transportation"; providing weekly transportation to select VA hospitals at no cost to veterans in Franklin County.



Imagine Franklin 2035: A County Comprehensive Plan

With the recent Opioid Settlement awarding \$6.5 million to Franklin County over the next two decades, the county plans to put \$275,000 towards recovery and treatment related supports. Included in these efforts is a transportation program through the Franklin/Fulton Drug and Alcohol Program.

4. Continue to support implementation of the Franklin County Human Services Plan

Governor Shapiro's 2024-25 proposed budget will restore Mental Health funding in Pennsylvania. The budget proposal includes \$35 million in funds to support county mental health programs such as the 988 Suicide and Crises Lifeline and crisis walk in centers.

In addition to this, Franklin County continues to ensure that we are maintaining high standards in our identified strengths, while looking for ways to meet the needs identified in the plan.

5. Improve the centralization of information related to local services

Franklin County along with other community organizations have adopted the 'no wrong door' approach to connect people to the services they need. At the County, Human Services Resources and Link Access are resources that people can use that are uncertain of how to access the information or services that they desire. Additionally, the Franklin County GIS Dept. and Human Services Dept. are coordinating to create an improved directory for available services.



Agricultural Land Preservation

Agriculture remains a leading industry in Franklin County, accumulating more than \$655 million in cash receipts annually. In 2024, the easements on eleven farms were officially purchased, bringing the total preserved land to 160 farms and 19,647 acres.

With the continued support of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board advanced its efforts with the selection of five farms in 2024. This will add nearly 570 preserved acres to the program. It is anticipated that in the coming year the program will exceed 20,000 acres preserved. In addition to the acres preserved and in progress, there are currently 61 farms on the preservation waiting list that represent roughly 6,500 additional acres of farmland for future preservation.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation with more than 622,000 acres preserved. Within the state, Franklin County ranks 10th in preserved acres.

In 2024 the department also began a project to update Agricultural Security Area (ASA) records. The goal of this update is to assist municipalities in keeping their ASAs up to date and to ensure interested applicants for preservation are able to be preserved in a timely manner.

Agricultural Preservation 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Access federal preservation dollars to accelerate the County's preservation activities.
Goal 2:	Work with state, regional and local agencies to promote and enhance agriculture.
Goal 3:	Continue to explore ways to supplement County funding for the agricultural preservation program, enabling the program to take full advantage of the State's match and thus preserve more farms within the County.
Goal 5:	Support agricultural land preservation by promoting up to date agricultural security areas.
Goal 6:	Coordinate with NRCS and continue to encourage easement owners to update their conservation plans in order to help maintain soil and water quality.



Transportation Planning

The Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (FCMPO) accomplished several items in 2024 such as: updating the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Developing guidance for applications to receive Carbon Reduction Program funds, developing the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Feasibility Study, and adopting new performance measures.

FY 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is the formal document that outlines transportation planning activities. It is the responsibility of the FCMPO, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and other relevant agencies, to accomplish these federally-mandated goals using continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning strategies. The updated UPWP was adopted at its November 2024 meeting.

2025-2028 Franklin County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Franklin County Transportation Improvement Program represents a short-range, four-year work plan of all federally-funded and regionally-significant work projects spanning from FFY 2025 to 2028. As a prerequisite to securing federal funding, the TIP is updated every two years in cooperation with PennDOT and local municipalities, and must be consistent with the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as well as financially constrained. The 25-28 TIP programmed approximately \$69 million in funding for projects, which includes 27 bridge projects, 19.20 miles of resurfacing, 5 safety, intersection, and bike/pedestrian improvements, and continued funding for the Exit 12 Interchange at Guilford Springs Road. Following a period of draft review by the public and PennDOT, the 2025-2028 TIP was approved at the May 16, 2024 FCMPO Policy Board meeting.

Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Update

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the PA Human Relations Act, and subsequent non-discrimination laws, the Franklin County Title VI Plan outlines updated county demographics, efforts undertaken to regularly ensure compliance, and strategies of performing public outreach and ensuring wider public participation regarding FCMPO plans and procedures. Strategies implemented to maintain proper public participation were expanded upon in an accompanying Public Participation Plan (PPP). Both the Title VI and Public Participation Plan updates were approved by the MPO Policy Board as of May 2024.



Transportation Planning

Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Feasibility Study

In April 2024, the MPO initiated a feasibility study that would evaluate the overall potential for extending the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail (CVRT), which currently terminates at the Orrstown Road Trailhead in Shippensburg into Chambersburg. In order to garner input from affected local entities, a Steering Committee was initiated in May 2024, comprised of representatives from the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Council, Wilson College, Keystone Health, Menno Haven, FCADC & CADC, and affected municipalities. A survey gauging public feedback on proposed trail alignments and desired usages/ outcomes was introduced during this time, which received more than 1,000 responses and highlighted strong and positive public interest in the effort. Also during this time, FCMPO hosted two public open houses (one in-person and one virtual) - the first of which shared initial findings of the study and gathered feedback on connections, while the second gathered feedback on alternative alignments. The feasibility study highlighted five potential alternatives for the route of the CVRT extension - Alternative 1 shared ROW with CSX rail road, Alternatives 2 and 3 ran parallel to the CSX rail line on the West and East of the ROW, respectively, Alternative 4 utilized a hybrid combination of CSX ROW frontage, utility easement, and portions of Rowe Run Road, and Alternative 5 was a roadway alignment along US 11. A final report of the CVRT extension feasibility study findings is currently being drafted, and is anticipated for release in February 2025.

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Transportation Planning

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Newly approved and implemented as of May 2024, the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) guidance was developed following a set-aside outlined in the FY 2025-2028 TIP update. The CRP was established under IIJA in order to advance projects that would directly result in the reduction of carbon emissions. The guidance, as well as an accompanying criteria rubric, was developed to help evaluate and select applicable local projects, after which they would be pending approval from the Franklin County MPO Policy Board, before being included in the TIP. Examples of projects eligible for CRP funds are alternative fuels and vehicles, vehicle hybridization/diesel engine retrofits, freight/intermodal projects, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Following May 2024 implementation, a call for projects was sent out to planning partners and published in local media, which lasted until October 2024 - currently, no project applications have been received.

MPO 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Initiate an update to the Long Range Transportation Plan
Goal 2:	Begin Development of the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program
Goal 3:	Conduct a Request for Proposals to select a new on-call consultant
Goal 4:	Release a final Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Feasibility Study
Goal 5:	Provide technical assistance and coordination with municipalities and PennDOT to improve the local transportation system



Transportation Planning

Franklin County Bridge Program

Franklin County owns 91 bridges and co-owns one bridge with Cumberland County. Housed within Franklin County Property Management is a bridge maintenance crew that performs regular bridge maintenance and works closely with the County engineering consultant, HRG, to formulate short and long-term bridge improvement plans. A few accomplishments in 2024 include the completion of Leafmore Road and Hickory Run Road bridge replacements and initiation of engineering on West King Street bridges over the Falling Spring and Conococheague Creek.

Franklin County Bridge Program 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Continue coordinating with PennDOT and the Historic Metal Truss Capital Rehabilitation Program on the initiation of the Burnt Mill Road Bridge project.
Goal 2:	Continue engineering the West King Street Bridges over the Falling Spring and Conococheague Creek in Chambersburg Borough.
Goal 3:	Begin engineering on two new bridge replacements
Goal 4:	Explore alternative long-term funding solutions to support the Bridge Program needs.



Community Development Block Grant 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:

- Low-to-Moderate Income persons
- Urgent Need
- 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 2024, Franklin County applied for \$357,219 in CDBG funds from HUD through DCED to address various infrastructure, housing, and public service needs throughout the county. The County will retain \$64,299.42 to cover administrative staffing costs. The remainder of the funds, \$292,919.58, will be applied to fund the following projects:

- Luminest - Blue Heron Senior Housing Development - \$226,919.58
- Habitat for Humanity - \$50,000
- Upwards - Boost Program - \$16,000.00



Community Development Block Grant Program

During 2024, the CDBG program made strides toward meeting goals and advancing projects, which include:

- Greencastle Borough projects from FY 2019, 2021, and 2022 neared the completion of 72 ADA curb ramp installations
- Regional meetings were held to increase public engagement during the development of the FY 2024 grant application. While there is still room for improvement, this method resulted in increased participation.
- 2024 fair housing book reading and board game held at Grove Family Library.

CDBG Program 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Continue to explore opportunities to utilize CDBG funds on projects other than infrastructure improvements.
Goal 2:	Complete outreach efforts to other counties that will identify new opportunities for CDBG funds. Identifying new strategies will increase the effectiveness of the program.
Goal 3:	Increase public engagement on project selection and implementation. Additionally, increase engagement from other municipalities and small communities within the County.
Goal 4:	Improve processes and grant documentation



Mosquito & Tick Borne Disease Control Program

2024 Mosquito Season Synopsis

The 2024 mosquito season was very low in mosquito numbers and mild with West Nile Virus cases, especially when compared with the rest of the state. To the east, counties saw record breaking numbers of West Nile Virus activity, while dry conditions prevailed in Franklin County. However, the LaCrosse Virus, first discovered in Franklin County in 2023, showed up in samples in 2024 at the same location. These are the first monitored cases of LaCrosse in Pennsylvania mosquito populations. Staff are working with DEP to monitor the virus and contain it's spread to mosquito populations in other areas of the county.

Mosquito Data	2023	2024
West Nile Virus Positives	36	27
Mosquito Traps Set	455	361
Adult Mosquito Truck Sprays	1	5
Adult Mosquito Backpack Spray	1	0
Mosquito Larvae Sprays	42	44
Mosquito Concern Calls	42	35



Mosquito & Tick Borne Disease Control Program

2024 Tick Season Synopsis

Nine Black-Legged Tick nymphs were collected in 2024. Five out of the nine came back positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease. A total of 50 Black-Legged Ticks were collected in the fall 2024. 33 of the 50 (66%) ticks collected tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease. Lyme levels continue to rise each year with the state’s average having increased to 60% within adult tick populations.



Male American Dog Tick under microscope

Mosquito & Tick Borne Disease Program 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Build on the surveillance and control practices in Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, and Huntingdon Counties.
Goal 2:	Continue to grow cooperative relationships with officials and stakeholders in each county.
Goal 3:	Educate a minimum of 1,500 people from the community on ticks and mosquitoes.
Goal 4:	Monitor areas prone to floodwaters for mosquitoes. Particularly areas east of Chambersburg.
Goal 5:	Contain the spread of LaCrosse Virus to the area it was discovered.



Housing

Housing Trust Fund

A number of new requests were approved for funding through the Housing Trust Fund during 2024:

- *Habitat for Humanity* - \$118,359 (2024/2025)
 - Development of 3 properties around Franklin County
- *Franklin County Community Connections* - \$40,000
 - Provided cash match to HUD Permanent Supportive Housing & Shelter Plus Care programs and funds for transitional housing.
- *Chambersburg Project* - \$5,000
 - Provided funds to assist with a week-long volunteer event that performs necessary repairs to homes

Housing 2025 Goals & Initiatives

Goal 1:	Improve Coordination with recipients throughout project implementation.
Goal 2:	Explore opportunities to create affordable housing throughout the County.
Goal 3:	Collaborate with the CDBG Program Administrator to potentially fund housing projects in coordination with other federal grant funding sources.
Goal 4:	Work with local municipalities to improve the availability of housing in each community within the County.

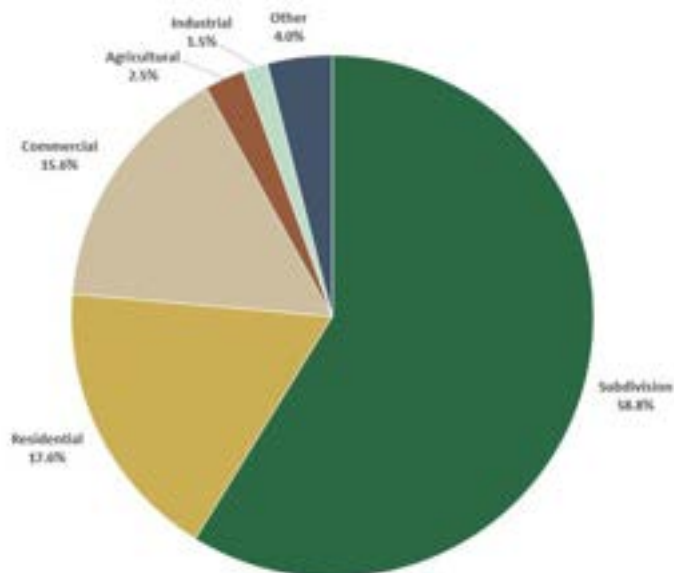


Subdivision & Land Development Reviews

In 2024, the department reviewed 199 new plans. 117 of the plans were for subdivision or lot line adjustment purposes. The remaining plans, 82 in all, for land development represent the planned development of 502 housing units, 6,326,720 sq. ft. of warehousing space, and other assorted minor developments.

The majority of acreage submitted for planned land development occurred in Antrim Township with over 396 acres worth of parcels being planned for development. Greene Township followed behind with roughly 330 acres of planned development. Based on the method used to collect acreages, the areas may not reflect land converted for other uses, but count the total parcel acreages that are being developed.

A goal for the Planning Department in 2025 is to continue to refine tools for tracking plan submissions, in order to better guide staff and program activities and community land use trends and needs. This may include digital plan submission.



2024 Land Development and Subdivision Annual Totals			
Municipality	# of Lots	Area (AC)	# of Plans
ANT	350	762.58	18
CHA	36	121.24	15
FAN	7	64.14	5
GRE	85	448.28	17
GRC	5	8.55	5
GUI	40	603.96	24
HAM	86	833.84	17
LET	8	68.51	6
LUR	4	224.59	3
MER	4	1.72	2
MET	6	44.37	5
MOA	1	0.48	1
MON	31	439.87	17
ORR	0	0.00	0
PET	9	201.29	8
QUI	22	342.87	8
SHI	2	65.85	1
SOH	123	231.27	7
STT	21	88.03	10
WAR	3	156.94	2
WAS	241	516.50	20
WAY	23	4.31	8
Totals	1107	5229.18	199



Solid Waste & Recycling

Municipal waste generated by Franklin County residents reduced slightly in 2023 to ~103,000 tons. In 2023, 38,993.61 tons of material were recycled for a recycling rate of about 27.4%. 2022 appears to have been a standout year for recycling followed by a return to the decline seen over the previous several years in 2023. Household hazardous waste (HHW) and glass recycling continue to be the primary solid waste issues within the County. The department is currently exploring the feasibility of hosting recycling events for these types of materials.

In 2024 Reworld partnered with Goodwill to provide electronic waste recycling across 22 PA counties. The programs has greatly improved access for residents to recycle e-waste. In Franklin County, the Goodwill on Wayne Ave in Chambersburg is a part of this program. Reworld has collected a reported 725 tones of e-waste statewide.

