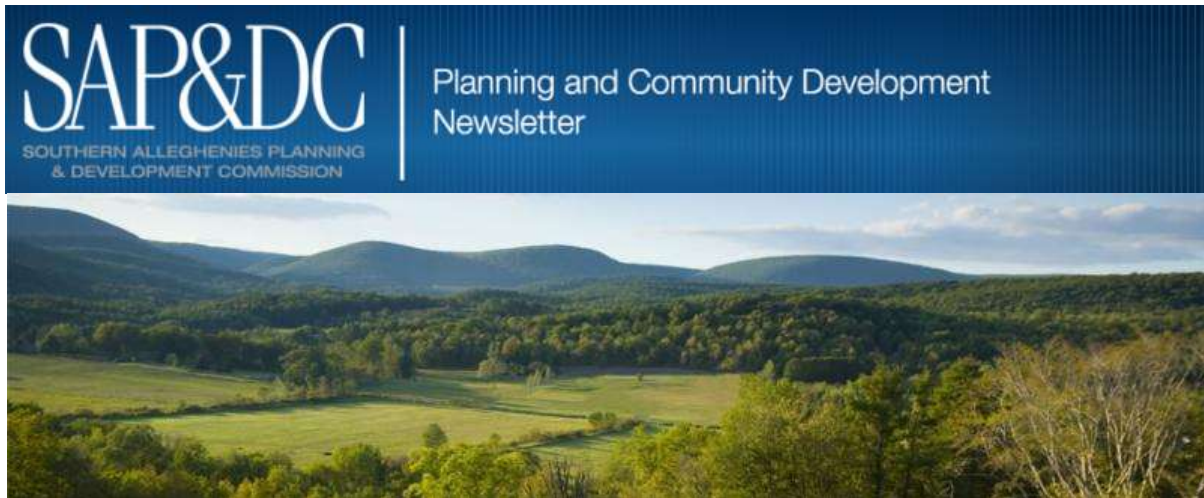


Issue 19 | June 2021



GREENWAYS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCES AWARDEES



Through \$120,000 of funding available by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program (C2P2), Round 7 of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission's (SAP&DC's) Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program has awarded funding to the following six (6) projects totaling \$115,568:

- Inclined Plane Riverside Park Phase 1 Final Design - Conemaugh Valley Conservancy
- Leopold Park Train Viewing Area - Logan Township
- Somerset Lake Phase 2A: Trail Development Project - County of Somerset
- The Arc Trail: Feasibility Study - The Arc of Blair County
- Logan Valley Streetcar & First Frontier Trail - Antis Township
- NatureWorks Park Trail Additions - Blair County Conservation District

We encourage applications to the program, which opens annually at the beginning of every year. You can review the program guidelines for the program at the link below:

[Greenways Mini-Grant Program](#)

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Stacy LoCastro at (814) 949-6510 or slocastro@sapdc.org.

HEALING THE PLANET GRANTS AVAILABLE

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, in partnership with **The GIANT Company**, recently announced the **Healing the Planet Grant Program**, a competitive grant for tax-exempt organizations in our region for Blair, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties.



The grants aim to build environmental stewardship by connecting people and families to community green spaces.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available. Eligible projects include:

- Park improvements
- Park builds
- Watershed restoration
- Recycling infrastructure
- Beautification and greening
- Community gardens
- Vacant lot restoration
- Outdoor classrooms
- Tree plantings

Projects must be on public land or be for public use and benefit. Applications can be found [here](#) and will be accepted June 1 through June 30, 2021, at 5:00 PM. You can download the guidelines for the program here:

[Healing the Planet Program Guidelines](#)

For grant questions and guidance regarding eligible projects, please contact Heidi Pedicone, Director of Programs for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful at (877) 772-3673 x 109 or hpedicone@keppabeautiful.org.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE - SURVEY INPUT NEEDED



The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is charged with administering a multimodal transportation program addressing not only the region's highway and bridge infrastructure, but also the elements that support walking and bicycling. The Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) is currently updating its 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Southern Alleghenies RPO Region (Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties). As part of this effort, SAP&DC is conducting an online, interactive survey through PublicInput.com to garner feedback from the community on bicycle and pedestrian opportunities and issues within the region. The survey will begin on June 1, 2021, and conclude on July 15, 2021.

To take the survey, please use the link or QR code found below:

<https://publicinput.com/SAbikeped2021>

If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Lee at (814) 949-6532 or zlee@sapdc.org.



LOCAL LEADERS DEVELOPING PLAN TO PRESERVE WATERSHEDS AND YOU CAN HELP

The Southern Alleghenies Region is rich in recreational opportunities, including fishing and boating on its many rivers and streams. Unfortunately, 10% of the region's stream miles are impaired, and much of that impairment comes from nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution. Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties are

HRG

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working together on a regional [Countywide Action Plan](#) to reduce these pollutants and preserve our watersheds for years to come. The effort is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as part of its [Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan](#) and efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties, with the assistance of SAP&DC, have contracted with Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG), and are in the beginning stages of their plan. As the Coordinator for their plan, HRG's Project Manager [Erin Letavic](#) will be leading the effort. Erin also serves as Coordinator for Cumberland and Centre Counties, each of whom completed their plans in 2020 and are in their first year of implementation now. HRG is working to identify Corridors of Opportunity to focus implementation efforts on the highest priority watersheds and maximize success at the least cost. They are working with the county planning commissions and conservation districts to develop this plan and are seeking input from many community stakeholders, including watershed organizations, agriculture groups, municipalities and elected officials, water and sewer authorities, and more. Since agriculture is a vital industry in the region and has a significant influence on water quality, the planning team is particularly interested in collaborating with agricultural owners and leaders on solutions that mutually benefit our farms and our watersheds.

Stakeholder and municipal outreach will be collected throughout the summer to further refine the plan before a final submission is due to DEP by September 30, 2021.

If you are interested in participating in the planning process or receiving more information about Best Management Practices, reach out to the Countywide Action Plan Coordinator Erin Letavic at eletavic@hrg-inc.com.

LOCAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP) - DROP-IN COURSES AND VIRTUAL TRAININGS



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LTAP is continuing to provide **FREE** training virtually! LTAP is offering **1-hour** Drop-in Sessions as

well as full **4-hour** training courses on a variety of maintenance and safety topics.

Drop-in Session Information:

Information: LTAP Virtual Drop-ins are centered on various safety and maintenance topics. These sessions are **not** virtual classes; they are informal one-hour live sessions focused on networking and sharing information with other municipal roadway personnel. Whether you're new to the virtual world or have lots of experience, you will enjoy meeting up online with LTAP staff and other municipal staff to learn and discuss information critical to your job. LTAP staff will start the session with a short presentation and then open the discussion to attendees to ask questions and share their experiences. LTAP will guide the discussion to keep it focused and accurate. **Note:** The drop-ins are not eligible for Roads Scholar credits.

Upcoming Virtual Drop-in Sessions:

Sight Distance Issues at Intersections – June 3, 2021, 11 AM – 12 PM

Virtual Training Information:

Registration: Register for Virtual Trainings and Drop-in Sessions on the LTAP website (<http://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP>). All virtual classes have **Virtual, PA**, as their location on the website. If you need assistance with registration, please contact LTAP at LTAP@state.pa.us or call 1-800-FOR-LTAP or (717) 787-5243. You may also contact Matthew Bjorkman of SAP&DC at (814) 949-6553 or mbjorkman@sapdc.org.

Group Participation in LTAP Virtual Class:

A municipality may have a few staff participate in a virtual class together if they are meeting their municipal requirements for COVID-19. The class can also be viewed through a smart phone. After the class, everyone needs to use the link to fill out the quiz and evaluation forms. The forms may also be completed on a smart phone. Please have **everyone** register on the website that is planning on attending and completing the quiz.

Upcoming Virtual Training Sessions:

Roadside Vegetation Control – June 9, 2021, 8 AM – 11 AM

Roadside Vegetation Control – July 12, 2021, 8 AM – 11 AM

Technical Assistance:

In the past year, LTAP experts have spent 125 hours conducting 30 tech assists with municipalities in our region!

LTAP provides free technical assistance to municipalities to trouble shoot specific roadway issues. PennDOT LTAP technical experts are available by phone, by e-mail, and in person to help you trouble shoot you specific maintenance and safety problems.

Technical assistance topics can include (but are not limited to):

- Guiderails/Roadside safety
- Speed/Traffic Calming
- Traffic Studies
- Pavement Management
- Winter Management (including snow plow driver training)
- Posting and Bonding

- Bridge and Culvert Management

If you have a specific problem or issue that you would like help with, log on to the LTAP website and request a technical assistance under the “My Tools” drop down. If you would need further assistance, contact Matthew Bjorkman of SAP&DC at (814) 949-6553 or mbjorkman@sapdc.org.

Visit our Website

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC)
Phone: (814) 949-6500 | Fax: (814) 949-6505 | Email: sapdc@sapdc.org



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