

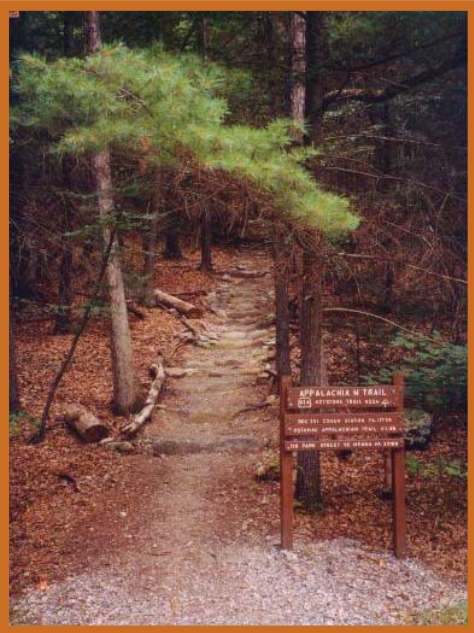
WHO WILL CARRY OUT THE PLAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS?

Realization of this plan will require a collaborative management structure based on partnerships. The **Franklin County Planning Commission** (FCPC), under the direction of the County Commissioners, would be responsible for all policy-making and decision-making regarding the execution of the Greenways Plan recommendations.

HOW WILL THEY CARRY OUT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS?

The Greenways Plan presents several **land conservation tools** that can be used by Municipal Officials, Conservation Groups, and landowners to protect open space via 1) acquisition of property, development rights, or easements; and 2) land use regulations. The majority of the land proposed for inclusion in the greenways network is privately owned. Please note that property rights of landowners will be considered when land conservation tools are used to establishing trails or conservation corridors.

Recommendations include an **Implementation Plan** explained in terms of specific strategies and parties responsible for undertaking each. Responsible parties will need to seek **funding** through grants or cost reimbursement programs. Numerous funding sources are identified.



Franklin County Greenways and Open Space Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

In simple terms, *greenways are corridors of open space*. These corridors may be defined in three basic ways, all of which are embraced by this greenways plan:

- Greenways can be primarily **recreational**: places where people can actively experience the outdoors, like hiking, biking, and water trails (sometimes called “blueways”).
- Another possible purpose of greenways is **conservation**: protecting continuous tracts of forests, meadows, wetlands and stream banks, and the plants and animals that live there.
- Still other greenways can be principally **aesthetic**: preserving the countryside in rural areas or establishing green landscapes in urban areas.

WHY A GREENWAYS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY?

This Plan examines the various methods by which Franklin County can develop a greenway network that will: 1) help to preserve its natural resources, while 2) providing valuable recreational opportunities for local residents. These are essential factors in **maintaining and enhancing quality of life** in Franklin County. The preservation of the county’s forested mountain ridges, gently rolling farmlands, historic Civil War sites, and quiet villages is of the utmost importance due to increasing pressure caused by the rapid land development happening in the county.

WHERE ARE GREENWAYS RECOMMENDED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY?

CONSERVATION GREENWAYS: These corridors follow the natural systems and features of the county -- forests, ridge lines, stream corridors, and wildlife habitats. The project study committee, with the help of Pashek Associates, prioritized the county’s natural resources and located areas of open space that logically connect them. The following are select examples of proposed conservation greenways:

- Tuscarora Conservation Greenway follows the Tuscarora Ridge along the western county border, encompassing the ridge’s steep, forested slopes. This greenway is part of an essential migratory flyway spanning several states.
- West Branch Conococheague Conservation Greenway covers the area surrounding the west branch of the Conococheague Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the east branch. It encompasses numerous wetlands, forests, floodplains, and natural areas.



- East Branch Conococheague Conservation Greenway protects the east branch of the Conococheague Creek from its headwaters in Caledonia State Park to the Maryland border and beyond. This corridor encompasses floodplains and wetlands, riparian forests, and several natural areas.

RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION

GREENWAYS: These greenways were established by identifying a system of hubs, spokes, and points of interest, in which:

- **Major Hubs** are regionally-significant destination points such as population centers or major recreation facilities;
- **Minor Hubs** are locally significant destinations but with potential for connectivity;
- **Spokes** are the existing or planned hiking, biking, or water trail connections between the hubs; and
- **Points of Interest** are points of local cultural, historical, or aesthetic significance in proximity to proposed trails.



Recreation and Transportation Greenway Priorities

Feasibility, potential to spur economic growth, and perceived level of use determined trail completion priorities. Examples are described below:

- Shared Use Trail - Mercersburg to Chambersburg; Chambersburg to Shippensburg
- Seasonal Water Trail - East Branch of the Conococheague Creek, from headwaters to Maryland border.
- Seasonal Water Trail - West Branch of the Conococheague Creek from Mercersburg southeast to the confluence with the East Branch.

The *Proposed Greenways Plan* depicts conservation greenways superimposed with the recreation / transportation greenways (see opposite page).

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE GREENWAY PLAN?

The public participation process produced **GOALS** and **OBJECTIVES** for the Greenways Plan. Preserving and enhancing Franklin County's character and quality of life is the plan's main goal, supported by these specific objectives:

- Protect existing natural areas primarily for ecological health and preservation of wildlife habitat;
- Promote the preservation of agricultural land;
- Provide recreational opportunities for county residents through preservation and connection of existing open spaces;
- Increase countywide water quality through protection of aquifer recharge areas;
- Identify methods to work with developers to preserve larger amounts of open space;
- Encourage local municipalities to work in unison to help protect their various resources by adopting open-space and land-use regulations;
- Educate county residents on the aspects and benefits of Greenways Planning, including the benefits of implementation of the goals listed above.

HOW WILL THE GREENWAY PLAN BE USED?

The Greenway Plan will provide Franklin County and its municipalities with a *flexible* tool for making decisions regarding the protection of its natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. By addressing issues pertinent to these resources, the Plan will lay the groundwork for the continued success of open space conservation and quality of life in Franklin County.

