

PLANNING INSIGHT

A Newsletter of the Bucks County Planning Commission



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

GRANTS INSIGHT

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, continues its mission to increase opportunities for physical activity utilizing the built environment.

WalkWorks offers grants to public entities and planning organizations, for the development of active transportation plans and related policies. The **deadline to apply is May 13, 2022**.

padowntown.sharefile.com/share/view/s3a8e65bc4062460d9233198b59f3256d

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) offers the **Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant**. Eligible projects include development, rehabilitation, and improvement to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation. The **deadline to apply is May 31, 2022**.

dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-grtp/

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers the **Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program**. This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. The application is currently open.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/pa

The **Certified Local Government Mini-Grant** program is intended to provide CLGs with funds for local preservation projects. Grants are offered on a rolling basis. phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/CLG_Minigrant_OnePage.pdf Eligible municipalities must be a Certified Local Government: phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/

BUCKS TRIVIA

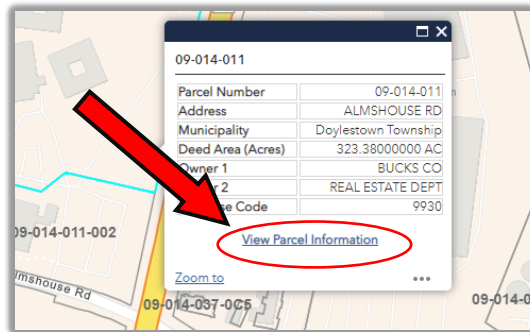
When was Bucks County's first comprehensive plan adopted?



Greetings! This edition of the newsletter features updates and information on the work we are doing beyond our mandated subdivision and land development reviews.

Our GIS staff continues to expand and refine our data offerings. In addition to the newly launched election resources, the [Parcel & Floodplain Viewer](#), our most visited web map in the [Maps & Data Portal](#), is now linked to all publicly available data on the Board of Assessment site.

Users can now click "View Parcel Information" in the popup box to find information, including owner information, tax history, and assessment information for any parcel in the county. This consolidation of information into one tool, makes for true, one-stop information gathering.



On other fronts, we were pleased to finally cut the ribbon on our Newtown Rail Trail, Phase One, in Upper Southampton Township. Our "Golden Spike" ceremony officially linked Montgomery County and Bucks County's trails systems to create an outstanding public recreation asset. With design and construction money in place, we now look forward to designing and implementing Phase Two of the Newtown Rail Trail, which will continue the trail from Upper Southampton into Northampton Township, connecting trail users to the Churchville Nature Center.

On the technology front, we have recently purchased a license for MetroQuest, a unique public engagement survey application. We will use MetroQuest to augment the survey work we routinely utilize for various planning endeavors such as comprehensive plans. With this new tool, we can offer community survey design and administration as a direct service to our intra-county departments, as well as our municipalities.

As always, my door is open, and I may be reached via e-mail or phone at estone@buckscounty.org or 215.345.3401.

I look forward to hearing from you and welcome your feedback. Enjoy **Planning InSight!**

ELECTION RESOURCES

With the upcoming election in May, the BCPC launched interactive web mapping applications to help residents find their representatives and polling locations.

[My Elected Representative](#) is a tool residents can use to find their local, state, and federal elected officials and view their district geographies. By entering your address, the application will determine your elected official for county, PA Senate and House, U.S.

Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives offices.

The [Find My Polling Place/Drop Box Location](#) tool allows residents to enter their home address to find their voting location or the nearest drop box location. It provides information such as next election date, voter registration date, voting hours, drop box location hours, and contact information.



NEWTOWN RAIL TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING

On April 27, 2022, Bucks County officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Newtown Rail Trail.

Construction began on the two-and-a-half-mile trail during the summer of 2020. The trail has been built along the right-of-way of the former SEPTA Fox Chase Branch rail line, which ceased operation nearly 40 years ago. It connects Tamanend Park in Upper



Southampton Township to the Pennypack Trail in Montgomery County. The trail is part of The Circuit, an 800-mile bicycle network in the Delaware Valley.

As a cooperative effort between the county and Upper Southampton Township, the Newtown Rail Trail is the second Bucks County-sponsored trail outside of a county park. The project was funded by DVRPC Regional Trails Funds, PennDOT's Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund, Montgomery County Funds, and PennDOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding.

The Newtown Rail Trail will improve the quality of life in Bucks County, and it would not have been possible without the cooperation of BCPC staff, DVRPC, SEPTA, PennDOT, and Upper Southampton Township.

Bucks2040 RESIDENT SURVEY

The [Bucks2040: Building Our Future Together](#) comprehensive plan update is intended to help guide growth and development of Bucks County through the year 2040. In order to identify key community issues, a survey was administered by ETC Institute to Bucks County residents during the summer of 2021. 4,500 surveys were mailed to randomly selected households across the county.

To create a statistically valid and geographically representative analysis, a sampling of 1,000 responses from the 4,500 surveys were collected from upper, central,

and lower Bucks County. The six-page survey asked questions that focused on quality of life, residents' vision for the future of the county, and delivery of county services.

ETC has produced an executive summary and an immersive web-based [dashboard](#) of results from the survey. We expect this dashboard to be an invaluable tool in evaluating county services and for crafting the vision and direction of *Bucks2040*.

Visit Bucks2040.com for more information on the county's comprehensive plan update.

2022 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Household products containing toxic chemicals pose a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. To keep these toxic materials out of the waste stream, the county has multiple collection events every year. All collection events are rain or shine and run from 8:30 AM — 2:00 PM. No registration is necessary.

Checkout the [HHW event flyer](#) for more details on what you can and can't bring.

For additional information on disposal options, visit www.buckscounty.gov/recycling.



May 7	Upper Bucks	Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie, Bedminster Township
June 25	Central Bucks	Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township
August 13	Lower Bucks	Bensalem High School 4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA 19020
October 8	Upper Bucks	Strayer Middle School 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township



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Bucks County Planning Commission

1260 Almshouse Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
P: 215-345-3400

- [linkedin.com/in/bcpc/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bcpc/)
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- planningcommission@buckscounty.org

Bucks Trivia Answer:

In 1961, Bucks County was the first county in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth to enact a comprehensive plan.

