How We PRESERVE
METRIC 1

Protected Open Space

Track the percentage of permanently protected open space within the county, including farmland, nature preserves and parks.
As of the current year (2019), a total of 142,233 acres of open space was preserved, both with and without county funding. This represents an increase of 2,405 acres (or 0.5%) relative to the base year (2018).
METRIC 2
Open Space Connectivity

Monitor protected open space within the conservation corridors.
As of the current year (2019), a total of 9,147 acres of open space were protected within the 1/8th mile wide conservation corridors. This represents an increase of 103 acres relative to the base year.
METRIC 3

Protected Farmland

Track the percentage of farmland that is eligible for an agricultural conservation easement and has been protected from development.
How We PRESERVE

**METRIC 3**  Protected Farmland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viable farmland (acres)</td>
<td>136,316</td>
<td>136,293</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected viable farmland (acres)</td>
<td>84,199</td>
<td>85,718</td>
<td>1,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected viable farmland (acres) %</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the current year (2019), the amount of farmland that was eligible for easement and had been protected from development was 85,718 acres, which is 62.9% of all the farmland that was eligible for easement. This represents an increase of 1,520 acres relative to the base year.

This metric addresses farmland that is well suited for protection with an agricultural conservation easement, which may not include all indoor facilities and some unconventional farm operations.
Success Stories

• Return on Environment report released highlighting the economic value of open space in Chester County.

• Open Space Summit celebrates 30 years of open space protection in Chester County.

• Major new areas of protected open space—Bryn Coed and Hibernia Park expansion.
How We PROTECT
METRIC 4

Natural Resource Protection

Track the number of adopted municipal ordinance regulations that effectively protect natural resources.
### How We PROTECT

#### METRIC 4  Natural Resource Protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinances with effective natural resource protection</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steep slopes</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian buffers</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the current year (2019), the ordinances of all 73 municipalities were reviewed to determine if they effectively addressed five specific resources: floodplains, steeps slopes, woodlands, wetlands, and riparian buffers. A total of 365 provisions were examined, and 217 were found to provide effective protection for the specific resource being examined. This represents an increase of 5, relative to the base year.
METRIC 5

Stream Health

Monitor aquatic life diversity as an indicator of overall stream health.
During the base year (2018), 18 streams were measured for the index of biological integrity which reflects both water quality and aquatic habitat. Of these 18, a total of 13 (72.2%) had scores that were excellent or good-to-fair. 2019 data will be published in early 2021.
How We PROTECT

Success Stories

• Environmental & Energy Advisory Board established.

• Work begins on Chester County Climate Action Plan (fall 2019).

• Chester County Clean Energy Tour highlights solar facilities throughout county.

• The Chester County Conservation District facilitated the planting of nearly 1,900 trees and shrubs and engaged over 100 volunteers through the TreeVitalize Watersheds Program and Keystone 10-million Trees Partnership to improve stream protection.
**METRIC 6**

**Historic Inventory and Standards**

Track the number of municipal comprehensive historic resource protection measures implemented.
How We APPRECIATE METRIC 6 Historic Inventory and Standards

During the current year (2019), all 73 municipalities were surveyed to determine if they have implemented three specific protection measures: establishing a historic commission/committee or Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB), adopting a historic resource ordinance, and compiling a historic resources atlas map. A total of 219 (or 73 x 3) protection measures were examined, and 152 were found to have been implemented. This represents an increase of 2 (or 1.3%), relative to the base year.

### METRIC RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection measure</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year METRIC RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic resource ordinance</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic commission/committee or HARB</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic resources atlas map</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Municipal Survey Results 2019
METRIC 7

Historic Tourism

Track the level of tourism within the county related to historic and cultural resources.
During the current year (2019), the total attendance at 11 of the key Cultural Heritage Tourism Sites in the county was 461,568. This represents an increase of 71,492 (or 18.3%) relative to the base year.
Success Stories

• 25th anniversary of Town Tours & Village Walks—over 2,200 attend tours.
• National Register Historic Resources interactive map created—600 listed and eligible properties.
• Municipal historic atlas maps—nine atlases initiated.
• Be Here Brewing opened in a rehabbed historic bank building in Avondale in 2019.
• The historic Bull Tavern, built c. 1734, was preserved and adaptively-reused for a veterinary hospital in Schuylkill Township.
METRIC 8
Affordable Housing Built

Track the number of built or rehabbed affordable units subsidized by the county.
## METRIC RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affordable units</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newly constructed</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitated</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How We LIVE**

Last year, a major contribution to new affordable housing were rehabilitated units.

During the current year (2019), a total of 162 affordable housing units, either newly built or existing rehabbed structures, were added to the market with financial assistance provided by the County Department of Community Development (DCD).
METRIC 9
Housing Diversity

Track the types of housing constructed in the county.
## METRIC 9 Housing Diversity

### METRIC RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of housing unit</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>1,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-family detached</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-family attached*</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-family (apartments)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes units commonly called “townhouses” and “twins.”

### Housing Diversity Trends

During the current year (2019), a total of 1,490 units were built, of which 600 (or 42.6%) were single family detached, 588 (or 41.7%) were single family attached, and 221 (or 15.7%) were multi-family.
METRIC 10
Access to Parks
Monitor the percentage of residents living near public park and recreation facilities.
During the current year (2019), the estimated population within a ½ mile of the county’s public parks and recreation facilities was 371,129. This represents an increase of 3,775 relative to the base year (2018).
METRIC 11
Solid Waste

Track the amount of municipal waste per capita.
During the current year (2019), Chester County’s per capita municipal solid waste (commonly called household waste) was 1,160 pounds per person. This represents an increase of 23 pounds (or 2.0%) relative to the base year.
Success Stories

• Housing Choices Committee convened, comprised of municipal reps, land use professionals, housing advocates, and developers.

• “Creating A+ Homes” housing forum held focusing on affordably priced homes and new residential designs.

• Steeltown Village opens in Phoenixville providing 48 units of affordable work force housing.
METRIC 12
Non-Residential Development
Track the amount of non-residential development.
## METRIC 12  Non-Residential Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-residential development (square feet)</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
<th>METRIC RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,468,243</td>
<td>975,849</td>
<td>-492,394</td>
<td>-33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>135,855</td>
<td>55,584</td>
<td>-80,271</td>
<td>-59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>844,611</td>
<td>326,233</td>
<td>-518,378</td>
<td>-61.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>41,308</td>
<td>209,580</td>
<td>168,272</td>
<td>407.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>446,469</td>
<td>412,238</td>
<td>-34,231</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New non-residential construction can include construction on previously undeveloped land, construction on lots that previously contained structures, or additions to existing buildings.

During the current year (2019), a total of 975,849 square feet of non-residential development was built in the county. This represents a drop of 492,394 square feet relative to the base year (2018). This change was largely due to a reduction in commercial development.
METRIC 13
Urban Center Prosperity

Monitor taxable assessments in urban centers to track economic and community prosperity.
During the current year (2019), the annual increase in total assessment for all the county’s urban centers combined was 0.720%, while the base year was 0.927%.
METRIC 14

Workforce Development Progress

Track the number of people assisted with employment training by the county.
During the current year (2019), a total of 16,055 workers visited the county office of PACareerLink, a cooperative program where job seekers and employers share access to a wide array of job training, education, and employment services. This represents a drop of 1,766 (or 9.9%) relative to the base year (2018).
Success Stories

• “Your Town as a Destination” Urban Center event focusing on breweries, farmers markets, food trucks, and short-term rentals.

• DCD construction grants provided for projects in Spring City, Oxford, and West Grove boroughs.

• Urban Centers Design Guide completed.

• The Oxford Borough Transit Center/Borough Hall was completed and opened on December 20, 2019.
How We CONNECT
METRIC 15

Active Transportation

Track the length of new multi-use trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes created in the county.
## METRIC RESULT

### Active Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active transportation mode (miles)</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
<th>METRIC RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>868.9</td>
<td>871.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use trails</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks</td>
<td>834.1</td>
<td>836.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike lanes</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019 Active Transportation Modes (miles)

- **Multi-use trails**: county and municipal
- **Sidewalks**
- **Bike lanes**

During the current year (2019), a total of 2.1 miles of new on-road bike lanes, sidewalks, and county and municipal multi-use trails (traveled by both pedestrians and bicyclists) were opened for public use. This represents an increase of 2.1 miles (or 0.3%) relative to the base year.
METRIC 16
Public Transportation

Track transit ridership trips within the county including bus routes, regional rail service, and AMTRAK.
## METRIC RESULT

### Public Transportation Ridership Trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active transportation mode (miles)</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21,388</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMTRAK stations (average weekday)</td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTA rail stations (average daily)</td>
<td>10,669</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTA bus routes, multi-county (average weekday)</td>
<td>8,041</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small bus provider routed (average weekday)</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>-86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not available until fall 2020.

### Public Transportation

Due to COVID delays, the current year (2019) SEPTA bus and rail data will not be released until fall 2020. However, AMTRAK trips for 2019 increased by 94 (or 5.1%) relative to the base year. Small bus provider trips decreased by 86 (or 9.1%) relative to the base year.
METRIC 17

Improved Travel Time

Monitor the average travel time on selected major highways during peak hours on weekdays.
**METRIC 17  Improved Travel Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average minutes</th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
<th>Difference between current year and base year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a 15-mile trip</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to the base year (2018), the average amount of time needed for a 15-mile trip on six of the major roadways during peak weekday hours in the county has been reduced by 0.2 minutes (or 9.5 seconds).

Travel time is measured each year along the following major roadways in Chester County: PA 100, US 1, US 30, US 422, US 202, and I-76 (the PA Turnpike).
Coordinating Utilities With Growth Areas

Track development units connecting to public sewer and water services that will be located in designated growth areas.
Coordinating Utilities With Growth Areas

**METRIC 18**

**Proposed lots/units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Base year 2018</th>
<th>Current year 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total reviewed</td>
<td>4,492</td>
<td>2,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With public water and sewer, in growth areas (number)</td>
<td>3,756</td>
<td>2,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With public water and sewer, in growth areas (% of total)</td>
<td>83.6%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the current year (2019), 84.3% of all proposed lots or units reviewed were to be served by both public sewer and public water. This represents a modest increase from the base year (2018).
Success Stories

- SEPTA announces planned extension of service to Coatesville.
- Exton train station improvements completed, including ADA high level platforms, new station building, and expanded parking.
- Paoli train station improvements officially completed—ribbon cutting held in September 2019.
- “Trails, Trains, and Traffic” transportation forum held focusing on public transit, active transportation, funding, and road improvements.