The Landscapes Map is Chester County’s guide for growth and rural resource protection to help achieve our vision. The map’s six categories—four in the Growth Areas and two in the Rural Resource Areas—guide future growth while protecting the special characteristics of the county. Each landscape may be appropriate for multiple land uses, with the mix and intensity varying to reflect the character of the specific landscape. The Landscapes Map also recognizes significant historic and natural resources through map “overlays.”

### Growth Areas

The four landscape categories of the Growth Areas can best accommodate significant growth, strongly reflect the agricultural and rural character of the county, and serve as a focus for preservation efforts.

- **Urban Center**
  - Historic downtowns and established neighborhoods that serve as civic, economic, and population centers.

- **Suburban Center**
  - Regional economic, population, and transportation centers with varying land uses.

- **Suburban**
  - Predominantly residential communities with locally-oriented commercial uses and community facilities.

- **Rural Center**
  - Often an extension of a village or a historic crossroads.

### Rural Resource Areas

The six landscape categories of the Rural Resource Areas are not appropriate for significant growth, strongly reflect the agricultural and rural character of the county, and serve as a focus for preservation efforts.

- **Rural**
  - Open and wooded lands, with scattered villages, farms, and residential uses.

- **Agricultural**
  - Large concentrations of active and diverse farm operations, along with related support services.

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