



# It Takes a Village to Make a Forest

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA

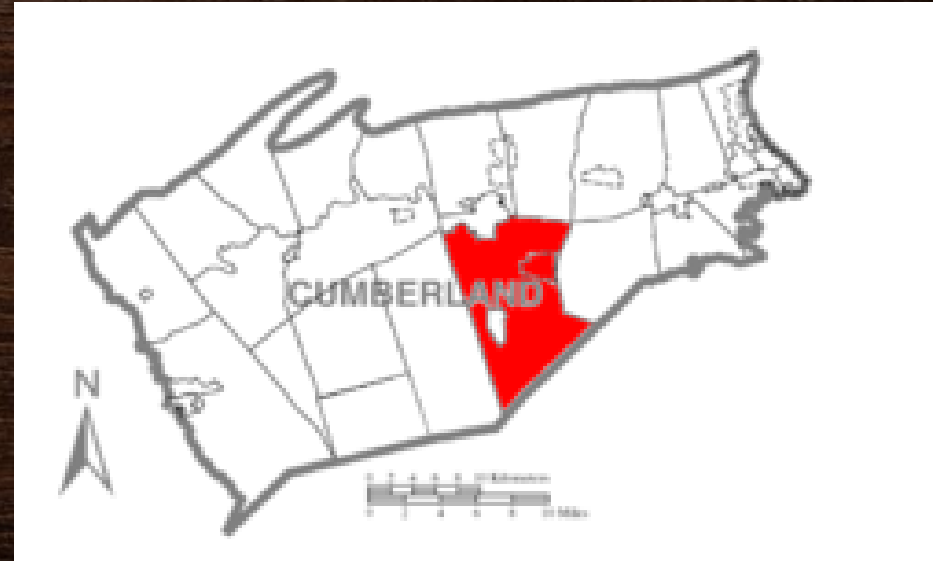


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South Middleton Township  
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# South Middleton Township

- Located in Cumberland County
- Approximately 49 square miles
- Population 16,135 (2020 census)





# SMT's Commitment to the Environment

- Zoning/Regulations to protect environmental features of the Township
  - Wellhead Protection
  - Scenic River District
  - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
  - Participating Community in National Flood Insurance Program
- EPA Source Water Protection Award Winner
- Gold Community Status under Chesapeake Bay Program
- Currently working towards completion of PML's Sustainable PA Municipal Certification

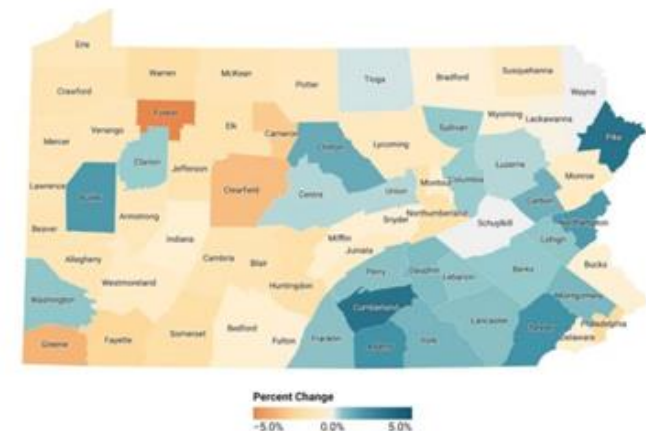


# A Growing Community can be Sustainable

- South Middleton Township's comprehensive plan – updated 2022
  - Future land use objectives include implementation of policies to conserve streams, forested areas, steep slopes and wells.
  - Land Use changes often involve removal of trees. Efforts to mitigate loss of forested areas due to development can often be a challenge.
  - Recent research has proven the many benefits and value of trees.

## Still the champ: Cumberland rated as Pennsylvania's fastest-growing county again

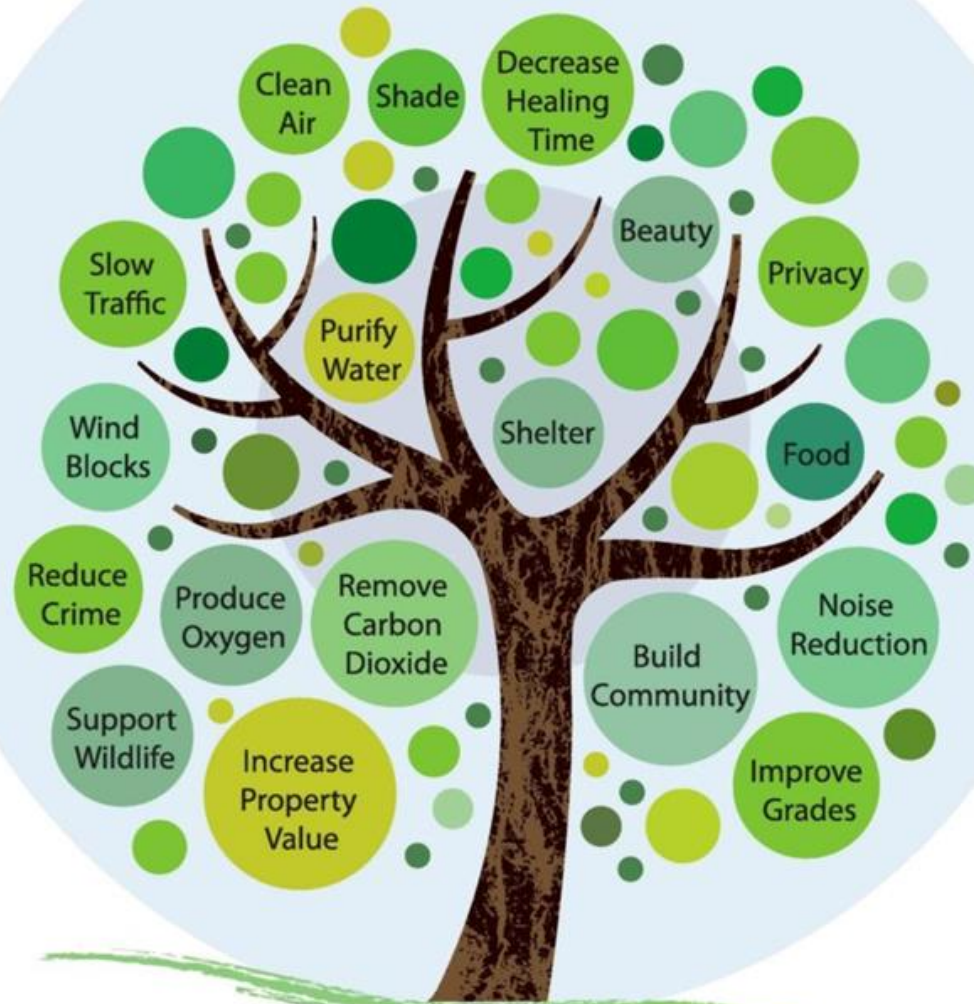
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Cumberland County continues to have the fastest-growth rate in Pennsylvania, according to latest population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The changes are reflected in this map by the Pennsylvania State Data Center.



# The VALUE of TREES

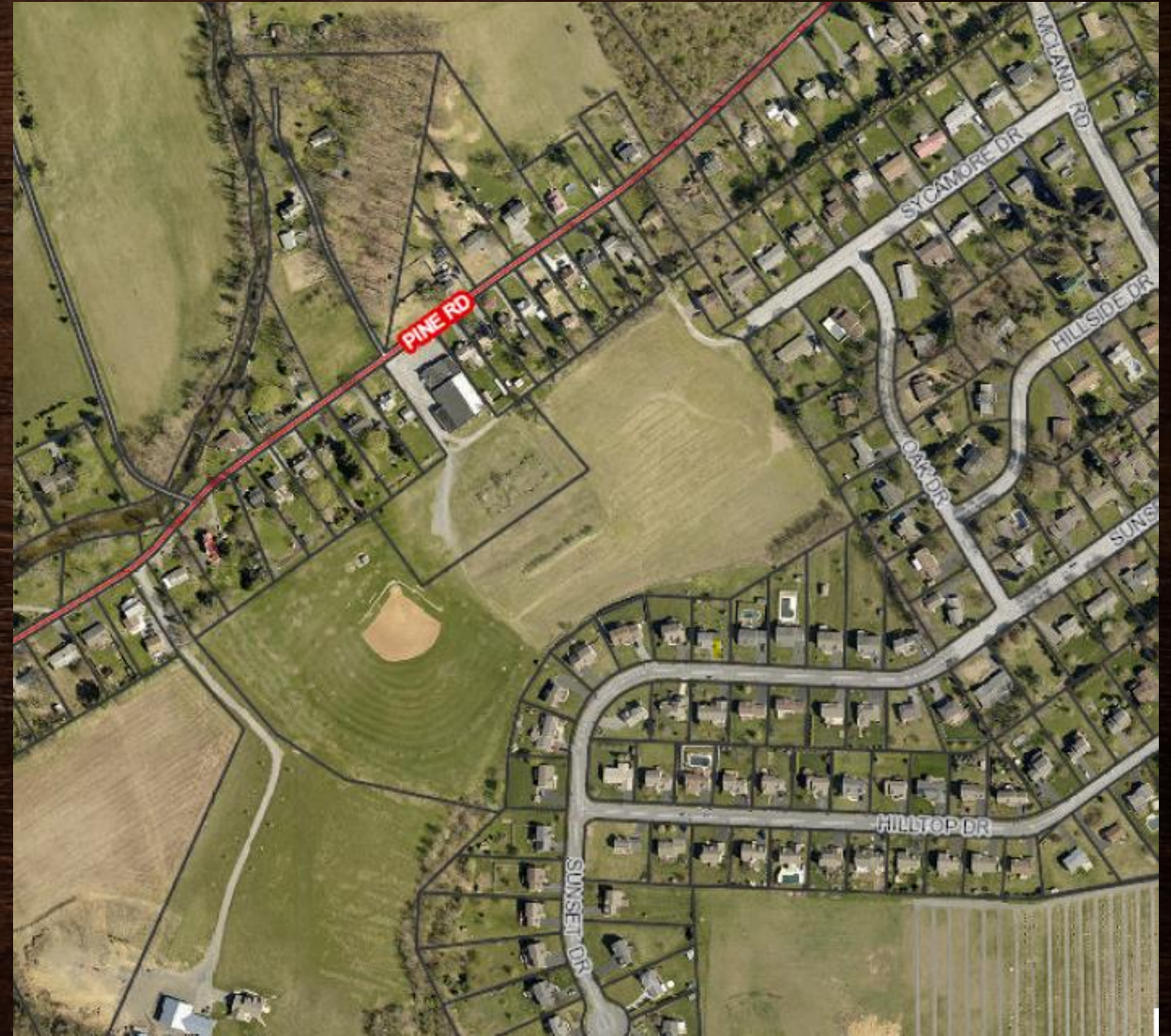


Inspire Art Nature's Gym Flood Control Lower Temperatures  
Energy Savings Erosion Control Reduce Stress Improve Soil



# History of Southview

- Land initially proposed as part of Southview Estates residential development
- Southview Estates was proposed partially within FEMA's 0.2% Annual Change Flood Hazard Area (new maps show increased flooding in this area)
- Southview Estates plan challenged by Township. Eventually the flood prone portion of the development was dedicated to the Township and the Township designated it as Southview Park. Upland section of Southview Estates was built.
- Baseball diamond and remaining acreage leased for farming.
- Flooding remains an issue for surrounding residential use.

















# Agricultural Use not compatible









## Factors to consider:

- Considerable development over the past 30 years has reduced the amount of pervious surfaces upland from this site resulting in floodwaters being directed and concentrated in the area of the park before affecting the properties along Pine Road and Sycamore Drive
- This area is very flat and there is no possibility of engineering a solution for stormwater that would eventually fail or not negatively impact someone downstream
- Resident complaints became common over the years regarding flooding issues in the areas surrounding Southview Park with no foreseeable solutions.





# 2019 Volunteer Tree Planting



















# 2020 DCNR Tree Planting



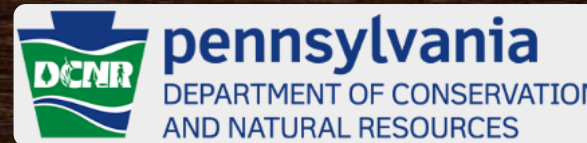
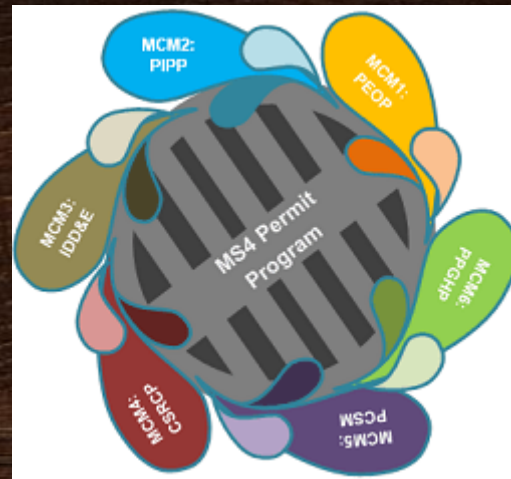








# Partnerships and Educational Opportunities



PennState Extension



Keystone  
**10 MILLION TREES**  
PARTNERSHIP



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
Saving a National Treasure



## FUTURE OF SOUTHVIEW PARK:

- ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF TREES
- ANNUAL VOLUNTEER EVENTS
- ASSISTANCE WITH ONGOING MAINTENANCE THROUGH CUMBERLAND COUNTY RIPARIAN RANGERS PROGRAM
- COMMUNITY PARK AREA PROVIDING SHADE AND RECREATION TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS
- CONTINUED EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
- ONGOING IMPROVEMENT OF FLOODING AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AS TREES MATURE



# Any Questions?



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