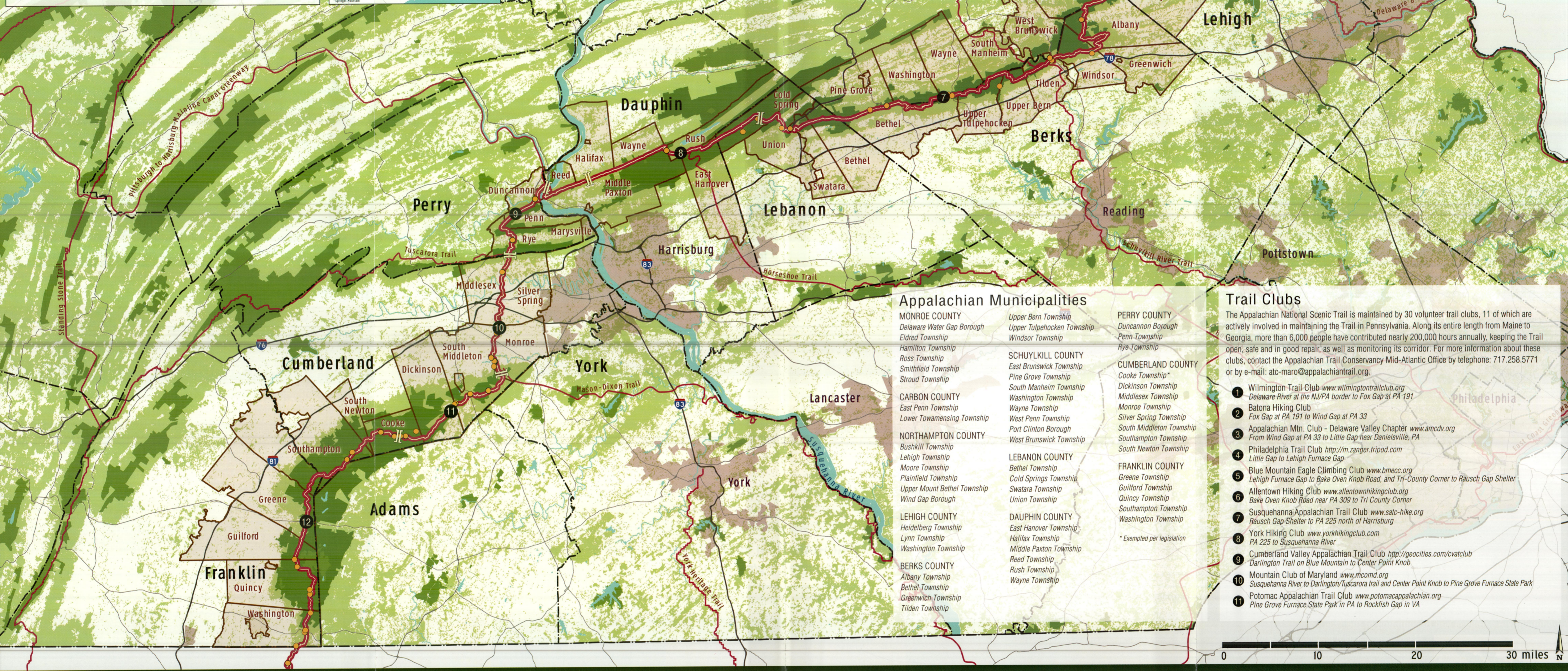


The Appalachian National Scenic Trail - Pennsylvania Section

A 2,179 mile Trail from Maine to Georgia. In Pennsylvania, the Trail is 229 miles and runs through 11 counties and 58 municipalities.

Key

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Trail Club and Its Extent of Stewardship
- Public Trail Access Points
- Greenways and Other Trails
- Pennsylvania Municipalities Through Which the Trail Passes
- County
- Protected Lands
- Woodlands
- Surface Waters
- Urban Area
- Roads



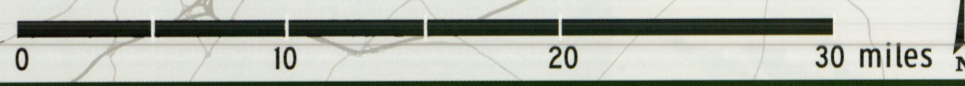
Appalachian Municipalities

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>MONROE COUNTY
 Delaware Water Gap Borough
 Eldred Township
 Hamilton Township
 Ross Township
 Smithfield Township
 Stroud Township</p> | <p>Upper Bern Township
 Upper Tulpehocken Township
 Windsor Township</p> | <p>PERRY COUNTY
 Duncannon Borough
 Penn Township
 Rye Township</p> |
| <p>CARBON COUNTY
 East Penn Township
 Lower Towamensing Township</p> | <p>SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
 East Brunswick Township
 Pine Grove Township
 South Manheim Township
 Washington Township
 Wayne Township
 West Penn Township
 Port Clinton Borough
 West Brunswick Township</p> | <p>CUMBERLAND COUNTY
 Cooke Township*
 Dickinson Township
 Middlesex Township
 Monroe Township
 Silver Spring Township
 South Middleton Township
 Southampton Township
 South Newton Township</p> |
| <p>NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
 Bushkill Township
 Lehigh Township
 Moore Township
 Plainfield Township
 Upper Mount Bethel Township
 Wind Gap Borough</p> | <p>LEBANON COUNTY
 Bethel Township
 Cold Springs Township
 Swatara Township
 Union Township</p> | <p>FRANKLIN COUNTY
 Greene Township
 Guilford Township
 Quincy Township
 Southampton Township
 Washington Township</p> |
| <p>LEHIGH COUNTY
 Heidelberg Township
 Lynn Township
 Washington Township</p> | <p>DAUPHIN COUNTY
 East Hanover Township
 Halifax Township
 Middle Paxton Township
 Reed Township
 Rush Township
 Wayne Township</p> | <p>* Exempted per legislation</p> |
| <p>BERKS COUNTY
 Albany Township
 Bethel Township
 Greenwich Township
 Tilden Township</p> | | |

Trail Clubs

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is maintained by 30 volunteer trail clubs, 11 of which are actively involved in maintaining the Trail in Pennsylvania. Along its entire length from Maine to Georgia, more than 6,000 people have contributed nearly 200,000 hours annually, keeping the Trail open, safe and in good repair, as well as monitoring its corridor. For more information about these clubs, contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Mid-Atlantic Office by telephone: 717.258.5771 or by e-mail: atc-mar@appalachiantrail.org.

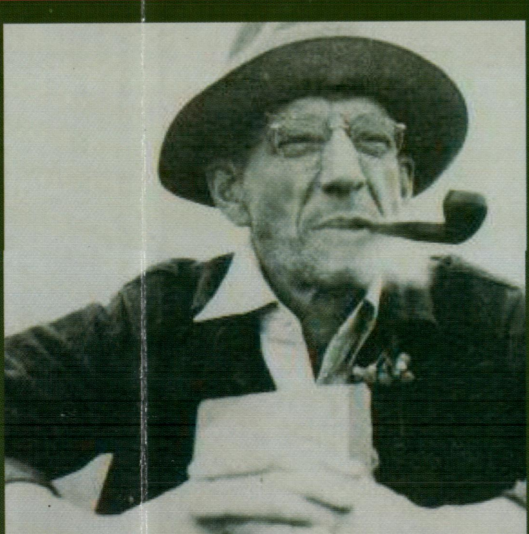
- 1 Wilmington Trail Club www.wilmingtontrailclub.org
Delaware River at the NJ/PA border to Fox Gap at PA 191
- 2 Batona Hiking Club
Fox Gap at PA 191 to Wind Gap at PA 33
- 3 Appalachian Mtn. Club - Delaware Valley Chapter www.amcdv.org
From Wind Gap at PA 33 to Little Gap near Danielsville, PA
- 4 Philadelphia Trail Club <http://m.zanger.tripod.com>
Little Gap to Lehigh Furnace Gap
- 5 Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club www.bmecc.org
Lehigh Furnace Gap to Bake Oven Knob Road, and Tri-County Corner to Rausch Gap Shelter
- 6 Allentown Hiking Club www.allentownhikingclub.org
Bake Oven Knob Road near PA 309 to Tri County Corner
- 7 Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club www.satac-hike.org
Rausch Gap Shelter to PA 225 north of Harrisburg
- 8 York Hiking Club www.yorkhikingclub.com
PA 225 to Susquehanna River
- 9 Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club <http://geocities.com/cvatclub>
Darlington Trail on Blue Mountain to Center Point Knob
- 10 Mountain Club of Maryland www.mcomd.org
Susquehanna River to Darlington/Tuscarora trail and Center Point Knob to Pine Grove Furnace State Park
- 11 Potomac Appalachian Trail Club www.potomacappalachian.org
Pine Grove Furnace State Park in PA to Rockfish Gap in VA



Trail History

In October 1921, a 42-year old forester and regional planner named Benton MacKaye published an article in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, entitled An Appalachian Trail - A Project in Regional Planning. His vision was for "a long trail over the full length of the Appalachian skyline" connecting the ridges and valleys of the Appalachian Province from Maine to Georgia.

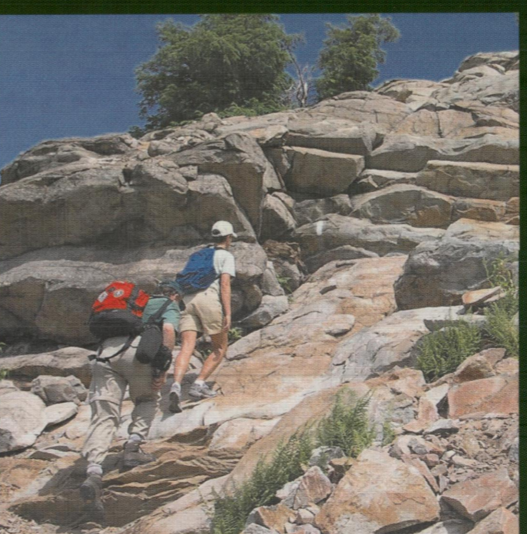
In 1922, work began on constructing the trail that would connect trail segments already existing at that time. In 1932, the trail was completed in Pennsylvania. In 1945, Congressman Daniel Hoch (Berks County) introduced federal legislation to create a national system of foot trails, which did not pass. Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) took up the cause and the National Trails System Act was passed in October, 1968. The Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail were the first national trails created by the Act. Today the national trails system includes 11 trails.



The Trail Today

Today, the Appalachian Trail is 2,179.1 miles long and extends from Maine to Georgia within a protected 250,000 acre greenway. In Pennsylvania, except for a few short sections along highways, the Trail's 229 mile route is within a protected corridor of varying dimensions, consisting of lands owned largely by the National Park Service and Pennsylvania state agencies that including the Game Commission and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks. The entire Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia is maintained by 30 volunteer trail clubs, 11 of which are active in Pennsylvania.

The Trail is a hiking trail, enjoyed by an estimated four million people each year. It is within a day's drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population. People of all ages and abilities enjoy short walks, day hikes, and long-distance backpacking journeys. It offers a variety of opportunities for viewing spectacular scenery, exploring, adventure, exercise, nature study, and personal renewal.



Trail Experience and Importance of Landscapes

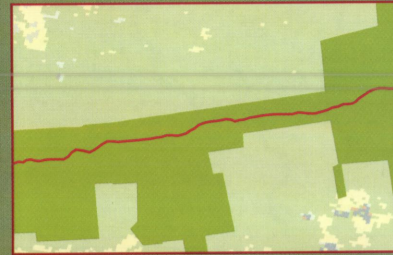
Although the Appalachian Trail's path is now largely protected within a corridor of public lands, the Trail experience through wilderness and rural countryside is vulnerable to irreversible changes associated with incompatible land uses adjacent to the corridor. They include but are not limited to development projects—large and small, as well as other activities such as intensive timber harvesting without appropriate forest management plans. Conserving the unique types of landscapes and scenic vistas encountered along the Trail is also an important element to maintaining the Trail experience. Three of these spectacular landscapes in Pennsylvania are: the Kittatinny Ridge, the Cumberland Valley, and the South Mountain. Protecting these landscapes, which include some of the most significant natural areas in Pennsylvania, will benefit the Appalachian Trail experience as well as significant wildlife habitats and water resources. Protection strategies will require ongoing collaborative efforts among local communities, adjacent landowners, trail users, nonprofit organizations and public agencies.



Protecting the Trail Experience - The Issues

Ongoing effective efforts to protect the Trail experience require an understanding of the different issues impacting the Trail. Five common issues are summarized as follows.

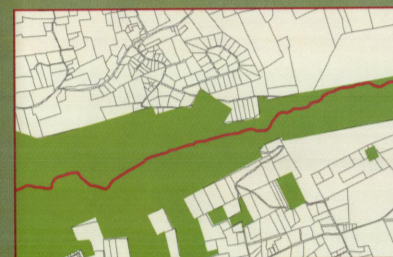
I. A Protected Corridor that Varies in Shape and Size



An example of the varying shape and size of the Trail's protected corridor

The Trail's protected corridor ranges from large tracts of public land to sections that may only be several hundred feet wide. In many instances, the Trail is not in the center of the corridor, meaning that only one side may be adequately protected. Because many corridor sections have jagged boundaries, the Trail's vulnerability can vary quickly over short distances. Further corridor protection of the corridor should occur through a combination of conservation strategies addressing specific conditions and needs along the Trail.

II. Diverse Circumstances of Adjacent Landowners



Adjacent properties range from small lots to large tracts

Although the Trail has benefited from the stewardship of many adjacent private landowners, they are a diverse group whose future decisions could have positive or negative impacts on the Trail experience. Needed are sustained initiatives to provide information and assistance to landowners on conservation and Trail-sensitive development strategies appropriate to their circumstances and interests.

III. Varying Municipal Land Use Plans and Regulations



One example of numerous municipalities along the Trail, where different land use policies would significantly impact the Trail experience

Although all but a few of the Trail's 58 municipalities have comprehensive plans and zoning regulations, most do not recognize the Trail as a resource requiring protection. In that much of the Trail traverses rural areas, adjacent lands are typically zoned as Conservation, Rural Preservation, Woodland Conservation or districts with similar names. However, they vary in their objectives, permitted land uses, minimum lot size requirements and other performance standards, resulting in varying levels of protection of landscapes associated with the Trail.

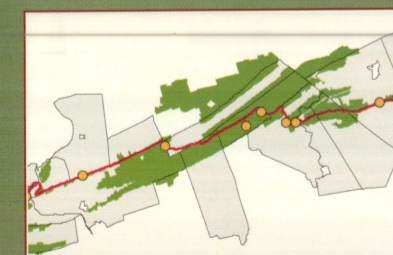
IV. The Trail's Expansive Views in a Developing Region



An example of the Trail's extensive viewshed (dark blue). Maintained Trail observation points shown in yellow.

Although he wanted the Trail to provide a wilderness experience, Benton MacKaye believed that long views of America's countryside and towns would also provide opportunities for hikers to reflect upon the world they live in. That is the case today, where numerous points along the Trail provide views of a developing region. Of particular concern are the impacts of encroaching development on the Trail's near views. A combination of watershed, habitat and Trail viewshed protection concerns provide the basis for conservation strategies to protect the ridge and valley landscapes through which the Trail travels.

V. Community Awareness and Recognition of the Trail



An example of how the Trail commonly follows the edges of municipal boundaries, with designated access points shown in yellow.

MacKaye envisioned that the Appalachian Trail would connect with other trails in local communities, a goal that continues today as reflected in state, county and local greenway plans. Limited accessibility combined with the impression that the Trail is suited primarily for hard core hikers, may be a deterrent for some municipalities to become actively involved in protecting the Trail experience. However, most hikers are local trail enthusiasts of all ages, many of whom live in or near the communities through which the trail passes.

No Single Protection Solution Will Work

The multiple issues impacting the Trail suggest that no single solution is likely to protect the quality of the Trail experience for present and future generations. Assessments of local conditions and developing workable strategies appropriate to specific circumstances will be the strongest strategy for the Trail's long-term protection.

A Checklist for Community Action

The following checklist provides a means by which individual municipalities may assess the protection needs of the Appalachian Trail within their jurisdictions. More details on the checklist and assessment procedure are available on the www.appalachiantrail.org/pa_apprail_act website below.

1. Local Recognition of the Trail and Its Significance

- ✓ Local Access and the Trail Experience
- ✓ Trail Recognition in the Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Actions to Enhance Community Appreciation of the Trail

2. Trail-Related Landscapes and Key Parcels

- ✓ Landscapes Contributing to the Trail Experience
- ✓ Patterns of Current Ownership and Use
- ✓ Identification Key Parcels

3. Zoning for Landscape Protection

- ✓ Applicability of Base Zoning to the Trail and its Related Landscapes
- ✓ Standards and Overlays to Protect Specific Resource Features
- ✓ Regulations Addressing Narrow Sections of the Trail's Protected Corridor

4. Mandates and Incentives for Conservation Design

- ✓ Local Experience with Conservation Design
- ✓ Current Conservation Design Standards

5. Regulating Potentially High Impact Uses

- ✓ Current High Impact Uses and Future Prospects
- ✓ Adequacy of Current Regulations

6. Working Relationships with Key Landowners

- ✓ Community History in Voluntary Land Conservation
- ✓ Knowledge of Key Landowners
- ✓ Potential for Landowner Outreach

7. Municipal Capacity to Address Trail and Related Landscape Issues

- ✓ Municipal Interests and Capabilities
- ✓ Access to Technical Assistance

Community Action Plan

The outcome of the assessment should be a clearly-defined Action Plan to address the needs and opportunities for enhancing the community's recognition of the Trail as a national and local resource and for undertaking specific actions to protect the Trail and its associated landscapes. Such plans are expected to vary to reflect particular community circumstances. Rather than being a one-time effort, an Action Plan should provide the basis for ongoing Trail protection efforts undertaken by a municipality in collaboration with others such as private landowners, local trail organizations, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and other land trusts, as well as county and state agencies, and the National Park Service.

PA Appalachian Trail Act Website

A website that provides information and implementation resources for the Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Act is located at www.appalachiantrail.org/pa_apprail_act. To help visitors' navigate the site the adjacent diagram illustrates the levels and areas of content available. Also highlighted is an order to the Resources section of the site guiding visitors where to start with the material thru to specific implementation tools.

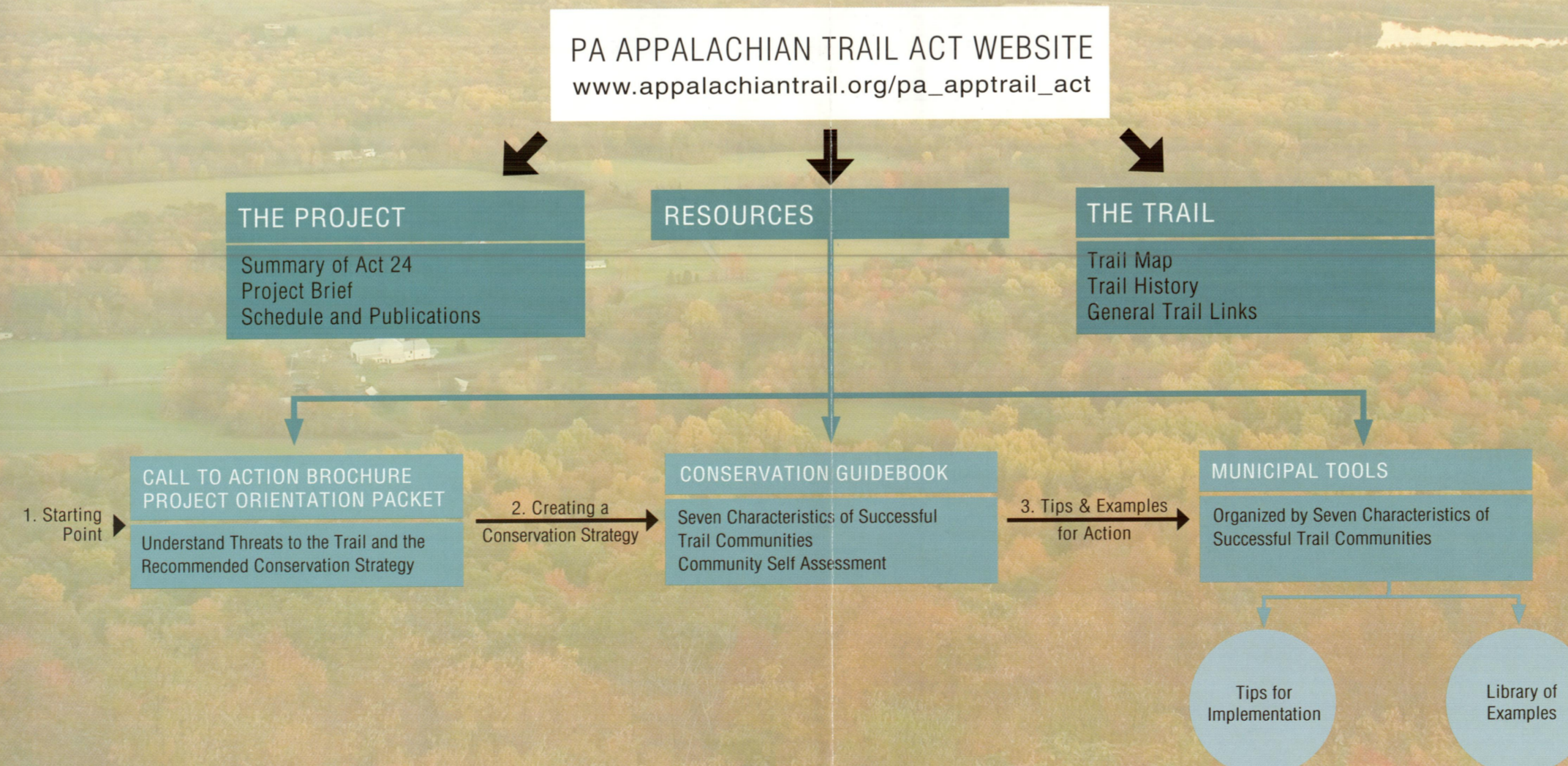


Photo by Timothy Cummings courtesy of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

THE PA APPALACHIAN TRAIL ACT

The PA Appalachian Trail Act requires 58 Pennsylvania municipalities along the Trail to "take such action consistent with applicable law, as at least an interim measure, to preserve the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the Trail and to conserve and maintain it as a public natural resource. Such action shall include the adoption, implementation and enforcement of zoning ordinances as the governing body deems necessary to preserve those values." The Act was amended to extend the date for municipal compliance with its mandates by August 11, 2010. The Act provides a planning opportunity for the 58 municipalities and other communities surrounding the Trail to protect this national and local asset.

An interagency task force was established to design a program to implement the intent of the Act. It identified a need for resource materials to assist municipalities in developing zoning and other conservation strategies most appropriate to their circumstances. This brochure summarizes its findings and recommendations. For further information, go to www.appalachiantrail.org/pa_apprail_act.