



# Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative

A Community-Driven Project for Conservation & Engagement



## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Join the ATCCC!**

This opportunity is free and open to all communities in the Appalachian Trail Landscape. Your community doesn't have to be a trail town or be directly on the Appalachian Trail but be located in the broader connected landscape. This opportunity is for communities looking for ways to expand their conservation skills and network of partners, understand the benefits of environmental stewardship, and learn how to balance nature and development decisions. In a cohort of up to 15 communities, this Collaborative will provide a convening space for learning together about what matters most to our communities and exploring how nature-based solutions can be part of our future.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- 1. Incorporated government type:** Eligible government types representing communities include:
  - Town
  - Borough
  - Township
  - County (it is encouraged that counties also apply with a partnering municipality)
- 2. Geography:** Eligible communities must be fully or partially within the A.T. Landscape. To be eligible to participate in the 2025 ATCCC cohort, your community must fully or partially be found within the black lines illustrated in the map below.

*Pennsylvania's A.T. Landscape – [ATCCC Boundary](#)*

- 3. Commitment of Community Team:** Each participating Community must form a team of 5-8 local leaders and submit an application to provide community information, team commitment, and alignment of expectations.
- 4. Letter of Support from Local Government Representative:** It is required that each applying community have a letter of support from a local government representative expressing support for the community team and commitment of the community to the Collaborative and any outcomes that may emerge from the team's participation.

## **Team Formation & Representation:**

Each community must form a team of 5-8 representatives.

**Required:** Each team must include an elected official, a member of the government staff, and a member from a local conservation organization.

**Suggested:** Additional representatives should be made up of those who are poised to provide insight and support to champion community-led conservation and stewardship projects in your community. Representatives might include expertise in:

- Public land management
- Land use and planning
- Economic development, downtown revitalization, chamber of commerce, etc.
- Local food and agriculture
- Cultural, historical, or arts
- Volunteer organizations or clubs
- Youth leadership programs
- Outdoor recreation groups, outfitting, recreational guiding/instruction

## **Team Commitment:**

All representatives of each community must commit to the full year of participation that includes:

- Participation in a community survey/interview
- One regional in-person workshop (up to 2 days)
- Development of a minimum of 1 action plan with commitment towards implementation
- Six months of customized technical assistance inclusive of check-in calls, peer learning meetings, and one-on-one coaching to activate your community's action plan
- One 1-day Summit in a central PA location to celebrate all the work of the Collaborative
- Teams must be prepared to meet independently to implement planning and actions

## **Important Dates:**

- **Informational Webinars:**
  - October 1st at 1:00pm: [Register Here!](#)
- **Applications Due: October 31<sup>st</sup>**
- **Regional Workshop: Late January/Early February 2026 (depending on your community's location)**
- **Vision to Action Summit: September 2026**

## **Travel Support:**

There is no cost to participate in the ATCCC. Travel support to events will be made available for all members of each community team upon request.

## HOW TO APPLY:

All communities interested in joining the Collaborative must fill out an application **no later than October 31st**. Please review the Application Instructions below.

**It is encouraged for all applying teams to meet to fill out the application together.** The application questions are provided on the [ATCCC website](#) as a guiding prompt. If your team is unable to submit your application via the online form, please send your application in a Microsoft Word or Adobe .pdf format to Katie Allen ([kallen@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:kallen@appalachiantrail.org)).

**This opportunity is limited to 15 communities, and community teams will be accepted on a rolling basis ending October 31<sup>st</sup>. We recommend forming your team and applying as early as possible.**

**APPLY ONLINE HERE:** <https://arcg.is/1qe8rX2>

### Confirmation Process:

Applications will be reviewed for completeness, commitment, and alignment of expectations. An Advisory Committee will serve as a review team. Each team will be contacted by Katie Allen, Director of Landscape Conservation at ATC, about your team's application and invited to participate once all requirements are met.

The Collaborative will prioritize geographic diversity by aspiring for a maximum of 5 teams representing each of the following regions:

- Cumberland Valley (including the South Mountain Partnership Conservation Landscape),
- Susquehanna Valley (including the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape)
- Lehigh Valley and northeast PA (including the Kittatinny Ridge Schuylkill Highlands, Lehigh Valley Greenways, and Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscapes)

### Application Support:

For more detailed guidance on the ATCCC, please review the General Information and Frequently Ask Questions documents found on the [ATCCC's website](#). If you have any questions or need assistance regarding your community's eligibility, team formation, the application materials, or the submission process, please contact Katie Allen at [kallen@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:kallen@appalachiantrail.org).