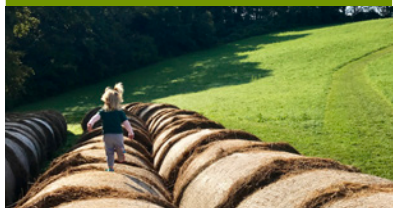
Landscapes 3

METRICS

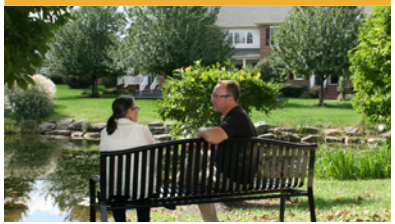
How We
PRESERVE



How We
PROTECT

How We
APPRECIATE

How We
LIVE



How We
PROSPER

How We
CONNECT

How We PRESERVE

How We
PRESERVE

METRIC 1

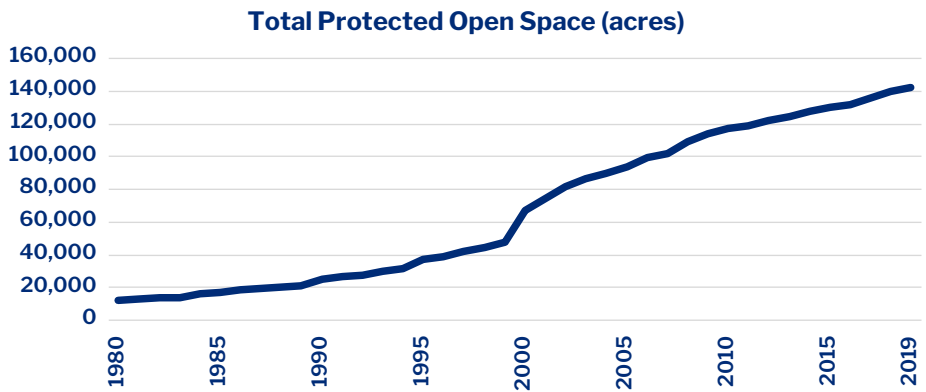
Protected Open Space

Track the percentage of permanently protected open space within the county, including farmland, nature preserves and parks.

METRIC 1 Protected Open Space

METRIC RESULT

Protected open space	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Total (acres)	139,827	142,233	2,405
Total (as a % of the county)	28.8%	29.3%	0.5%



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).

How We
PRESERVE

METRIC 2

Open Space Connectivity

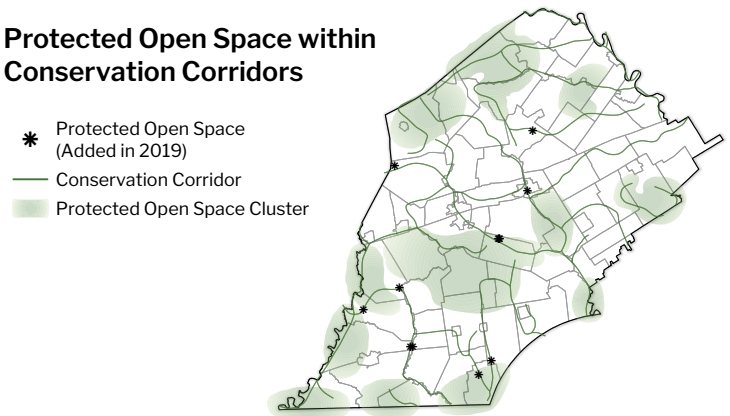
Monitor protected open space within the conservation corridors.

METRIC 2 Open Space Connectivity

METRIC RESULT

Connectivity feature	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Conservation corridors (acres)	22,955	22,955	0
Protected open space in conservation corridors (acres)	9,043	9,147	103
Percent of conservation corridors as protected open space	39.4%	39.8%	0.4%

Protected Open Space within 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.

How We
PRESERVE

METRIC 3

Protected Farmland

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

METRIC 3 Protected Farmland

METRIC RESULT

Farmland	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Viable farmland (acres)	136,316	136,293	-23
Protected viable farmland (acres)	84,199	85,718	1,520
Protected viable farmland (acres) %	61.8%	62.9%	1.1%

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.

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.

How We **PRESERVE**

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

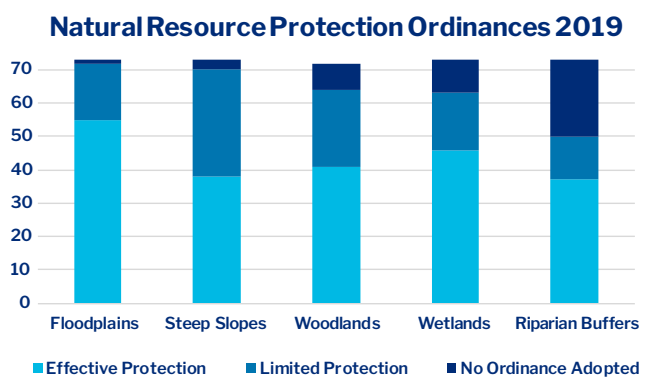
Natural Resource Protection

Track the number of adopted municipal ordinance regulations that effectively protect natural resources.

METRIC 4 Natural Resource Protection

METRIC RESULT

Ordinances with effective natural resource protection	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Total	**212**	**217**	**5**
Floodplains	55	55	0
Steep slopes	37	38	1
Woodlands	40	41	1
Wetlands	45	46	1
Riparian buffers	35	37	2



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

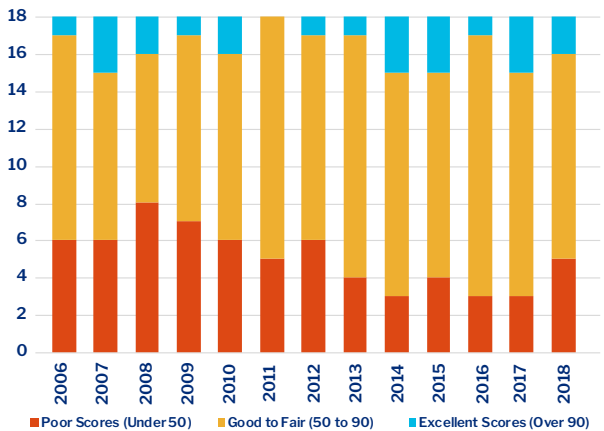
Monitor aquatic life diversity as an indicator of overall stream health.

METRIC 5 Stream Health

METRIC RESULT

Scores	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Excellent (over 90)	2	N/A	N/A
Good to fair (50 to 90)	11	N/A	N/A
Poor (under 50)	5	N/A	N/A

Stream Health in Chester County 2007-2018



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.

How We APPRECIATE

METRIC 6

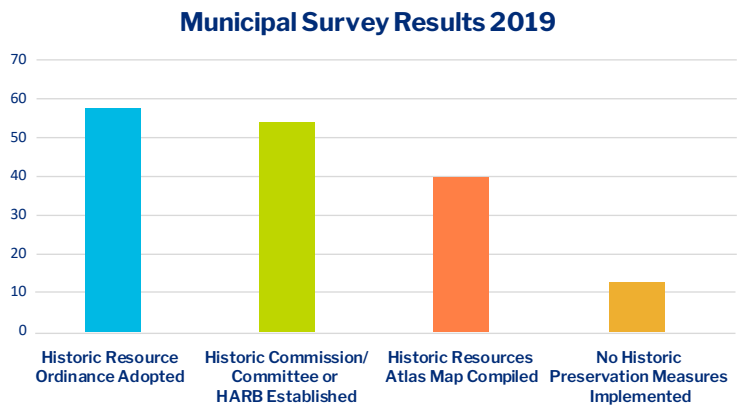
Historic Inventory and Standards

Track the number of municipal comprehensive historic resource protection measures implemented.

METRIC 6 Historic Inventory and Standards

METRIC RESULT

Protection measure	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Historic resource ordinance	58	58	0
Historic commission/committee or HARB	52	54	2
Historic resources atlas map	40	40	0
Total	**150**	**152**	**2**



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 7

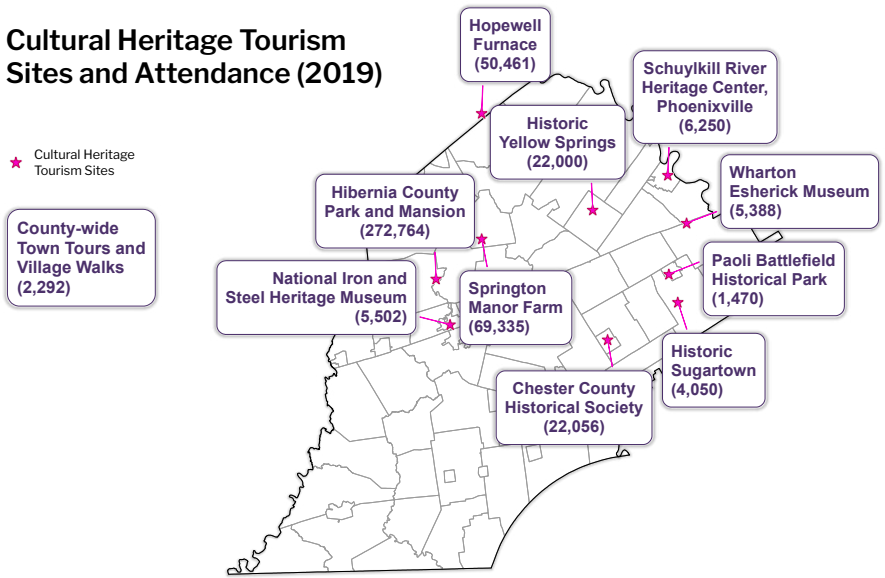
Historic Tourism

Track the level of tourism within the county related to historic and cultural resources.

METRIC 7 Historic Tourism

METRIC RESULT

Protection measure	Base year 2018	Current year 2019	Difference between current year and base year METRIC RESULT	
Cultural heritage tourism sites attendance	390,076	461,568	71,492	18.3%



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.

How We **APPRECIATE**

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.

How We LIVE

METRIC 8

Affordable Housing Built

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

METRIC 8 Affordable Housing Built

METRIC RESULT

Affordable units	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Newly constructed	65	20	-45
Rehabilitated	128	142	14
Total	**193**	**162**	**-31**

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

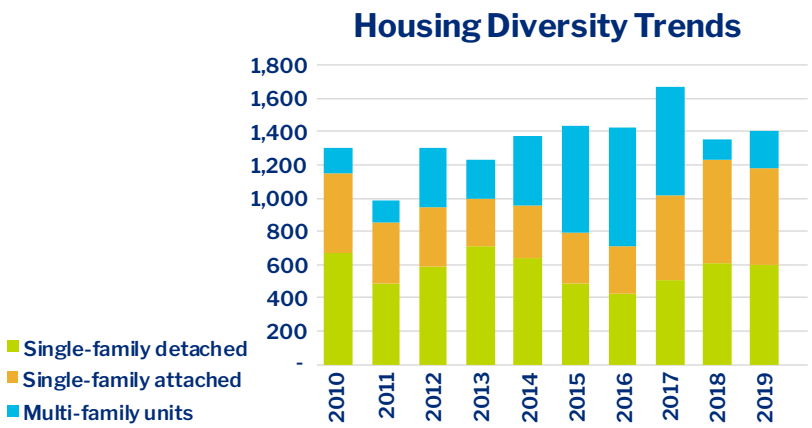
Track the types of housing constructed in the county.

METRIC 9 Housing Diversity

METRIC RESULT

Type of housing unit	Base year 2018		Current year 2019	
Total	**1,355**	**100.0%**	**1,409**	**100.0%**
Single-family detached	612	45.2%	600	42.6%
Single-family attached*	627	46.3%	588	41.7%
Multi-family (apartments)	116	8.6%	221	15.7%

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



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.

METRIC 10 Access to Parks

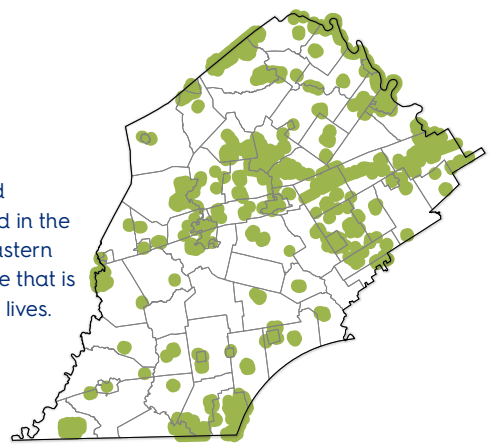
METRIC RESULT

Population	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Total population	522,086	524,989	2,903
Population within 1/2 mile of a park	367,354	371,129	3,775
Percent of total population within 1/2 mile of a park	70.4%	70.7%	0.3%

Access to Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation 1/2 Mile Buffer

Many of the county's park and recreation facilities are located in the highter density, central and eastern portions of the county because that is where much of the population lives.



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

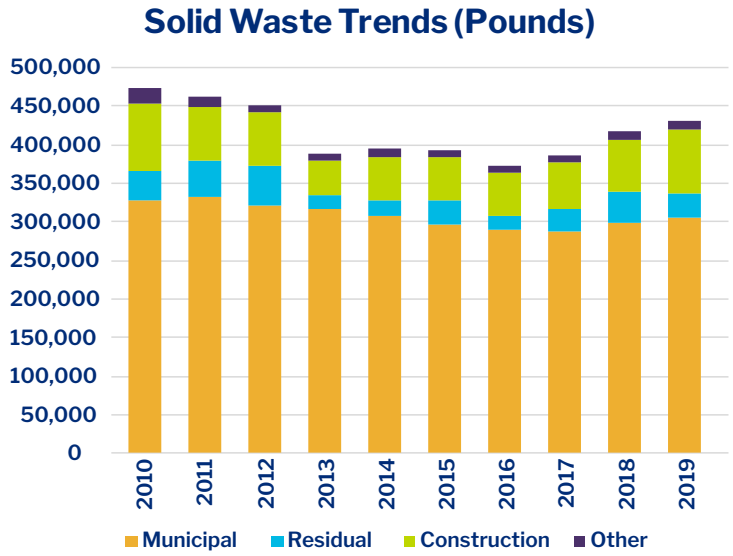
Solid Waste

Track the amount of municipal waste per capita.

METRIC 11 Solid Waste

METRIC RESULT

Municipal solid waste	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Per capita (pounds)	1,138	1,160	23



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.

How We **LIVE**

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.

How We PROSPER

METRIC 12

Non-Residential Development

Track the amount of non-residential development.

METRIC 12 Non-Residential Development

METRIC RESULT

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

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

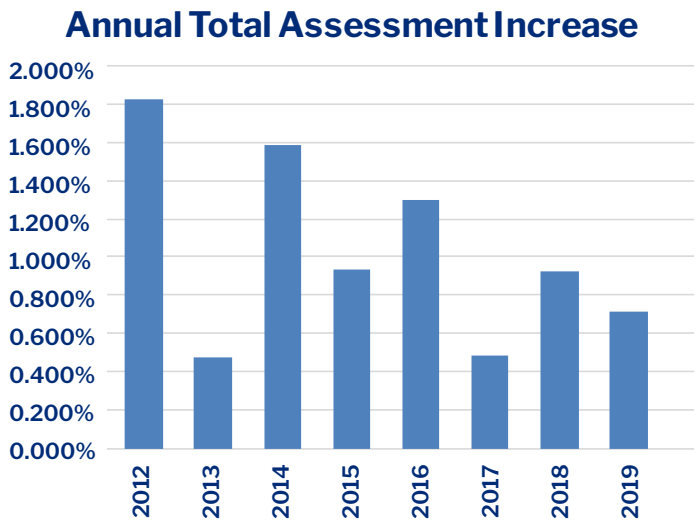
Urban Center Prosperity

Monitor taxable assessments in urban centers to track economic and community prosperity.

METRIC 13 Urban Center Prosperity

METRIC RESULT

Total assessment for urban centers	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**
Annual increase (percent)	0.927%	0.720%



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

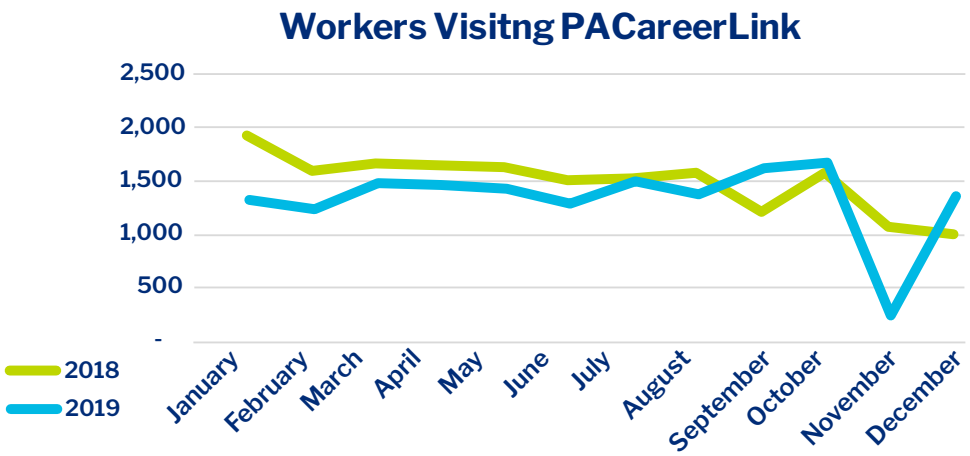
Workforce Development Progress

Track the number of people assisted with employment training by the county.

METRIC 14 Workforce Development Progress

METRIC RESULT

Workers	Base year 2018	Current year 2019	Difference between current year and base year METRIC RESULT	
Workers who visited PACareerLink	17,821	16,055	-1,766	-9.9%



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).

How We **PROSPER**

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

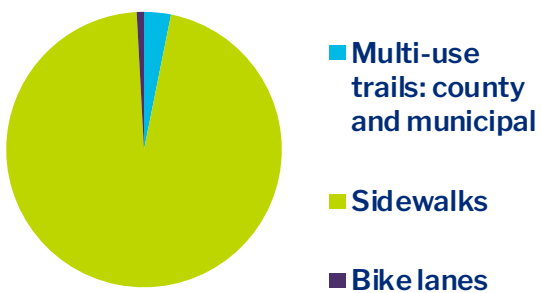
Track the length of new multi-use trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes created in the county.

METRIC 15 Active Transportation

METRIC RESULT

Active transportation mode (miles)	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
Total	**868.9**	**871.0**	**2.1**
Multi-use trails	27.4	27.4	0.0
Sidewalks	834.1	836.2	2.1
Bike lanes	7.4	7.4	0.0

2019 Active Trasportation Modes (miles)



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.

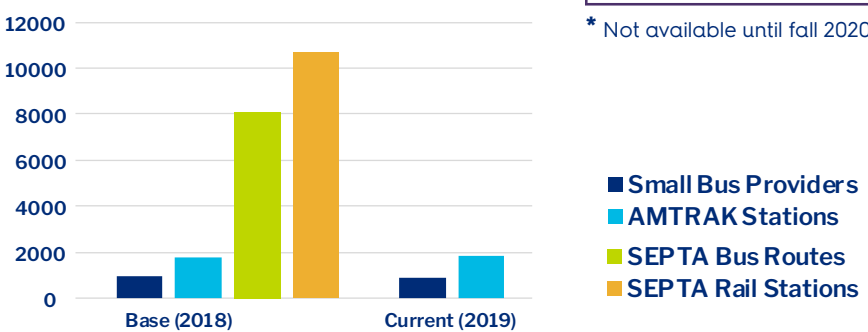
METRIC 16 Public Transportation

METRIC RESULT

Active transportation mode (miles)	Base year 2018	Current year 2019	Difference between current year and base year METRIC RESULT	
Total	21,388	*	*	*
AMTRAK stations (average weekday)	1,737	1,831	94	5.4%
SEPTA rail stations (average. daily)	10,669	*	*	*
SEPTA bus routes, multi-county (average. weekday)	8,041	*	*	*
Small bus provider routed (average weekday)	941	855	-86	-9.1%

* Not available until fall 2020.

Public Transportation Ridership Trips



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

METRIC RESULT

Average minutes	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**	Difference between current year and base year **METRIC RESULT**
For a 15-mile trip	19.0	18.8	- 0.2

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).

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).

METRIC 18

Coordinating Utilities With Growth Areas

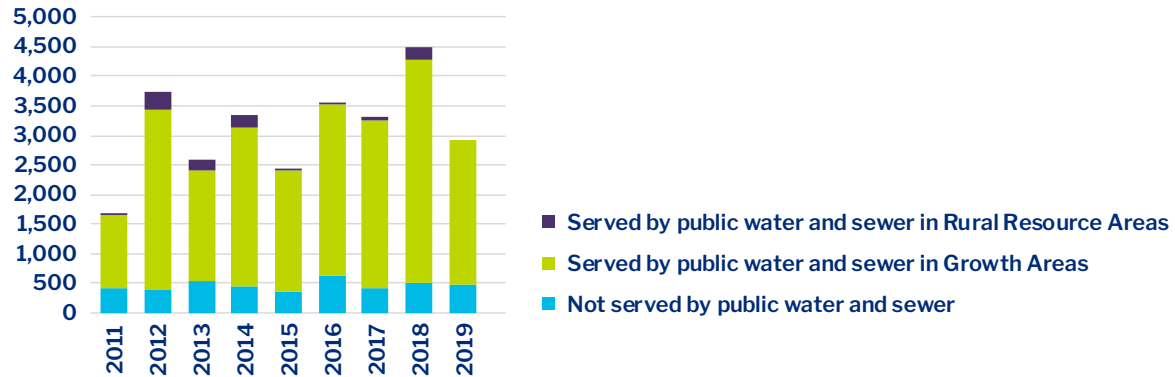
Track development units connecting to public sewer and water services that will be located in designated growth areas.

METRIC 18 Coordinating Utilities With Growth Areas

METRIC RESULT

Proposed lots/units	Base year **2018**	Current year **2019**
Total reviewed	4,492	2,926
With public water and sewer, in growth areas (number)	3,756	2,466
With public water and sewer, in growth areas (% of total)	83.6%	84.3%

Ultility Service of Proposed Units/Lots



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).

How We **CONNECT**

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.

Landscapes 3

METRICS

How We
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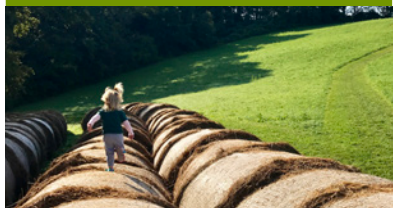

How We
PROTECT

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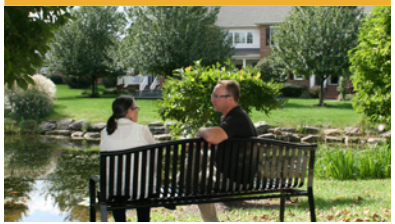

How We
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