

Planners & Planning:

Helping to Shape
Communities for
a Better Tomorrow



What do Planners do?

- Help governments, businesses, and citizens create better communities.

What do Planners promote?

- Efficient Transportation
- Quality Housing
- Vibrant Places
- A Growing Economy
- Healthy Communities
- Preserved Landscapes
- Protection of Natural Resources

How much impact does planning have? A lot!

Below are some examples.

Efficient Transportation – In 2002, with the adoption of a new comprehensive plan, Marcus Hook in Delaware County began working tirelessly to improve its transportation infrastructure. These efforts led to recognition by the transit authority that they needed to upgrade a train station, \$14 million from PennDOT to reconstruct a gateway bridge, and \$1.5 million in transportation enhancement money for a streetscape and sidewalk project.

Vibrant Places - Ambler, an old industrial town in Montgomery County, turned itself into a vibrant restaurant and arts destination after completing a Vision Plan in 2000. Over the past decade, Ambler has welcomed 35 new businesses, a renovated movie theater, an expanded performance theater, and 55 high-end townhouses. Housing values Borough-wide increased 101% compared to a County-wide increase of only 63%.



A Growing Economy – Cranberry, a growing township in Butler County, recognized that it needed to do better planning so that growth could continue. The Township's planning efforts attracted significant development, including Westinghouse's corporate headquarters. Since its Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2009, the Township has received \$14.2 million in transportation and recreation impact fees and seen \$11.6 million of private funds invested in road, water, and sewer improvements.



Preserved Landscapes – To protect its rural landscape, Warwick Township in Lancaster County created a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. Over 2,800 acres of farmland have been preserved in the Township, most of it since 1997. Of this total, approximately 1,500 acres have been preserved through the use of TDRs. The Township has been successful in attracting a regional hospital, medical offices, and a shopping center to its urban growth area, all of which utilized TDRs to develop their site more efficiently.

How do local communities find planners?

Planners work at all levels of government and as private consultants.

Around Pennsylvania, many regional planning organizations and county planning commissions offer planning services and advice. The state Department of Community and Economic Development also has extensive planning literature and services.

Private planning consultants can be found throughout Pennsylvania in large and small firms, as well as in many architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering firms. You can make initial contact by phone or email and can solicit multiple responses to your planning needs through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The American Planning Association's website, www.planning.org/consultants, has a guide for hiring a planning consultant.

What is the PA Chapter of APA?

The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization for the promotion of planning and for professional planners and planning officials in the Commonwealth. Approximately 2,500 members strong, the Chapter promotes planning at all levels of the Commonwealth through trainings, an annual conference, legislative monitoring, and public awareness efforts.

The Chapter is focused on creating better communities through active and effective planning that will improve the future of all communities in the Commonwealth.

Members receive information through a quarterly publication, *The Vantage Point*, and through regular updates on the website, **www.planningpa.org**. In addition, the six Sections of the Chapter provide local services to members and others through program meetings, local workshops and newsletters. The Chapter also utilizes **Twitter** and **Facebook** to keep members connected.

The Chapter website includes a wealth of information, including a **Resource Library**, listing of **AICP CM opportunities**, sources of **training** for planning commissioners, information on our **annual conference** including past presentations, a **consultant directory**, **advocacy updates**, and much more.

How to join

Membership is available to organizations such as municipal, county and regional authorities; students/emerging professionals; individuals (both professional planners and planning officials/commissioners); and non-profit organizations. Membership dues run on a calendar basis, and are prorated throughout the year. Information and an application can be found at **<http://planningpa.org/about/about-the-pa-chapter/become-a-member/>**

Let APA-PA help you in your community.



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

Learn more about the PA Chapter of
APA at **www.planningpa.org**