



*The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning.*

# Great Places in Pennsylvania 2026 Guidelines

- **What makes a Great Place?** Pennsylvania's truly Great Places have had time to evolve and positively impact the community. They are:
  - defined by many criteria, including, but not limited to, architectural features, accessibility, connectivity, functionality, economic opportunity, a planning process, community engagement, and forward thinking planning;
  - centerpieces of communities where people want to live, work, and/or play;
  - enjoyable, safe, desirable, and well-maintained;
  - unique, innovative, and vibrant; and
  - outstanding examples of good planning!
  
- **Who can nominate a Great Place?**
  - Individuals, organizations, or municipalities can nominate a Great Place in their own community or another community. Nominators must be 18 years of age or older.
  - Members of the PA Chapter of APA Board of Directors are not permitted to submit nominations during their term of office.
  
- **Can a municipality, organization, or individual submit more than one nomination?**
  - Yes, there is no limit to the number of nominations that a municipality, organization, or individual may submit.
  - If nominating a site in more than one category, the nomination forms must clearly address the criteria for each category (i.e. the responses to the nomination questions cannot be identical).
  
- **Will APA-PA accept a joint, regional nomination?**
  - Yes, the program will accept nominations by consortiums of organizations or individuals, including nominations submitted jointly by two or more municipalities and/or counties.
  
- **When can applications be submitted?**
  - Nominations for the current year must be submitted by the deadline published on the APA-PA website at <http://planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania-2>.
  
- **How are nominations submitted?**
  - Nominations must be submitted on line at <http://planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania-2/great-places-submission-form/>.
  
- **What is the policy on the use of materials submitted in support of a nomination?**
  - Nominators shall permit the PA Chapter of APA to use all materials submitted in support of a nomination for purposes related to the Great Places in Pennsylvania program, including use on promotional materials.