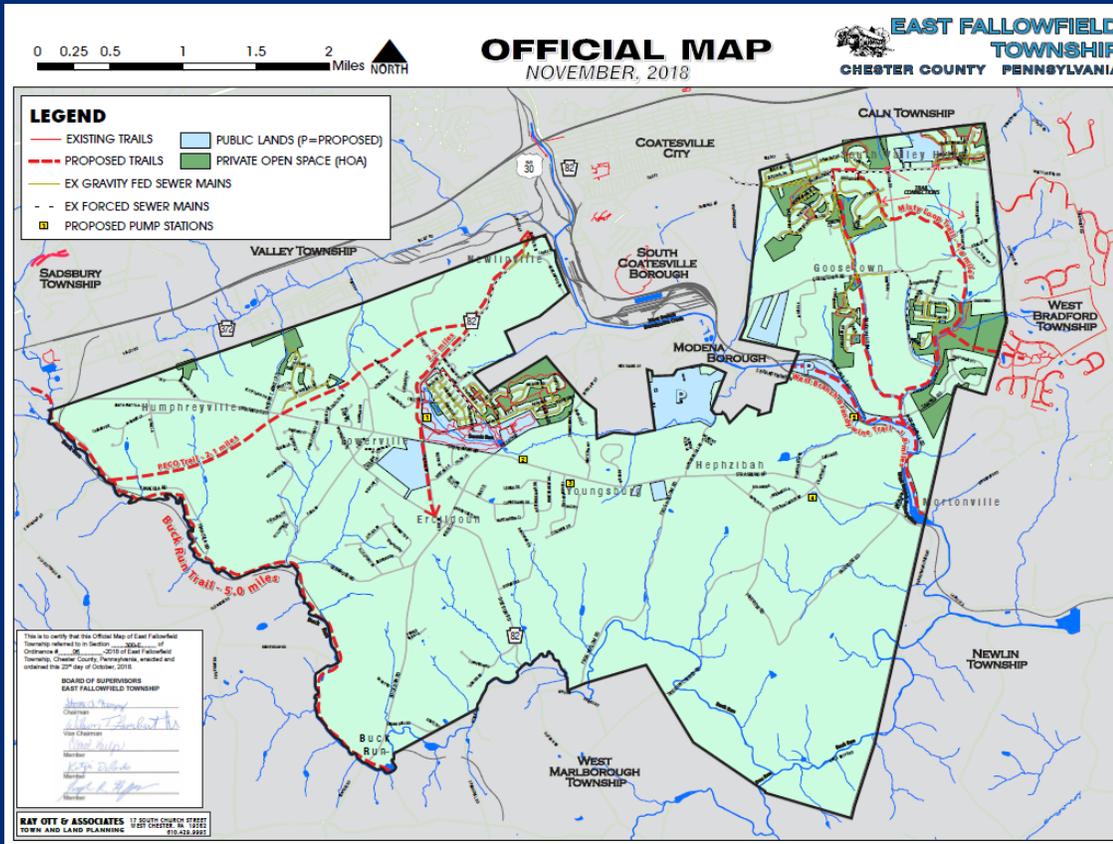
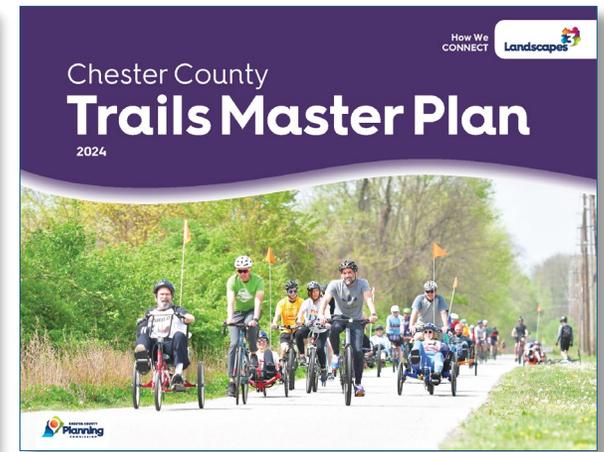
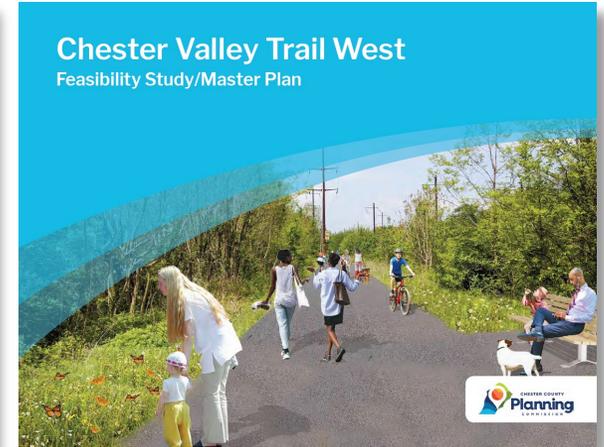
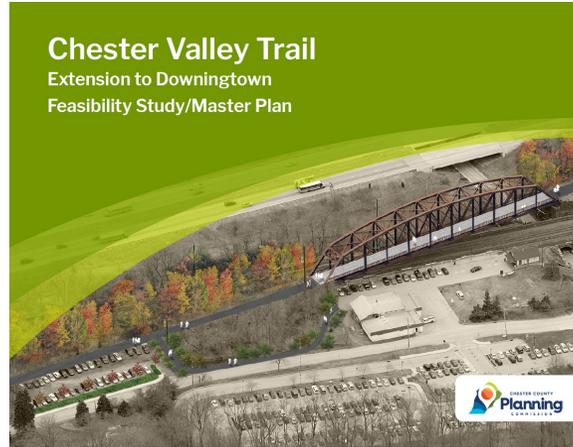


Agenda



- ❑ What is an Official Map?
- ❑ What an Official Map is not
- ❑ How do Official Maps work?
- ❑ Official Maps in Chester County
- ❑ Official Map Resources
- ❑ Q&A / Discussion

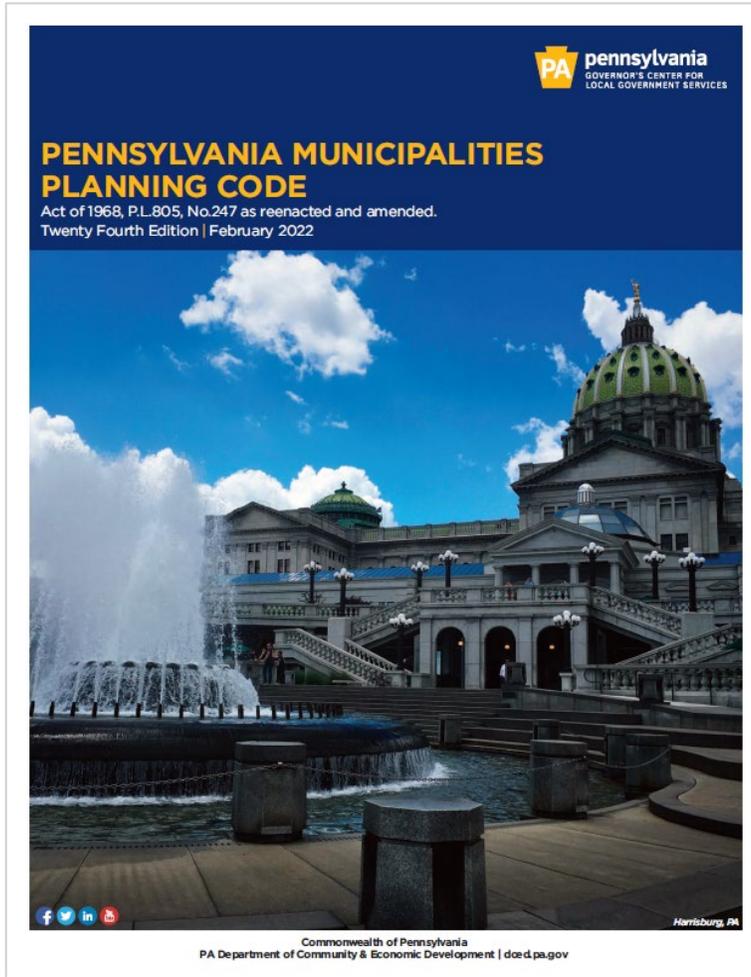
APA PA Chapter Award: Chester County Trail Planning Series



Philadelphia Western Suburbs Trail Summit – February 7, 2026

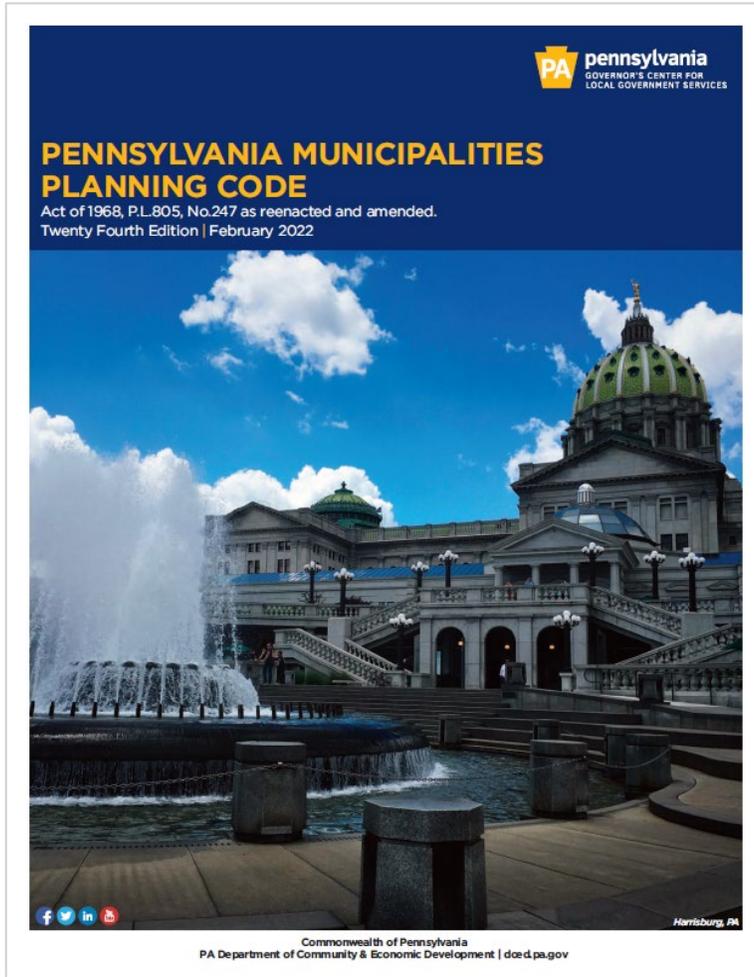


What is an Official Map?



- ❑ A planning tool established by Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC)
- ❑ An “**Official Map**” is a combined map and ordinance designed to aid in proactively planning for future growth in a municipality by reserving land for public uses to implement the vision established by the comprehensive plan .

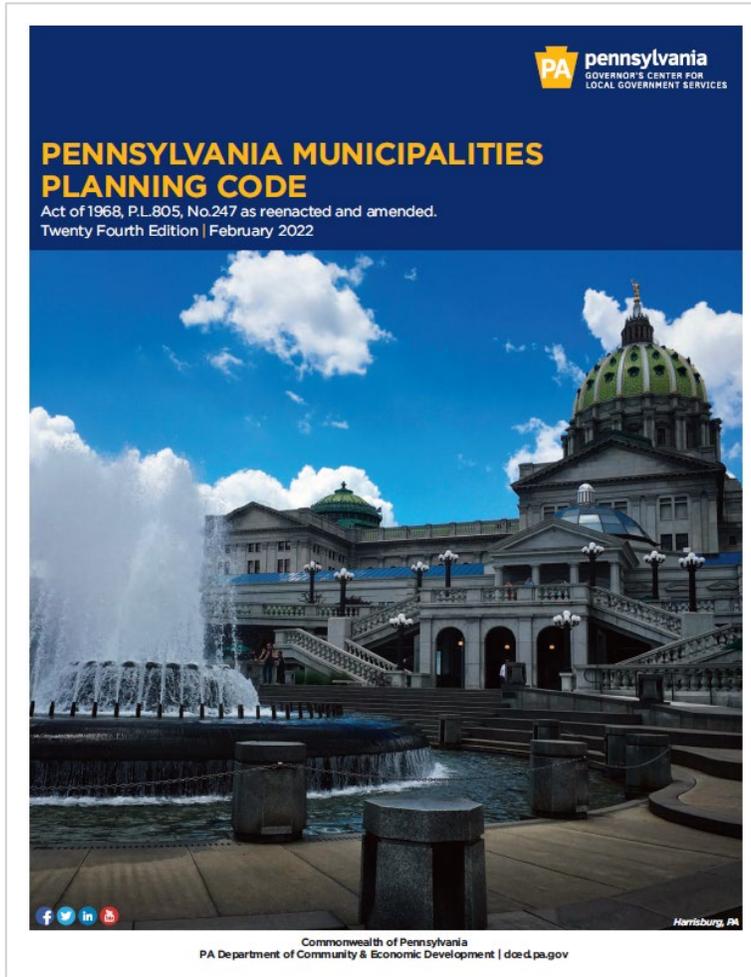
What is an Official Map?



As per the MPC, an official map may be made for all or a portion of the municipality ...which may include, but need not be limited to:

- Existing and proposed **public streets, watercourses and public grounds**, including widenings, narrowings, extensions, diminutions, openings or closing of same.
- Existing and proposed **public parks, playgrounds and open space** reservations.

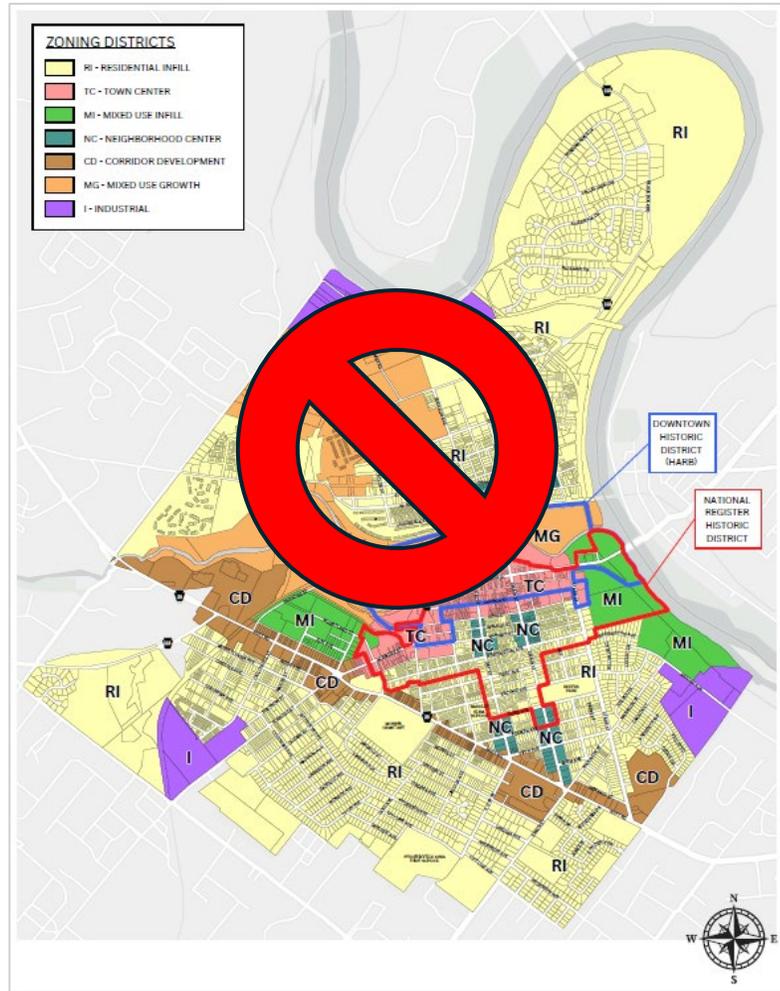
What is an Official Map?



(cont'd)

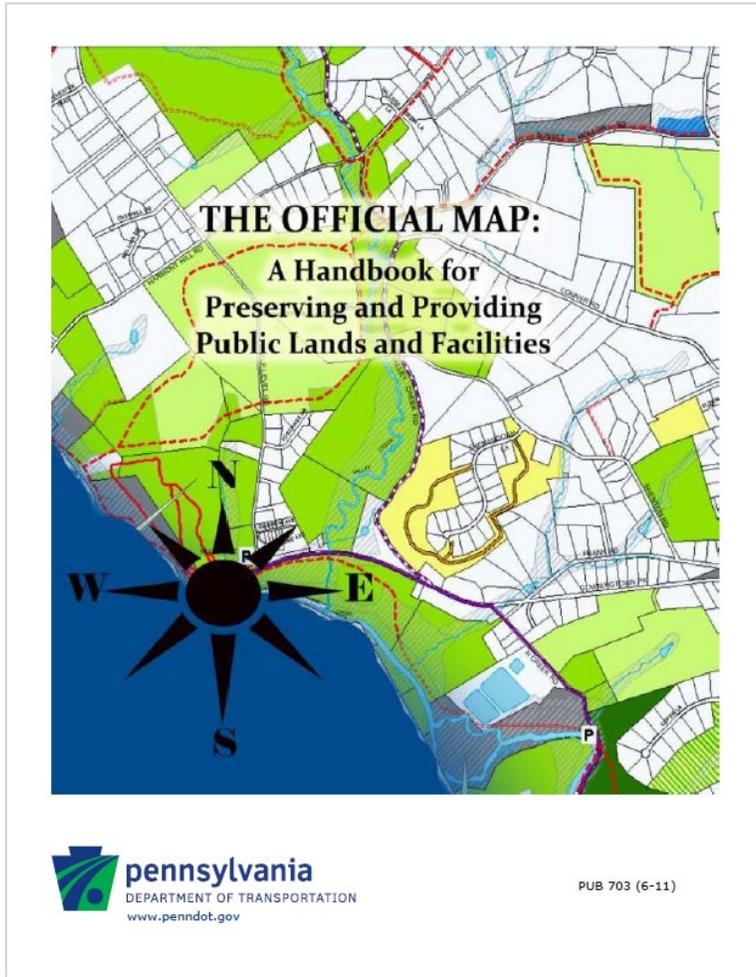
- Pedestrian** ways and easements.
- Railroad and transit** rights-of-way and easements.
- Flood control** basins, floodways and flood plains, storm water management areas and drainage easements.
- Support facilities**, easements and other properties held by public bodies

What an Official Map is not:



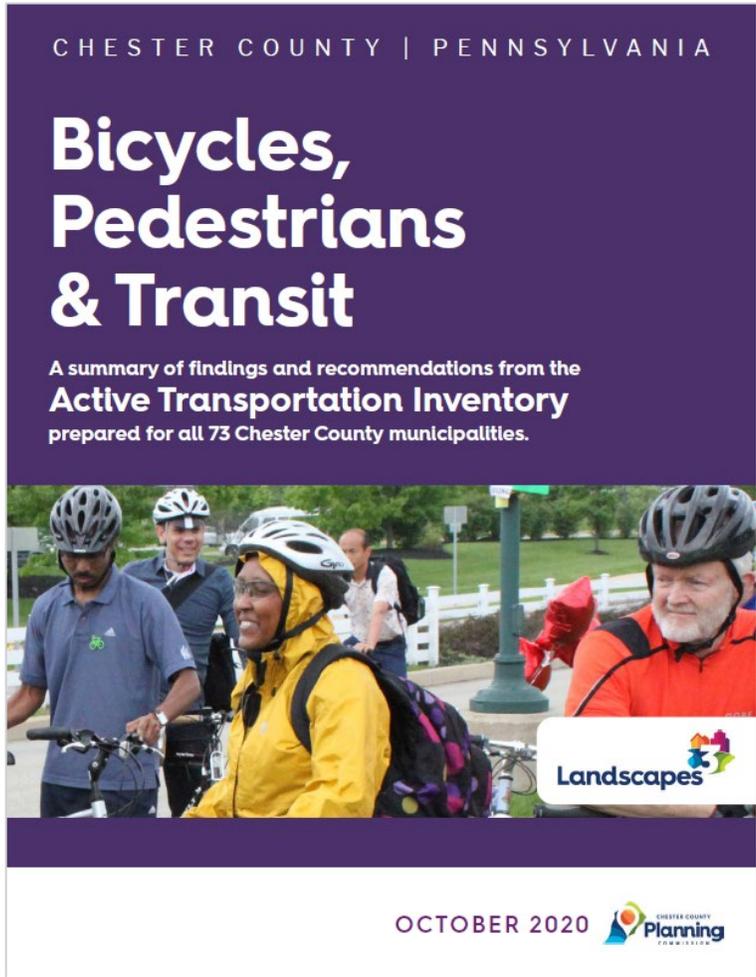
- Municipal Base Map
- Existing or Future Land Use Map
- Zoning Map
- Any map in a comprehensive plan
- an active acquisition of property rights

How do Official Maps work?

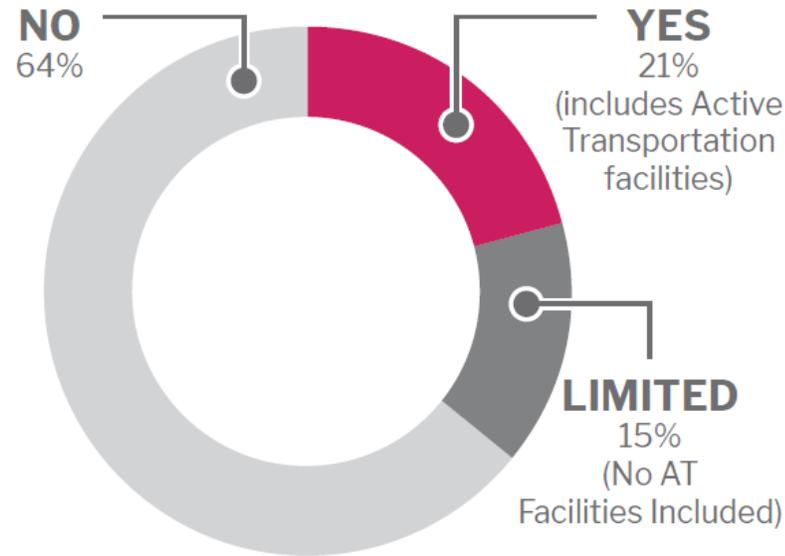


According to PennDOT's guide on official maps, "**once a property owner or developer notifies a municipality** of their intention to build, subdivide, or perform other work on land that is located on an official map, **the municipality has up to one year to confirm its acquisition interest** and negotiate to acquire the land. Acquisition can take the form of dedication by owner, purchase of land or easement by the municipality, negotiations with owner/developer to make desired improvements, or eminent domain (although rare), if the municipality chooses."

Official Maps in Chester County

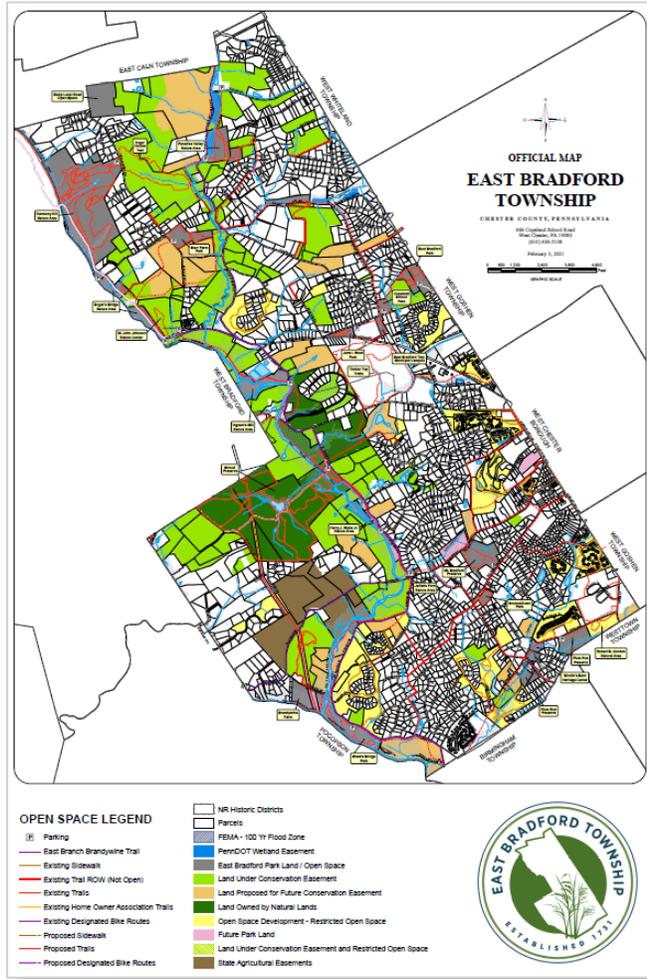


Municipalities with an Official Map



Recommendation: Adopt or Amend an Official Map

Official Maps in Chester County (as of August 2024) ~ 27



- Birmingham Township
- Charlestown Township
- East Bradford Township
- East Brandywine Township
- East Caln Township
- East Fallowfield Township
- Elk Township
- Elverson Borough
- Honey Brook Township
- Kennett Township
- London Britain Township
- Londonderry Township
- Malvern Borough
- New Garden Township
- New London Township
- Newlin Township
- North Coventry Township
- South Coatesville Borough
- Thornbury Township
- Upper Uwchlan Township
- Uwchlan Township
- West Bradford Township
- West Brandywine Township
- West Chester Borough
- West Vincent Township
- West Whiteland Township
- Willistown Township

❖ Maps with Proposed Active Transportation Facilities

Official Map Resources

The screenshot shows the Chester County Planning Commission website. At the top left is the logo with the text "CHESTER COUNTY Planning COMMISSION". To the right are social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, X, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter, along with the text "An official website of the Chester County Government". A dark blue navigation bar contains links for "About Us", "Landscapes3", "Planning Topics", "Data, Maps, & Reports", "Municipal Corner", and "Plan Review". The main content area has a blue background on the left with the heading "Official Map" and a paragraph: "An 'official map' is a combined map and ordinance designed to aid in proactively planning for future growth in a municipality by reserving land for public uses". To the right is a colorful map showing various land use zones in shades of green, yellow, and orange. Below the map is a breadcrumb trail: "Home » Municipal Corner » eTools » Official Map". A horizontal menu below the breadcrumb has three items: "How it Works" (with a wrench icon), "Get Started" (with a rocket icon), and "Examples" (with a magnifying glass icon). Under "How it Works", there is a small image of people on a trail and a paragraph of text: "Article IV of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) authorizes municipalities to adopt official maps, designating areas of interest for possible future right of ways, like roads or trails, or public grounds, such as parks or flood control areas. The adoption of an official map by ordinance does not, in and of itself, constitute..."



Thank you!

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