

ORDINANCE NO. 03-2025

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
ORDINANCE NO. 04-2018; APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MT. PENN
PRESERVE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (MP3 COG) ARTICLES
OF AGREEMENT; TO INCLUDE THE TRAILS AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN
AND TO ALLOW THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTICIPATING
MUNICIPALITIES TO APPOINT COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Berks, Pennsylvania:

Section One: It is the intention of the Townships of Lower Alsace and Alsace, the Borough of Mount Penn, the City of Reading and the County of Berks to establish a Council of Governments to foster a cooperative effort to explore and implement initiatives identified within the 2017 Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan, within the *2025 Forest Stewardship and Trails Assessment Plan* and to implement and resolve regional initiatives, to determine policies and to formulate concepts and programs to meet the needs of the Preserve region. The members agree as follows:

1. The name of the Council of Government shall be Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership Council of Government (MP3 COG).
2. The MP3 COG shall consist of members as listed in Exhibit A, representing the partner municipalities.
3. The MP3 COG shall be governed by the same regulations and or laws that are applicable to the member governments and by the Articles of Agreement, attached as Exhibit A, which may be amended from time to time by the membership of the MP3 COG, *and approved by the municipal governing body.*
4. The MP3 COG shall embrace the following purposes:
 - a. Forum: To serve as a forum to study, discuss and implement initiatives identified in the 2017 Mt. Penn Preserve Master Plan, *in the 2025 Forest Stewardship and Trails Assessment Plan* and other regional needs as they are identified for the area defined in Exhibit B.
 - b. Communication & Coordination: To provide an organizational structure necessary to ensure effective communications among all member organizations and the residents of the Mt. Penn Preserve area. To apply and administer governmental and non-governmental grants to improve the area.
 - c. Policies & Priorities: To develop and review policies, plans, and regulations that will encourage the type of appropriate development that will enhance and protect the natural resources of the Preserve.
 - d. Community Facilities & Services: To facilitate cooperative efforts, among existing law enforcement agencies, provide shared community facilities and services as well as the organizing and planning of regional events.

- e. Regional Spokesman: To serve as a liaison with members of the community, governmental units and groups or organizations; and to serve as a regional spokesperson for the area.
 - f. Regional Review: To review and coordinate federal, state and local programs of regional importance.
5. The municipal members of the MP3 shall retain ownership, control and responsibility for the property and facilities they own within the Mt. Penn Preserve area, unless the member municipality negotiates with the MP3 to take over the management and control of the property or facility.
6. The MP3 shall have a term of ten (10) years. However, the member governments have the authority to withdraw from the MP3 annually, after providing 12 months' notice of their desire to withdraw, as per Article IV.C. of the attached agreement.

Section Two: This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its enactment.


ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 9th day of October, 2025 by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Berks, Pennsylvania.

COUNTY OF BERKS

By: 
Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair

By: 
Michael S. Rivera, Vice Chair

Attest:


Jessica Blausen
Deputy Chief Clerk

By: Not present at meeting
Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner