BERKS COUNTY
Planning Commission

E-FLASH

October 2026





Ribbon Cutting Celebrates New Reeser's Landing Boat Launch and National Water Trail Recognition.

Schuylkill River Greenways association along with Exeter Township welcomed community partners and local leaders on September 30th for a ribbon cutting at the Schuylkill River Trail's Reeser's Landing. Executive Director Ashley Showers joined officials and project partners to celebrate the unveiling of the site's newly constructed boat launch and the Schuylkill River's formal recognition as a National Water Trail.

This improvement project was made possible through support from the County's Greenway, Park, and Recreation Plan and Placemaking funds provided by the County Commissioners through the Imagine Berks initiative. The enhancements at Reeser's Landing strengthen public access to outdoor recreation, expand regional trail and waterway connections, and continue the County's investment in high quality community spaces.



Data Center Programs

Executive Director Ashley Showers recently represented the County in two discussion programs focused on the emerging data center industry and its impact on regional economic development. The sessions explored opportunities for responsible growth, infrastructure planning, and the County's role in supporting municipalities as they make important land-use decisions.

During both programs, Director Showers highlighted the value of proactive municipal comprehensive planning and the need to establish appropriate zoning regulations before these types of uses are introduced.

DATA CENTERS | COUNTY CONNECTION

DATA CENTERS: WHAT'S COMING, WHAT'S AT STAKE

Highland Place Site Tour

OCTOBER 20TH • 4:30 P.M.
FREE TO ATTEND

Be apart of an exciting site visit of Highland Place in Amity Township, a new 338-unit active adult (55+) residential community. Tour one of the completed homes and hear directly from Jeremy Zaborowski (Berks IDA), Tom Flatley (American Land Development), and local leaders about the vision, partnerships, and progress behind the project.

Sponsored by:

Berks County Redevelopment Authority

READING BERKS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® · CIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL · BerksIDA Building business. Building jobs.

REGISTER HERE

The St. Lawrence Exeter Amity Douglass Joint Comprehensive Plan, adopted on August 19, 2026, followed a two-year planning process supported by local school districts, legislators, and multiple grant programs. Representing over 44,000 residents across 57 square miles, the effort included robust public participation through a survey of 1,118 responses and two public meetings. Residents highlighted needs such as more diverse retail options, better alternative transportation connectivity, expanded wellness services, and additional recreational amenities, while valuing local farms, outdoor access, and strong schools. The Plan recommends pedestrian infrastructure improvements in St. Lawrence, Exeter, and Amity, along with a road diet and enhanced pedestrian facilities in Douglass Township.

VIEW THE SEAD COMP PLAN

The Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, covering Topton Borough and District and Rockland Townships, was adopted on August 20, 2026, after a two-year planning process supported by state and federal grants and the participating municipalities. Public input included an online survey with 89 responses and outreach efforts that engaged another 70 community members. Residents expressed concerns about roadway conditions, limited retail and entertainment options, lack of affordable housing, and the need for more recreation, while emphasizing the area's rural character and sense of safety as key strengths. The Plan envisions Topton as the Region's commercial hub and includes an ISATO-funded initiative to enhance walkability and accessibility in downtown Topton through upgraded crossings, safe-routes-to-school markings, and new street furnishings.

VIEW THE EASTERN BERK COMP PLAN

Reminder: Imagine Berks Corridor Survey Due Friday, October 23

We are taking this chance to remind municipalities along the Imagine Berks study corridors to complete the corridor survey by close of business on Friday, October 23, 2026. Your responses are essential to help shape the corridor analysis and its insights for development of the Imagine Berks Comprehensive Plan. We're excited for you to share your community's local knowledge and priorities with our team.

Earlier this month, BCPC hosted video training sessions for corridor municipalities that walked participants through the survey and its role in the corridor analysis. Following the sessions, survey links and the training recording were sent directly to each corridor municipality. Municipal staff or officials who need the survey link or recording sent again, or who have questions about completing the survey, may contact us at **planning@berkspa.gov**.

CLICK BANNER TO VIEW

READING BERKS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

State of the Market Report Berks County, PA

Q3 2026

Municipal Open Space Summit Registration

Friday, November 13, 2026
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The Washington at Historic Yellow Springs
1701 Art School Rd, Chester Springs

Pennsylvania municipalities can join a day of training and networking focused on preserving parks, farms, and natural areas, with sessions on managing existing programs or exploring new funding options. The event offers practical guidance and connections for communities committed to protecting open space.

REGISTER HERE

Planning in Action

This month's Planning in Action highlights the stories that keep our communities rooted, from Morgantown's frontier beginnings to the revival of Sinking Spring's historic Freight House and the century-strong legacy of Wernersville's train station. Step inside these moments of heritage and resilience that continue to shape the places we call home.

EXPLORE THE FULL LIST OF ARTICLES

This Month's Subdivision and Land Development Report

