



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Conservation Landscape Program

The Conservation Landscape Program offers a uniquely collaborative approach that enables stakeholders in eight regions of the state to drive investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and recreation projects.

Founded on each region's sense of place, conservation landscapes motivate citizens, agencies, and elected officials to address challenges like effective land planning, asset investment, civic engagement, and sustainable tourism.

### What Makes a Region a Conservation Landscape?

Driven by the values of conservation, sustainability, and community revitalization, conservation landscapes are built on several ingredients:

- **Presence of DCNR-owned lands** – Large blocks of state parks and forests provide the foundation for the landscape and a staffing presence
- **Sense of place** – Regions with a sense of place and identity in many cases are based on shared landscape not political boundaries
- **Readiness** – Often driven by opportunity or threats such as changes in the economic base, shifting demographics, or sprawl
- **Engagement** – Civic engagement process that brings people of the region together to identify common values and concerns
- **Strategic investments** – State agencies with regional and statewide partners provide high-level leadership, financial support, and technical assistance to build better communities, to conserve identified values and to invest in "sustainable" economic development

### Models of Successful Collaboration

In 2019, DCNR had an independent evaluation of the program conducted to better understand its impact and to find ways to improve it.

The report, *Pennsylvania Conservation Landscapes: Models for Successful Collaboration*, shares the results and best practices, and makes some recommendations to strengthen the program and position it to tackle landscape-scale conservation challenges.



### State Conservation Landscapes

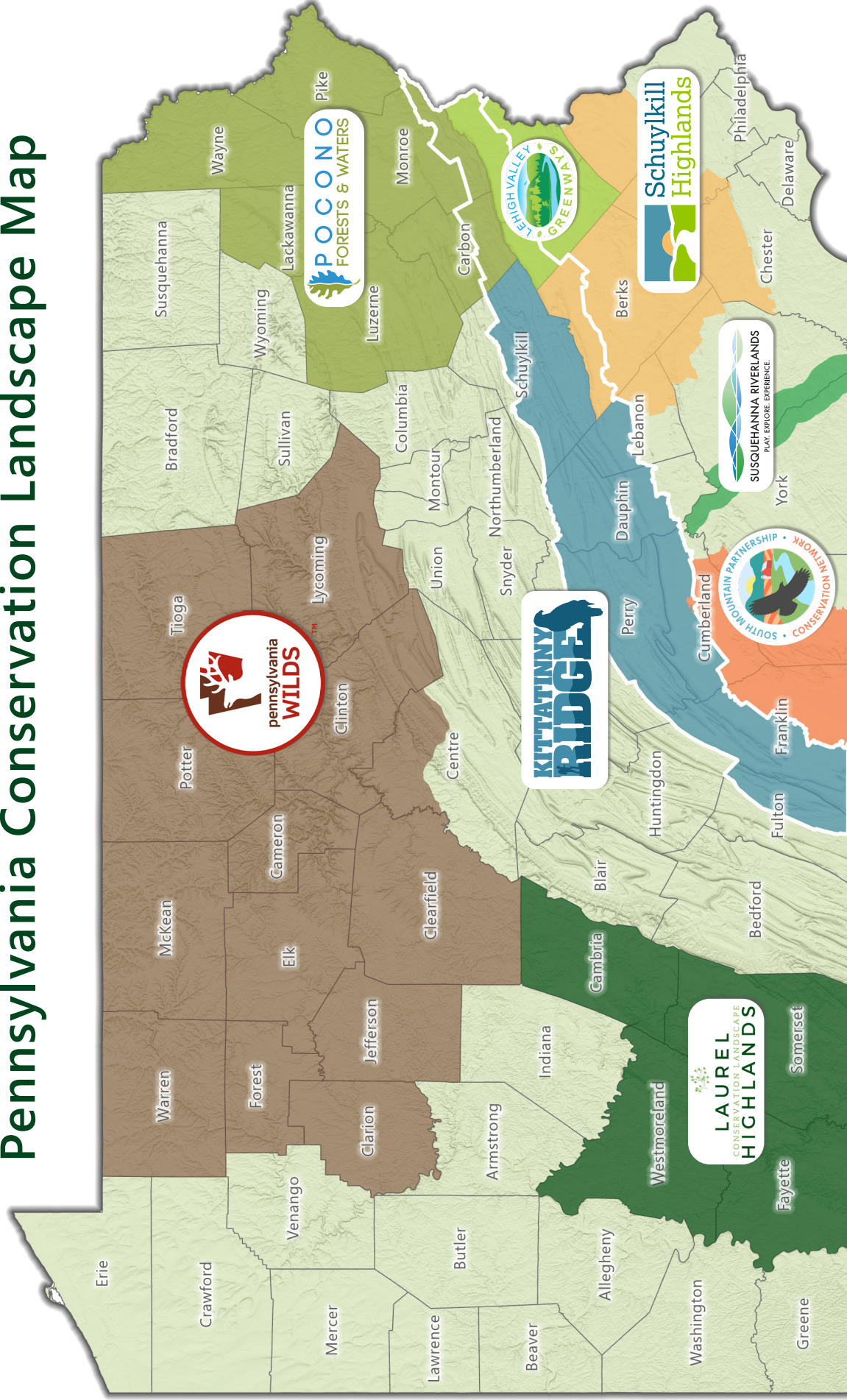
- ▼ **Kittatinny Ridge**  
Conserving a critical natural corridor that provides important habitat for wildlife, clean water, and recreational opportunities along the Appalachian Trail
- ▼ **Laurel Highlands**  
Conserving and promoting the recreational and cultural aspects of four counties in southwestern Pennsylvania
- ▼ **Lehigh Valley Greenways**  
Using greenways and trails to connect natural and cultural resources in Lehigh and Northampton Counties
- ▼ **Pennsylvania Wilds**  
Heralding the significant outdoor experiences available on the region's public lands and the opportunities they provide to 13 rural counties in northcentral and northwestern Pennsylvania
- ▼ **Pocono Forests and Waters**  
Protecting and sustaining the natural resources of this six-county landscape in northeastern Pennsylvania through conservation, communities, and connections
- ▼ **Schuylkill Highlands**  
Connecting and protecting trails and lands in the state's most populated communities in six counties in southeastern Pennsylvania
- ▼ **South Mountain**  
Highlighting the natural, aesthetic, historic, community, agricultural, and recreational resources in southcentral Pennsylvania
- ▼ **Susquehanna Riverlands**  
Conserving riverlands and revitalizing river-town communities along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York Counties



Scan this QR code to read the report, *Pennsylvania Conservation Landscapes: Models for Successful Collaboration*.



# Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Map



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Laurel Highlands	Adam Mattis	<a href="mailto:amattis@pa.gov">amattis@pa.gov</a>
Lehigh Valley Greenways	Rob Neitz	<a href="mailto:rneitz@pa.gov">rneitz@pa.gov</a>
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South Mountain	Tyler Semder	<a href="mailto:tsemder@pa.gov">tsemder@pa.gov</a>
Susquehanna Riverlands	Lori Yeich	<a href="mailto:lyeich@pa.gov">lyeich@pa.gov</a>

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