

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

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## FYI

**GREENSCAPES** - The Draft Green Infrastructure Element of the [Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan](#) defines a vision, goals and objectives, strategies, and tools to preserve, conserve, restore, and enhance natural resources through the establishment of a countywide, integrated green infrastructure system. It highlights the importance of protecting large blocks of contiguous land and improving connectivity as it aims to establish a network of natural areas, conservation lands, and working landscapes. [Greenscapes](#) provides a blueprint for accommodating appropriate growth and development while preserving the region's most valuable natural resources, native species, cultural assets and agricultural economy. The system created by applying the strategies and tools contained in [Greenscapes](#) will provide a framework for sustainable growth and economic vitality in Urban Growth Areas, for agriculture and other compatible uses in rural areas, and for outdoor recreation and related activities such as walking and biking.

**THE POWERFUL LINK BETWEEN CONSERVING LAND AND PRESERVING HEALTH**- This article, [Conserving Land; Preserving Human Health](#), from [The Land Trust Alliance's](#) Special Anniversary Report, 2007, emphasizes the health benefits of parks and green spaces for people of all ages. Authors Howard Frumkin and Richard Louv describe the growing body of evidence supporting the belief that people benefit so much from contact with nature that land conservation can now be viewed as a public health strategy. Citing numerous studies, the article emphasizes that, in the same way that protecting water and protecting air are strategies for promoting public health, protecting natural landscapes can be seen as a powerful form of preventive medicine.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD WATCH FOR THESE EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF REVENUE PROBLEMS** – ([ICMA](#) – *International City/County Management Association*) - **Every local government's revenue structure is unique.** No city, borough, township, village, parish, or county has exactly the same mix of revenue sources (property, sales, or income taxes or service charges, fees, fines, or investment income) or economic activities (retail, wholesale, construction, agricultural, services, manufacturing, or government services). Consequently, the **regular business cycles of growth-plateau-recession affect local governments differently.** Some communities go unscathed by a recession, while others go into virtual meltdown at the first sign of slowing growth. [To read the full article.](#)

### OTHER INTERESTING REPORTS

[Local Government Matters FREE E-newsletter](#) - delivers news, strategies, best practices, and innovative ideas on the most important local government issues—from ethics to smart growth, emergency management to sustainability.

[From the Margins to the Mainstream: A Guide to Transportation Opportunities in Your Community](#) from [Surface Transportation Policy Project](#) (STPP) reviews how federal surface transportation law can be used to support local and statewide efforts to build more livable communities and expand travel options. It is designed to demystify some of the complexities of the transportation laws, programs, and processes.

[Transfer of Wealth in Pennsylvania](#) – A study sponsored by the [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#), a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, was undertaken to provide estimates on the amount of personal wealth that is likely to be transferred from one generation to the next in the state. It was completed to spark conversations about the magnitude of the assets present in every county of the commonwealth and the opportunities to invest a small portion of those assets toward community betterment projects.

Enabling Informed Growth Management  
Decision Making for Lancaster County

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