We're excited to announce our return to state-wide awards to recognize excellence in planning and sustainable development projects across PA.

The Commonwealth Awards celebrates visionary community leadership and catalytic development projects and initiatives that find new uses for vacant and underutilized land, increase opportunities for communities on the rise, and
breathe new life into old neighborhoods.

If you know of an exceptional community visionary, or a plan or project in development or built on smart growth and sustainable principles, please submit your nominations here:

https://forms.gle/qEQWuYJp3sncgPfJ6

Click here to add to your Outlook Calendar

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Please visit http://10000friends.org/sponsorship2019 or contact Stacie at sreidenbaugh@10000friends.org

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July is Parks & Recreation Month

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the vital and powerful role local parks and recreation play in conservation, health and wellness, and social equity efforts in communities all across the country.

Be sure to dedicate some time this month to get outside and enjoy the parks that help keep our communities healthy!

25 Must-See State Parks in Pennsylvania
10 Amazing Playgrounds in Pennsylvania

Advocacy Corner
Legislative Priority Wins in State Budget

A $34 billion state budget was signed by Governor Wolf on June 28th, 2019 and included wins on a few legislative priorities of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a key partner in successful campaigns led by Preservation Pennsylvania and the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania.

Reauthorization of Historic Preservation Tax Credit

As part of the budget package, Pennsylvania's State Historic Tax Credit was reauthorized one-year ahead of its original sunset date. The program will now extend until 2031. In addition to the extension, the new language incorporates several significant improvements over the current program including an increase in the annual allocation from $3 million to $5 million, and improved language and flexibility on the transfer of credits.

For an overview and application info, please visit https://dced.pa.gov/programs/historic-preservation-tax-credit-hptc/

Increased Funding for PHARE, the State Housing Trust Fund

Included in the budget is a raise of the cap on funding for PHARE, the state's housing trust fund, from $25 million to $40 million. The new funding will help to create more affordable housing, provide services that helps keep Pennsylvanians in their homes, helps low-income people become first time homeowners, and provides funding to communities to address blight.

For more information about PHARE, visit https://www.phfa.org/legislation/act105.aspx

We would like to thank the advocates who rallied in support of these programs, and legislators for supporting these very important efforts.

PHFA Announces Funding Awards for Affordable Housing Production Across Commonwealth

Last week, Governor Wolf and PHFA announced funding awards of PHARE, LIHTC, and PennHOMES programs to drive critical affordable housing production across the Commonwealth:

PHARE: The governor named 212 housing and community development initiatives in 61 counties that will share a portion of the total $51.4 million in PHARE funding for fiscal year 2018-19. The vast majority (71%) of funding will be allocated to projects serving low income and very low-income households at 50% or less of the area
LIHTC and PennHOMES awards totaled $41.6 million in low income housing tax credits and $7.7 million in PennHOMES funding for the construction of 39 affordable multifamily housing developments in Pennsylvania. A total of 1708 affordable housing units will be developed. PHFA: LIHTC Awards Press Release

North Negley Residences in the Garfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh received a special honor for "Innovation in Design" from a juried group of housing professionals. Its tax credit proposal envisions the adaptive reuse and conversion of a four-story historic building into 45 mixed-income units with significant energy efficiency and sustainable features, as well as community amenities. The development was also awarded $1.25 million of PHARE RTT funds. "These new developments will bring quality, affordable housing options into communities where it is desperately needed," said Senator Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny). "These construction projects not only create jobs and rehabilitate properties that would otherwise sit vacant, but they will give families, single mothers, seniors, and those with disabilities the chance to live independently while building their communities."

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Restore Pennsylvania

No consensus was reached on Governor Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania proposal before the summer recess began at the end of June. However, the urgency to address critical infrastructure needs across Pennsylvania is more important than ever.

The Restore Pennsylvania plan details initiatives to rebuild crumbling infrastructure and transportation projects, mitigate flooding and manage storm-water, infuse green infrastructure, drive business development and help struggling communities fight blight. Legislators on both sides of the aisle agree that these are worthy and important priorities, however there is strong disagreement on the best way to fund it. Wolf's proposal pushes for a severance tax on natural gas, which the Independent Fiscal Office has determined will be primarily paid for by out-of-state residents.

10,000 Friends is tracking legislation for current Restore PA bills: **SB725**, sponsored by Sen. Yudichak (D-Carbon/Luzerne) and 25 co-sponsors, and **HB1585** sponsored by Rep. Jake Wheatley (D-Allegheny) and 99 co-sponsors. On June 6th, the bills were referred to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Restore Pennsylvania Explained: Everything you Need to Know About Gov. Tom Wolf's Infrastructure Plan

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From the President's Desk

3rd Class Cities Need Code Reform & A New Set of
The Senate Majority Policy Committee, chaired by state Sen. David Argall, (R-Schuylkill-Berks), and the Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by state Sen. Scott Martin, (R-Lancaster), held a joint public workshop last Thursday, July 11 in Lancaster on the Economic Health of PA's Third Class Cities. Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace, Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse, York Mayor Michael Helfrich, and Reading City Council President Jeffrey Waltman, Sr. discussed similar fiscal challenges that each of their cities face with rising expenses in healthcare, pensions, and other critical areas that outpace revenue growth due to the limitations permitted by the current Third Class City code.

Without imminent reform for revenue options, even cities that are thriving today will face structural deficits in the near future, unless they raise property taxes significantly and potentially risk making city living out of reach for many residents on fixed and lower incomes. In one of the most striking comments of the day, Lisa Riggs, CEO of Lancaster County's Economic Development Corporation noted that despite Lancaster having done everything right and attracting hundreds of millions in private investment, "economic development is not the answer. If it were the answer, Lancaster would be doing great."

With the exception of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton, all Pennsylvania cities are considered Cities of the Third Class and are governed by the state’s Third Class City Code, which mandates the services they provide and the types of taxes they can collect. The code was most recently updated in 2015. Senator Martin noted on social media that he is "committed to reform-minded solutions." The full workshop recording is online at http://policy.pasenategop.com/071119/


Senator Argall and the Majority Policy Committee will host an upcoming workshop on Tuesday, August 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Penn State York at the Pullo Center to examine possible routes to school property tax elimination. More information can be found on the committee's website at http://policy.pasenategop.com

Transportation Updates

Southwest PA Mobility Report Released
The Southwest Partnership for Mobility has released its report outlining the region's transportation needs as the expiration of a $400 million annual subsidy from the Turnpike for public transportation draws nearer.

Revenue from the Pennsylvania Turnpike is currently used to fund public transportation in the state. But the report from the Southwestern Partnership for Mobility said that funding from the Turnpike was insufficient to meet public transportation needs. As did a similar study of the Philadelphia region, the report suggests that regional officials be given the authority to raise revenue regionally to meet transportation funding needs.

Click here to view the full report

Board & Staff Spotlight

Welcome Back, Andrea McCormick!

We are thrilled to welcome Andrea McCormick back to the 10KF team! Andrea worked for 10,000 Friends from 2005-2013 and after a hiatus has rejoined our team as Administrative Assistant. Andrea graduated from Clarion University and has worked for a variety of industries in her career, including engineering/environmental companies, industrial real estate, and various non-profits. Her part time position is shared between our office and AIA Harrisburg, who are equally excited to have Andrea on their team.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

DCED Keystone Communities Program
Project Application Opened July 1

The Keystone Communities (KC) program is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities; social and economic diversity; and a strong and secure quality of life. The program allows communities to tailor the assistance to meet the needs of its specific revitalization effort.

Communities may wish to consider designation through the KC program as a Keystone Main Street, Keystone Elm Street, Keystone Enterprise Zone, or Keystone Community. Designation is an opportunity for targeted investment and development including the identification of specific needs for investment and/or development and the design and implementation of a
PHFA Housing Policy Fellowship Created
Funding research & leadership development in housing field.

With the goal of funding critical research and promoting leadership development, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency announced the creation of a new Housing Policy Fellowship.

The fellowship will fund a maximum of 12 months of research and study on a pressing housing or community development topic. With a monthly stipend of $1,000, the maximum funding available will be $12,000. The financial support can be for a variety of activities supporting the approved research, including interviews with experts, securing resources and study materials, travel for attending relevant conferences and more.

Click here for the application and more information

Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit
September 4 - 6 | Pocono Manor, PA

As highly automated vehicles grow in public awareness, automated vehicle technology offers the promise of a mobility revolution. Join in a public discussion on critical issues facing community and regional infrastructure planning and workforce development as the future of automated vehicles is explored.

Visit PAAVSUmmit.com for more information.

PANO & ANR's Collaborative Conference 2019
September 24 - 25 | State College, PA
Join Alliance for Nonprofit Resources (ANR), the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO), and nonprofit professionals from all over Pennsylvania at the 2019 Collaborative Conference.

Each year, the Collaborative Conference offers nonprofit professionals from all over Pennsylvania a unique, once-a-year opportunity to connect, network, learn from each other, learn from experts, and together leverage our collective power to create change - not only within the nonprofit sector, but within our larger communities. This year, with the theme of Putting the Unity in Community, teamwork skills will be put to the test as what it truly takes to come together for the greater good is unpacked. From bridging divides in the boardroom to facilitating cross-sector partnerships, from engaging in courageous conversations to practicing the art of "letting go", we'll break down what it really means to build each other up as we work together for strong, thriving communities in PA.

Click here for more information & registration

Save the Date: APA PA Annual Conference
October 20 - 22 | Reading, PA

Pennsylvania's premier planning event of the year - the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA APA) 2019 Annual Conference. This year's conference, "Rally Around Reading: Rivers, Rails and Renaissance" takes place October 20 - 22, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading in Reading, PA. It promises to be one of PA Chapter's best conferences. The PA APA Annual Conference provides a unique and effective opportunity to showcase your work and capabilities to planning professionals and policy makers from across the Commonwealth. It's also one of the ways to support planning in Pennsylvania by providing valuable networking, education, and development for planners.

Click here for more information

Eco Districts Summit 2019
In celebration of the 10th Annual Summit, EcoDistricts is partnering with the City of Pittsburgh and regional leaders to bring the Summit to one of the most dynamic cities in the U.S. Pittsburgh is often cited as one of the world’s most dramatic "turn around" stories - a region rich in history and economic might that has reemerged from the collapse of the American steel manufacturing industry to rise again as a center of place-based sustainability and urban vibrancy.

Click here for more information

Lincoln Institute's Consortium for Scenario Planning
November 6 - 8 | Hartford, CT

The Lincoln Institute's Consortium for Scenario Planning will host its annual conference from November 6 to 8, 2019 in Hartford, Connecticut. This year's conference will focus on "scenario planning as a path to resilience" and explore the following sub-themes: equitable and inclusive places, low growth and economically challenged places, natural environment needs (e.g. water quality and land conservation), built environment components (e.g. housing and transportation), and emergency management and preparedness.

Registration is open through August 30 or until spots are filled. For details on lodging and travel, visit the Consortium website.

Job Opportunity: Planner (State College Borough)
Here's a great opportunity in State College, Pennsylvania for entry level or early career level planners.

Click here for full job description and application

Stay Connected
We're now on Instagram!
As a recognized authority on responsible land use, 10,000 Friends partners with and provides technical assistance to government officials, non-profit organizations and the private sector on policy and development solutions that protect the natural and built environments, strengthen local economies, provide access to economic opportunity for all, and improve community health and quality of life in our state's diverse cities, towns, older suburbs, and rural communities. Through a diverse coalition focused on a positive agenda, we advocate proactive solutions and options for local, regional and state leaders.

We update our website regularly with articles and links, so please stop by often: http://10000friends.org.