

State Keystone Funds in Jeopardy 1

Director's Message 2

Call for Awards Applications; PA At Risk List Announced 3

A Quick Overview of HB 1950 4

The Governor's Budget 5

Pennsylvania Senate Approves Historic Tax Credit Bill; Gettysburg Buffer Bill 6

Preservation Pennsylvania Advocates on Capital Hill 7

State Keystone Funds in Jeopardy

By Mindy Crawford

Governor Corbett's recently released budget proposes to divert \$30 million of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to the state's general operations for the next fiscal year. However, this diversion of funds is proposed to be PERMANENT. It would be the biggest cut to conservation funding ever proposed in Pennsylvania. While the funding for Historic Preservation and Libraries currently remains intact, the effect of this transfer of funds from conservation could be devastating.

The 20-year old Keystone Fund has played a vital role in 2,600 community park projects, 850 trail projects for walking, bicycling and other recreational use, saved more than 120,000 acres of open space and provided many state park and forest improvements. In addition, the historic preservation portion of these funds has helped maintain the 29 state-owned historic sites and provided the only source of bricks and mortar project money to historic resources throughout the state. For more information on the Keystone Fund, visit www.keystonefund.org.

It is important to remember that Governor Corbett's budget is a proposal. Working together, we have the power to stop it from becoming law. Please let your legislators know how important the Keystone funds are to you, your projects and your district. Call, email or write your senator and representative and ask your colleagues to do the same.

“...the historic preservation portion of these funds has helped maintain the 29 state-owned historic sites and provided the only source of bricks and mortar project money to historic resources throughout the state.”

Preservation Pennsylvania is the Commonwealth's only statewide, private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant properties. The organization was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1982 as the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, a statewide revolving fund to assist in the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. Since its incorporation, the organization has grown in capacity and now annually sponsors the Statewide Conference on Heritage, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards, educational programs, advocacy initiatives and offers on-site technical assistance to individuals, organizations and corporations across the Commonwealth.



257 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
t. 717-234-2310
f. 717-234-2522

www.preservationpa.org

For more information on this issue and other budget issues, visit www.conservationaladvocate.org



MISSION STATEMENT

Preservation Pennsylvania, through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects, assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.

Preservation Pennsylvania (PPA) is the Commonwealth's only statewide, private non-profit, membership organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant properties.

STAFF

Mindy Gulden Crawford,
Executive Director
mcrawford@preservationpa.org

Jennifer Horn,
Program Director
jhorn@preservationpa.org

Jean Hershner,
Development Director
jhershner@preservationpa.org

Erin Hammerstedt,
Field Representative
ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org

Carol Bostian,
Executive Assistant
cbostian@preservationpa.org

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Director's Message

Dear Friend of Preservation,

This issue of *Preserving Pennsylvania* offers a brief overview of a number of issues that the staff and board have been working on recently. Advocacy is a tough job. Sometimes it feels like the movie, *Groundhog Day*, where we wake up every morning and say the same things to the same people and nothing ever gets accomplished. Other days feel like the Kentucky Derby where we are racing to the finish while the lead (and the issue) can change multiple times. And there are those issues that are more like a marathon, where perseverance offers the only chance of success.

So as you peruse the articles contained in this issue, some of it may be old news because the race is over or the lead has changed. Still, we hope we are able to offer the latest information on a variety of advocacy issues that concern the continued



Executive Director Mindy Crawford and her trusted beagle Scarlett.

protection of our heritage resources. You can help us on some of these efforts by talking to your elected officials and spreading the word to your colleagues.

We'll try our best to keep you up to date on all of these issues whether we're watching the same movie, running a marathon or galloping across the finish line before the other horses.

Mindy

Are You Receiving Our E-Newsletters?



In addition to our printed newsletters, we also publish a monthly electronic edition.

Our e-newsletters have a variety of topics and features that provide the most up-to-date historic preservation news, grant opportunities, and current field projects.

Please visit our website, <http://www.preservationpa.org> and sign up at the bottom of our homepage!

Call for Award Applications

Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Awards continue a tradition started in 1979 whereby excellence in preservation is honored. The annual awards recognize significant contributions in the field of historic preservation made by projects, individuals and organizations.

It's time to reflect on the great projects that have been completed over the last year and encourage those responsible to submit an application. Historic preservation often seems like a fight to save a resource from being destroyed, working against what others see as progress, and scrambling to put together enough funding to complete a project. Once a project is underway, it is designated as "saved" and attention moves to the next crisis.

The awards program is the opportunity to return the focus to some of those saves and delight in the completed project.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards program. Projects nominated for awards must have been substantially completed between June 1, 2010 and January 1, 2012. All buildings, structures or sites must be eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For full details, visit the Preservation Pennsylvania website, www.preservationpa.org, under the Program section and choose Historic Preservation Awards.

Applications are due May 21, 2012 and are evaluated by a committee of professionals in the field of historic preservation, architecture, archeology, history and community planning. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2012. Complete details about this event, including ticket information, will be announced in our next quarterly issue. Please join all of us at Preservation Pennsylvania for this celebration of success! We look forward to seeing you there.



AWARD CATEGORIES

INITIATIVE

- Community Involvement
- Communications
- Education
- Local Government
- Stewardship

SPECIAL FOCUS

- Ralph Modjeski Award for Excellence in Transportation Design, Preservation or Archaeology
- Preservation Planning
- PHMC Theme Award
- Sustainability in Historic Preservation
- Leadership in State Government and State Issues
- Grassroots Advocacy

CONSTRUCTION

- Residential
- Commercial/Industrial
- Public/Institutional
- Special Historic Properties

2011 Pennsylvania At Risk List Announced!

On January 17, 2012, Preservation Pennsylvania announced its 2011 Pennsylvania At Risk list during a press conference held in the Hanover Theater in Hanover, York County. The event was well attended by media representatives and local residents and included a tour of the historic theater. Originally built in 1928, the theater went dark in 1986. Despite recent efforts to preserve the building, the Hanover Theater is now for sale. Since the At Risk press release in January, Preservation Pennsylvania has been working with a group of local citizens with an interest in rehabilitating the theater. These efforts will continue and hopefully result in revival of this significant community asset.

The 2011 Pennsylvania At Risk List focused on flood damaged properties, including: two covered bridges, Sonestown and Hillsgrove, Sullivan County; a section of the Lehigh Canal in Walnutport, Northampton County; and the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Bucks County. Other historic resources on this year's list include: Trinity United Methodist Church in York, York County; the 1000 Block of North 6th Street in Harrisburg, Dauphin County; Keystone Markers throughout the Commonwealth; the Lehigh Valley Railroad Depot in Noxen, Wyoming County; Highland Hall in Hollidaysburg, Blair County; and Villa Chapel in Erie, Erie County—all in addition to the Hanover

Theater in Hanover, York County. Once historic resources are listed, they remain priorities for Preservation Pennsylvania until the properties are either saved or lost. If you are working with a current or former At Risk property, please let us know!

Since the Pennsylvania At Risk program was founded in 1992, 200 historic resources have been named to this annual listing of the Commonwealth's most endangered sites.

A digital copy of our 2011 Pennsylvania At Risk newsletter may be found on our website, www.preservationpa.org. Click on the Pennsylvania At Risk link in the Programs menu. If you would like to request a printed copy (or additional copies of this year's At Risk newsletter), please send your request to info@preservationpa.org or call us at (717) 234-2310.

We want to hear about threatened historic properties in your area!

A nomination form for the 2012 Pennsylvania At Risk list is available on our website, www.preservationpa.org. In order to be considered for inclusion in this year's list, **nominations must be received by October 1, 2012**. Completed nomination forms are not required but are strongly encouraged. If you know of an endangered property in your area, we would love to hear from you now, so that we can work with you to develop a preservation strategy before it is truly "At Risk." Please contact Preservation Pennsylvania Field Representative Erin Hammerstedt at ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org or (814) 571-2444 to discuss endangered historic properties in your area.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
and ADVISORS**

Preservation Pennsylvania's activities are overseen by a Board of Directors and a Board of Advisors. The Board of Directors is comprised of up to 27 members, who are membership-elected directors, board elected directors, gubernatorial appointees or ex-officio representatives.

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A QUICK OVERVIEW of HB 1950

Act 13 Shale Legislation

The recent controversy over the passage of House Bill 1950 was somewhat confusing to those who don't deal with the issue of severance tax and Marcellus Shale on a daily basis. Well, actually, it was also a bit confusing to those who do. So was this bill as bad as some say? Or was it the best we could get at this point? Or does it do everything it can? The answer to all three questions may be yes and no. Depending on who is asked and comparing its language with other proposed ideas, HB 1950 does take a first step in requiring shale drillers to pay for the right to tap into our vast gas reserves. It also provides some funding for the environment that would allow the Growing Greener program to be renewed.

Growing Greener is a bipartisan program established in 1999 under Governor Tom Ridge and later expanded by Governors Schweiker and Rendell. Since its establishment, Growing Greener has created a legacy of success, preserving more than 107,000 acres of Pennsylvania farmland, conserving more than 42,300 acres of threatened open space, adding 26,000 acres to state parks and forests, and restoring over 16,000 acres of abandoned mine lands. Recently funds from Growing Greener were used to help acquire 110 acres of land in York County that were part of Camp Security, a revolutionary prisoner of war camp (PA At Risk 2000). Preservation Pennsylvania has been working with the Renew Growing Greener Coalition for the last two years to try and secure a dedicated source of funding for the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund.

Governor Corbett signed Act 13 of 2012, the "Marcellus shale bill" or House Bill 1950, into law on 2/14/2012. Act 13's proponents point to the improvements the law makes in the regulation of natural gas activities, arguing that the law provides protections far superior to those that otherwise would have been provided under the

status quo. The bill's opponents point to the bill's deficiencies, arguing that legislators could have done much better and that, in the case of local zoning control, the law is a step backward.

As natural gas industry operations take from our natural resources, the bill provides funding for Growing Greener-type projects to invest back into the conservation, restoration and enhancement of Pennsylvania's land, water, wildlife and communities, including the following:

◆ **Growing Greener - impact fee share:** The Environmental Stewardship Fund, the funding source for Growing Greener receives dedicated infusions of cash from a 10% share of the 40% statewide share of the impact fee. Senate Republicans estimate that this will generate \$14M total for 2011 (retroactively) and 2012; \$29M in 2013; \$46M in 2014; and \$48M in 2015.

◆ **Growing Greener - OGLF share:** The Environmental Stewardship Fund also receives \$20M from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund in 2013 and \$35M in 2014 and beyond--assuming there is sufficient money in the fund after DCNR gets its allocation, which is determined in the annual budget and fiscal code process. It appears that this will require annual vigilance to ensure that the funding intent is honored.

◆ **CFA:** From the statewide share of the impact fee, 20% will go to the Commonwealth Finance Agency (CFA), an entity controlled by legislative leaders. This pot of money is projected to grow to \$26M annually by 2015. It will be up to the political process to determine allocations between allowed uses, but money must be used for the following:

- Acid mines: damage, abatement and cleanup and mine reclamation, with priority given to projects which recycle and treat water for use in drilling operations.
- Orphan or abandoned oil and gas well plugging.



The Governor's Budget

Pennsylvania is facing another tough year as the Governor's budget makes significant cuts to many agencies and programs. For the last several years (including the recent years under former Governor Rendell), heritage and historic preservation have experienced some severe cuts and major downsizing. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) was cut by more than 50% between 2008 and 2010. Programs such as the state Heritage Area program (under DCNR) and Main Street (under DCED) also experienced elimination of funding or significant reductions.

In reviewing this year's proposed budget, the Heritage Area program is again unfunded and while the PHMC and Main Street program

budgets have been reduced, the percentage of cuts is not as severe as in past years. The Historic Preservation portion of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund has remained in place.

However, conservation and environment programs have not fared as well.

The most significant proposed cut is the diversion of \$30 million of the Keystone Fund from Recreation, Parks and Conservation to the general fund. (Please refer to the cover story "State Keystone Funds in Jeopardy" for additional information about this proposal). The larger concern is that this diversion is proposed to be permanent.

Additionally, Governor Corbett's 2012-13 budget would redirect \$20.5 million from the Farmland Preservation Program to general government operations. The Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1988 to curb the conversion of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses and the loss of productive farm soils. The program allows state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of valuable farmland. These conservation easements restrict development of the land for the purpose of promoting agricultural production. The program is funded through an annual allotment of cigarette tax revenue as well as Growing Greener II bond funds. The Bureau of Farmland Preservation within the Department of Agriculture oversees the program. According to the Bureau, as of December 2011, state, county and local governments have invested more than \$1 billion to safeguard 457,537 acres on 4,229 farms. The cigarette tax is an excise tax on the sale or possession of cigarettes and little cigars in Pennsylvania. Currently, \$20.5 million is directed annually to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund (ACEP), which helps preserve Pennsylvania farmland. According to the Governor's budget proposal, "the transfer to the ACEP fund is to be eliminated for 2012-13 and after".

The budget also calls for using more than \$37.5 million from the Environmental Stewardship Fund to pay for debt service for Growing Greener leaving just \$23 million available for Growing Greener programs and projects. This is not a new proposal. The use of Growing Greener funds for debt service began under Governor Rendell. However the potential influx of new funding to the Environmental Stewardship Fund through the passage of Act 13 will not result in additional money available for Growing Greener projects but will only replace the funds being used for debt service. Critics say that this decision to use ESF funds for debt service by saying the diverted funds will be covered by Act 13 is unfair since the shale bill was not meant to replace funding used for debt service. It was meant to be above and beyond what was already in the program.

The budget is not signed into law yet. Versions of the budget by both the House and Senate will likely make cuts in different areas. Now is the time for you to contact your legislators and let them know which areas are important to you and should not be cut. In any case, another year of austerity is certain.

Not sure who your Pennsylvania legislators are?

Please visit the Advocacy page on our website, www.preservationpa.org, to locate your senator and representative and access their contact information.

- 
- Complying with the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act Planning acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects.
 - Programs to establish baseline water quality data on private water supplies.
 - Watershed programs and related projects.
 - Up to 25% of funds may be utilized for flood-control projects.

◆ **County Initiatives:** From the statewide share of the impact fee, 15% will be distributed to counties proportionately based on the population of the county. Like the county initiatives under the Growing Greener 2 bond issue, each county will make its own decisions regarding use of the funds within the rules established by the state. The funds must be used for any of the following: the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to draining by storms or flooding. It is important to note that each county must act to adopt this initiative or the funds will not be directed to the county. Some counties have already opted in but others are indicating their intention to not participate.

It is clear that this Act could have gone much farther in providing funds to the Commonwealth and in protecting the environment. With the recent decrease in natural gas prices, the projected revenues will certainly decrease. Only time and careful monitoring of the issue will determine if this was the best legislation for the environment and the Commonwealth, and there will certainly be continued discussion on both sides of the debate.



Jim Thorpe, part of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, has benefited from DCNR funding.

Pennsylvania Senate Approves Historic Tax Credit Bill

On Monday, April 2nd, the Pennsylvania State Senate passed SB 1150, also known as the Historic Preservation Incentive Act, that would establish tax credits in Pennsylvania for rehabilitation work on historic structures. As written, it will closely mirror the process of the Federal tax credit.

Introduced by Senator Lloyd Smucker (*R-Lancaster*) in June 2011, this bill worked its way through the Finance Committee and was referred to Appropriations in December 2011. It was amended, approved by the Finance Committee and considered by the full Senate, which passed this bill by a vote of 49-0.

It has now been referred to the House Appropriations Committee. If your representative is a member of the House Finance Committee, please reach out and let them know how important this bill is to you and your community. Preservation Pennsylvania considers the establishment of this program to remain a top priority. We will keep you apprised of further progress.

Thank you to Senator Lloyd Smucker for his leadership on this bill!

Also, thank you to everyone who has worked through the years to get this economically important legislation established in Pennsylvania.

For the latest on this bill and others, please visit the Preservation Pennsylvania website under the Advocacy tab for both Advocacy Alerts and updates on Legislation We Are Watching.

Importance of the State Historic Tax Credit

The recently released report by the PHMC, [Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation Activities in Pennsylvania](#), demonstrates the significant impact that the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program has had in Pennsylvania. This program has leveraged federal resources to stimulate considerable private investment throughout the Commonwealth, resulting in \$7.0 billion in project expenditures from 1978 to 2010. Those expenditures have led to \$17.1 billion in total economic impact within the Commonwealth, supporting 148,000 jobs and generating \$380 million in state tax revenues.

As a companion to the Benefits report, Preservation Pennsylvania released [Policy Recommendations to Strengthen the Power of Preservation](#) that suggest that adding a state-level tax credit, would induce an additional \$55 million to \$110 million in historic preservation projects, which would conservatively create an additional \$130 million to \$270 million in total economic impact each year, supporting 1,200 to 2,300 jobs and generating \$3 million to \$6 million in state tax revenues, and would be the equivalent of a 5% to 8% annual return on the public investment represented by the initial tax credit.

Copies of these two reports can be downloaded from the Preservation PA website, www.preservationpa.org.



Gettysburg Buffer Bill

Representative Paul Clymer (R-Bucks) has introduced HB 2082 that would amend Pennsylvania gaming control law to prohibit the establishment of a casino within ten linear miles of the boundary of a national military park or a national memorial designated by the Congress of the United States after September 11, 2001. This legislation would protect the Gettysburg National Military Park and the Flight 93 National Memorial by creating what supporters have deemed a "zone of respect".

On February 8, 2012, Preservation Pennsylvania's Executive Director, Mindy Crawford, testified before the House Gaming Oversight Committee along with Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Paul Bucha in support of the legislation. Mr. Bucha was a strong opponent of the two previous attempts to locate a casino near Gettysburg, appearing in the short film that was produced as the testimony of No Casino Gettysburg during the hearings: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nubs99Vz_yg

As the statewide voice for historic preservation, Preservation Pennsylvania is asked to be involved in many issues where our state's rich heritage is at risk. The decision to fight for protection of Gettysburg resulted from the overwhelmingly large outpouring of calls, emails and letters asking us to help keep a casino license from being awarded here. After two attempts were unsuccessful, we are still receiving requests to go a step further and find some way to permanently protect Gettysburg's hallowed ground from future casino threats. In our 30 years of working to protect Pennsylvania's historic resources, the casino issue at Gettysburg is still the one that evokes the largest response from our members and supporters. Polling conducted in April of 2011 also showed that the overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanian voters were opposed to a casino at Gettysburg and supported legislation that would buffer that site from future casino development – in short: *Pennsylvania supports HB 2082.*

It is unclear whether there is enough support to move this legislation forward. While there is strong support for HB 2082, there is also significant opposition. Preservation Pennsylvania will continue to work with the Civil War Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and No Casino Gettysburg to advocate for this bill.

Preservation Pennsylvania Advocates on Capitol Hill for Full Funding of Historic Preservation Programs

In early March, Preservation Pennsylvania joined hundreds of other preservationists hailing from around the United States at the 2012 Historic Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington D.C. The Pennsylvania delegation included Program Director, Jennifer Horn; Board Chairman, Roy Smith; Board Member, Peter Benton; Bureau for Historic Preservation Director, Jean Cutler; and historic preservation advocates Brenda Barrett, Robert Wise, and John Meeder. After a day of training from Washington insiders, the Pennsylvania delegation divided into two groups and visited all 19 Representatives and both Senators on Capitol Hill. Preservation Pennsylvania shared with Federal legislators the message that “Preservation equals return on investment!” By showcasing successful preservation projects from across the Commonwealth, Preservation Pennsylvania supported the request for funding the following programs:

Preservation Pennsylvania supports level funding for the Historic Preservation Fund which provides essential operating support to State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

Preservation Pennsylvania supports technical revisions to Federal Tax Incentives for Historic Preservation programs by advocating for passage of: H.R. 2555 Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011; H.R. 2479, S. 2074 Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act; and S. 1685 Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2011.

Preservation Pennsylvania supports retention of historic preservation review provisions and funding for Transportation Enhancements in proposals to reauthorize the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (USDOT Act).

Preservation Pennsylvania supports the passage of H.R. 4099 National Heritage Area Act of 2012 which seeks to improve management and accountability of National Heritage Areas.

In addition to sharing our support of historic preservation legislation, Preservation Pennsylvania asked all Representatives to consider joining the Historic Preservation Caucus. By joining this group, legislators are able to discuss preservation programs and best practices to preserve historic places.

Pennsylvania enjoys strong representation on the Historic Preservation Caucus with six members participating

and many more promises to join. For more information regarding Federal legislation, please contact Jennifer Horn, jhorn@preservationpa.org or 717-234-2310 ext. 18.

Preservation Pennsylvania invites you to support historic preservation funding on the Federal level. Join your voice to ours by contacting your Representative and Senator today. Share a story about a Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit project in your neighborhood, or send photos of your children walking to school on sidewalks and safe bike routes funded under the Federal Transportation Enhancement program. Most importantly, tell your member of Congress that you support preserving Pennsylvania’s historic places!

Do you receive our Advocacy Alerts? Please visit Preservation Pennsylvania’s website, www.preservationpa.org and follow the link on our Advocacy page to receive these time-sensitive legislative alerts.



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*Helping people protect and
preserve the historic places
that matter to them.*

SAVE THE DATE!

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE on HERITAGE:

New Location,
New Dates,
New Planning Partners

The annual Statewide Conference on Heritage will be held July 15th-19th, 2012 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square in Downtown Lancaster, PA.

This year the Statewide Conference on Heritage will partner with the Transportation Research Board (TRB) ADC50 Committee on Historic and Archaeological Preservation to host a joint gathering with shared sessions and tours. Please go to www.pennbyways.org for additional details or contact Jennifer Horn at jhorn@preservationpa.org.

JOIN US!

Your support through membership is important to all of Preservation Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation efforts; individuals, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and corporations are invited to join us. Please visit our website at www.preservationpa.org for more information or contact us by phone at (717) 234-2310.