

FRANKLIN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Franklin County's Planning Department works with local governments, community groups and the public to emphasize regional cooperation, foster growth consistent with existing infrastructure, protect regional aesthetics and communities' historic characteristics, and support a high quality of life for Franklin County residents.

The Planning Department is guided by these principles:

- To promote economic development to revitalize communities
- To sustain open spaces, aesthetics and historic character
- To protect farms, forests and streams
- To safeguard Franklin County's recreational and valuable natural resources



Contact Information



Franklin County Planning Department

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Open Monday-Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Closed weekends and all
county-observed holidays*

Public meetings for the **Planning Commission** and **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** are generally held quarterly in February, May, August and November. Public meetings for the **Agricultural Land Preservation Board** are generally held in March, June, September and December.

Updated May 2026

Planning At A Glance



A Closer Look At What We Do



Comprehensive Plan

Franklin County's comprehensive plan, *Imagine Franklin 2035*, serves as the county's blueprint for long-term goals that address current and anticipated community needs, particularly related to land use, housing, workforce and education, community facilities, urban centers, human services, and transportation. Under the direction of the Franklin County Commissioners, the Planning Department prioritizes realistic, actionable steps that address these needs, organizing implementation into three three-year phases.

Agricultural Land Preservation

Farmland preservation is a top priority for the Franklin County Commissioners. Through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program, the county buys easements from farmers to slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses.

Landowners apply to the county to participate in the program. Applications are ranked and then forwarded to the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board for approval. Participating counties receive state funds to help make these purchases, and most counties contribute matching dollars to amplify their buying power.

Franklin County has preserved over 20,000 acres of farmland, and dozens of additional farms are on the waiting list to be preserved.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (FCMPO) is a transportation policy-making and decision-making body and is led by a 13-member Policy Board that includes the county board of commissioners, PennDOT representatives, and elected municipal representatives, among others.

The FCMPO is supported by Planning Department staff and is responsible for adherence to and periodic development and updates of Unified Planning Work Programs, Transportation Improvement Programs, and Long-Range Transportation Plans, among other projects. The FCMPO works closely with PennDOT in planning for the transportation needs of the county. Public meetings are held quarterly.

Mosquito & Tick-Borne Disease Program

Under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Franklin County staff work to mitigate the risk of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases through surveillance, control methods and education outreach. Staff also evaluate tick species, quantities and presence of certain diseases in public-use areas. The main focus of the tick surveillance program is the black-legged tick, which can transmit Lyme disease and other pathogens to humans.



Community Development Block Grant

Franklin County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program allocates funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to benefit non-entitlement municipalities and community organizations within Franklin County. At least 70% of funding must be used for activities that benefit low-to-moderate income individuals and/or prevent or eliminate blight, or eliminate an urgent situation, as designated by the Pennsylvania Governor. Applications are due to the county for consideration each July, and winning applicants are announced the following spring, upon approval by DCED.