Greenscapes

The Green Infrastructure Element
of the **Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan**

www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning

Figure 1 - Regional Context

Regional Map

Lebanon County

Berks County

Texter Mountain

Cocalico Creek Wetlands

Adamstown Ridge

Furnace Hills

Dauphin County

Ephrata Mountains

Bowmansville Hills

Conewago Creek Watershed

Welsh Mountains

York County

Mine Ridge

Chester County

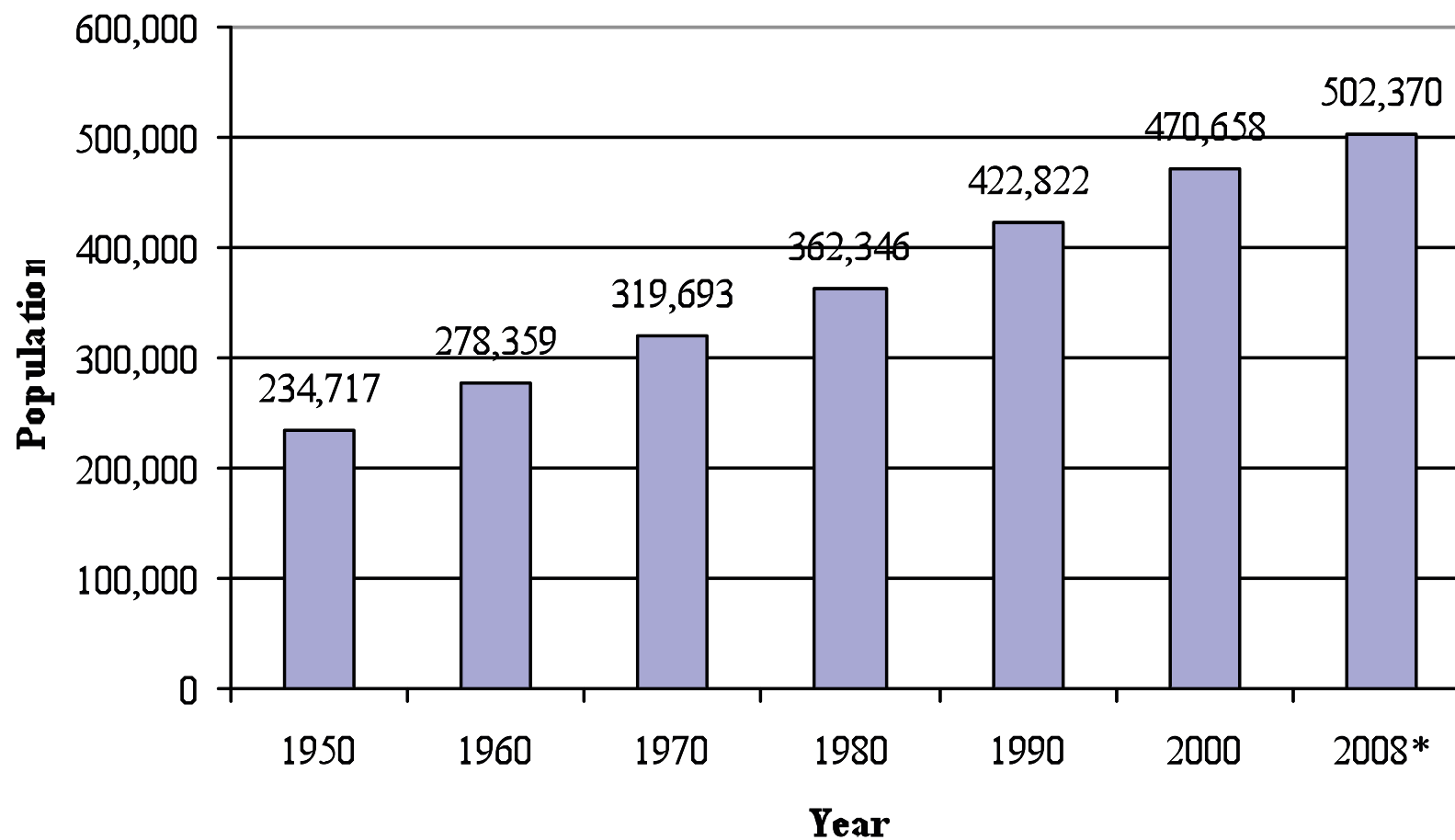### Legend

Large Landscapes

- Highlands Region
- Susquehanna River Corridor
- Major Roads
- Designated Growth Areas

Baltimore County, MD   Harford County, MD   Cecil County, MD
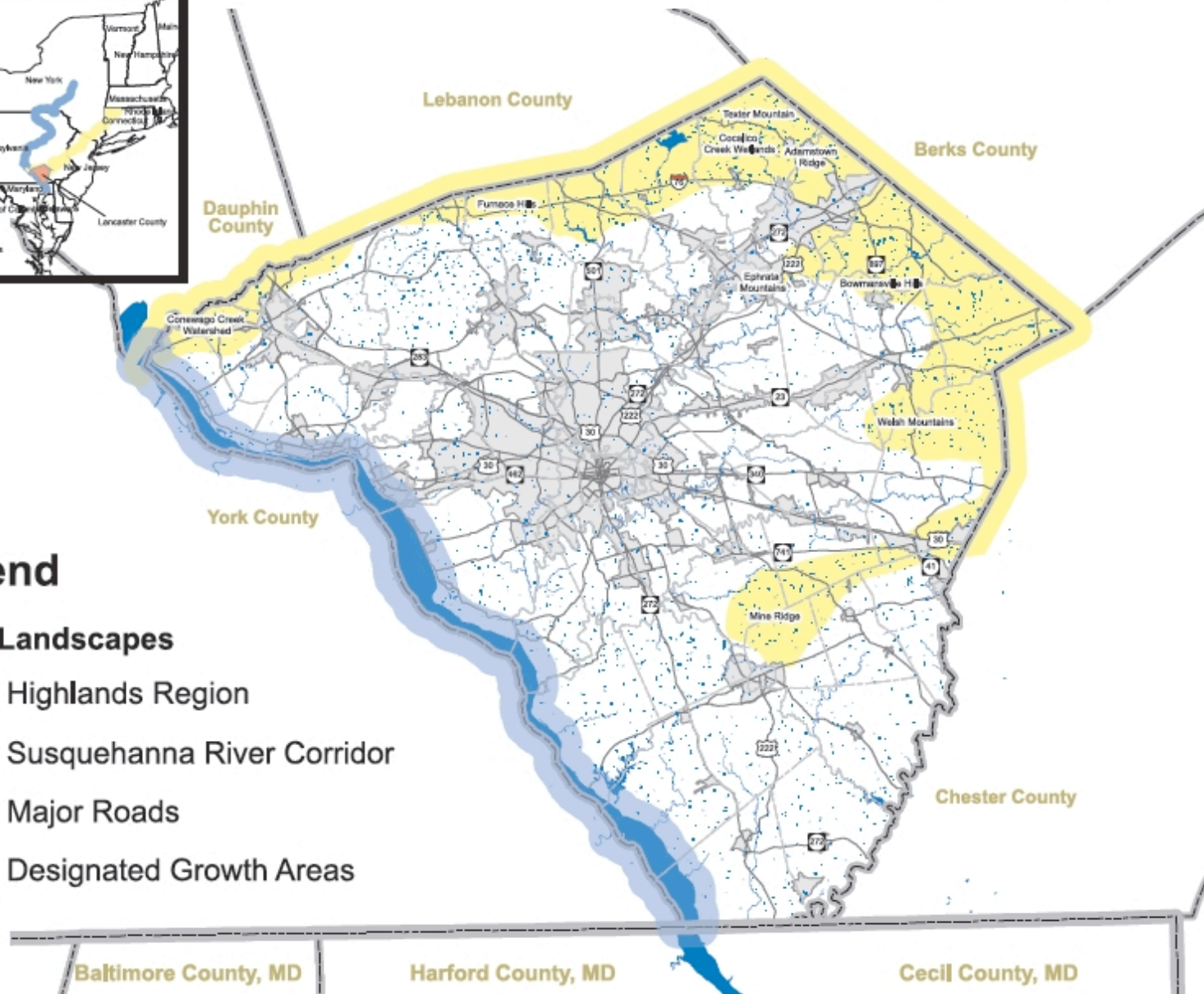
Lancaster County Population
1950-2008

Year	Population
1950	234,717
1960	278,359
1970	319,693
1980	362,346
1990	422,822
2000	470,658
2008*	502,370

Population (y-axis): 0, 100,000, 200,000, 300,000, 400,000, 500,000, 600,000

Year (x-axis)

Data from the US Decennial Census, years 1950-2000

*American Community Survey Population Estimate

Figure 3 - Existing Land Use

Legend

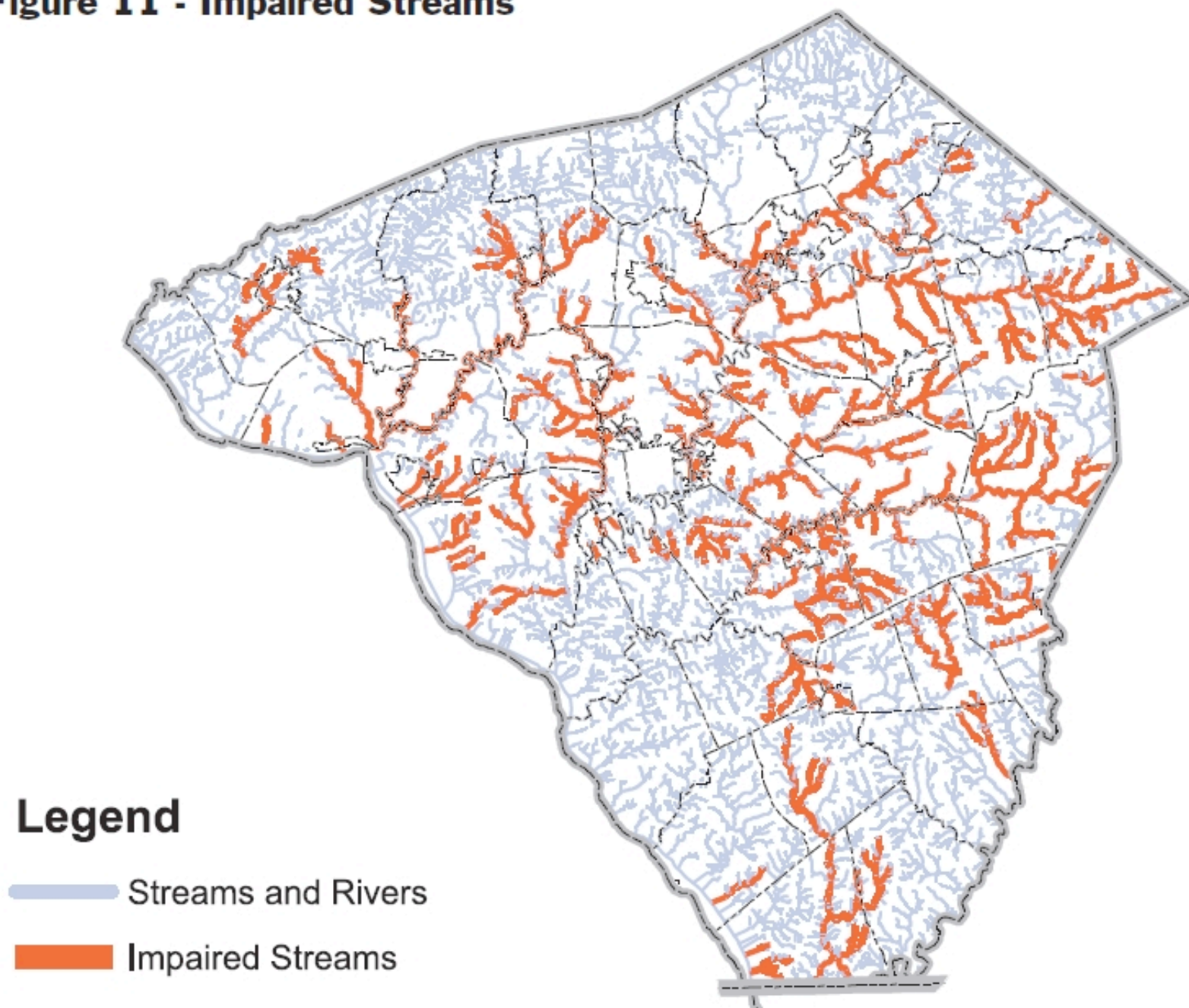### Highways
- ——— Interstate Highways
- ⬤——⬤ U.S. Highways
- ——— State Highways

Land Use
- No Data
- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Other Residential
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- Transportation/Utility/Communication
- Industrial
- Community Facilities
- Cultural Activities/Entertainment/Recreation
- Agriculture
- Forestry and Related Activities

Figure 24 - Existing Parks, Open Space, and Trails

Legend

- Designated Growth Areas
- Water Trails
- Trails
- Bicycle Routes
- ● Public Access Points (Water)

Existing Parks and Open Space

- State
- State Fish, Game and Forestry Land
- County
- Municipal and School District Land
- Utility Owned
- Conservancy Land
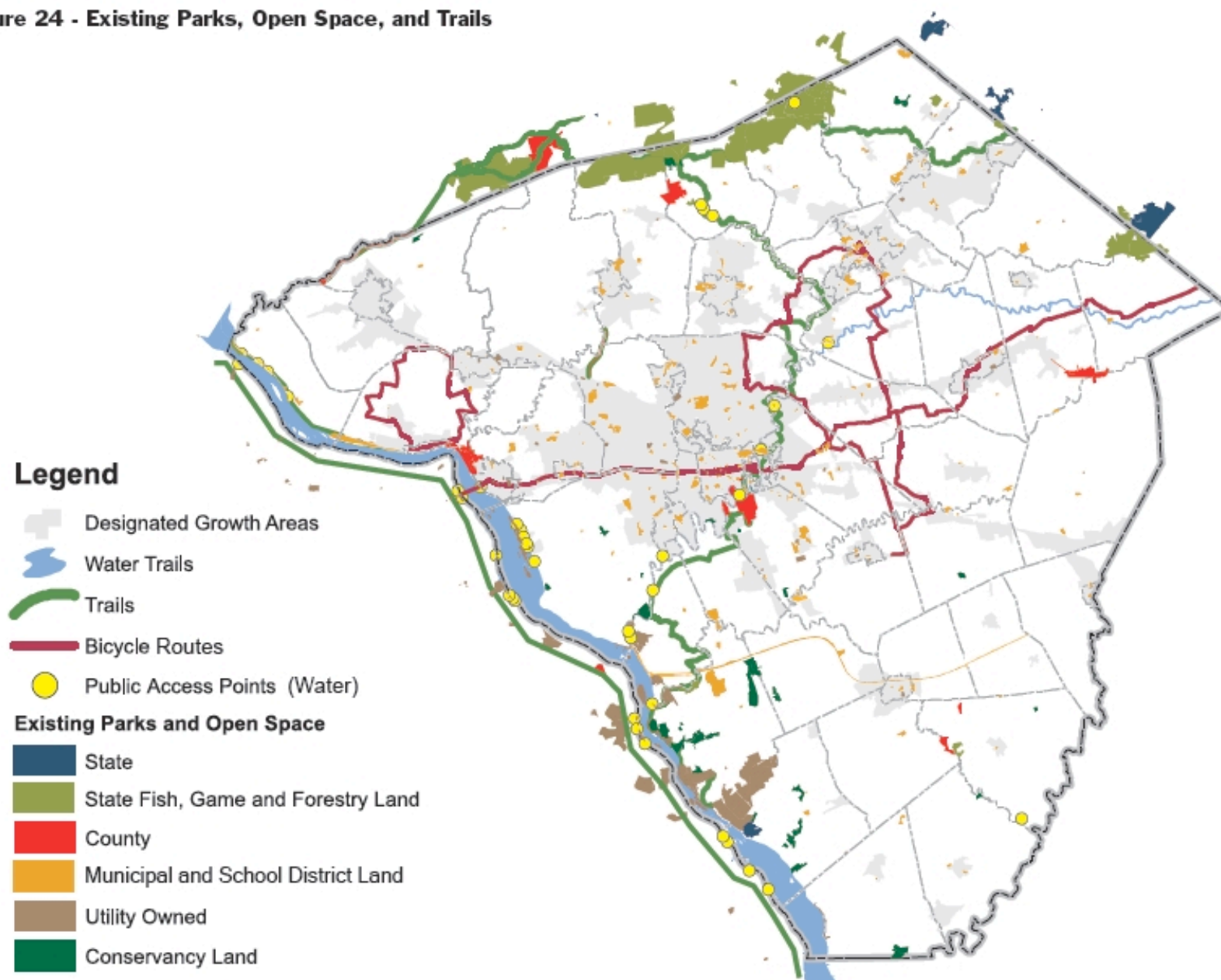
Figure 11 - Impaired Streams

Legend

Streams and Rivers

Impaired Streams

Poor Agricultural Practices

Legacy Sediments

# Forest Fragmentation

Current Landscape
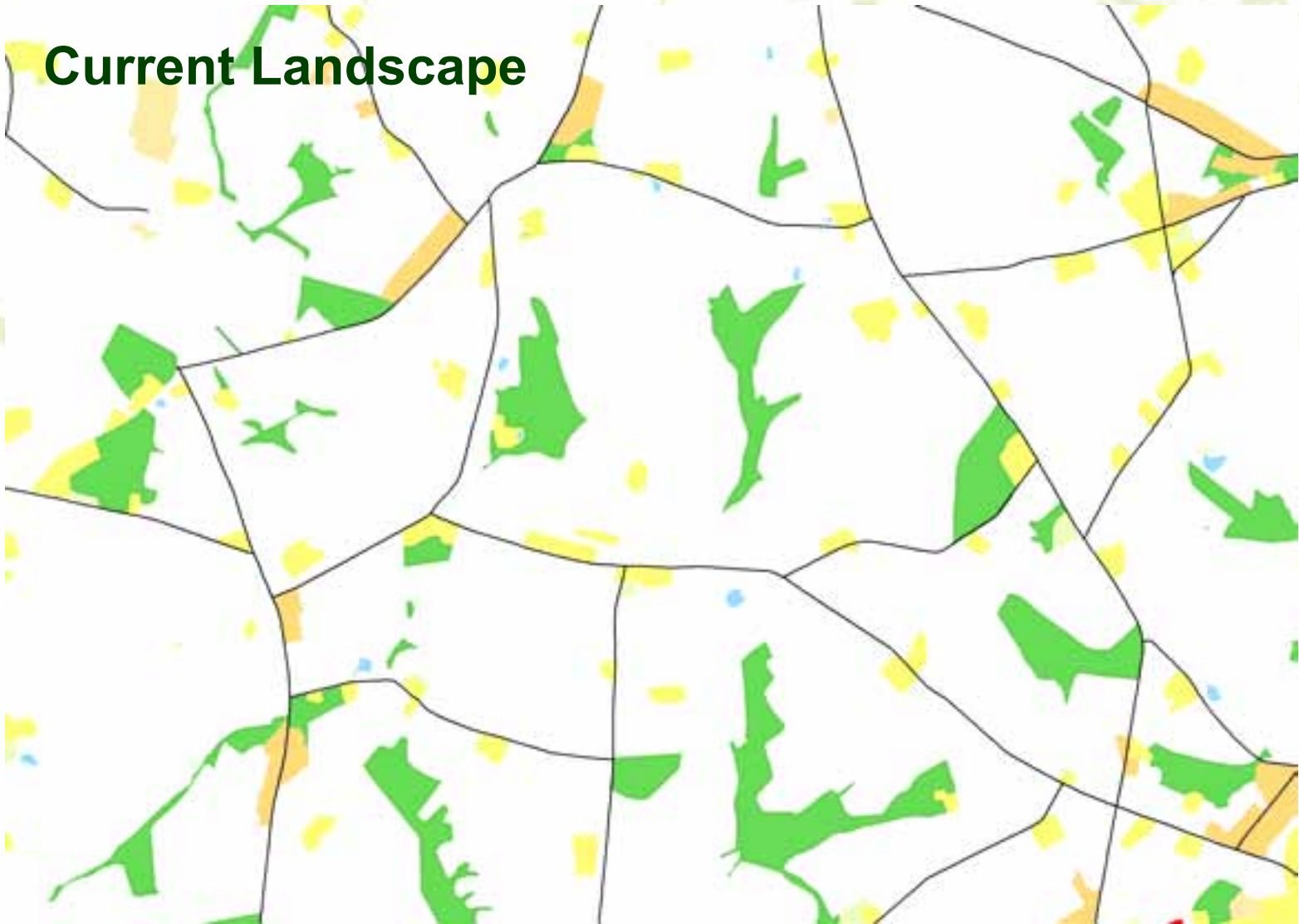
Functional Elements of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan
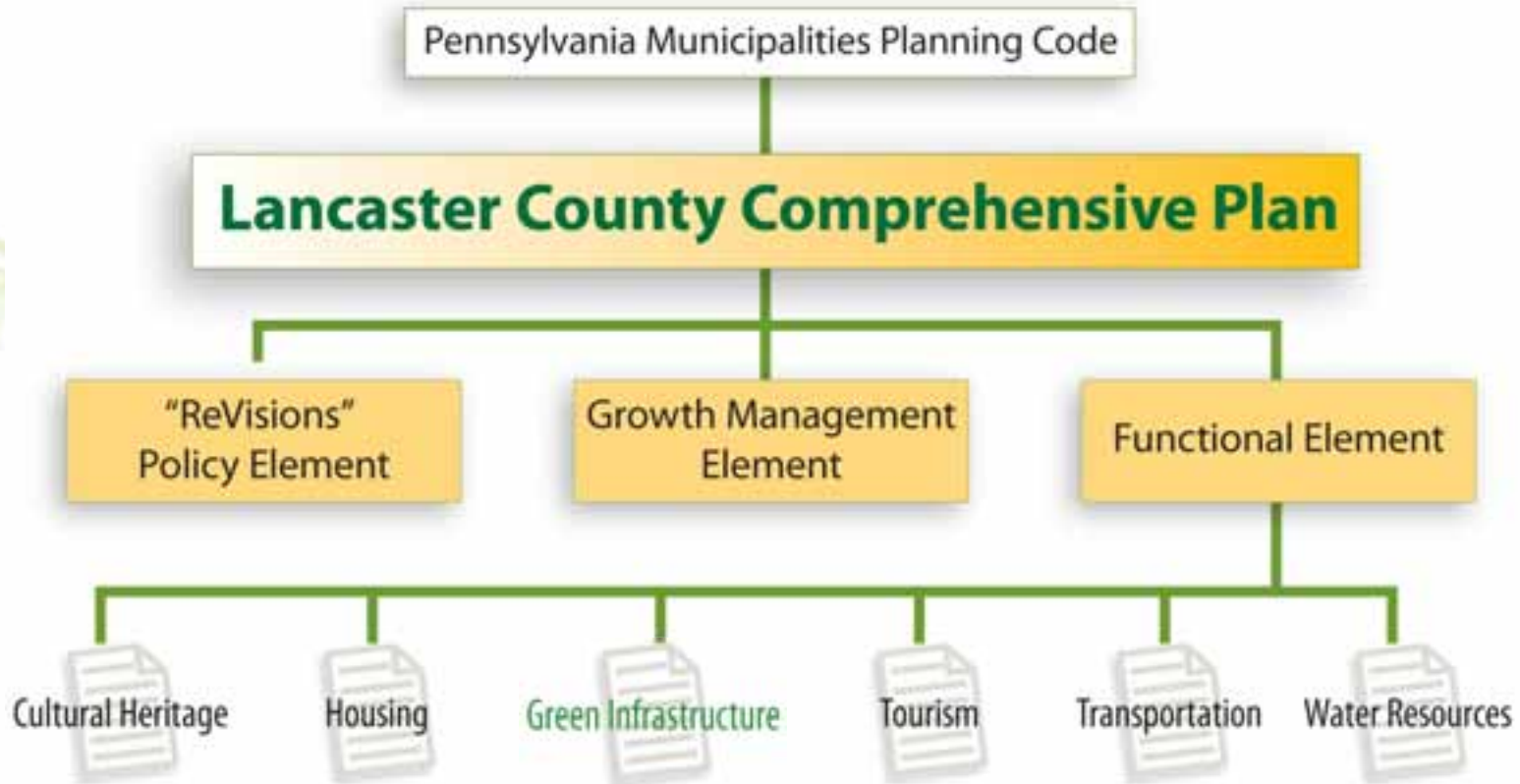
What is Green Infrastructure?

- Green Infrastructure is a network of **natural areas, green spaces,** and **greenways** in rural, suburban, and urban areas that sustains ecological functions and values and provides a broad array of benefits for the people of Lancaster County and the surrounding region:

  - **Environmental Quality**

  - **Community Health**

  - **A Sustainable Economy**
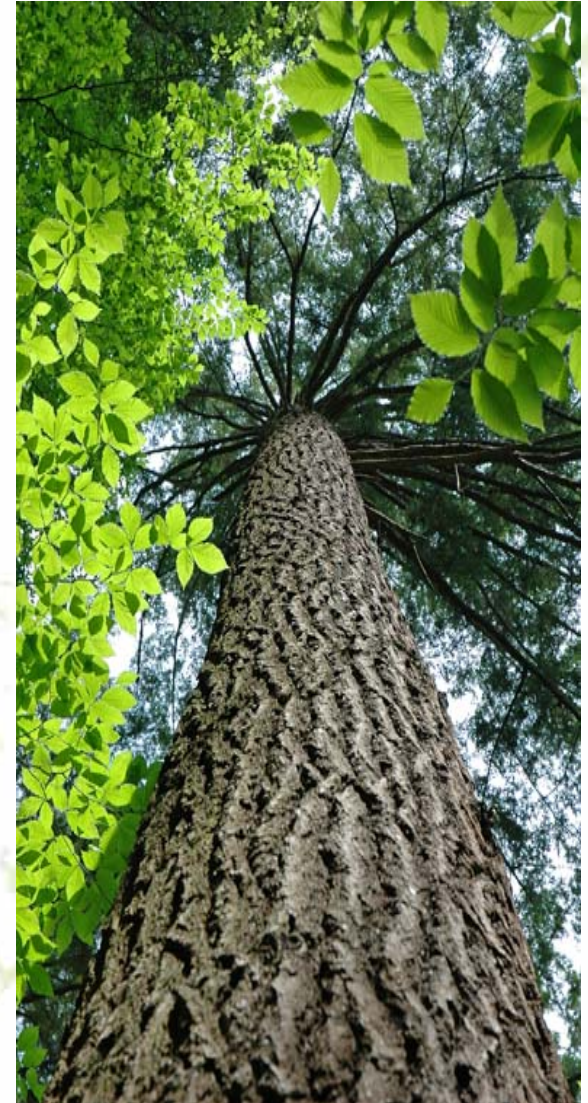
Gray vs. Green Infrastructure

Gray Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Examples

Rural Areas

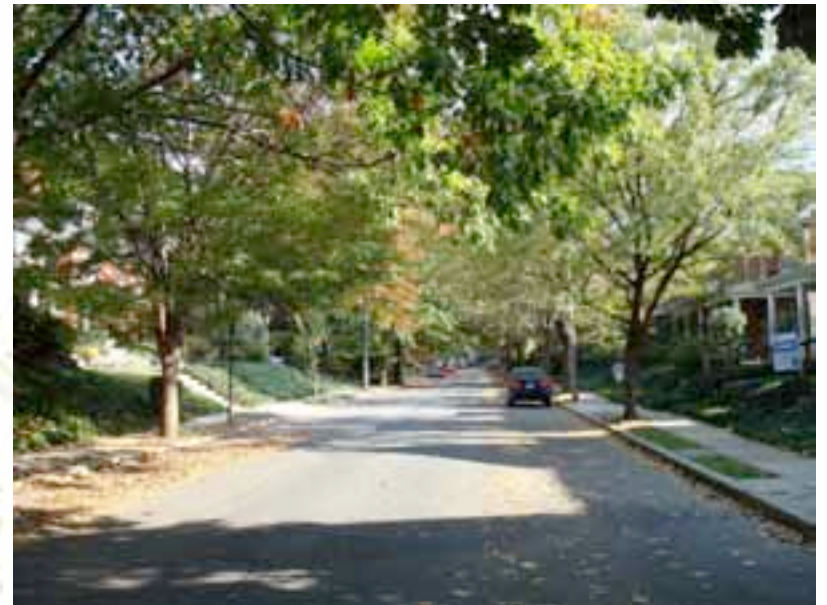High Quality Waterways

Forest Land

Species of Concern Habitat

Native Species

Benefits of Urban Greening

- Mitigate Heat Island Effect
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Clean Water
- Reduce Flooding
- Increase Infiltration
- Reduced Energy Cost
- Clean Air
- Reduce Noise
- Beautification
- Support Native Species

What is the Green Infrastructure Plan Intended to Achieve?

- **Four Main Goals:**

  - **Preservation**

  - **Conservation**

  - **Restoration**

  - **Recreation**

Greenscapes: Four Main Goals

*Illustrating the four goals
of the Greenscapes*

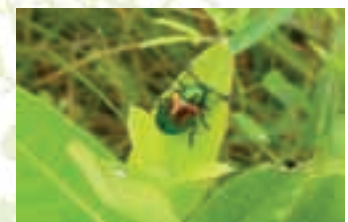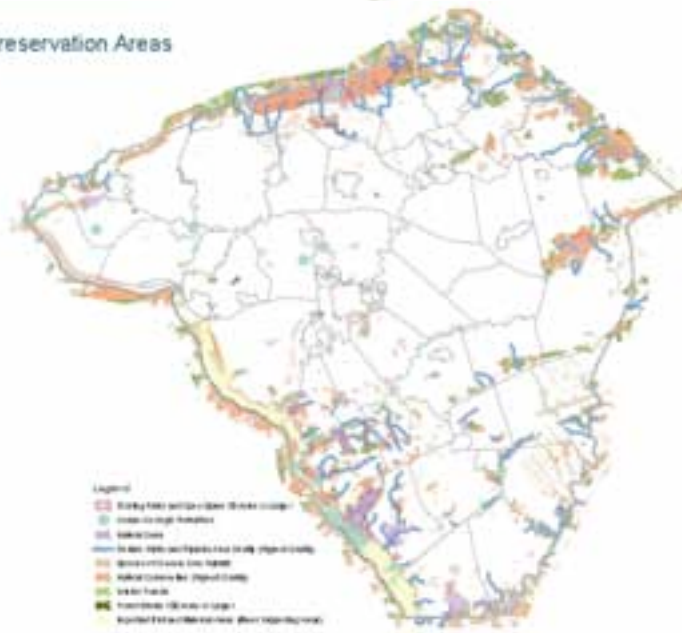**Preservation**

Conservation

Restoration

Recreation

What is the Green Infrastructure Plan Intended to Achieve?

- **Preservation**: Preserve Lancaster County's exceptional natural resources
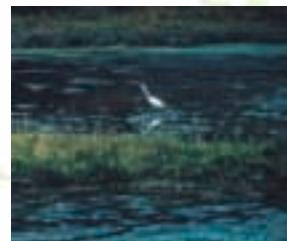
Figure 26: Preservation Areas

What is the Green Infrastructure Plan Intended to Achieve?

- **Conservation**: Conserve natural resources and the ecological services they perform throughout Lancaster County

Legend

- Wetland Sites
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Steep Slopes 25% or >> & Highly Erodible Soils
- Surface Water & Riparian Area Quality (Medium Quality)
- Natural Communities Quality (Medium Quality)
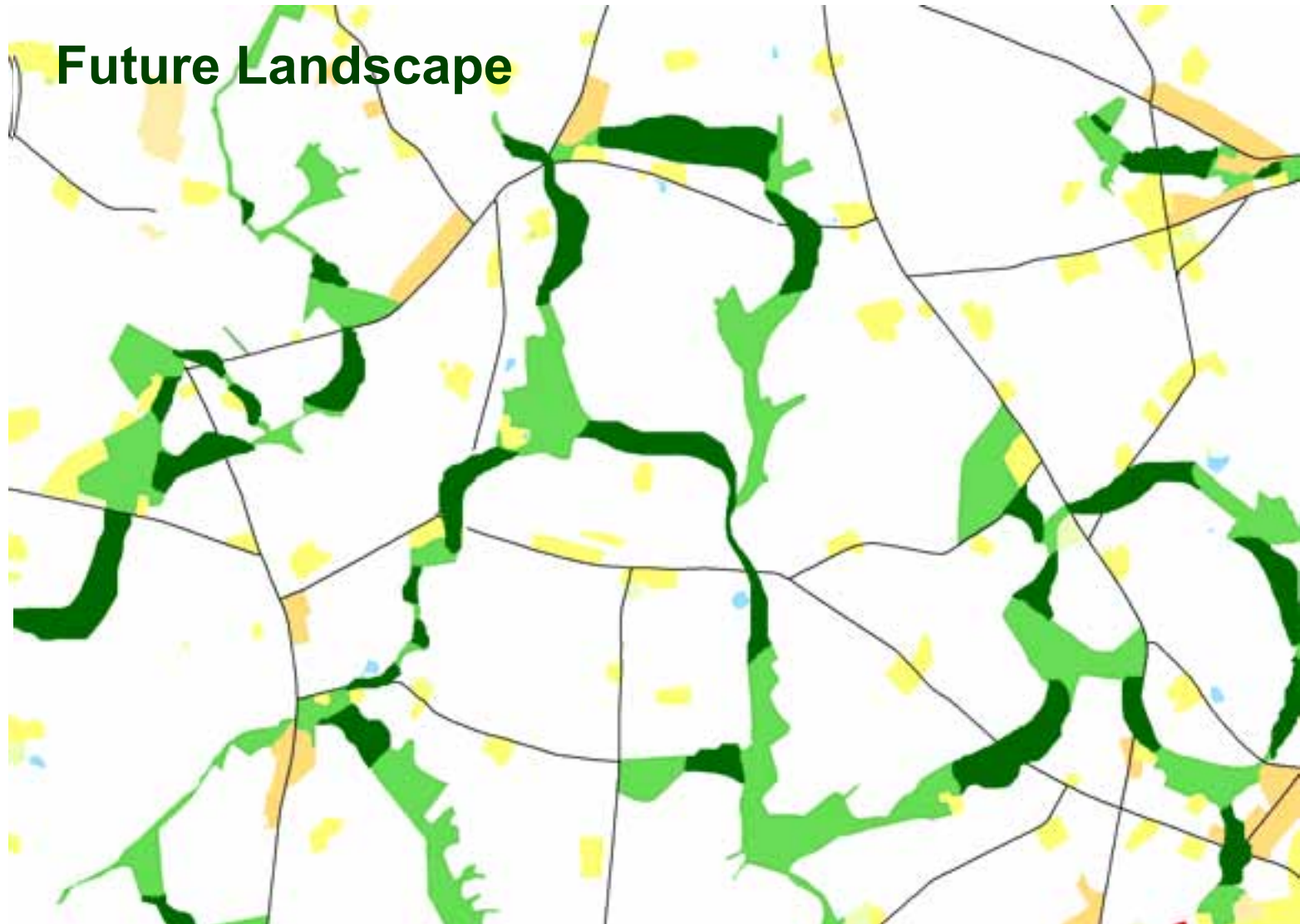- Forest Block > 100 Acres
- Species of Concern Supporting Habitat

What is the Green Infrastructure Plan Intended to Achieve?

- <u>Restoration</u>: Restore ecological connections and natural resources throughout Lancaster County

Figure 28: Restoration Areas

Connecting Forest Patches
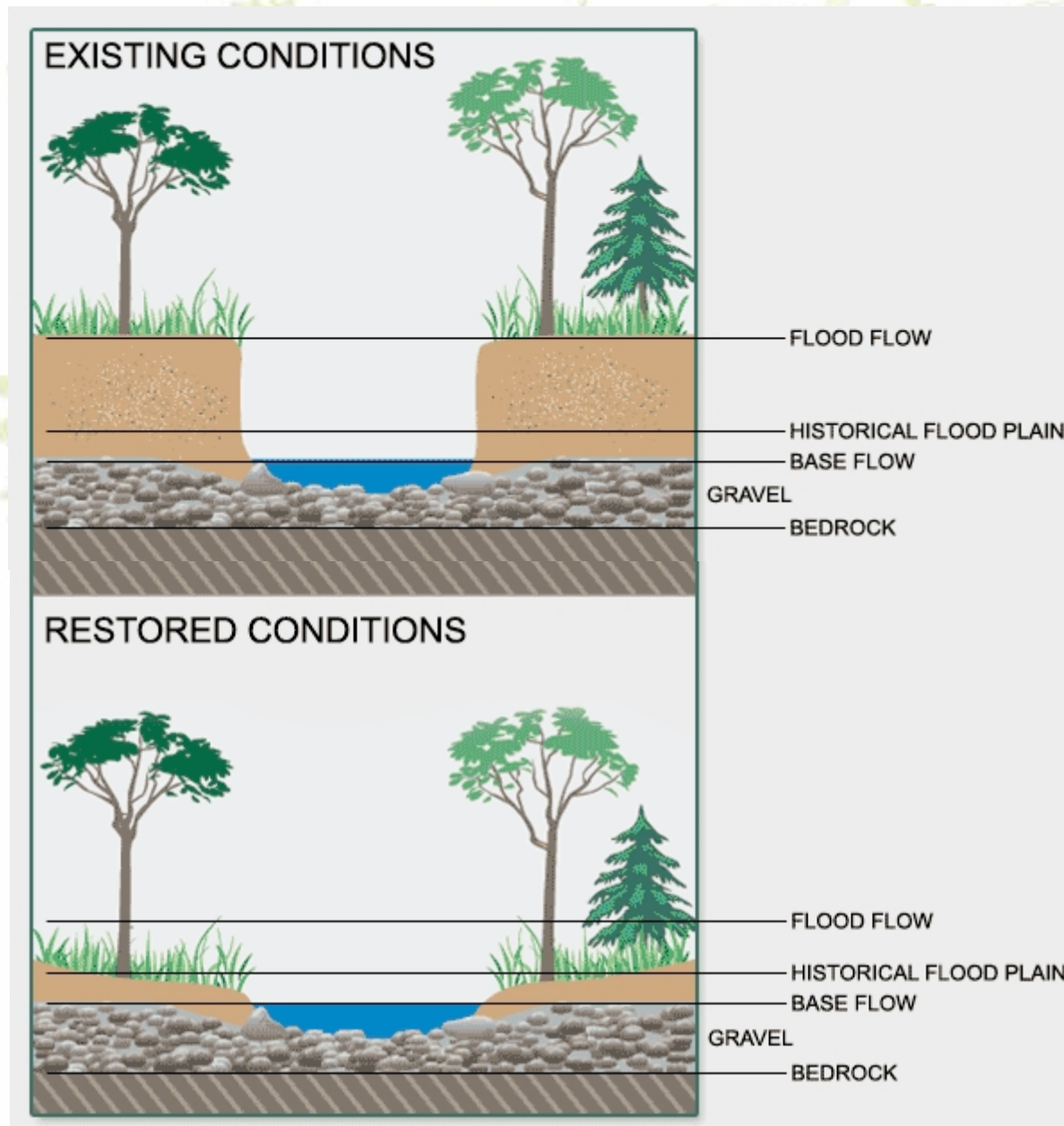
Future Landscape

Riparian Buffers

Floodplain Restoration

Green Infrastructure/Green Infrastructure Intervention Examples

Urban Areas

Shade Trees

Rain Gardens

Porous Pavement

Green Roofs

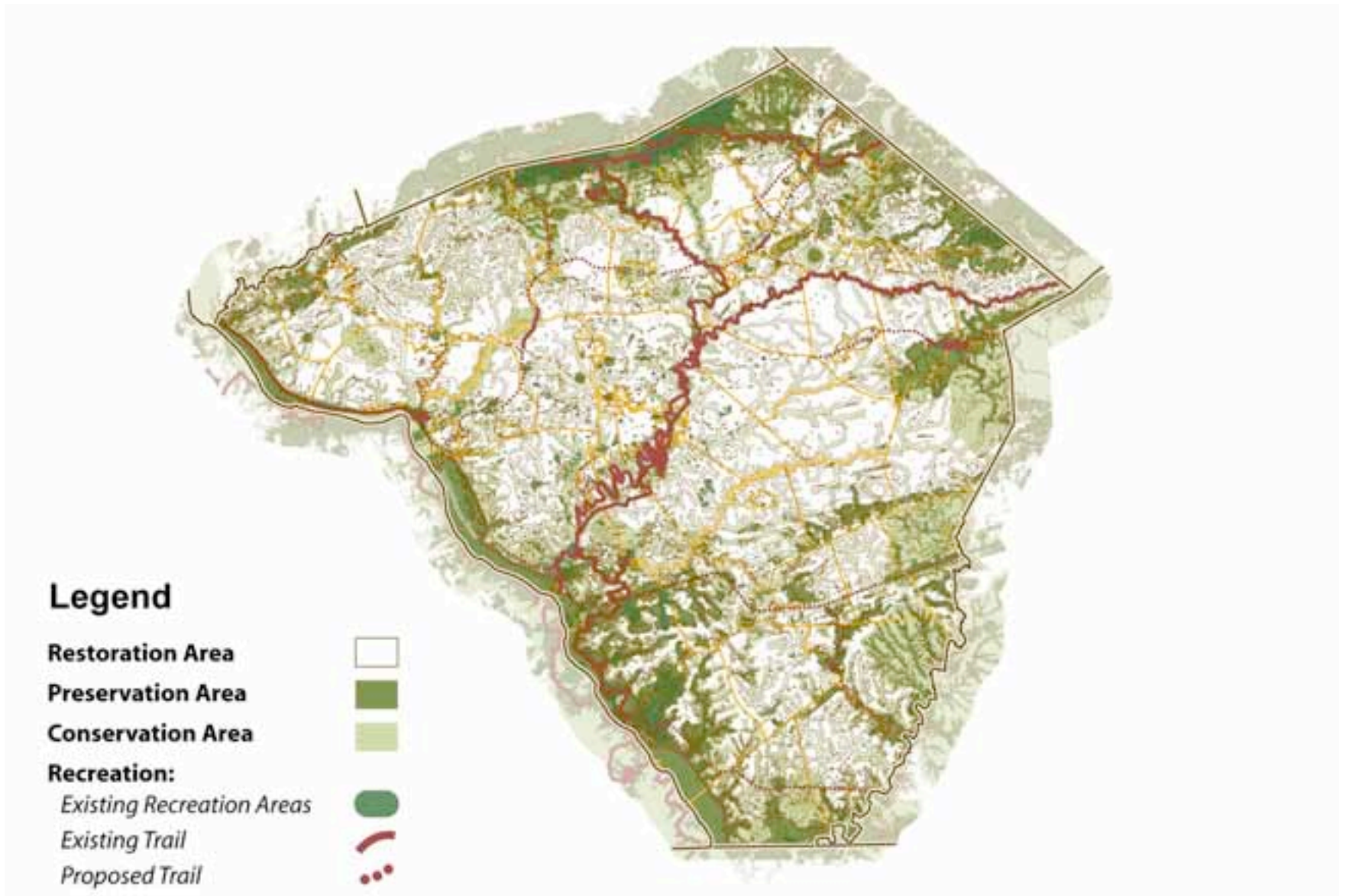**Rain Barrels**

Tree Box Filters

What is the Green Infrastructure Plan Intended to Achieve?

- <u>Recreation</u>: Provide accessible outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Lancaster County

Legend

- Proposed Trails
- Existing Trails
- On-road Bicycle Routes/Tours
- Water Trails
- Existing Parks and Open Space

Green Infrastructure Concept Map

Legend

Restoration Area

Preservation Area

Conservation Area

Recreation:

Existing Recreation Areas

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Green Infrastructure Tools

- **Policy and Planning Tools**

- **Regulatory Tools**

- **Capital Investment Tools**

- **Outreach and Partnership Tools**

Cluster Development

Biofilters

Environmental Advisory Councils

Key Action Initiatives

- **Green Infrastructure Website**

- **Green Infrastructure Events**

- **Municipal green infrastructure plans**

- **Green Infrastructure overlay zoning district**

- **County Green Infrastructure Funding Program**

- **Completion of the Countywide Regional Park and greenway trail system**

- **Green Infrastructure Summit**

- **Green Infrastructure Coalition**

- **Formation of Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs)**