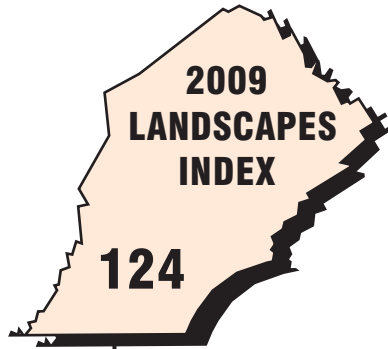


Landscapes Index 2009



PRESERVED LAND SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Protected farmland	344	365
• Eased land	142	146
• Park land	137	142

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Proposed housing units consistent with Landscapes	113	103
• Proposed non-residential development consistent with Landscapes	94	77
• Community water and sewer	110	89

HOUSING SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Housing affordability	80	83
• Residential loans in urban areas	147	129
• Residential lot size/residential unit density	107	107

TRANSPORTATION SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Traffic safety	122	123
• Public transportation use	112	114
• Travel time	88	93

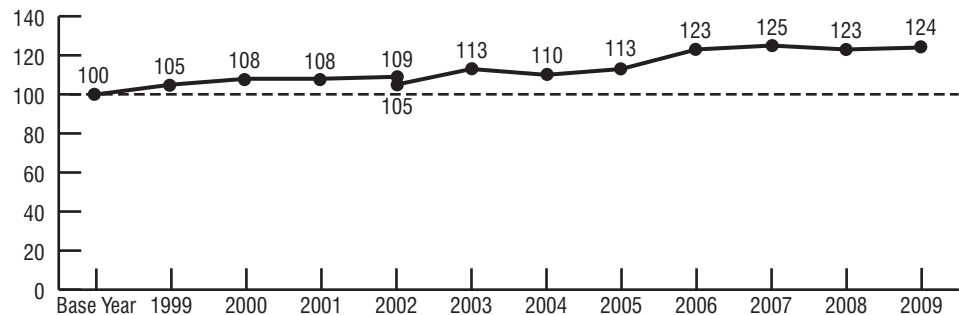
ECONOMY SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Farm production	117	102
• Job growth	41	91*

RESOURCES SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Historic resources and plans	108	108
• Stream quality	97	99

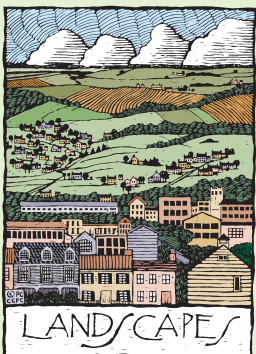
MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES SUB-INDEX	Previous year	Current year
• Municipal ordinance amendments consistent with Landscapes	143	146
• Municipal volunteerism	116	116

* Latest complete data (2007) used to calculate the job growth indicator do not reflect the existing economic recession. Preliminary 2008 data show a slight decline in jobs that would produce an indicator value of -29 and result in an overall decrease in the index. This will be measured in next year's index.

TREND LINE



Note: The trend line shows two values for 2002 reflecting a change in the water resources indicator. The index was 109 using the original stream protection indicator and 105 using the replacement stream quality indicator. The annual index includes the most recent data for each indicator.





The County Commissioners adopted *Landscapes, Managing Change in Chester County 1996–2020, Comprehensive Plan Policy Element* on July 12, 1996. Landscapes is guided by the vision statement, “Preserve and enhance the unique character of Chester County landscapes by concentrating growth in the most appropriate areas.” Landscapes provides a framework for changing the development pattern away from sprawl that threatens the quality of life in Chester County. Landscapes is a 25 year plan that can only be achieved over the long-term.



The Chester County Planning Commission created the Landscapes Index, based on eighteen indicators, to measure progress toward achieving the goals of Landscapes. Indicators reflect the status of a larger system by looking at small pieces of it. Positive trends of indicators are a measure of success and negative trends point out deficiencies where action is needed. All indicators used in the Landscapes Index are updated on an annual basis.



Each indicator has base year data to serve as a starting point for measuring a trend. The data for each indicator has been converted to a base year value of 100. For each year after the base year, the indicator value is calculated by comparing the most recent data, called the comparison year, to the base year data. A value above 100 represents an improvement from the base year. A value below 100 represents a decline from the base year. An increasing value from the previous year represents a positive trend supporting Landscapes. A decreasing value represents a negative trend away from Landscapes.



The Landscapes Index serves as a general barometer of overall trends by combining all eighteen indicators into an average value. The data for the most recent comparison year are used for each indicator. Due to data availability, the year is not the same for all indicators. For example, the 2009 Index includes indicators with data for 2007 or 2008. The Landscapes Index provides a simple, annual snapshot of how current conditions compare to conditions that existed around the time Landscapes was adopted. The trend line created by the Landscapes Index shows the long-term degree of progress toward reaching the goals of Landscapes.

Information and detailed data for each of the indicators used in the Landscapes Index can be found on the Planning Commission’s website www.chesco.org/planning.