

Executive Summary

Introduction

Over the course of the last few decades, the South Mountain Region has seen significant growth and land development. In recognizing this increase in growth, South Mountain Partnership has created the State of the Region Report to measure and report on how the region's resources are being affected by this growth and the efforts with its partners to respond to it. The report developed tools that provide observations about the status of the landscape and how to stabilize and improve the health of the region. The purpose of this report is to communicate key regional observations, trends, and challenges. In addition to this, the report's goals include developing recommendations as well as facilitating collective and collaborative actions to address the identified challenges.

This report includes the presentation of the metrics that have been collected and evaluated to quantitatively evaluate how the region is going across five topics: nature, agricultural and food, history and culture, recreation, and public health. This includes how these measurements were identified and evaluated, and a presentation of recommendations for how to address those challenges for decision-makers across the region.

Chapter Objectives

The State of the Region's focus is to assess the current growth through the region, as well as the effects it has, along with the recommended actions for these challenges. Each chapter is in relation to these goals, which are described as such:

Chapter 2: Provides a project overview and the process of creating the state of the region report. This includes the goals and objectives, future outcomes, components of the project, and the summary of the process.

Chapter 3: This presents the seventeen metrics that have been identified for evaluation for inclusion in the report card. Each metric is grouped into one of the five topics surrounding the report.

Chapter 4: This overview explains the additional deliverables of the project, which include a dynamic visual summary of the landscape measurements and patterns in the form of interactive GIS mapping.

Chapter 5: This chapter goes into five regional challenges that are affecting the region. The State of the Region report analyzes the top five challenges in the region that would need to be addressed.

Chapter 6: Provides all the recommendations that were developed through intensive and extensive collaborative efforts that include many groups, agencies, and individuals.

Chapter 7: A list of the highest priority recommended actions based on South Mountain Partnership's capacity, mission, and vision.

Conclusion

This report is meant to be a living document that goes over the South Mountain Regional Challenges and the proposed metrics designed to deal with them.