

# Watershed Alliance, Main Street snag SMP mini grants

BY JOHN MESSEDER For the Gettysburg Times | Posted: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:05 am

The South Mountain Partnership (SMP), an organization dedicated to promoting and conserving the natural, cultural and economic landscape of the South Mountain region of south central Pennsylvania, awarded several so-called mini-grants Friday during its annual "Power of the Partnership" breakfast at The Lodges of Gettysburg, on Camp Gettysburg Road.

Two of the grants went to Adams County organizations, one to promote, in part, tourism and Gettysburg's connections to the surrounding landscape, and one to help protect fresh water in the county.

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County received \$3,000 to plant three acres of riparian buffer along Adams County streams to help protect the stream banks and keep pollutants from fouling the water.

Main Street Gettysburg (MSG) was awarded \$5,000 to develop a master plan for the Baltimore Street Revitalization Project, a marketing and design project to connect Gettysburg's Lincoln Square with the recently renovated Steinwehr Avenue.

First of all, if you walk down Baltimore Street, said MSG President Deborah Adamik, there's no lighting and it's not safe.

The Baltimore Street project, which actually begins at the Lincoln Train Station on Carlisle Street, and runs south to the National Cemetery, has numerous historic buildings and tourist related businesses, but Adamik said it should be made more attractive and better promoted for residents as well as tourists. The most recent revitalization in the borough was Steinwehr Avenue, which has experienced major business facelifts, including a new motel.

MSG joined with the South Mountain Partnership as part of the latter's effort to join community, tourists and residents in promoting the multiple attractions of the area.

"They want to promote the region," she said. "Gettysburg draws the people."

We want to draw more community tourists and residents, many of whom are familiar with the wineries and other attractions of downtown Gettysburg, but are unaware of the natural resources of South Mountain -



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GRANTS - Watershed Alliance of Adams County President Autumn Arthur, front left, with board member Pat Naugle and Project Coordinator Larry Bullis behind her, and Main Street Gettysburg (MSG) President Deborah Adamik, front right, with MSG Board Vice Chair Susan Naugle, accepted mini-grants from the South Mountain Partnership during a breakfast event Friday morning. WAAC's \$3,000 grant will be used to buy trees to create about three acres of riparian buffers along portions of county streams. A \$5,000 grant awarded MSG will help create a master plan for Baltimore Street revitalization in Gettysburg. (John Messeder/Gettysburg Times)

forest land visible to the west of the borough, and agricultural resources. The Main Street project, she said, would "promote Gettysburg as well as how it connects to South Mountain."

Wineries, specialty restaurants and other businesses are growing in Gettysburg.

"We keep working to lift Gettysburg up, to make it more livable," she said, "and at the same time we're doing that, we're trying to preserve its history."

The so-called mini-grant is part of \$38,000 Main Street had to raise to complete the master plan for the revitalization effort. Eventually, Adamik said, efforts would be made to add York and Chambersburg streets to the revitalization project.

Although Adams County has many miles of streams, only one flows into the county. The Watershed Alliance of Adams County has embarked on a campaign to help protect those water courses by creating riparian buffers on public and private properties along some of the streams. The grant from SMP will be used to buy trees for the plantings.

A riparian buffer borders a stream, creek or river, about 30 to 50 feet on either side, using natural vegetation - often trees but sometimes simply unmowed grass and shrubs - to anchor the water shore soil and filter excess nutrients and other potential pollutants from entering the running water. Buffers already installed have been successful in improving the measured quality of water flowing from Adams County into Maryland and, eventually, into the Chesapeake Bay.

"We're going to look at some of the "prospective" sites, meet some of the landowners," said Project Coordinator Larry Bullis, "(and) set up a time schedule when we're going to be on their property doing what we do."

The process will include marking the area to be protected, possibly using targeted herbicide to remove invasive plants, and then planting trees.

"There are so many invasive plants, that we really don't want them crowding out the trees we're planting," Bullis said, such as poison ivy and Canadian Thistle, a flowering plant that is spread by birds eating seeds where the thistle grows, and then dropping them where it has not yet grown.

Work will start later this spring, after the trees are purchased, using the grant received Friday morning, through the county conservation district.

Another planting may be scheduled in the fall.

The South Mountain Partnership is a cooperative conglomeration of about three dozen organizations, educational institutions and businesses in Adams, Cumberland and York counties.