



Executive Summary

1.0 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 observations about the current status of the landscape and devised a plan to move toward stabilizing and improving 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 identified challenges.

This report includes the presentation of the metrics that have been collected to quantitatively evaluate the state of the region across several topics: nature, agricultural and food, history and culture, recreation, and public health.

1.1.2 Chapter Objectives

The State of the Region Report's objective is to assess the current growth of the region, as well as the problematic aftermath of said growth, and further, the recommended actions to face these challenges. Each chapter is a closer look into SMP's process and goals, which are described as such:

Chapter Two

→ Provides a project overview and the process of creating the State of the Region Report. This includes the intent behind their deliverables, future potential outcomes, smaller components to understand, and a summary of both their process so far and what is yet to be completed.

Chapter Three

→ This chapter presents the seventeen metrics that have been identified for evaluation to be included in the report card. Each metric is grouped into one of the five areas of challenge, grounding the report.

Chapter Four

→ A clarification on any additional deliverables from SMP's project, which include a dynamic visual summary of the landscape measurements and patterns in the form of interactive GIS mapping.



Chapter Five

→ The fifth Chapter concentrates on the five most relevant regional challenges that are affecting the South Mountain Region and the surrounding areas. The State of the Region Report analyzes these top five challenges in the region that need to be addressed – where they come from, and how we can prevent further damage.

Chapter Six

→ Provides a list of recommendations that were developed through intensive and extensive collaborative efforts, which included collaboration with many groups, agencies, and individuals. Additionally, Chapter Six presents a call for help to the surrounding areas; a region-wide connection is crucial.

Chapter Seven

→ A data-driven list of the highest priority recommended actions based on South Mountain Partnership's capacity, mission, and vision. This list exposes potential partners, predicted time frame, prospective funding opportunities, etc.

1.1.3 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. Although some of the recommendations listed in the report are currently being put into action as you read this, there are many more yet to begin. As represented in their timeline, South Mountain Partnership is in for the long haul, aiming to do something never done before at the regional level. And although there will be more challenges along the way, SMP is taking it one step at a time toward a more beautiful, green, sustainable Region.