



Statewide Preservation Planning

What is a statewide historic preservation plan?

Statewide historic preservation plans are a guide for effective decision making about older and historic places and the policies, programs, and projects that affect them. They are intended to encourage planning for historic and cultural resources while balancing historic preservation with other interests.

What is the National Park Service's role in a statewide planning?

The National Park Service's [Historic Preservation Planning Program](#) develops national policy related to historic preservation planning. The primary tool the National Park Service has to implement the Historic Preservation Planning Program goals is through statewide historic preservation planning.

The National Park Service is responsible for reviewing and approving statewide historic preservation plans submitted by states and territories for the Secretary of the Interior.

What type of information is included in a statewide plan?

Generally, a statewide historic preservation plan [includes](#) an overview of the types of older and historic places found throughout the state (including archaeological sites) and predominant historical and cultural themes, an overview of the statewide planning process, a summary of the issues, trends, and challenges related to historic preservation, and goals and objectives to address the issues and challenges.

Statewide plans can also include success story case studies, a review of accomplishments from the previous plan, and a profile of preservation partners and activities. The specific information included in a plan, and the length of a plan, will vary from state to state.

How long is a preservation plan in effect?

It can take time to realize the goals of a statewide preservation plan. Most plans have a five-year planning cycle, although this can vary. Some states have been developing plans that have a longer planning cycle, sometimes up to ten years.

Pennsylvania's Plan

Does Pennsylvania have a statewide historic preservation plan?

Yes! Pennsylvania has had a statewide plan in place since 1970, when the first statewide plan was published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

[#PreservAtionHappensHere](#) is the title of Pennsylvania's current statewide plan. This plan is set to expire in December 2024.

Why does Pennsylvania have a statewide plan?

The National Park Service requires that all states and territories have an approved statewide historic preservation plan in place at all times as part of the federal funding requirements.



Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation plan and the process to develop the plan satisfies PA SHPO's preservation planning obligations as set forth under the [National Historic Preservation Act, as amended](#) and the [Pennsylvania History Code](#).

The Planning Process

How is a statewide historic preservation plan developed?

Developing the statewide plan is a complex process and typically takes about 18 months to complete. The process includes four main steps: survey, outreach and engagement, analysis, and reporting. These steps often overlap and inform the steps that follow.

Who leads the statewide planning process?

While the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) take the lead in developing the plan, the plan itself is the result of collaboration.

In Pennsylvania, PA SHPO directs the commonwealth's statewide historic preservation planning process. PA SHPO engages with many different groups whose interests intersect with historic and cultural resources throughout the planning process. This includes municipalities, federal, state, and county agencies and organizations, property owners, preservation and archaeology practitioners, and the public, among others.

How can I be involved in the statewide planning process?

Right now, you can participate by sharing your thoughts and insights about older and historic places, your community, and historic preservation through our online survey. The anonymous survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. [Take the survey!](#)

To learn about upcoming opportunities and follow the plan's progress, visit PA SHPO's blog, pahistoricpreservation.com, and [sign up for our e-news](#). You can also follow PHMC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

Who is responsible for putting the plan into action?

Every Pennsylvanian can help realize the goals of the statewide preservation plan!

PA SHPO leads the effort to collect information and success stories and report on achievements related to the plan. The plan's goals and objectives help PA SHPO and PHMC focus agency priorities and can be used by others to help them identify their priorities to achieve more preservation outcomes.