



Mission Statement: To facilitate the revitalization of our community – safer, smarter, stronger – by connecting ideas, resources and people.

Futurescapes began as a community steering committee after the 2011 flooding of Athens Borough, with a focus on long-term recovery for the community. Transitioning to a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in 2012, the organization serves as the coordinating entity between local and regional organizations for establishing partnerships and developing funding strategies that support whole-community recovery. Although original focus was on the post-flood recovery of Athens Borough, the Board keeps a vision of the entire Valley community in its planning strategies.

Futurescapes meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Athens Borough Hall meeting room.

Futurescapes is currently working on several **projects** including:

Past Projects:

- Block Captain Warning System: We set up this neighborhood warning system for emergency notification of borough residents. Since that time, Code Red has replaced this system more efficiently.
- Nonprofit Status: Futurescapes applied for and obtained nonprofit status in 2012.
- Housing Study: Martin Sinel, undergraduate student at Temple University, completed a study to determine pre and post-flood housing conditions.
- Cornell University Study: George Frantz, Cornell University, and students did some preliminary studies and presented them to citizens to show some possibilities for trails and usage land in the flooded area.
- Visioning Project: Futurescapes, with FEMA support, hosted a two-day visioning project, which encouraged citizens to talk with landscape artists to give input into use of public property in the Athens flood plain.

Ongoing Projects:

- Gap Financing for Businesses and Residents: Futurescapes is currently working on addressing the need for gap financing. Partnering with the local VFW for this project, three \$500 grants have been awarded. We are now working with the Valley Relief Council and they are identifying those in need of the grants.
- Trails Project: The Diahoga Trail team has been working to develop and fund a trail along the Susquehanna River from the Athens Bridge to the Sayre Bridge and possibly beyond. Sayre and Athens Boroughs, Bradford County Commissioners, and Todd Babcock, Surveyor has promised grants and in-kind services. A grant from DCNR in the amount of \$241,000 was awarded in November 2014.
- Workforce Housing: Futurescapes has a goal to develop 30 units of affordable workforce housing, and establish a program that will fill future demand for workforce housing.
- Flood Control Feasibility: The board wants to define feasible flood control measures for the area. This is a project that requires partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who have visited the area to begin their study along the Susquehanna River.

For more details about these projects or other projects listed in the plan, please go to the group's website, Futurescapes.org. As a long-term recovery group, Futurescapes understands that it may take a decade or more to complete all of the projects listed in the plan.

Board Members

- Lori Allen Unger, Chairman of the Board
- Linda Politi, Vice Chairman
- Harold Smith, Secretary
- Thomas Thornton, Treasurer
- Todd Babcock
- Lucinda Brown
- Jim Daly
- Jean Ann Redman
- Brian Souva
- Damien Rosetti