



Greenagers Regional Flood Resilience Project



West Stockbridge Open Space Forum

Annual Report

FY 2022

September 2022



Cheshire Hazard Mitigation Planning



Berkshire Flyer Opening Day

Annual Report

FY 2022



Comments from the Executive Director

In many ways, FY 2022 was a continuation of FY 2021, requiring us to be flexible in responding to the COVID crisis. The year started promisingly as COVID cases were down in the summer. We began returning to the office and anticipated “going back to normal.” Then the Omicron variant was upon us. Over the winter months, the office mainly functioned remotely. The expanded office renovations were delayed due to material and labor shortages, so it took almost the entire fiscal year before we were entirely situated. Despite these interruptions, I believe staff performed very well. We have many strong program areas that have been maintained or strengthened over the year. Some long-term staff left BRPC for enhanced career opportunities, but we were very fortunate to bring in many new staff with new skills and fresh perspectives.

COVID and the demand for housing from people outside the region exacerbated Berkshire County’s housing crisis. Working with 1Berkshire and Berkshire Housing, we released a Housing Vision of the Berkshires, a regional strategy to lead more intentional efforts to address the housing crisis. Through a legislative earmark led by Representative Paul Mark, we are actively working with communities to implement the strategy. We continued to retain existing housing stock and improve its condition through our Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation program.

Data and data analysis has always been a backbone of regional planning. Working with the Berkshire Leadership Impact Council this year, we released a revised Berkshire Benchmarks. The Benchmarks website, which those needing data have always appreciated, was made more user-friendly. In addition, through an extensive collaborative process, we instituted the Indicators section of that website. A relatively small number of Indicators or qualitative data points tell a story of how the County is doing. Accompanying the launch of the website was the release of the State of the County report, which will be updated annually to track progress through the Indicators.

The COVID pandemic brought much-needed attention and support to local public health, including new state financial resources. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance (managed by BRPC) continued to grow with the addition of inspectors, nurses, and a coordinator. Sadly though, the Opioid crisis continues strong, which is at least partially attributed to the COVID pandemic. The Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative (also managed by BRPC) expanded efforts to prevent the misuse of opioids.

After several years of planning, the Berkshire Flyer passenger rail system had a successful, if shortened, summer season of weekend rail service between New York City and Pittsfield, the first such service in 50 years. Other passenger rail initiatives also showed promise, with the Northern

Tier Passenger Rail Study's initiation and renewed legislative and financial support for West-East rail.

We continued our efforts to deal with climate change by fostering adaptation planning and implementing emissions reduction. The Environmental and Energy Program worked with several communities on Municipal Vulnerability Plans and project implementation. The Environmental Program also worked with communities to implement the Green Communities Program to promote energy efficiency, thereby reducing emissions. The Transportation Program released an EV charging station plan to promote the use of electric vehicles.

COVID also had a lingering effect on the region's economy. BRPC continued to assist businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities through training, educational material, and one-on-one support. The Berkshire Region received a long-awaited Economic Development District designation through the federal Economic Development Administration, which will provide more resources for economic planning in Berkshire County. The Economic Development Program was instrumental in the region securing significant funds for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center and the Berkshire Innovation Center. The Berkshire Brownfields Program also remained strong, with a substantial re-capitalization of the Revolving Loan Fund, addressing some legacy from prior economic endeavors.

BRPC had a very busy and successful year in FY 2022 on many fronts, and we move into FY 2023 in a strong position.

Thomas Matuszko
Executive Director

In Memory

Former member of several Hinsdale boards, **Jim Sullivan**, passed away on December 31, 2021. He was active with BRPC as a Delegate and a proponent for the Skyline Trail Road project. From his obituary: "Sully was passionate about politics and a good debate. He loved the town of Hinsdale and hoped to leave his mark on it."

Marilyn Wiley, longtime Pittsfield, and Washington resident, and active BRPC Delegate passed away on July 26, 2021. As the Pittsfield Public Schools Director of School Food Service, she started the school breakfast program and was a staunch advocate for expanding access to nutritious meals to underserved children. Her family ran a blueberry farm where she was known as "the Cookie Lady," providing cookies and refreshments to Appalachian Trail hikers.

Programs of BRPC

Community Development and Housing

BRPC supports strategies, programs and projects that strengthen our region through housing planning, housing rehabilitation and development, infrastructure improvements and the promotion of efficient use of municipal resources.

Community Planning

BRPC assists in the development of master and comprehensive plans, zoning bylaws, and other land use projects, including review of site-specific development projects.

Data and Information Services

BRPC's Data and Information Services Program serves as a data, analysis, and mapping resource for our municipalities, the community, and other BRPC programs. The program can create customized maps and modeling using various neighborhood, municipal, and county-level digital resources. The program often conducts in-depth analyses showing current data trends and projections for the future and publishes the Berkshire Benchmarks data library and indicators.

Emergency Preparedness Planning

BRPC guides emergency preparedness through multi-agency coordination for improved regional resiliency in two areas: public health, including public health emergency preparedness, and the natural environment, including hazard mitigation plans and municipal vulnerability assessments.

Economic Development

BRPC coordinates with federal, state, regional and local partners to pursue economic development strategies, programs, and projects that encourage investment in our region.

Environmental and Energy Planning

BRPC supports strategies, programs and projects that strengthen and protect the natural and built environment through local and regional initiatives, including Brownfield's assessments and cleanups, stormwater management, climate adaptation and resiliency, clean and efficient energy, and Green Communities.

Public Health

BRPC delivers public health and wellness support by coordinating regional partnerships such as the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative.

Regional Initiatives and Services

BRPC participates in regional initiatives related to public education and broadband access and operates a regional Group Purchasing Program.

Transportation Planning

BRPC's Transportation Planning Program is designated as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization per federal transportation law. It is responsible for the planning and programming of all modes of transportation, including highways, public transit, rail, freight, bicycles and pedestrians. This program also provides technical assistance to our communities on transportation matters.

Administration

BRPC's Administration staff provides financial management, support to Programs and Initiatives, and support to the Commission's policy body.

General Services and Operations

BRPC's Local Assessments from our Communities allowed BPRC to provide service to our communities not covered by funding sources from Federal, State, Local, Organizations, or Nonprofits. Educational Training, Environmental Reviews, Grant Writing, Maps, and Local Technical Assistance are provided.

Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.

Our nonprofit received funding for the Berkshire County Education Task Force efforts, the Berkshire Remote Learning Initiative, COVID-19 Pediatric Clinics, Berkshire County Substance Recovery Support, and efforts related to implementing the Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Summary of Project Activities for FY 2022

Community Development and Housing

→ Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans were developed for Becket, Stockbridge and Dalton, which enabled them to identify barriers to accessibility in all municipal facilities as a first step toward ensuring access to all members of the communities.

→ Community Development Block Grant

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission managed several CDBG grants for Berkshire communities. CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Programs were conducted for the Towns of Cheshire, New Marlborough, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Becket, Dalton, and Otis. The Programs rehabilitated 30 homes in Cheshire, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and Otis under two separate grants. The average cost per rehabilitation project was approximately \$40,000. Over 100 new applications have been reviewed and up to 20 projects initiated for homeowners in Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and Becket. The CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program provides new roofs and window replacements, electrical and plumbing upgrades, heating and septic systems, and de-leading properties built before 1978.

BRPC also managed CDBG projects in Sheffield and New Marlborough, providing 100% designs, specifications, and bid-ready documents for Architectural Barrier Removal and ADA upgrades on municipal facilities. These included the Sheffield Police Station, the Bushnell-Sage Public Library, the Sheffield Town Park, and the New Marlborough Town Hall.

Typical Deferred Maintenance



Typical Construction: Roof, Siding, Windows & Doors



→ COVID Economic Response and Recovery

The CDBG CV Regional Grant Program, funded by HUD, helped low to moderate income business owners adversely impacted by the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic in the form of grants. These grants served the towns of Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Williamstown, Windsor, Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge.

Community Planning

→ Comprehensive (Master) Planning

The Community Planning Program provided comprehensive planning services to several municipalities, including assisting the Town of Windsor in preparing a Town Plan (a small-town scale Master Plan), assisting the development of a Master Plan for West Stockbridge, and initiating the development of Master Plans for the Towns of Lee and Monterey.

→ District Local Technical Assistance

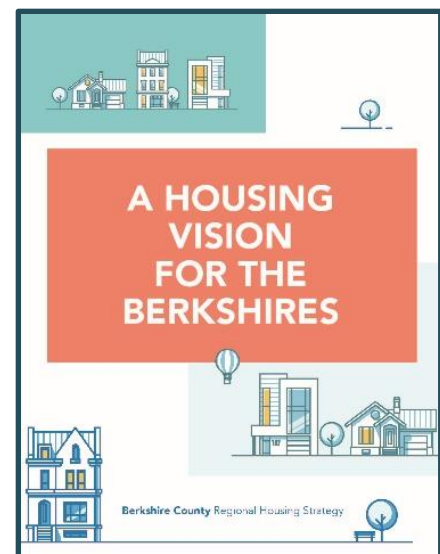
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff provided technical assistance to member municipalities. This assistance focused on advancing municipal partnerships, housing planning, and growth planning. It also encouraged and enabled municipalities to work together to achieve and/or enhance cost-effective service delivery or to create and sustain ongoing collaboration and consultation on issues affecting the municipalities, such as land use and planning for new economic and housing growth. Projects and activities resulted in a measurable change in the municipalities, whether in law, regulation, program management, or practice. The DLTA program allowed BRPC to work with individual communities on a wide range of items, such as housing needs assessments and affordable housing planning. It allowed BRPC to work on important regional initiatives such as support to the Berkshire Education Resources K-12 (formerly the Berkshire Education Task Force), support to the Rest of River Municipal Committee for the clean-up of the Housatonic River, the completion of a comprehensive housing strategy for the region, and the realization of Economic Development District designation for Berkshire County.

→ Housing Planning

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the towns of Great Barrington and Williamstown in developing a Housing Needs Assessment and assisted the Town of Sheffield in preparing a Housing Production Plan.

→ Open Space Planning

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission aided the Towns of Becket and Williamstown in updating their Open Space and Recreation Plans, supported an Open Space and Recreation Planning process for West Stockbridge, and initiated an Open Space and Recreation Planning Process in Lee.



→ Town Planning

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing planning services to the Town of Stockbridge, whereby a BRPC staff person works one day per week in Stockbridge to address Stockbridge's planning needs. BRPC also provides the services of a GIS planner to the Town of Adams.

→ Zoning

BRPC staff also assisted municipalities with zoning, including assisting Adams in becoming eligible for Housing Choice designation and reviewing multi-family zoning provisions. BRPC staff assisted the Town of Cheshire in expediting the approval of non-conforming uses and encouraging housing development.

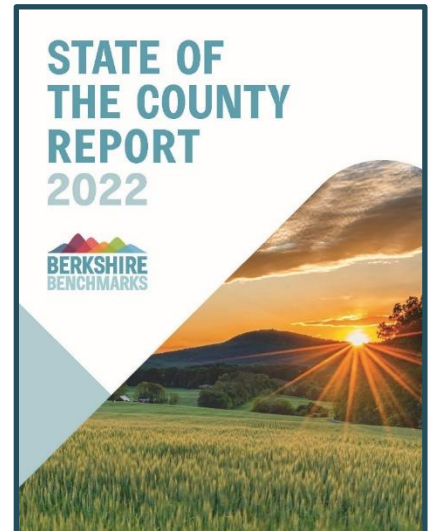
Data and Information Services

→ Local Assistance - Data

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with the Berkshire Leadership Impact Council (BLIC) to redevelop the Berkshire Benchmarks website and the 2022 State of the County Report. The process involved extensive community outreach to organizations and individuals throughout the region to develop regional indicators. BRPC also provided the Town of Adams with a dedicated GIS Coordinator to perform part-time mapping services.

→ Mapping Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides maps to the public as requested on a fee basis. Also, BRPC staff provided planning services for creating and promoting mountain biking trails in Western Massachusetts.



Economic Development

→ Outdoor Recreation Economic Development

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided technical assistance for the educational program and exhibit planning for the Outdoor Center at Greylock Glen in Adams. And supported the first annual "Mountain Day" at Bousquet in Pittsfield, which included a conference with multiple presentations, demonstrations of outdoor recreation equipment, and opportunities for participation in outdoor recreation at the site. BRPC continued to refine its inventory of recreational assets in the region in preparation for the launch of an outdoor recreation website for the region.

→ Economic Development Planning

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided the services of an Economic Development planner to assist the Towns of Adams, Great Barrington, Lanesborough, Lenox, and Richmond in advancing economic development activities in these towns. BRPC also began work on a business and permitting guidebook for the City of North Adams.

→ Economic Recovery Support

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission conducted a wide range of recovery and resiliency work under an EDA CARES Act project, including improvements to the Berkshire Benchmarks website, extensive economic resiliency research, planning for incorporation into the next regional CEDS, and technical assistance for the county's small business and non-profit community in partnership with 1Berkshire.

The Local Rapid Recovery Program and the Local Rapid Recovery Program Subject Matter Expert Program provided technical assistance to the communities of Adams, Great Barrington, North Adams, and Williamstown to help them develop plans tailored to the unique economic challenges and immediate needs from the impacts of COVID-19.

→ Economic Development Strategy

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission completed the 2021 Annual Report to the Region's 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and began work on the next regional CEDS, which will encompass 2023-2027.

Environmental and Energy Planning

→ Brownfields Environmental Assessments

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with the City of North Adams and the Towns of Adams, Lee, and Great Barrington to serve as grant manager for their Communitywide Brownfields Assessment Grants. Sites in North Adams included the Windsor Mill and Greylock Mill. Adams' assessment targeted the Rt. 8 Corridor, including sites such as Adams Memorial School, 5-7 Hoosac Street, 50 Commercial Street, 26 Commercial Street, and Curtis Fine Papers. Lee's assessment targeted the former Schweitzer-Mauduit paper mills (Eagle, Columbia, Greylock, and Niagara) along with the former Westfield River Paper Co. Great Barrington's assessment targeted sites owned by the Town or in tax arrears, including Cook's Garage, Ried Cleaners, and Hong Kong Buffet/Carpenter's Variety. BRPC applied for additional grant funds for community-wide assessments throughout Berkshire County. If awarded, funds will be available in Fall 2022.

→ Brownfields Environmental Cleanup

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the Town of Adams in managing an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to remediate the Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain site. In addition, BRPC is serving as grant manager for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant awarded to the Town of Great Barrington to remediate the Ried Cleaners site, which underwent a soil removal action conducted by EPA Emergency Response.

→ Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has established a Revolving Loan Fund to lend funds for cleanup activities. This fund may fill funding gaps in the financial mix of a project. Loans have been awarded to GreylockWORKS for remediation activities at Greylock Mill in North Adams. The City of North Adams was awarded a subgrant for remediation at the former Sun Cleaners on River Road. The Town of Adams was also awarded a subgrant to augment the cleanup of the Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain site. BRPC applied for \$2.5M of additional grant funds to recapitalize the revolving loan fund. If awarded, funds will be available in Fall 2022.

→ Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided technical and planning services to assist Clarksburg, Otis, Lenox, Cheshire, and Mount Washington in preparing Hazard Mitigation Plans to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements.) BRPC is also aiding the Towns of Otis, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Washington, and Mount Washington in completing the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning process. BRPC provided grant administration, project leadership, and community outreach services for a regional partnership between Lenox, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, and Pittsfield as we complete a comprehensive study of culvert infrastructure under threat of failure due to climate change.



BRPC provided support and leadership to several efforts in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership area, including overall grant management and support for the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Regional Adaptation and Resilience Project. This project works with municipalities and landowners to achieve greater resilience of the forests to withstand climate change.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was part of the formation of the Berkshire Clean, Cold, and Connected partnership. This is one of the first three regional partnerships supported by DER to address stream and wetland restoration. The partnership includes community groups, nonprofits, and state and local governments.

→ Energy

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with municipalities to increase knowledge of clean energy technologies and programs and expand access to clean energy technology for the Commonwealth's low-income residents. BRPC also provided clean energy planning and program management to Berkshire County municipalities, including Adams, Becket, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Great Barrington, Lanesborough, North Adams, Peru, and West Stockbridge.

→ Environmental Municipal Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission served as the agent for the five Rest of River municipalities, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield.

→ Stormwater

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided professional planning assistance to the Towns of Adams, Dalton, Cheshire, and Lanesborough to maintain compliance with the NPDES Phase II MS4 General Permit. BRPC also provided regional assistance that furthers the goals of the Nonpoint Source Program, especially objectives and milestones identified in the 2020-2024 Massachusetts Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan. This past year, BRPC worked with Dalton, Pittsfield, Lanesborough, and Monterey in completing innovative stormwater controls to address flooding and water quality issues through green infrastructure.

General Services and Operations

→ Local Assistance

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided local assistance through the funds received from Community assessments. BRPC prepared advisory comments for the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and local permitting boards/commissions on projects subject to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review. Technical assistance was provided to local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and institutions to prepare, write and administer grant applications to a wide range of public or private funding sources. Additional technical assistance was provided to the region's municipalities on a host of planning topics, ranging from zoning procedural issues, review of development projects, requests for demographic and land use information, and requests for GIS and other maps. Support was also provided to the Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition.

Public Health

→ COVID Public Health Response and Recovery

Over the past 18 months, Public Health Program Staff regularly provided information and technical assistance on state and federal guidelines to local boards of health, informed state policy through local advocacy and participation in state committees, distributed emergency funds to local boards of health, and provided contact tracing and COVID case management to up to 21 municipalities at a time through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance Public Health Nursing program. Public Health staff facilitated collaboration across the county for all aspects of the COVID response, including as a key member of the Berkshire Vaccine Collaborative that provided almost 90,000 COVID vaccinations in the Berkshires.



→ Public Health Substance Misuse Prevention

The Public Health Program has expanded into substance misuse prevention activities through the MassCall3 initiative, which addresses substance use prevention in youth in the Central Berkshire area, and SOR-PEC, which is specifically about building resilience and avoiding future substance use in young girls of color living in Pittsfield.

→ Public Health Hepatitis C Program

BRPC's Public Health Program has worked with clinical partners to engage more physicians/clinical partners in treating hepatitis C. Through last year's efforts, four additional primary care providers have agreed to treat hepatitis C patients and work with Berkshire Harm Reduction. At least two additional providers are expected to come on board in FY 2023. A monthly newsletter is produced, and a Community of Practice is also planned for FY 2023.

→ Public Health Opioid Overdose and Addiction

Through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission coordinates the Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC) to prevent and reduce unintentional deaths and non-fatal overdoses associated with opioid poisonings throughout Berkshire County. BRPC, via the Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative, is one of the 16 organizations across the state funded by Boston Medical Center to

provide facilitation and act as fiscal host for a large research study on reducing opioid deaths. In addition, through B-POP, BOAPC is working with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) throughout the county to implement community-integrated medicine, which will allow EMS and Harm Reduction workers to re-engage with those who have had an overdose and offer additional services. Also, through B-POP efforts, most first responders throughout the county now carry Narcan (naloxone), which can rapidly reverse opioid overdoses in the short term before the arrival of EMS services. Finally, all but three of the municipalities/Boards of Health in Berkshire County have signed a local control letter with the state that allows the BHS Berkshire Harm Reduction van to provide comprehensive drug user services in their municipality, including the provision of clean needles.

➔ Public Health Emergency Preparedness Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was the fiduciary agent for the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA), acting as the Berkshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coalition, which assists local Boards of Health in Berkshire County in preparing for emergencies and disasters. BRPC helps support Berkshire and Franklin Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which provided thousands of hours to the COVID vaccination clinics and other COVID efforts. BRPC also attended regional meetings and coordinated with



regional partners such as the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC), the Public Health Western Advisory Group (WAG), the MRC Advisory Group (MAG), the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) and the Local/State Advisory Committee (L/SAC). BCBOHA also completed an After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR-IP) based on the first few months of the COVID-19 response.

➔ Public Health Food Protection Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff and Berkshire Public Health Alliance inspectors provided a research report for communities to modify, adopt, and implement written policies that meet FDA Standard 3 for food protection. Two additional FDA grants will allow BRPC staff to continue improving food safety and inspectors' training. BRPC has also implemented online permitting in several additional communities this year.

➔ Public Health Inspectional Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission served as the fiduciary agent to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to implement a regional Public Health Inspectional Program. The Alliance also received a Public Health Excellence grant from the state DPH at the end of FY 2021, encouraging municipalities to share public health services and build toward a more comprehensive set of shared public health services. This allowed the Alliance to hire a coordinator and an additional inspector. The municipalities served in fiscal year 2021 were Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Lanesborough, Middlefield, Peru, Richmond, Savoy, Washington, and Windsor. BRPC, through the Alliance, was also awarded a Training Hub grant, which will allow them to hire additional staff to provide field training to inspectors in both Berkshire and Hampden counties.

➔ Public Health Nursing Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was the fiduciary agent to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to implement a regional Public Health Nursing Program. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance, through the Public Health Nursing Program, was heavily engaged in the COVID-19

crisis, initially providing contact tracing services, guiding local Boards of Health, and then helping to coordinate and administer large-scale vaccination clinics. In FY 2023, the Public Health Nurses also provided pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations in all the county's elementary schools, and several large-scale booster clinics. This was in addition to the regular flu clinics. As the year ended, the nurses were also able to go back to some wellness activities, such as blood pressure clinics, community education, and "chokesaver" classes for food establishments. The municipalities served in fiscal year 2022 were Becket, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Florida, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Middlefield, New Ashford, North Adams, Otis, Peru, Pittsfield, Sandisfield, Savoy, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, Williamstown, and Windsor.

→ **Community Health Improvement Planning**

BRPC acted as the backbone agency for the County Health Initiative (CHI), which consists of decision-makers from Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Berkshire Health Systems, the City of Pittsfield Health Department, Tri-Town Health Department, the Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network, and Volunteers in Medicine. The CHI worked on developing Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Berkshire County. This is a five-year project, including implementing the plan once completed.

→ **Grey to Green**

The Pittsfield Grey to Green Project is a five-year effort to engage the community and prioritize green planning in a social and racial justice context to remove barriers to health. Partners included Habitat for Humanity and Working Cities, 18 Degrees, and the City of Pittsfield.

Regional Initiatives and Services

→ **Municipal Services (General Government)**

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission managed an online burn-permitting program with area Fire Departments (26 communities) and the Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing Program, which assisted 26 Berkshire communities in procuring road, energy, and winter materials and services. The BRGPP executed and continues to manage contracts with 23 vendors on behalf of Berkshire municipalities. BPRC also assisted the towns of Washington and Middlefield to obtain shared services of a Town Administrator.

→ **Municipal Services (Education - Berkshire Education Resources K12)**

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission supported the Berkshire Education Resources K12 in developing solutions for improvement across the board in the Berkshire communities. Funds were provided to help Berkshire County school districts plan for the future through the Berkshire Resources for Learning and Innovation (BRLI).

Transportation

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided staff support to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization, which developed and endorsed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program. Over this past year, transportation staff have focused on further implementation efforts of the Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure plan, working on bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts in North Adams and Pittsfield, and conducting community wide pavement assessments. Staff has also been actively involved in the Transportation Climate Initiative advocating for the interests of rural communities and protecting their interests.

→ Bicycles and Pedestrians

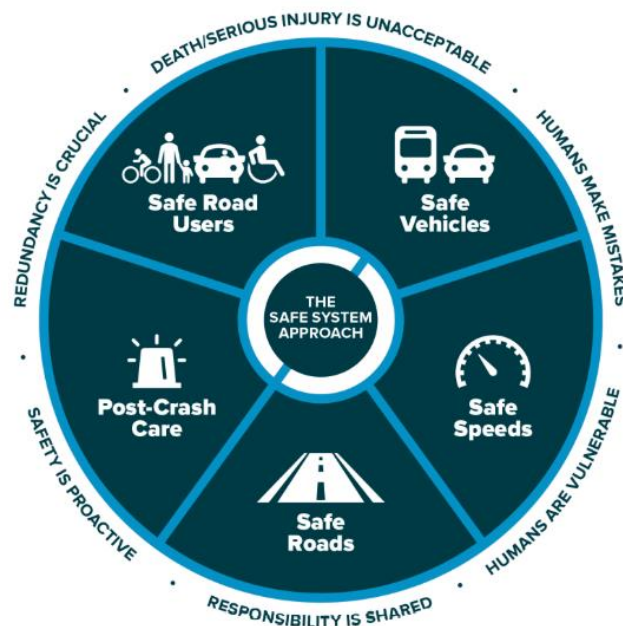
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission served as the fiduciary agent for the Berkshire Bike Path Council in promoting the development of bicycle facilities in Berkshire County. Efforts continue on the engineering/design of bike path segments in Northern Berkshire County, between Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown. Construction of the Ashuwillitcook Trail extension from Lanesborough to Pittsfield was completed.

→ Complete Streets

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission completed a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan for the Town of Otis and initiated work on a Complete Streets Plan for the Town of West Stockbridge.

→ Pavement Conditions

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission initiated work on pavement condition assessments for the Town of Egremont.



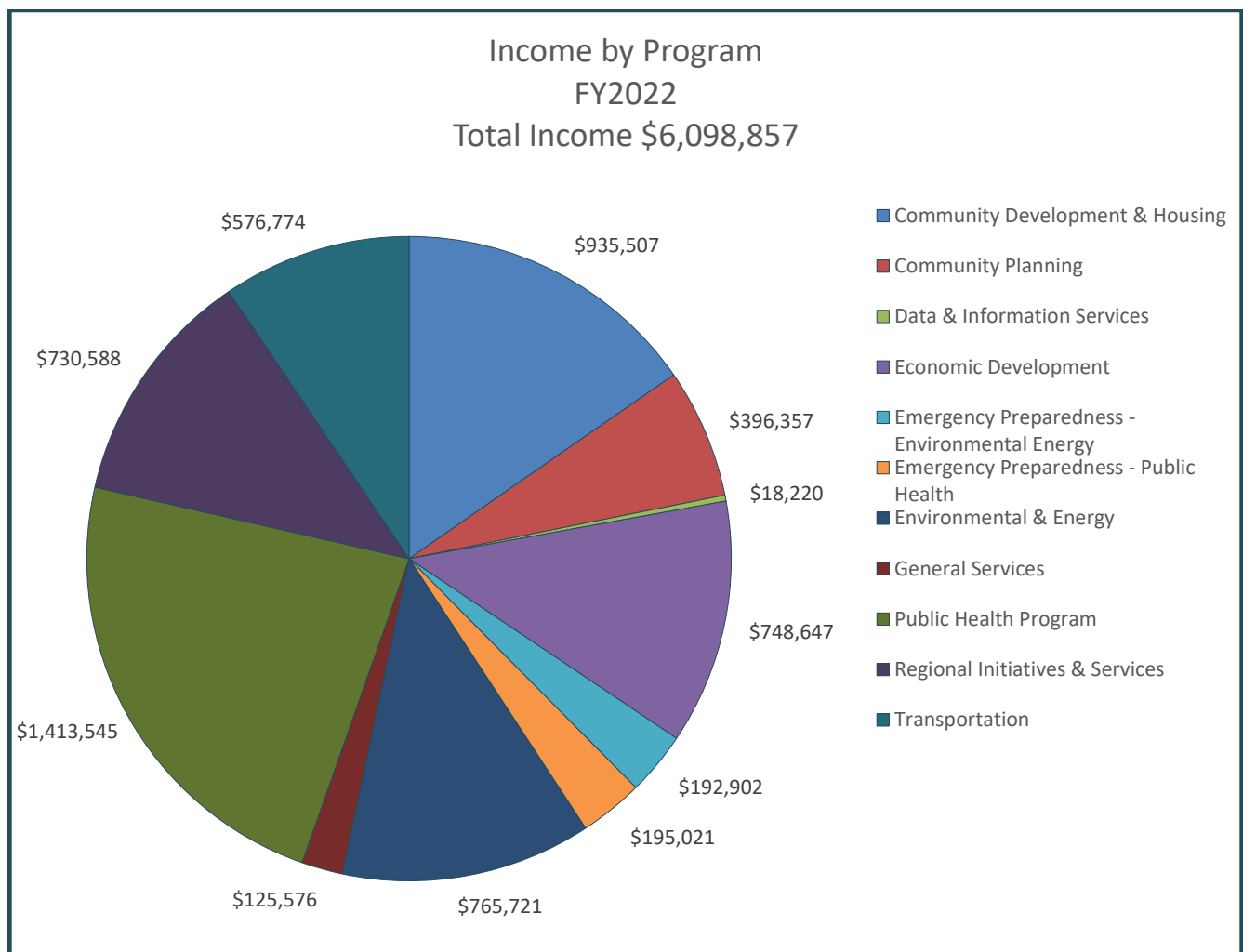
Finance and Administration

BRPC closed FY 2022 with an increase in revenue of \$925,905 over FY 2021. FY 2022 revenue of \$6.1 million came from funding sources including Federal and State grants, local organizations, and nonprofit agreements. BRPC managed a total of 139 contracts in FY 2022.

BRPC's funds supported a broad range of services and technical expertise under each of our programs. Our programs allowed BRPC to provide leadership and assistance to the County's municipalities, organizations, and citizens in achieving countywide inter-relationships, prosperity, opportunities, quality of life, strength, and vibrancy.

➔ Independent Audit

Our FY 2022 independent Audit has yet to be completed. Our unaudited statements show BRPC's expenditures to be within budget with a surplus in the general operation fund.



Commission Delegates and Alternates

Adams

Delegate—Michael Mach
Alternate—John Duval

Alford

Delegate—Alexandra Glover
Alternate—Shirley Mueller

Becket

Delegate—Robert Ronzio
Alternate—Ann Krawet

Cheshire

Delegate—Peter Traub

Clarksburg

Delegate—
Alternate—

Dalton

Delegate—Zack McCain III
Alternate—John Boyle

Egremont

Delegate—Ed Regendahl
Alternate—Mary McGurn

Florida

Delegate—Jon Oleson
Alternate—Cynthia Bosley

Great Barrington

Delegate—Pedro Pachano
Alternate—Malcolm Fick

Hancock

Delegate—Christie Moran

Hinsdale

Delegate—Richard Roussin
Alternate—Dan Brown

Lanesborough

Delegate—Barb Davis-Hassan
Alternate—Gwen Miller

Lee

Delegate—Buck Donovan
Alternate—Peter Bluhm

Lenox

Delegate— Pamela Kueber
Alternate—Mark Smith

Monterey

Delegate—Laura Mensi

Mt Washington

Delegate—Bill Short
Alternate—James Lovejoy

New Ashford

Delegate—Mark Phelps
Alternate—Kevin Flicker

New Marlborough

Delegate—Mark Carson
Alternate—Robert Hartt

North Adams

Delegate—Kyle Hanlon
Alternate—Lisa Blackmer

Otis

Delegate—
Alternate—

Peru

Delegate—Samuel Haupt

Pittsfield

Delegate—Sheila Irvin
Alternate—CJ Hoss

Richmond

Delegate—Peter Lopez

Sandisfield

Delegate—John Field

Savoy

Delegate—Sarah Satterthwaite
Alternate—Bill Drosehn

Sheffield

Delegate—Sari Hoy
Alternate—René Wood

Stockbridge

Delegate—Nancy Socha
Alternate—Christine Rasmussen

Tyringham

Delegate—Amanda Hamilton
Alternate—Sarah Hudson

Washington

Delegate—Don Gagnon
Alternate—Lisa Peltier

West Stockbridge

Delegate—Dana Bixby

Williamstown

Delegate—Roger Lawrence
Alternate—Roger Bolton

Windsor

Delegate—Doug McNally

BRPC Committee Membership

Executive Committee

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

John Duval, Chair (Adams)
 Malcolm Fick, Vice Chair (Gt Barrington)
 Buck Donovan, Treasurer and Finance
 Committee Chair (Lee)
 Sheila Irvin, Clerk (Pittsfield)
 Roger Bolton, Environmental Review
 Committee Chair (Williamstown)

Rene Wood, Commission Development
 Committee Chair (Sheffield)
 Kyle Hanlon, At-Large (North Adams)
 CJ Hoss, Regional Issues Committee Chair
 (Pittsfield)
 Sam Haupt, At-Large Transportation
 Expert (Peru)

Commission Development Committee

Staff: Marianne Snizek, Office Manager

René Wood, Chair (Sheffield)
 Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
 John Duval, BRPC Chair (Adams) (Ex-
 Officio)

Doug McNally (Windsor)
 Pedro Pachano, Vice Chair (Gt. Barrington)
 Buck Donovan (Lee)
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)

Environmental Review Committee

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

Roger Bolton, Chair (Williamstown)
 Malcolm Fick, Vice Chair (Gt. Barrington)
 John "Jack" Hickey (Lanesborough), (Non-
 Commission member)
 Edward Holub (Dalton)
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)

Mark Smith (Lenox), (Non-Commission
 member)
 Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt. Washington),
 (Non-Commission member)
 John Duval, BRPC Chair (Adams) (Ex-
 Officio)

Finance Committee

Staff: Marianne Snizek, Office Manager

Buck Donovan, Treasurer and Finance
 Committee Chair (Lee)
 John Duval, BRPC Chair (Adams) (Ex-
 Officio)

Sam Haupt (Peru)
 Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)
 Malcolm Fick (Gt. Barrington)
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)

Regional Issues Committee

Staff: Laura Brennan, Program Manager

CJ Hoss, Chair
 Andrew Groff (Williamstown) (Non-
 Commission member)
 Christine Rasmussen (Stockbridge)
 Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

Chris Rembold (Gt. Barrington) (Non-
 Commission member)
 Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt Washington) (Non-
 Commission member)
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)
 John Duval, BRPC Chair (Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Berkshire Brownfields Committee

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

Voting Members

Sheila Irvin, Chair (Pittsfield)
 Jim Byrne, EPA
 Rebecca Ferguson (Adams)
 Marilyn Hansen, Lee Community
 Development Corporation
 Nate Joyner (Pittsfield)
 Ben Lamb or Kevin Pink, 1Berkshire

Tom Matuszko, BRPC
 Mike Nuvalle (North Adams)
 John Olander, Berkshire County Boards of Health
 Chris Rembold (Gt Barrington)
 Grant McGregor (Dalton)

Non-voting Members

Caprice Shaw, MA DEP
 Rich Griffin, Mass Development

Berkshire Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Staff: Laura Brennan, Program Manager

Kyle Hanlon, Chair (North Adams)
 Roger Bolton, Vice-Chair, BRPC Alternate
 (Williamstown)
 Laurie Mick, PERC
 Heather Boulger, MassHire Berkshire
 Workforce Board; Alternate Rebecca Lilley
 Keith Girouard, Mass. Small Business
 Development Center
 Lesley Herzberg, Berkshire Historical Society
 Ben Lamb, 1Berkshire; Alternate Jonathan
 Butler
 Jim Lovejoy, BRPC Alternate (Mt. Washington)
 Mike Nuvalle (North Adams); Alternate
 Zachary Feury

Shannon Smith, Berkshire Agricultural
 Ventures; Alternate Glenn Bergman
 Ian Rasch, Alander Construction
 Chris Rembold, Town Planner (Gt Barrington)
 Michael Coakley, Business Development
 Manager (Pittsfield)
 Ben Sosne, Berkshire Innovation Center
 Christina Wynn, Berkshire Community
 College
 George Ambriz, Berkshire Community
 College
 AJ Enchill, Berkshire Black Economic
 Council
 Thomas Matuszko, BRPC
 John Duval, BRPC Chair (Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Commission Representatives to Related Groups

Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee—Marie Raftery (Stockbridge)

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization—Chair, Kyle Hanlon (North Adams); Alternate, Sam Haupt (Peru)

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project Advisory Committee—Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)