

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Overview

Community facilities and services, as provided by local, county and state government, and by quasi-public institutions such as volunteer fire departments, hospitals and libraries, are most often considered in terms of government or institutional response to meet the needs and demands of the community's residents. As the individual municipal and regional population continues to change, the demand for facilities and services will also change. For example, an increasing population may require more classroom space, increased or new police protection, expanded social services, and additional recreation facilities. On the other hand, a stable or declining population, while not requiring additional services, may present a difficulty of paying for existing facilities and services with shrinking tax revenues. This is particularly pertinent to roads which require maintenance regardless of the municipal population. In addition, a change in the composition of the population could require different facilities and services. For example, if the population is aging as a whole, less recreation facilities and more social services may be required.

Growth and Development

Community facilities and services can also serve as a tool, or as an unexpected trigger, to guide or stimulate community growth and development. Provision of a public water supply or sewage disposal system can be used to foster business development, but unexpected (and perhaps undesired) associated commercial and residential development can result in the area where such facilities are provided. The construction or improvement of highways, often to solve traffic congestion, can have similar effect resulting in even more traffic and a change in community character.

Planning and Cooperation

The planning and provision of community facilities and services must be undertaken in the overall context of the *Comprehensive Plan* and the community's long-term growth and development goals and objectives. More importantly, Blooming Grove Township should not act as an island when considering facilities or services, but should cooperate with other local municipal jurisdictions, the school district, and the County to provide and improve facilities and services which are best provided regionally.

Plan Focus

This section of the *Comprehensive Plan* focuses on those facilities and services which are provided by the Township and the quasi-public institutions, such as fire and ambulance companies, serving the area. Given population increases, the demand for services and facilities provided directly by local municipalities has been continually increasing. For many years in the early history of townships, the main responsibility of the elected officials was maintaining roads, hence the title *Road Supervisor*. Boroughs often served as centers for commerce and community activities. In more recent years, state and federal mandates such as sewage disposal regulations, floodplain development requirements, and stormwater management planning, along with the desire to manage development, local municipalities have undertaken land use planning and environmental protection programs.

Facility and Service Providers

Public community facilities and services to serve Township residents are provided on several levels, and the provision of these facilities and services is dependent on tax dollars, whether in the form of federal and state aid, county supported programs, or locally funded facilities and services. Both public and private funds support institutional facilities and services. Certainly, the facilities and services provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pike County and the Wallenpaupack Area School District are vital to Township residents, but are somewhat beyond the scope of this *Plan*. Should community residents find that state or county facilities or services are inadequate, local municipal officials can serve as a conduit for communication with responsible state and county officials to effect facility and service improvements. In order to provide an overview of the range of facilities and services available in a community, *Facilities and Services Providers Table*, includes a matrix of typical facilities and services which can be provided by various jurisdictions.

Intermunicipal Cooperation

In recent years, more and more municipalities in the Commonwealth have begun working together on a number of issues and programs. The provision of community facilities and services offers myriad opportunities for cooperation which can result in

TYPICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDERS (not specific to Blooming Grove Township or Pike County)					
Service	Local	School	County	State	Quasi-Public
Aging Services			D	S, D	
Domestic Relations			D	S, D	
Children & Youth			D	S, D	
Welfare, etc.				D	
Education		D		S	
Parks & Recreation	S, D	D	S, D	S, D	D
Judicial			D	S, D	
Criminal Justice			D	S, D	
Police Protection	D		D	D	
Emergency Mngt	D		S, D	S, D	D
Roads/Highways	D		S, D	S, D	
Tax Assessment			D		
Elections	D		D	S, D	
Land records			D		
Libraries, museums	S, D	D	S, D	S	D
Fire & Rescue	S, D		S	S	D
Health Care			D	S, D	D
Utilities	D		D		D
Land Use Control	D		D	S, D	
Environ Protection	D		D	S, D	
Solid Waste Disposal	D		S, D		

S - provides financial support to other jurisdiction or quasi-public entity
 D - provides directly to public

efficiency of program operation and service delivery, and economies of scale in purchasing of supplies and materials. A council of governments (COG) is the most common type of cooperative local municipal organization in the Commonwealth and can, by formal municipal agreement, be used to provide virtually any service or facility normally provided by an individual municipality. Two examples of COG's in the region are the Lackawanna County COG and the Susquehanna COG. The county-wide Lackawanna County COG has

been effective in terms of realizing savings on purchases of materials such as road salt. The Susquehanna County COG, with some fourteen member municipalities, administers the sewage enforcement program and the statewide building code for member municipalities. Township officials should fully explore and take advantage of any opportunities to improve facilities and services offered by intermunicipal cooperation.

School Districts and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code

Section 305. The Legal Status of Comprehensive Plans Within School Districts. Following the adoption of a comprehensive plan . . . , any proposed action of the governing body of any public school district located within the municipality or county relating to the location, demolition, removal, sale or lease of any school district structure or land shall be submitted to the municipal and county planning agencies for their recommendations at least 45 days prior to the execution of such proposed action by the governing body of the school district.

Schools

Although local municipalities have no direct control over school district facilities and activities, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) recognizes the importance of school buildings and land to the community. Public schools account for the largest expenditure of local tax dollars. The public school system not only provides education for a community's children, but also provides adult and community education, library facilities, cultural and social activities, and recreational and sport facilities for the surrounding communities. The MPC requires school districts to submit certain proposed actions related to land and buildings to the municipality for review if a comprehensive plan has been adopted. (See the *School Districts and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code Sidebar*.) Most school districts are not aware of this provision and local municipalities must monitor school district activities and notify school administrators about the requirement.

Blooming Grove Township is served by the Wallenpaupack Area School District, which also includes Greene Township, Lackawaxen Township, and Palmyra Township in Pike County and several municipalities in Wayne County. None of the District's schools are located in Blooming Grove Township. The District enrolls some 4,100 students and projects the enrollment to increase to just over 4,435 students by the 2009-2010 school year and to continue to increase at about 80 students per year through 2015.

Wallenpaupack Area School District officials report that enrollment is difficult to predict given the uncertainty and volatility of immigration depending on

social and economic conditions in the greater region. Nevertheless, a growth rate of 2% per year is used for internal planning. Currently, the upper classes have the greatest enrollment with 10th grade approaching 400 students and the lower grades have the lowest enrollment with kindergarten at some 200 students. This may suggest a declining enrollment if immigration to the District wanes.

Township Government

Blooming Grove Township is incorporated under state law as a *Township of the Second Class* (a far better moniker than *second class township*). Based on a population density of 300 persons per square mile, township voters can opt for reclassification to a *Township of the First Class*. However, none of the Townships in Pike County have reached this population density. The Township is governed by a three-member board of supervisors. State statute provides the option of a five-member board under the home rule system following a ballot referendum supported by a majority of voters. However, relatively few townships have opted for this system, and Westfall Township is the only one in Pike County. The Board of Supervisors appoints township residents to the township planning commission which serves an advisory role to the supervisors, and the zoning hearing board. Other volunteer boards may include an environmental advisory council, a parks and recreation commission and a shade tree commission.

Facilities and Services

Local municipalities in Pennsylvania are responsible for a variety of public facilities and services. As noted earlier, one of the primary functions of township supervisors was the construction, improvement and maintenance of roads. However, local governments have evolved over the years to the point of managing a large variety of facilities, services and programs, which in some cases are mandated by state and federal regulations. These include, among others, land use controls; environmental protection; stormwater and floodplain management; police protection; water and sewer facilities; parks and recreation, and solid waste disposal. The level of service is dictated by the density and demographic character of the municipal population, and its tax base. Road maintenance and emergency services are typically the most important services as viewed by residents of small communities, followed by youth recreation programs and facilities.



BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP FACILITIES AND STAFF			
Township Building	- 3.08 acres on Route 739 just North of Well Road - constructed in 1974; addition and remodeling in 1988-89; excellent condition - offices and meeting room		
Maintenance Buildings	- located on Township Building parcel - 3-bay equipment garage attached to Township Building, excellent condition - 3-bay equipment garage, excellent condition - salt/cinder storage shed, excellent condition		
Other Property	- none		
Meetings	- Township Building		
Employees	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> - Secretary-Treasurer, full-time - Chief of Maintenance, full-time - 3 Laborers, part-time - Township Solicitor, part-time - Building Inspector, full-time - Building Secretary, part-time </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> - Planning Commission Secretary, part-time - Zoning Officer, part-time - Sewage Enforcement Officer, part-time - Zoning Hearing Board Secretary, part-time - Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, part-time </td> </tr> </table>	- Secretary-Treasurer, full-time - Chief of Maintenance, full-time - 3 Laborers, part-time - Township Solicitor, part-time - Building Inspector, full-time - Building Secretary, part-time	- Planning Commission Secretary, part-time - Zoning Officer, part-time - Sewage Enforcement Officer, part-time - Zoning Hearing Board Secretary, part-time - Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, part-time
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Volunteer Boards	- Planning Commission - Zoning Hearing Board - Building Code Board of Appeals		





BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP FACILITIES AND STAFF		
Vehicles & Major Equipment	- 2007 International 7400 dump truck - 2003 GMC Sierra 350 truck - 2005 John Deere 310G backhoe-loader - 1987 John Deere 210C backhoe-loader - 1998 Eager Beaver trailer - 1972 Fitchburg chipper - 2006 Viking 12-foot double-wing snowplow - 2003 9-foot Western Ultra snowplow - 2006 Elkin cinder spreader - 2005 Elkin cinder spreader - Hydraulic road broom	
Recreation Facilities	-none	
Comments and Needs	- replace trucks and equipment as needed - office & storage space in next 5 years - no other building or capital equipment plans	

Township Facilities

The *Bloomington Township Facilities and Staff Tables* detail the buildings, land, equipment and staff of the Township. Staffing at the Township is adequate because the Supervisors have added personnel as new programs and increased work loads have dictated.

Office and meeting space are currently adequate, but the need for additional space is anticipated in the next five years. In any case there are no immediate plans for expansion. A new backhoe/loader and 2 new trucks were recently purchased so no new equipment is required in the near term.

Local Road Maintenance

Bloomington Township employs a road crew that provides all normal winter and summer maintenance. However, the Township contracts for larger scale road maintenance and improvement projects, primarily major improvement projects such as paving and shoulder reconstruction. This approach has served well and, in terms of cost efficiency, is the most prudent means given the expense of owning and maintaining road construction equipment. In addition

to the new loader and trucks mentioned earlier, the Township’s other equipment is maintained in good condition and is replaced or upgraded as necessary.

Road Maintenance Cooperation

Road maintenance could also be coordinated with other nearby municipalities via the Pike County Council of Governments (COG). Taken as a whole, the individual participants in the COG employ a considerable labor force, and own and maintain a variety of vehicles and equipment. As a means of using local municipal funds and resources most efficiently, the COG could:

- Update and keep current the list of vehicles and equipment owned by all COG municipalities.
- Serve as a clearinghouse and notify all COG participants when a municipality is selling or purchasing equipment which may meet the needs of another municipality.
- Investigate the possibilities for increased sharing labor and equipment.

- Investigate the possibilities for increased contracting with or swapping with adjoining municipalities for winter road maintenance where travel savings may be realized.
- Coordinate joint purchasing of supplies and materials whenever possible to reduce unit costs.

Other vehicle and equipment actions:

- Maintain an accurate inventory of all vehicles and equipment.
- Liquidate obsolete vehicles and equipment.
- Include planned purchases of vehicles and equipment on a capital budget to plan for large expenditures.

Recreation Facilities

Having historically relied on the facilities in neighboring municipalities and the School District to meet the demand, Blooming Grove Township does not currently provide any recreation facilities. In addition, the Hemlock Farms Community Association owns and maintains numerous recreation facilities within their community, which accounts for a substantial proportion of the residents of the Township.



Fortunately, providing recreation facilities and programs is another opportunity for municipalities to work cooperatively. In addition, local sports and civic organizations have historically played a key role in recreation and this must be encouraged. Recreation planning and facility construction are eligible for funding under the Keystone Recreation Grant Program which should be considered for any future recreation improvements.

Public Lands

Thousands of acres of State Forest Lands, State Game Lands and National Park Service lands are all available to area residents and visitors for outdoor recreation. In Blooming Grove Township, the Delaware State Forest, including Promised Land State Park and Bruce Lake Natural Area cover some 13,553 acres, and State Game Lands account for another 7,924, for a total of 21,477 acres or 44.6% of the land area of the Township. County-wide, a total of 112,968 acres of state and federal land, 32.6% of the total land area, are open for public recreation. (See the *Public Lands Figure on the following page.*)

Recreation and the Planning Code

Under the authority granted by §503(1.1) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, local municipalities can require the dedication of land for public use, and upon agreement of the developer, the construction of recreation facilities or the payment of fees in lieu thereof by developers for the construction and maintenance of recreation facilities accessible to the residents of the proposed residential development. Inclusion of this requirement in the subdivision and land development ordinance should be considered by each municipality. Fees can be assessed on a per lot basis for subdivisions, on a per unit basis for any mobile home park or multi-family dwelling, and for commercial land developments. Prior to adopting such requirements, the municipality must adopt a recreation plan to detail how the funds will be allocated.

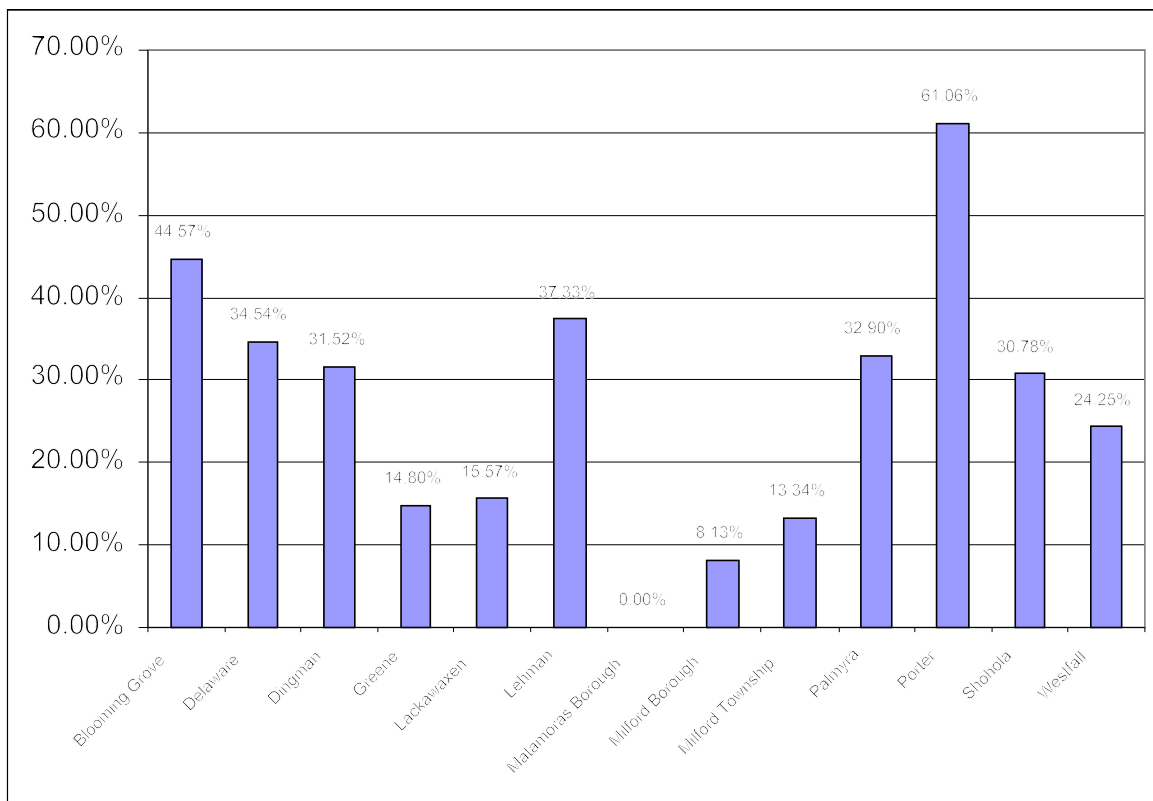
Specific Actions Related to Recreation

In the near term, the Township will continue to rely on facilities and services provided by other entities to meet the recreation needs of residents. However, Township officials will monitor the need for Township recreation facilities. The Township will:

- Work cooperatively with adjoining municipalities and the County to . . .

Pike County/Municipal Public Land Acreage/Percentages

	Total Acres	Delaware State Forest (including Promised Land State Park)	State Game Lands	National Park Service	Total Federal and State Lands	% Federal and State Lands
Blooming Grove	48,192	13,553	7,924	0	21,477	44.57%
Delaware	28,288	2,169	0	7,601	9,770	34.54%
Dingman	37,248	5,489	2,453	3,800	11,741	31.52%
Greene	38,528	5,704	0	0	5,704	14.80%
Lackawaxen	50,304	2,759	5,072	0	7,831	15.57%
Lehman	31,296	3,865	0	7,819	11,684	37.33%
Matamoras Borough	448	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Milford Borough	320	0	0	26	26	8.13%
Milford Township	8,000	858	0	209	1,067	13.34%
Palmyra	22,016	5,073	2,170	0	7,243	32.90%
Porter	37,504	22,899	0	0	22,899	61.06%
Shohola	28,608	1,164	7,643	0	8,807	30.78%
Westfall	19,456	4,246	165	308	4,719	24.25%
Totals	350,208	67,778	25,427	19,763	112,968	32.26%



Public Lands (*Pike County Comprehensive Plan, 2006, p. 13-3*)

- plan for recreation and open space from an area wide perspective.
- coordinate individual municipal efforts.
- maximize use of resources.
- improve standing for state grants.
- Explore ways of working with private communities to provide public recreation facilities.
- Obtain technical assistance from County and State agencies.
- Show planned recreation facilities on a Township Official Map to ensure that the land can be acquired. (See later *Official Map* section.)
- Cooperate with area wide community recreation organizations to improve recreation facilities and programs.

Once a need for Township recreation facilities has been identified:

- Consider appointing a Township Park and Recreation Commission to spearhead planning, development and maintenance efforts.
- Ensure facilities are constructed in accord with an overall plan and all facilities are maintained.
- Identify potential sites (including the County-owned land along Route 739) for recreation facilities.
- Develop a funding plan to include:
 - use of fees assessed for residential development under the subdivision and land development ordinance.
 - solicitation of private contributions.
 - grants.
 - direct municipal contributions.
 - a special fund for land acquisition and capital improvements

Police Protection

Local police protection provided by the Township is not planned at this time. Blooming Grove Township is served by the Pennsylvania State Police from their barracks located in the Township along Route 402 north of Interstate 84. Residents are fortunate to have the State Police headquartered in the Township because of reduced response time as compared to more distant municipalities. A local police force can be one of the most costly services provided by local government, not only in terms of the number of employees and equipment requirements, but also continuing benefits and pensions, as well as liability insurance. The regionalization of police protection can be a means of providing service at reduced cost to each participating municipality. Savings in manpower, administration, space and equipment costs can be realized by intermunicipal cooperative efforts. The two regional police forces in Monroe County, Pocono Mountain and Stroud, are good examples.



State Police Barracks, Route 402, Blooming Grove Township





Blooming Grove Twp Volunteer Fire Department
Blooming Grove Substation



Hemlock Farms Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company



Tafton Volunteer Fire Company

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service

As noted earlier, emergency response is typically one of the most important services to residents of small communities. In the case of Blooming Grove Township, fire protection and rescue service is provided by three volunteer companies, the Blooming Grove Township Volunteer Fire Department #1, the Hemlock Farms Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company and the Tafton Volunteer Fire Company (located along Route 507 in Palmyra Township). The Hemlock Farms Company and the Tafton Company also provide emergency medical service in the Township.

Service areas are defined by inter-company agreements and all companies are dispatched via the 911 System and the companies are organized in a regional mutual aid system. Mutual aid agreements are good examples of intermunicipal collaboration to improve both the efficiency and quality of service. (It is important to note that although the Hemlock Farms Company, initially formed as the Hemlock Farms Ambulance Corp, serves areas outside of the Hemlock Farms Community.) The number of emergency responses made each year by each company provides an indication of the level of dedication required by local volunteers: Blooming Grove - 150, Hemlock Farms - about 600, and Tafton - 550 to 650 with only a small proportion in Blooming Grove Township. Each of the three companies maintains an adequate number of volunteers, is committed to the required training, and maintains its equipment and buildings, and plans ahead for new equipment acquisition.

Township officials and emergency service organizations have historically maintained good working relationships and the Township has annually provided funding to support emergency services. In addition, the Township receives funding from the state Foreign Fire Insurance Program which is passed through to emergency services providers. Given the increasing demand for services, the high expense of acquiring and maintaining equipment, and the exacting training required for volunteers, the Township Supervisors determined that a dedicated emergency services tax was necessary to maintain adequate levels of service. To address these concerns, the Board of Supervisors recently enacted an ordinance to levy a fire tax. Concurrently, the Board established required policies and procedures to be effected by each company for eligibility to receive tax funds.

Adequate emergency service will continue to be an important element of maintaining the existing quality of life in the Township. The issues must be addressed as a long term goal of the Township and area wide municipalities. While the three companies serving the Township have been fortunate, many volunteer organizations are finding it more difficult to find volunteers given the increased demands for training, and this situation must be monitored along with the need for paid staff. In any case, the Board of Supervisors will continue to work with the three companies to ensure effective service. Issues of concern include:

- Volunteers - The volunteer organizations are finding it more and more difficult to recruit and retain volunteers.
- Large time commitment required not only for answering calls but for training.
- Individual liability does not appear to be an issue; the *Good Samaritan Law* applies.
- Husband and wife both work in most families which limits volunteer time.
- More and more residents work at jobs out of the area which limits availability for day time response.
- Many young recruits go away to college and do not return.
- Fewer and fewer residents have a direct feeling of connection to the community.
- Generally changing attitudes about volunteering -- more people expect to be paid.
- What to do about volunteers and staffing?
- Paid staff for emergency services.
- Regionalize services with a number of paid staff supplemented by volunteers.
- An adequate pay scale would be critical.
- Volunteer marketing plan linked to service organizations, schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.
- Offering EMT and paramedic training in high school.

Municipal Assistance for Emergency Service Providers

A recent *Pennsylvania Township News* article suggested the following ways in which EMS (and other emergency service providers) can be assisted by municipalities:

- ***Find out what they need*** - Meet with your EMS provider on a regular basis to find out what the group needs and how the township can help.
- ***Put out the call for volunteers*** - Advertise for EMS volunteers in your newsletter and on your Web site. Find out if the EMS provider needs administrative volunteers, in addition to medical ones, and try to connect the group with local business people, a CPA, or a bank manager.
- ***Offer volunteer incentives*** - If the township sponsors recreation programs, special events, or even has a township pool, offer free tickets or a free membership to anyone who volunteers for EMS duty.
- ***Help EMS providers with grant searches and grant writing*** - Use your own experience securing grants for the township to show EMS providers where to look, such as the state Department of Community and Economic Development and other state and federal agencies. If they're new at grant writing, offer some pointers.
- ***Check out purchasing options using state contracts*** - Emergency medical equipment is available for purchase through statewide contract. Tell the EMS provider how the system works and also alert them to the availability of state and federal government surplus programs.
- ***Consider funding options*** - Townships can use the new emergency and municipal services tax to help fund emergency medical services. They can also dedicate up to half a mill of township taxes to such services. Some townships make annual donations to their EMS provider a regular part of the budget, and others participate in special fund raising campaigns.

Source: Pike County Comprehensive Plan, Ch. 18, p. 18.

Emergency Management

Emergency management planning at the local level is coordinated by the Pike County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). County emergency management agencies throughout the Commonwealth receive direction from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Township works with the County EMA, and has appointed an Emergency Management Coordinator. The *Blooming Grove Township Emergency Management Plan* and the *Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan* are incorporated into this Comprehensive Plan by reference.

In an effort to improve emergency response, the Township Board of Supervisors recently adopted a

Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirement and was developed to be consistent with the Pennsylvania Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation is defined as “any cost-effective action taken to eliminate or reduce the long term risk to life and property from natural, man-made and/or technological hazards.” The phrase “cost effective” added to the definition stresses the importance of finding effective mitigation alternatives which over the long-term can also reduce the economic impacts to our communities’ tax base.

The Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan assembles important inventory and data on potential hazards to our communities and prioritizes these hazards in frequency and severity. It analyzes and reviews alternative mitigation options based on the resource capabilities of our County and communities. The plan then selects the most appropriate course for future mitigation of the hazards facing our County residents. The plan will enable the County and its municipalities to effectively respond to hazards as they occur and reduce the potential risks of these hazards to the health, safety and welfare of our residents. Additionally, the Plan will allow for Pike County communities’ eligibility for a full range of assistance following hazard events.

Source: *Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan*, p. 1

Street Name, Address and Sign Ordinance to enhance public safety and security by improving the ability of emergency response personnel to navigate and locate dwellings and other structures in the Township. This Ordinance:

- Provides the authority to the Township Board of Supervisors to assign road names to all public and private roads in the Township to eliminate duplicates and minimize confusion.
- Requires conformance to the street addressing system established by Pike County for the 911 Emergency Call System.
- Establishes a uniform system for street name signs and street number signs.

In addition, the Township has made 911 address number signs available to residents at cost.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

Planning for solid waste disposal is a county responsibility as mandated by state statute, and local municipalities are authorized to regulate solid waste disposal by ordinance. In Blooming Grove Township, homeowners and business owners contract with private haulers for the collection and disposal of solid waste, and this has been adequate to meet current needs. The Township will monitor the adequacy of the private hauler solid waste collection and disposal and recycling system, and should any deficiencies be identified, take corrective measures via municipal ordinance. The Pike County Human Development Office operates the County recycling program with a number of drop-off facilities throughout the County. Blooming Grove Township residents use the facilities in neighboring townships, and there are currently no plans for a drop-off center in the Township. A recycling drop-off center should be considered at the County complex in the Township.

County Facilities in Blooming Grove Township

Although not successful in its bid for designation as the county seat when Pike County was first formed by separation from Wayne County in 1814, Blooming Grove is now home to a number of County-owned or County-associated community facilities. Pike County owns 236 acres off Route 739 between Lords Valley and Route 6, where the following facilities are located:

- Pike County Correctional Facility

- Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Magisterial District #60-3-02 Court and offices
- Pike County Senior Center and offices
- Human Resources Center, Inc.
- New Vision Clubhouse



The 236-acre parcel, centrally located in the County, provides adequate room for additional facilities as the population grows. The County Commissioners are currently discussing with PennDOT the relocation of the District 4-4 office from Milford to Blooming Grove. The possibility of Township and County cooperation for the use of part of the parcel for recreation should be explored.

In addition, the Pike County Office of Community Planning and the Pike County Conservation District are housed in the former Blooming Grove Consolidated School on Route 402 just north of the I-84 interchange which is leased from the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club.



Pike County Office of Community Planning, and Pike County Conservation District

Pike County Public Library

Libraries play an important role in the community by making information available to all residents. Libraries supplement school libraries for students, provide life-long learning opportunities for adults, and offer special services such as interlibrary loan, books

by mail and children’s reading programs, and in more recent years, Internet access. Local municipalities can contribute to public libraries, however this *Plan* makes no specific recommendations.

The Pike County Library, with its main branch and administrative offices located in Milford, serves as the state designated library for the County. The Library also operates branches in Dingman Township and Lackawaxen Township, and has long range plans for a branch in Lehman Township and a branch in Palmyra Township to broaden service throughout the County. Township residents are also served by the Hawley Library, and residents of Hemlock Farms can use the Hemlock Farms Community Association Library.

Community Facilities in Private Communities

Many residents of Pike County have chosen to live in private communities where the facilities and services within the community are available only to residents, and in many cases, access by the general public is restricted. Unlike many other areas of the Commonwealth, such private communities are the norm in Pike County and all of the Poconos. The type and level of facilities and services vary depending on the size of the community, but range from roads, to clubhouses, to swimming pools. Hemlock Farms is a good example where its home and lot owners support a wide range of facilities and services including, among others, a full-service paid management staff, administrative offices, a clubhouse, recreation facilities and programs, a mail room linked to the United States Postal Service, a library, and two churches.



Hemlock Farms Community Clubhouse

Post Office

The Township is currently served by the Hawley Post Office located in Wayne County and efforts to have an independent full-service post office in the Township have not been successful. The Township will support continued efforts for a new post office.

Community Facilities for New Development

A critical concern for any community is the provision of adequate facilities for new development. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code establishes the authority for local governments to require developers to provide adequate community facilities for their particular project. Via the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, roads, central water supply, central sewage disposal, storm water control and other facilities, must either be installed or be financially guaranteed prior to the sale of any lots in the development. It is critical that the Township carefully enforce the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and continue to update it to ensure that roads, drainage and other community facilities are installed to standards which will result in quality, durable facilities.

Community Facility and Service Priorities

A common theme in this *Comprehensive Plan* is the need for local municipalities to set priorities for the use of resources in meeting community needs and resident expectations. Concurrently, immediate community needs and resident expectations must be balanced with local officials' long term view of the future of the community and the costs of action or non-action in providing or postponing facilities and services. Based on this tenet, the Township will focus local municipal resources on those facilities and services traditionally provided by small municipalities and those important to residents.

Road maintenance now accounts for much of the municipal budget and this will continue to be a primary role of the Township. The Township will also work with the volunteer organizations to maintain and improve emergency services, and will explore regional solutions for police service and recreation as demand dictates. The Township will also explore ways to cooperate with the County and other municipalities to manage growth and development in the area as the best means for minimizing community impacts, planning for the use of municipal resources, and maintaining a quality lifestyle.