

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



PREPARED FOR:

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA

JULY 2022



GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

PREPARED FOR: FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JOHN O'NEIL, CHAIRMAN

DAN MARTYAK, VICE CHAIRMAN

TIM HUGHES, SECRETARY/TREASURER

KELLY KEEGAN

TY CORALLO

PLANNING COMMISSION

DEAN TURNER, CHAIRMAN

ERIK KONECKE, VICE CHAIRMAN

KEVIN JIORLE

FRAN TONE

MATTHEW MENKOWSKI

RICHARD MERCADO

IAN HECK, SECRETARY

ROBERT RUSNAK

MATTHEW SPRUNG

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

DONNA ASURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Chapter 1: Introduction	6
History of Forks Township	8
Additional Planning Documents	9
Public Participation Process.....	9
Chapter 2: Community Background and Demographics	14
Population.....	15
Households and Families	17
Age	18
Education	20
Income and Employment.....	22
Housing	24
Planning Implications.....	26
Chapter 3: Goals and Objectives	28
Chapter 4: Existing Features Analysis	34
Land Use	35
Existing Land Use Map.....	41
Zoning Map.....	42
Housing Trends	43
Community Facilities and Services	45
Community Facilities Map	49
Transportation and Circulation.....	50
Transportation Features Map.....	54
Historic and Cultural Resources.....	55
Environmental and Natural Resources.....	57
Natural Features Map.....	61
Chapter 5: Future Conditions	62
Future Land Use Plan.....	63
Future Land Use Map	68
Housing Plan	69
Transportation Plan	71
Economic Development Plan.....	76

Community Facilities Plan.....	78
Historic and Natural Resources Protection Plan.....	81
Chapter 6: Community Context.....	84
County Comprehensive Plan	85
Adjacent Municipal Plans and Ordinances	86
Chapter 7: Action Plan	88
Appendices	103
Appendix A: Public Opinion Survey Results.....	104
Appendix B: Public Visioning Session Responses	133
Appendix C: Funding Opportunities	137



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forks Township is located in the Lehigh Valley Region – one of the fastest growing regions in Pennsylvania according to recent census studies. The area's proximity to Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York City, its favorable business climate, and its lower cost of living makes it an attractive bedroom community. The twelve square-mile township abuts the Delaware River near the fork where it is joined by the Lehigh River, hence the origination of the township's name. It is adjacent to the townships of Plainfield, Lower Mount Bethel, and Palmer and the borough of Easton.

THE PLAN PURPOSE

This Comprehensive Plan is an update to Forks Township's previous comprehensive plan prepared in 2009, which was a response to the various issues specific to the township at that time. Forks has seen important changes since the adoption of the 2009 comprehensive plan and continues to face issues similar to other mature communities including: changing economic structures; pressure for infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse; balance of residential and nonresidential development; future capital investments; and desire for strategically located commercial uses that satisfy local market demands.

The Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Update is intended to serve as a guide for township officials, residents, developers, business owners, and other interested parties. The plan seeks to set forth a common community vision for the future of Forks and to coordinate, educate, and guide development and preservation in appropriate areas of the township.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Obtaining the input of those who reside, work, or spend time in Forks Township was a primary objective of this Comprehensive Plan. The public participation process has proven to be invaluable in understanding the priorities and preferences of residents, business owners, and other interested parties. The production of this plan included public input a Public Visioning Meeting along with regular monthly Planning Commission meetings. Input was also obtained from a separate resident survey.

The Public Visioning Meeting gave residents and local business owners the opportunity to voice their opinions on what the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Township are. Typically, the mix of suburban and rural character along with the available recreational opportunities were identified as positives for Forks while perceived uncontrolled industrial development and increased truck traffic were viewed as negatives against the Township.



Township tour

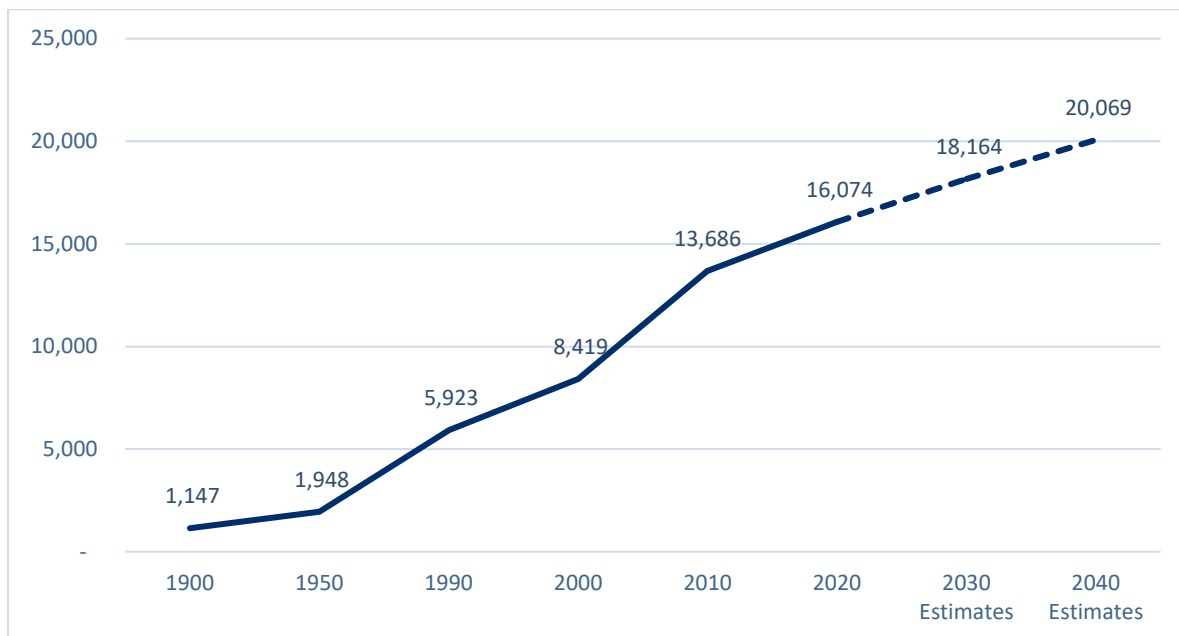
Data collected during the public participation process provided a general idea of where community members believe things are going well and what areas could benefit from improvement.

The resident survey also provided useful information for this process. Similar to the Public Visioning Meeting, the data collected provided a general idea of where community members believe things are going well and what areas could benefit from improvement. Results of the survey were in line with the input gathered at the visioning meeting – land preservation and recreation amenities rated high as important issues for the future planning of Forks. High density development and road/traffic conditions were the top concerns of residents.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Forks Township has experienced steady growth over the past 140 years. There are several factors likely to have contributed to the Township's steady population gain. Among these factors are the affordability of residing in the Township (reasonable taxes and competitive home prices), proximity to workforce centers, diversity of housing stock, and the availability of facilities and services for an aging population.

Forks Township Population Growth, 1900 to 2040



Source: U.S. Census and LVPC

In the chart above, the solid line represents Census population numbers and the dashed line represents LVPC population number projections. Between 2020 and 2040, Forks' population is projected to increase by 3,995 persons (25 percent).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following are highlights of major recommendations in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan. The Plan provides much greater detail with respect to implementation strategies including potential planning and implementation partners, possible projects and funding sources, and reference to timing (low, medium, high or on-going).

Land Use

Goal: Plan for and manage the use of land in a manner that provides for a balanced range of uses, meets the needs of current and future residents, and establishes a balance among resource protection, conservation of open space, preservation of community character, and growth.

Housing

Goal: Provide diverse housing options to meet the needs of all households now and into the future.

Economic Development

Goal: Seek a balanced, diversified economy in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life of local residents.

Community Facilities

Goal: Provide for appropriate and adequate community services and facilities within the practical fiscal limits of the Township.

Goal: Continue to maintain, enhance, and expand natural, historical, and cultural open space areas, trails, and parks and recreation opportunities for Township residents.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Goal: Provide a safe transportation system, which optimizes mobility and access, sustains quality of life, strengthens the economy, and protects the environment.

Goal: Improve the Township's infrastructure to support future demands.

Natural Resources

Goal: Protect the natural environment and conserve the natural resources of the Township while accommodating planned growth.

PURPOSEFUL PLANNING TO ACTIONABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The findings and recommendations in the current plan were developed through the collaborative efforts of the community and the Forks Township Planning Commission. Throughout the monthly meetings the planning commission discussed their thoughts related to the goals, facts and concepts for the community's future. The information gleaned from these discussions was used to create the scope and priorities for the 2022 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission role in developing the plan cannot be underestimated nor can the importance in their role for implementing recommendations moving forward.

Partnership and collaboration will be the key to implementing the goals and objectives of this Comprehensive Plan. It will require ongoing work among a broad base of interested parties including citizens, business, local county/state governments, regional authorities/agencies, as well as property owners and investors.

The Action Plan includes recommendations such as projects, programs, studies and changes in policy and regulation to address community issues and concerns, plan goals and objectives, commercial development, neighborhood revitalization and strategies identified throughout the planning process and comprehensive plan elements as outlined in the plan. The Action Plan is the most important element of this Comprehensive Plan and serves as a checklist for the governing body to track accomplishments.



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Plan is one of the planning tools that municipalities use to guide development and protect the resources of its community. Comprehensive Plans generally contain specific studies of land use, housing, transportation, community facilities, natural, cultural, and historic resources, and utilities specific to the municipality and/or regional planning area. These studies typically include an inventory, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies, as well as a discussion of the interconnectedness of the plan with the county, region, and surrounding municipalities.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA MPC) outlines the minimum requirements that all Comprehensive Plans must address. These include:

- A Statement of objectives concerning future development.
- A Plan for Land Use.
- A Plan to meet Housing Needs.
- A Plan for Transportation/Circulation.
- A Plan for Community Facilities and Utilities.
- A Statement of Interrelationships among the various plan's components.
- A Discussion of short- and long-range plan implementation strategies.
- A Statement that existing and proposed development is compatible with that of neighboring municipalities; and
- A Plan for the protection of Natural and Historical Resources.

In addition to outlining the requirements of a Comprehensive Plan, the PA MPC requires that such plans be reviewed at least every ten years. Recognizing a need to update the 2010 Forks Township Comprehensive Plan, and in response to the region's anticipated growth, the Township undertook a program to review the existing land use patterns. In preparing the plan update, various aspects of the township have been analyzed to determine which influences will impact the future of Forks Township.

In the time between the adoption of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan and today the Township has accomplished many significant milestones related to specific goals and objectives established by the 2009 Plan. Some of these accomplishments include:

- Goal - Improve the Town Center district as a pedestrian-friendly and transit-friendly area with community character and a strong sense of place.
 - Added the TC-1 Town Center/Apartment District on 6-1-2017 by Ord. No. 350 to incorporate apartments to enhance the community character of the Town Center district.
 - Installation of Park Plaza at 1800 Sullivan Trail - a modern open commercial and community center with 100,000 SF of Leasable space that is 80% occupied.
- Goal - Efforts are needed to carry out the flood control recommendations (2009 Bushkill Stream Conservancy Plan).
 - Received Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant for Ramblewood Basin Retrofit, Ramblewood Drive, Forks Township (C990002560) Aug. 2021 in the amount of \$163,180.00 to improve water quality within the Delaware River Watershed. Starting

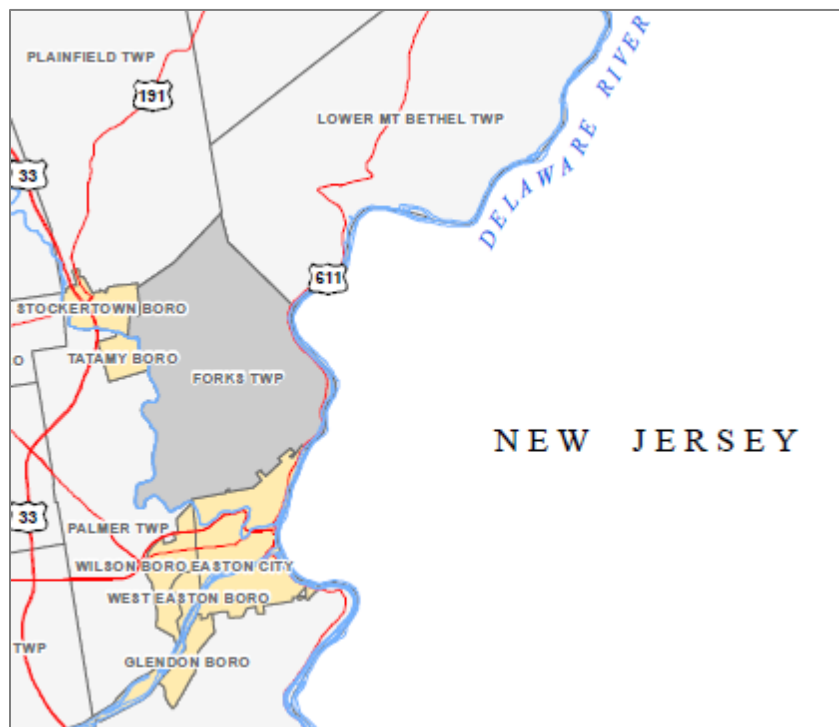
design/permitting now for construction in the Spring to be completed on December 31, 2022.

- Goal - Seek that LANTA Metro bus service be extended further north along Sullivan Trail.
 - The bus service has been extended north on Sullivan Trail to Uhler Rd and Forks Church.
- Goal - Proposed neighborhood parks which have been constructed.
 - Penn's Ridge Neighborhood Park (W. Newlins Rd and at Penn's Ridge Blvd.)
 - Vista Estates Neighborhood Park (1.9 acres comprised mostly of a baseball field and walking path linking the Meco Fields walking path to the west)
 - Braden Community Park (Sullivan Trail South of airport) is a 23-acre park with pavilion and picnic tables porta-potties and tot-lot.
 - Lafayette / Meco Community Park (Richmond near Meco Rd.) with trails
- Goal - Make connections for bicycle & pedestrian routes of the Greater Easton Area as identified on the Two Rivers Trailway Plan.
 - Trail constructed through Forks Township Community Park.
- Goal - Provide additional recreational trail opportunities.
 - Installation of 1.3-mile Forks Township Recreation Trail in Riverview Estates from the community clubhouse on Winchester Drive north along the Delaware River to Frutchey Hill Road.

HISTORY OF FORKS TOWNSHIP

Forks Township is located in the center of Northampton County along the Delaware River. The Township is within the greater Lehigh Valley region (see Regional Map). This region is the third most populous area in Pennsylvania and in 2019 the Lehigh Valley was ranked one of the top regions for development in the Northeast by Site Selection magazine.¹

The township of Forks is bounded on the north by Plainfield Township; on the northeast and east by Lower Mount Bethel, and the Delaware River, which separates it from the State of New, Jersey; on the south by the Borough of Easton; and on the



Regional Map

¹ Site Selection Magazine. "2019 Mac Conway Awards." <https://siteselection.com/issues/2019/may/2019-mac-conway-awards.cfm>

south and west by Palmer township. The township's name was derived from its location near the "forks" of the Delaware River, where it is joined by the Lehigh River.

Forks Township was incorporated in 1754. Typical of many early settlements, the township was first established as an agricultural community. The Lehigh Valley was characterized by easily cultivated and irrigated land comprised primarily of silt loams underlain by limestone. Along with farming, the Township developed as a small hamlet with taverns, inns, and hotels due to its proximity to "major" transportation routes such as Route 611.

The farming industry that prospered in Forks Township supported the growing industrial areas of the Lehigh Valley region. Forks Township was not without its own industrial development located predominantly along the Bushkill Creek and Delaware River. Agricultural use in the Township began to decline during the Industrial Revolution as people relocated from rural areas to urban areas in search of steady employment and higher wages and continues today as suburban development encroaches on viable farmland.

ADDITIONAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Forks Township completed its last Comprehensive Plan in 2010. That Plan, prepared by Urban Research and Development Corporation, addressed the critical topics – land use and development, population, economics, housing, community facilities, transportation, and capital improvements. The mission statement of the 2010 Plan was "to continually strive to make Forks Township an even greater place in which to live, work, learn, visit, shop and play, with a strong sense of community, scenic preserved open spaces, preserved agricultural areas, safe neighborhoods, a vibrant economy, and an excellent quality of life", and is still relevant today. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed at least once every ten years. The Forks Township Comprehensive Plan is due for an update.

The Comprehensive Plan establishes the goals and objectives of the Township with respect to natural features, land use and housing, non-residential development, open space and recreation areas, circulation, and community facilities and services. However, it is merely one of the many planning documents that Forks Township has adopted and uses on a regular basis to set planning policy and procedures for the Township. The Comprehensive Plan is part of the Township's planning toolbox and works collaboratively with other adopted planning documents such as the Forks Township Zoning Ordinance, the Forks Township Watersheds Act 167 Storm water Management Ordinance, and the Forks Township Parks and Recreation Comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan. These documents should be incorporated and become part of the Forks Township Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The importance of public input throughout the Comprehensive Plan Update cannot be stressed enough. To ensure that the Comprehensive Plan Update addresses the issues, concerns, and recommendations of everyone living in the Township, the following strategies were implemented:

- A Comprehensive Plan Study Committee was created that consisted of members of the Planning Commission.
- A community survey was posted on the Township website to solicit the opinions of local residents regarding the future of Forks Township.
- Announcements were posted and public meetings were held to seek the public's input.
- A Public Visioning Session was held to solicit input and to provide a forum to discuss the concerns of residents, property owners and elected officials.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STUDY COMMITTEE

The public must be involved in any planning project in order to determine the needs of the Township and to identify the attributes, attitudes, beliefs and behavior of community residents. The Comprehensive Plan Study Committee is an important component of that process. The Study Committee was established to provide an opportunity for Township residents, property owners, and volunteer board members to voice their opinions and help develop a framework for the update of the existing Comprehensive Plan. The groups and organizations represented in the Study Committee included the Planning Commission and Township staff.

The first opportunity to meet with the Study Committee and gather initial viewpoints from the group was during the kickoff meeting and Township tour which was held on December 5, 2020. The consulting team met with Study Committee members to tour significant sites/areas of the Township and discuss current development proposals, opportunities for future development/redevelopment, perceived concerns and problems within the Township, and general Township facts and history.

The Township tour consisted of the following four sites:

- The Jackson farm property across from the municipal complex.
- The Park Plaza Shopping Center/downtown area (town center).
- Braden Airpark.
- Industrial Park area and farmland located at Kuebler Road and Glover Road.

RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

The first method utilized for garnering public involvement in the planning process for the Comprehensive Plan was a resident survey hosted by Survey Monkey. The survey was open for four weeks from March 21, 2021, through April 19, 2021, and was advertised on the Forks Township Parks and Recreation Facebook page and the Township webpage, through email blast on The Savvy Citizen, and mentioned on a local podcast.

It should be noted that 1,485 residents responded to the community survey. This amounts to approximately 9.68% of the adult population (persons 18 years and over). While this may seem like a very small percentage of the Township population, it does not mean that the results of the survey data collected is irrelevant. When conducting a survey, in order to determine an accurate measurement, it is important to have a sample that adequately represents the entire population of people being studied. Based on the Survey Monkey Sample Size Calculator, a sample size of 638 is needed for a 99% confidence

level with a 5% margin of error. A survey can still give valuable answers without having a sample size that represents the general population. Resident feedback is one type of survey that does so, regardless of whether or not you have a statistically significant sample size. Obtaining resident's input gives valuable perspectives on how the Township can improve. The results of the Township community survey are included in this document for review in Appendix A.

Based on survey results most respondents were older, long-term residents that have lived in the Township for more than five years (over 50% of respondents were between 41 and 65 years of age). It can be assumed the population of Forks Township is relatively stable since over 80% of survey respondents have not relocated outside the Township and over 95% have no plans to relocate. Additionally, approximately 97% of respondents own their home.

People are generally satisfied with services and characteristics of the Township and identify the quality of life in Forks as good. Respondents identified open space/natural areas, quality schools, and clean air and water as the top three qualities of a good community. Over 76% of survey respondents are satisfied/strongly satisfied with the Township's recreational amenities and programs. Additionally, the majority of respondents rank the protection of natural resources and the provision of community recreation facilities as important issues when planning for the future of the Township. Other issues that ranked highly for future planning considerations include traffic and road conditions, and growth management.

It can be inferred by the analysis of the survey questions relating to traffic within Forks Township that residents do not find traffic to be an extreme problem. Almost 40% perceive traffic to occur only during typical morning and evening rush hours and 25% perceive traffic to occur sometimes but not often. Only 17% perceive traffic to occur often and 13% do not perceive traffic to be a problem at all. A common issue noted though is vehicular speed and the need for enforcement.

When thinking about future development needs in the Township survey respondents indicated the desire for more restaurants and entertainment/recreation venues, and less high-density residential development (apartments/condominiums, mobile homes, low-income/public housing). Survey respondents do not appear to have a strong inclination for any one commercial development pattern – 41% think commercial development should be concentrated in a single area, 31% think it should be concentrated in two areas, and 28% think commercial development should be spread throughout the Township. However, several of the open-ended comments reference the need/desire for a central shopping area and/or town center.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

All Comprehensive Plan meetings were open to the public as they were regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings. However, the first targeted public meeting was the Public Visioning session. The intent of the meeting was to solicit input from residents and property owners of the Township. The meeting was held on June 22, 2021, at the Forks Township municipal building. Approximately 44 people (in addition to Township Supervisors, Planning Commission members, and Township Staff), representing

a diverse cross-section of the community, attended the two hour meeting. Draft maps showing the existing land use and aerial view of the Township were presented to the group.

For this visioning session the project consulting team utilized the Nominative Group Technique. The Nominative Group Technique is a process in which the group develops answers to a series of basic questions and then vote on the top priorities within each group to determine key needs and desires regarding the Township. The key component to this technique is that each person present has a chance to offer input and each opinion is recorded. Many of the answer lists generated in response to the questions will be lengthy. Therefore, each member of the group is given a set number of votes per question. A participant can put all their votes in any combination on any of the responses (i.e., all votes on one response, or one vote each on a number of responses.) What emerges are clumps of interest and a general idea of consensus, even when outwardly, people appear to be in great disagreement. A simple vote count helps to rank the list of answers for each question. The questions asked were as follows:



Public visioning session

-
- *Currently, what do you like most about Forks Township?*
 - *Currently, what do you like least about Forks Township?*
 - *What would you want to preserve/maintain about/in Forks Township for the future?*
 - *What would you want to change about/in Forks Township for the future?*
-

Using this technique and the four focus questions above, the meeting attendees were encouraged to voice their opinions which were written on a large sheet of paper. Care was taken to ensure that the written response reflected the individual's exact concern. Once every member of the group had their opportunity to answer and reflect on the other responses, everyone was asked to vote on the responses which were most important to them. Once voting was completed and tabulated, the session facilitator presented the top three responses to each question. All of the responses, as they were written during this session, can be found in Appendix B.

The overall reaction and responses to the questions indicated that the residents liked the current quality of life within Forks. People liked the mix of suburban and rural areas within the Township, they



Public visioning session

appreciated the availability of green/open space and parks, and generally are fond of the sense of community they feel living in Forks Township. In correlation with this appreciation for the current quality of life many residents expressed a concern with uncontrolled development, specifically industrial development and the impact of this on the community, i.e., loss of farmland, increased (truck) traffic, and stormwater issues. There was a general feeling of “rapid growth” occurring in the Township negatively affecting the things residents love about living in the Township. Residents want to preserve

open space and farmland and limit high density residential and industrial development.



CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & DEMOGRAPHICS

CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics of a community, or the data that describes the local population, play a considerable role when it comes to identifying the social, economic, and land use advancements that best suit a region. Comparing past trends and future predictions can highlight the top needs in a community and help to identify opportunities and limitations. When it comes to comprehensive planning, this data reveals where a community is headed and guides planners towards the best set of recommendations to support a municipality on the road ahead.

The following demographic evaluation was prepared with the 2010 and 2018 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates, also referenced as the 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 surveys. Population forecasts were collected from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. It is important to note that the 2010 ACS was used in place of the 2010 Decennial Census data for consistency of data topic categories.

POPULATION

In 2018, the population of Forks Township was estimated at 15,336 individuals, an estimated 12% increase from their total population in 2010. This was one of the greatest growths in population compared to the County and the surrounding municipalities, which experienced growth rates around 1-5%. Exceptions to this trend include Lower Mount Bethel Township and Tatamy Borough, which both experienced estimated decreases in population between 2010 and 2018, and Stockertown Borough, which saw an estimated growth of 34.7% in the same time range.

Comparatively, the growth rate of Forks Township has slowed when viewed side by side with past growth rates of 29.6% between 1990 and 2000 and 38.5% from 2000 to 2010. However, these trends are consistent with those experienced throughout the County, and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission anticipates Forks, and its surrounding communities will see the highest future growth rates in Northampton County².

Table 1. Regional Population Growth, 2000 to 2018

	2000	2010	2018 Estimates	# Change 2000-2018	% Change 2000-2018
Northampton County	267,066	294,536	301,778	34,712	13.0%
Forks Township	8,419	13,686	15,336	6,917	82.2%
Easton City	26,263	26,902	27,100	837	3.2%
Lower Mount Bethel Twp.	3,228	3,159	3,077	-151	-4.7%
Palmer Township	16,809	20,145	21,272	4,463	26.6%
Plainfield Township	5,668	6,125	6,142	474	8.4%
Stockertown Borough	687	900	1,212	525	76.4%
Tatamy Borough	930	1,079	969	39	4.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census and 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

² Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. *Comprehensive Plan: The Lehigh Valley...2030*. April 28, 2005, updated June 2010.

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) prepared Population Projections in 2017 for the municipalities in the Lehigh Valley based on 10-year increments including 2020, 2030, and 2040. Over these three decades, the Lehigh Valley is projected to grow by 165,955 people, a 25.6% increase. Over 45% of this growth is anticipated in Northampton County with an average growth of 8.4% per decade.

By the year 2040, Forks Township's population is projected to reach 20,069, a 28.8% growth from the 2020 estimate and a 30.9% increase from the 2018 estimate. This trend is in line with the growth anticipated within the County of 61,387 additional residents between 2020 and 2040, a 19.7% growth

By the year 2040, Forks Township's projected population is expected to be 20,069, an increase of 28.8% from 2020.

and a 23.5% increase from the 2018 estimate. The surrounding municipalities are predicted to increase between 16-45%, with the City of Easton seeing the lowest growth rate and Stockertown

Borough seeing the highest. According to the LVPC, the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, **Forks Township**, the City of Easton, and Palmer Township are the top municipalities projected to increase the most within Northampton County over the next 20 years.³

Table 2. Population Forecast, 2020 to 2040					
	2020	2030	2040	# Change 2020-2040	% Change 2020- 2040
Northampton County	311,406	347,494	372,793	61,387	19.7%
Forks Township	15,576	18,164	20,069	4,493	28.8%
Easton City	27,443	29,938	31,962	4,519	16.5%
Lower Mount Bethel Twp.	3,421	4,263	4,901	1,480	43.3%
Palmer Township	21,448	23,555	25,227	3,779	17.6%
Plainfield Township	6,751	8,301	9,024	2,273	33.7%
Stockertown Borough	1,019	1,273	1,479	460	45.1%
Tatamy Borough	1,290	1,529	1,725	435	33.7%
Source: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Population Projections, 2017					

Since the 2000 Census, Forks Township has seen a stable population increase, and will continue to see a steady, if not high, growth according to population forecasts in the Lehigh Valley. This Plan will provide direction to ensure that the Township will be able to accommodate this future growth and provide the required facilities to meet the needs of its residents.

³ Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. *The People: Population Projections and Employment Projections*. 2017

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

Household data provides an important glimpse into who resides within a community. A household encompasses a range of housing types and can be broken into two distinct categories, family and nonfamily households.

Household definition from the U.S. Census:

A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as partners or roomers, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters. There are two major categories of households, "family" and "nonfamily".

In 2018, Forks Township was estimated to include 5,876 households, an 12.9% increase compared to 2010 households (5,203). This growth correlates with the population increases observed within the Township at this time. Northampton County experienced a much lower increase in households from 2010 (111,929) to 2018 (114,123) of 2,194 households, a 2% growth.

The number of persons per household decreased in Forks Township by 0.02 from 2010 to 2018, with 2.63 persons per household reported in 2010 and 2.61 estimated in 2018. Following this trend, the

Number of family households in the Township has increased while the number of family households in the County have decreased.

majority of occupied households are 2-person households (42.1%) followed by 4-or-more-person households (23.4%)

Households are then split into family and nonfamily subcategories, where a family includes individuals that are

directly related and live together, and nonfamily includes individuals living alone or with unrelated persons.

The U.S. Census defines "family" and "nonfamily" as:

A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 Current Population Survey, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the

count of family members. The number of families is equal to the number of family households; however, the count of family members differs from the count of family household members because family household members include any non-relatives living in the household.

A nonfamily household consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.

Family households were estimated to have increased by approximately 631 households between 2010 and 2018 (3,907 in 2010 and 4,539 in 2018). In 2018, family households accounted for 77.2% of occupied households, compared to 75.1% in 2010. This differs from the County trend, which saw a decrease in family households from 2010 to 2018 from 69.5% to 68.5%.

When analyzing household and family data it is important to take into consideration different family structures. The traditional family archetype is evolving and represents a valid cross-section of any community. Similar to family households, nonfamily households also saw a slight increase of approximately 41 households from 2010 and 2018 (1,295 in 2010 and 1,337 in 2018). But, when compared to the overall percentage within the Township, these households make up a smaller portion of households (family vs. nonfamily) than they did in 2010 (24.9% in 2010 and 22.8% in 2018). Approximately 19.9% of nonfamily householders live alone, and of this group, the highest age group to live alone are those over the age of 65 (11.3%).

AGE

A look at population age distributions in the Township provides insights into the services and housing types that residents may need now and in the future. Studying these age distributions will help guide Township policies for services and infrastructure. As an example, a younger population may require more youth recreational activities or family-oriented programming. An older population may require different housing types, transportation requirements, recreational programming, or medical services.

Chart 1. Population Distribution by Age and Sex 2010

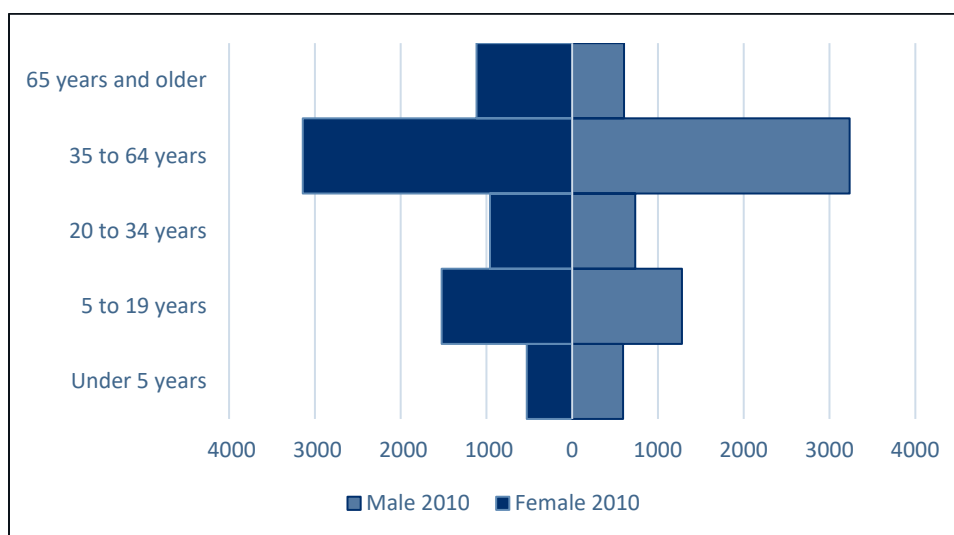
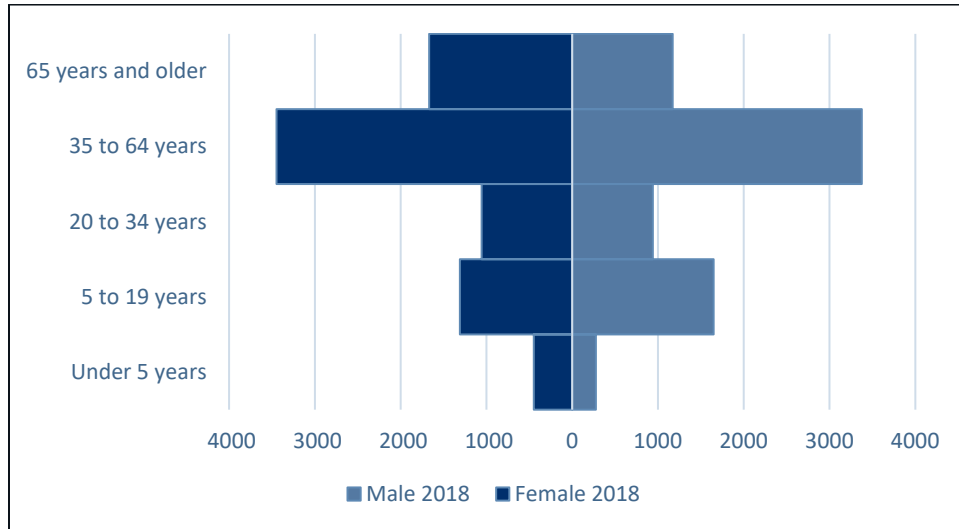
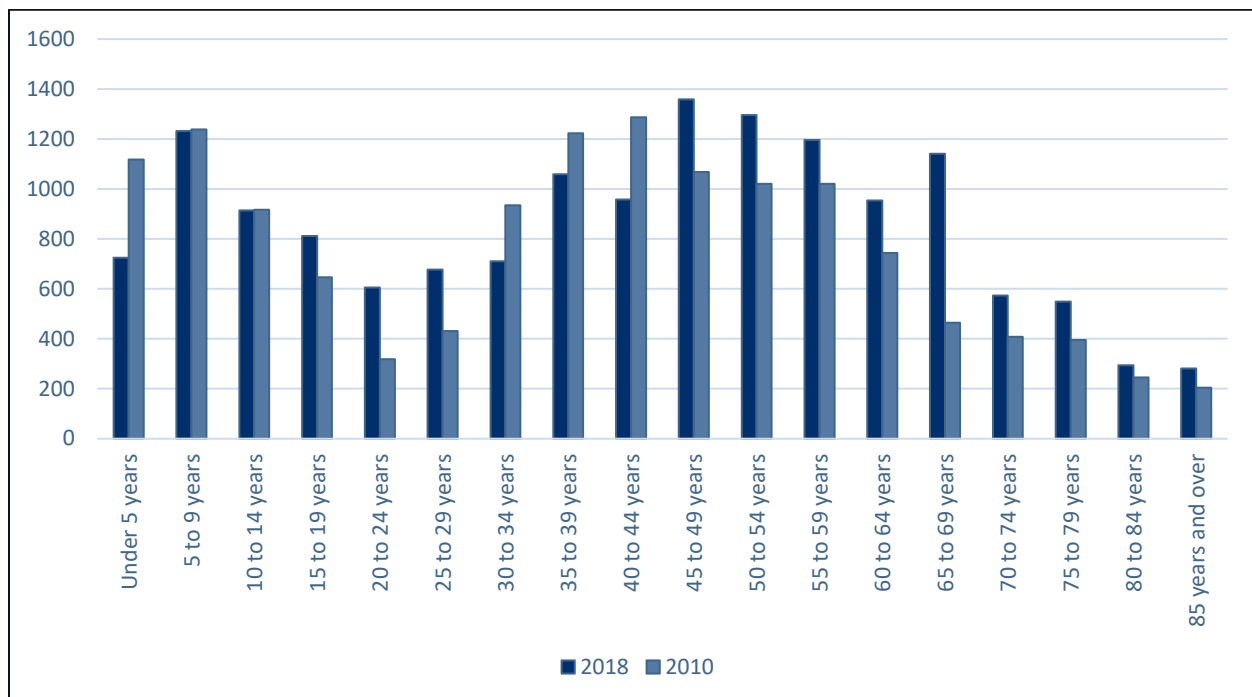


Chart 2. Population Distribution by Age and Sex 2018

In Charts 1 and 2: Population Distribution by Age and Sex, the distribution of men and women by age in the Township is depicted. The largest population segment based on 2018 estimates is those persons between 35 to 64 years old (approximately 44.5% of the 2018 total population), and more specifically within this group, those persons between 45 and 49 years of age.

Chart 3: Age Comparison by Category, 2010-2018

This trend is reflective of the aging of the 2010 population - the age group of 35-64 years has slightly dropped by 2% (46.5% in 2010). Additionally, the age groups under 5 years and 5-19 years have also

dropped by 3.5% and 1.1% respectively (8.2% and 20.4% in 2010 to 4.7% and 19.3% in 2018), while the age groups of 20-34 years and 65 years and older have increased 0.8% and 5.8% respectively (12.2% and 12.6% in 2010 to 13% and 18.4% in 2018). The median age has also increased from 40.1 in 2010 to 44.7 in 2018. The increase in median age combined with the increase in persons aged 65 years and older is a potential indicator that residents are choosing to age in place.

Table 3. School Aged Population Forks Township, 2010-2018			
	2010	2018	% Change
Under 5 years	1,122	724	-35.5%
5 to 9 years	1,232	1232	0.0%
10 to 14 years	917	914	-0.3%
15 to 19 years	643	812	26.3%
Total	3,914	3682	-5.9%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>			

Table 4. Elderly Population of Forks Township, 2010-2018						
	Male		% Change	Female		% Change
	2010	2018		2010	2018	
65 to 74 years	289	744	157.4%	588	970	65.0%
75 to 84 years	270	317	17.4%	370	526	42.2%
85 years and older	45	110	144.4%	160	171	6.9%
Total	605	1171	93.6%	1117	1667	49.2%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>						

According to the 2018 Estimates, the school aged population accounts for 24% of Forks Township's total population. This is a decrease compared to 28.6% recorded in 2010. On the other hand, the elderly population was estimated to account for 18.4% of the total population in 2018, a 64.8% increase compared to the 12.6% recorded in 2010. The Township has a greater percentage and increasing number of elderly residents (65 years and older) compared to a lower and decreasing percentage of school aged children (under 20 years of age). A higher elderly population correlates to a need for greater attention for the types of housing and services that are provided for this age group within Forks Township.

EDUCATION

Educational attainment takes into consideration the level of schooling achieved by residents aged 25 years and over. It includes categories ranging from schooling below 9th grade to graduate or professional degrees. The trends seen within Forks Township are similar to those seen within the County, with Forks showing slightly higher levels of residents achieving an associate's, bachelor's, and graduate or professional degrees.

Within Forks Township, 95.1% of residents aged 25 years and over have achieved an education equivalent to a high school diploma or higher education, a 0.6% increase compared to 2010 (94.5%). Of this group, 27% have attained a high school diploma and 53.5% have attained an associate degree or higher. Achievement of an associate's or higher has increased by 4.9% since 2010 (48.6% in 2010).

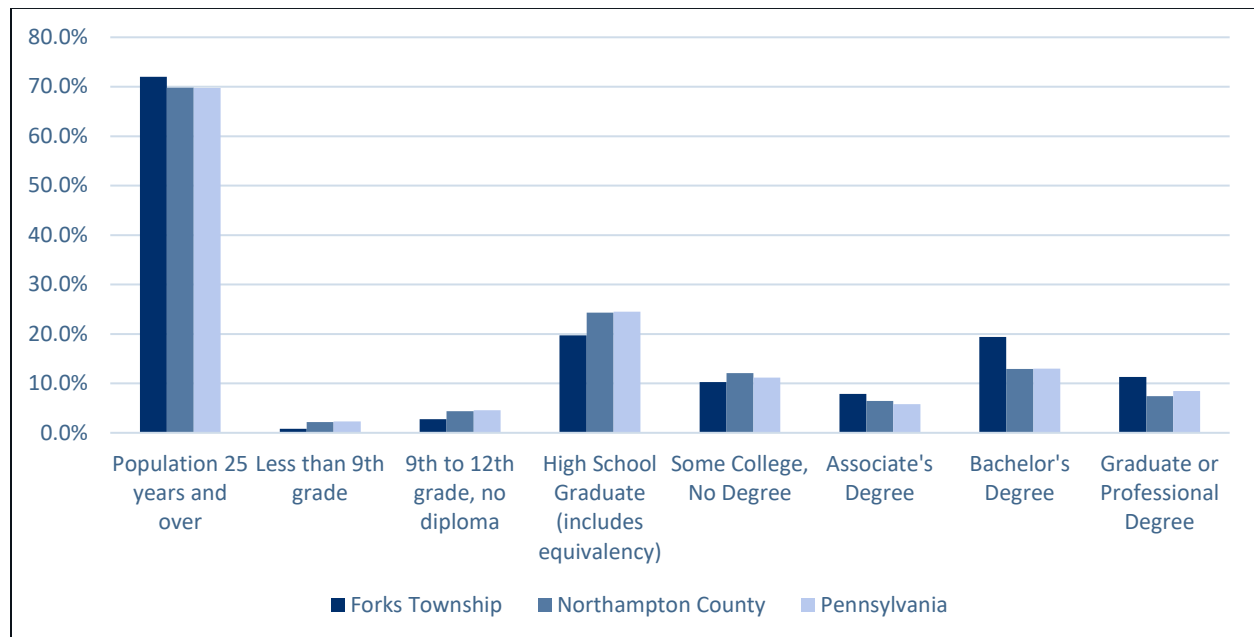
Table 5. Educational Attainment, 2018

	Forks Township		Northampton County		Pennsylvania	
	Estimate	% of Total	Estimate	% of Total	Estimate	% of Total
Population 25 years and over	11,048	(X)	210,590	(X)	8,921,363	(X)
Less than 9th grade	125	1.1%	6,622	3.1%	291,164	3.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	418	3.8%	13,198	6.3%	582,854	6.5%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	3,021	27.3%	73,305	34.8%	3,133,655	35.1%
Some College, No Degree	1,574	14.2%	36,537	17.3%	1,426,783	16.0%
Associate's Degree	1,205	10.9%	19,464	9.2%	741,590	8.3%
Bachelor's Degree	2,974	26.9%	39,020	18.5%	1,661,705	18.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1,731	15.7%	22,444	10.7%	1,083,612	12.1%

An '(X)' denotes that the estimate is not applicable or not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Chart 4: Educational Attainment: Percent of Total, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Comparing past and current income and employment characteristics can convey the growth and prosperity of a community and shed light on how it might change in the near future. Evaluating income includes the comparison of past and current median household incomes and a focus on how many persons are below the poverty level within a community. Employment focuses on which industries residents are employed in.

Forks Township has one of the highest median household incomes compared to the surrounding municipalities, however almost all are higher than the state and national median income. Forks comes in almost \$20,000 higher than the county and nearly \$30,000 higher than the state and national median incomes in 2018. From 2010 to 2018, the median household income in Forks increased by \$1,406, or 1.6%. This was a slight increase in comparison to the surrounding area, excluding Tatamy Borough which also only saw a 1% increase, and is over 10% lower than the growth seen in the county, state and nation.

Table 6. Median Household Income				
	2014-2018 Estimates	2010	# Change, 2010-2018	% Change, 2010-2018
United States	\$ 60,293	\$ 51,914	\$ 8,379	16.1%
Pennsylvania	\$ 59,445	\$ 50,398	\$ 9,047	16.7%
Northampton County	\$ 67,565	\$ 58,762	\$ 8,803	15.0%
Forks Township	\$ 87,373	\$ 85,967	\$ 1,406	1.6%
Easton City	\$ 50,143	\$ 38,613	\$ 11,530	29.9%
Lower Mount Bethel Twp.	\$ 66,546	\$ 62,449	\$ 4,097	6.6%
Palmer Township	\$ 79,339	\$ 67,545	\$ 11,794	17.5%
Plainfield Township	\$ 70,437	\$ 63,665	\$ 6,772	10.6%
Stockertown Borough	\$ 85,694	\$ 58,036	\$ 27,658	47.7%
Tatamy Borough	\$ 67,727	\$ 67,031	\$ 696	1.0%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>				

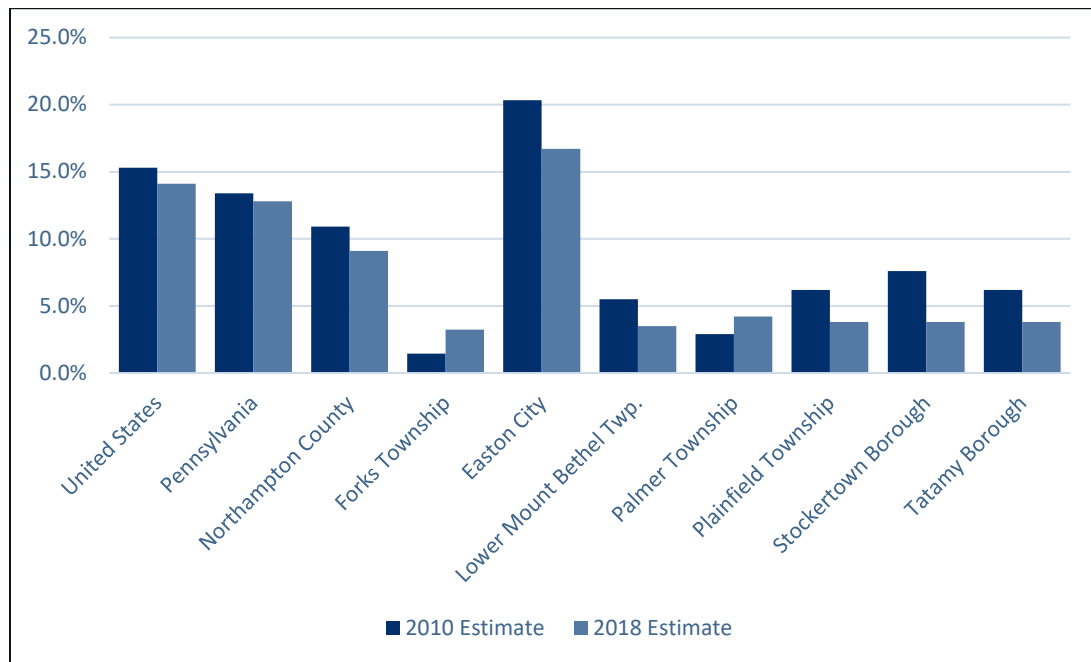
Poverty level is determined by the U.S. Census Bureau by using “a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty”. If a family’s or an individual’s income is less than their applicable poverty threshold, then the family (and every individual in it, related and unrelated) is considered to be in poverty. There are 48 possible poverty thresholds nationwide. The thresholds do not vary by geography and are updated annually for inflation.

An example using 2018 poverty thresholds includes:

1. \$16,889 for a two-person household with the householder under 65 years old.
2. \$15,193 for a two-person household with the householder over 65 years old.
3. \$25,465 for a family of four with two children under 18 years old.

Northampton County has a low rate of poverty compared to the state and the nation as a whole. Poverty levels in Forks Township in 2018 are similar to those experienced in the surrounding municipalities, except for the City of Easton which has a poverty level more in line with poverty levels seen in the state and the country. This may be attributed to Easton's higher population density.

Chart 5: Comparison of Persons Below Poverty Level, 2010-2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Employment characteristics highlight the types of businesses in which Township residents are employed (industry) and the type of work they do for that business (occupation). Changes in these characteristics show trends in the overall economy of an area and changes in the types of employment available.

'Industry' refers to the type of business conducted by the person's employing organization. The top three largest individual industry sectors for Township residents who work are: (1) educational services, and health care and social assistance; (2) professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services; and (3) finance and insurance, and real estate.

Overall, the distribution of people employed within each industry sector is similar between the Township and the County. The largest industry residents are employed in is the educational services, and health care and social assistance industry, which employs 25% of working residents. This industry is closely followed by the manufacturing industry, which employs 18.9% of Township residents.

Table 7. Industries in which Residents are Employed

Industry	2006-2010 Estimates		2014-2018 Estimates	
	Forks Township	Northampton County	Forks Township	Northampton County
Total population 16 years +	10,223	237,396	12,335	248,209
Employed in Civilian Labor Force 16 years +	6,700	141,297	7,776	148,960
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%
Construction	3.3%	5.7%	4.2%	5.8%
Manufacturing	18.9%	16.5%	14.0%	14.0%
Wholesale	3.0%	3.3%	3.6%	3.0%
Retail trade	8.5%	11.3%	11.1%	11.9%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.9%	5.6%	6.3%	5.7%
Information	5.3%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	8.0%	6.6%	8.4%	5.8%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	12.3%	9.1%	8.1%	8.9%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	25.0%	24.8%	31.6%	25.7%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	5.7%	6.9%	4.5%	9.0%
Other services, except public administration	2.1%	4.4%	2.4%	4.2%
Public administration	2.6%	2.9%	3.3%	3.2%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>				

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission predicts that employment will increase by 31% within the Valley from 2010-2040. Northampton County makes up over 39% of this growth and is projected to gain 42,373 jobs over the next 30-years, a 32.7% increase. Forks is one of the top 5 municipalities anticipated to experience the highest employment growth rate through 2040, along with City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Lower Nazareth Township, and Palmer Township.⁴

HOUSING

The past and current housing characteristics of a community can reveal changes in population trends and related shifts in housing demands. As of 2018, Forks Township had a total of 6,045 total housing units, an 11.9% increase from 2010. This increase was similar to those seen in Palmer and Plainfield

⁴ Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. *The People: Population Projections and Employment Projections*. 2017

Townships, and was superseded by that of Stockertown Borough, which reached over 22% growth. On the other hand, Lower Mount Bethel Township and Tatamy Borough saw decreases in housing units from 2010 to 2018. The growth seen in Forks was over 7% higher than the housing unit growth observed in the County.

The vacancy rate for the Township in 2018 was 0%, which is a decrease from the 2010 vacancy rate of 0.7%. The vacancy rate for Northampton County in 2018 was 6.2%. The majority of the region experienced an increase in the number of vacant units unlike the Township which has had a 14% decrease in vacant housing units. The only other municipality in the region to demonstrate a decrease in vacant housing units was Lower Mount Bethel Township.

Table 8. Housing Comparison 2010-2018		
	Forks Township	Northampton County
Total Housing Units 2018	6,045	122,862
Total Housing Units 2010	5,400	119,176
# Change 2010-2018	645	3,686
% Change 2010-2018	11.9%	3.1%
Occupied Housing Units 2018	5,876	114,123
Occupied Housing Units 2010	5,203	111,929
# Change 2010-2018	673	2,194
% Change 2010-2018	12.9%	2.0%
Vacant Housing Units 2018	169	8,739
Vacant Housing Units 2010	197	7,247
# Change 2010-2018	(28)	1,492
% Change 2010-2018	-14.2%	20.6%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units 2018	5,405	81,833
Owner-Occupied Housing Units 2010	4,773	84,441
# Change 2010-2018	632	(2,608)
% Change 2010-2018	13.2%	-3.1%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units 2018	471	32,290
Renter-Occupied Housing Units 2010	430	27,488
# Change 2010-2018	41	4,802
% Change 2010-2018	9.5%	17.5%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>		

The number of owner-occupied housing units increased in Forks Township, Lower Mount Bethel Township, Plainfield Township, and Stockertown Borough; however, the remainder of the region as well

as the County demonstrated a decrease in owner-occupied housing units. In relation, the number of renter-occupied housing units decreased in Plainfield Township and Stockertown Borough; while, the remainder of the region as well as the County demonstrated an increase in renter-occupied housing units.

Table 9. Housing Comparisons 2010-2018

	Easton City	Lower Mount Bethel Twp.	Palmer Township	Plainfield Township	Stockertown Borough	Tatamy Borough
Total Housing Units 2018	10,933	1,327	8,984	2,603	429	414
Total Housing Units 2010	10,530	1,428	8,261	2,420	349	415
# Change 2010-2018	403	(101)	723	183	80	(1)
% Change 2010-2018	3.83%	-7.07%	8.75%	7.56%	22.92%	-0.24%
Occupied Housing Units 2018	9,261	1,299	8,498	2,462	399	388
Occupied Housing Units 2010	9,222	1,265	8,035	2,292	335	412
# Change 2010-2018	39	34	463	170	64	(24)
% Change 2010-2018	0.42%	2.69%	5.76%	7.42%	19.10%	-5.83%
Vacant Housing Units 2018	1,672	28	486	141	30	26
Vacant Housing Units 2010	1,308	163	226	128	14	3
# Change 2010-2018	364	(135)	260	13	16	23
% Change 2010-2018	27.83%	-82.82%	115.04%	10.16%	114.29%	766.67%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units 2018	4,257	1,140	6,816	2,155	330	291
Owner-Occupied Housing Units 2010	4,675	1,117	7,070	1,980	289	336
# Change 2010-2018	(418)	23	(254)	175	41	(45)
% Change 2010-2018	-8.94%	2.06%	-3.59%	8.84%	14.19%	-13.39%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units 2018	5,004	159	1,682	307	39	97
Renter-Occupied Housing Units 2010	4,547	148	965	312	46	76
# Change 2010-2018	457	11	717	(5)	(7)	21
% Change 2010-2018	10.05%	7.43%	74.30%	-1.60%	-15.22%	27.63%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</i>						

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

Growth Rate – Forks Township has experienced a high growth rate from 2010 to 2018 and is anticipated to continue increasing as one of the top, highest growing municipalities in Northampton County. Growth

has implications for continued development pressure for housing construction, municipal services and facilities, transportation facilities, and school facilities. Ensuring that future growth occurs in a manner acceptable to the Township and having the least impact on its resources should be a high planning priority.

Age of Population – Population changes have seen a decrease in younger age groups and an increase in those aged 65 years and older. Increases in the elderly population show residents are aging in place and are likely to continue doing so. This shift should be a primary focus when it comes to planning for housing, services and facilities to ensure these support the elderly community and allow them to age within the Township.

These trends reflect the nationwide trend that is a result of the aging Baby Boom generation, those aged 54 to 72 in 2018. The Millennials age group has since surpassed the Baby Boomers as the largest generation in America, and included those aged 22-37 in 2018. This growth is reflected by increases seen in Forks in those aged 20-34, the 2nd largest population increase for a group within the Township. Generation X, or those aged 38 to 53 in 2018, is projected to surpass the Baby Boomers population by 2028 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Education & Income – The Township’s population is typical of the nation⁵ in that the majority of adults were at least high school graduates and almost half (49 percent) had completed some college or more. Poverty rates have increased slightly in the Township but are still significantly below the County, state, and national estimates. Alternately, the Township has the highest median household income in the region.

Industry – The majority of Township residents are employed in the educational services, and health care and social assistance industry and manufacturing industry, which is characteristic of the county. These industries provide a range of highly skilled positions and are a backbone of the region. Forks is one of top five municipalities anticipated to have high employment growth rates over the next 20 years.

Housing – Forks has seen increases in housing units, owner and renter occupied units, and decreases in vacant housing. Both family and nonfamily households have increased with a boost in renter-occupied family households, which is characteristic of the region.

⁵ In the United States, as of 2015, 88% of adults had a high school diploma or equivalent and 59% had completed some college or more. Educational Attainment in the United States: 2015 by Camille L. Ryan and Kurt Bauman, March 2016



CHAPTER 3: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CHAPTER 3: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are intended to be used as guides for the future development of Forks Township.

Goals are general statements that reflect the overall vision of the Township residents, property owners and board members as to what direction Forks Township should take in the future.

Objectives are more specific policies which will aid the Township in fulfilling the major goals as they were compiled through the cooperation of residents, business owners, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

The goals from the Township's 2009 Comprehensive Plan were used as a starting point and updated to reflect current planning philosophy and issues in the Township.

LAND USE

Goal 1: Plan for and manage the use of land in a manner that provides for a balanced range of uses, meets the needs of current and future residents, and establishes a balance among resource protection, conservation of open space, preservation of community character, and growth.

Objectives

- Manage growth to create livable and sustainable development, and maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Township residents.
- Provide for growth in appropriate areas, through new development and redevelopment, as supported by the necessary infrastructure.
- Accommodate a range of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional land uses and, through appropriate land use regulations, ensure their compatibility with the existing Township character.
- Protect agriculture, natural resources, and open space through the use of regulatory provisions.
- Promote economically viable and environmentally sustainable agriculture as an important land use and industry within the community.
- Maintain the existing pattern of commercial and industrial development, which complements the Township's character and is based on the availability of supporting infrastructure.
- Ensure regulatory controls support the land use policies of this Plan.
- Ensure that regulatory design standards for commercial, industrial, and institutional development are current with accepted best practices.
- Promote sustainable land use and building practices.

HOUSING

Goal 1: Provide diverse housing options to meet the needs of all households now and into the future.

Objectives

- Support the viability of existing housing stock and neighborhoods.
- Ensure that regulatory controls permit a range of housing types and densities to meet the diverse needs of current and future residents in a manner compatible with the overall character of the community.
- Develop design guidelines and regulations to allow developers the opportunity to explore more innovative and greener designs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1: Seek a balanced, diversified economy in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life of local residents.

Objectives

- Expand the Township's tax base through appropriate commercial and industrial development and redevelopment, thus contributing to the Township's economic and budgetary sustainability.
- Encourage commercial and industrial development and redevelopment along the existing commercial and industrial corridors.
- Promote adaptive reuse and redevelopment initiatives for abandoned/vacant industrial and commercial sites.
- Promote clean and green industry development in the designated commercial and industrial corridors.
- Develop design guidelines and regulations to allow developers the opportunity to explore more innovative and greener designs.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Goal 1: Provide for appropriate and adequate community services and facilities within the practical fiscal limits of the Township.

Objectives

- Recognize future facilities and services needs of Township residents as a function of population, age, and household trends.
- Continue to provide open and clear communication between Township government and the community to ensure that residents are informed and have the opportunity to participate in important local issues.
- Continue to provide residents with access to information on Pennsylvania municipal land use laws to promote better understanding of the limiting conditions under which a township operates.
- Continually assess Township ordinance and other standards in light of increasing technology innovations, needs, and accessibility as well as growing and changing alternative energy sources.
- Continue to support fire and ambulance services that provide emergency service coverage for Township residents and businesses.
- Maintain communication with the Easton Area School District concerning proposed developments to assist them in anticipating trends in future enrollments.
- Encourage the School District to maintain better communication with the Township and residents of the school district, particularly on issues relating to taxes.

Goal 2: Continue to maintain, enhance, and expand natural, historical, and cultural open space areas, trails, and parks and recreation opportunities for Township residents.

Objectives

- Provide sufficient publicly-owned and managed parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space to provide a variety of active or passive recreation opportunities.
- Provide for continued maintenance and improvements to existing parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space to ensure adequate recreational areas for residents.
- Require developers to help meet the increased demand for public recreation created by new development.
- Encourage recreation programming that serves all segments of the population.
- Pursue public and private grants and funding sources for recreation while continuing to dedicate municipal funding for recreation capital improvements, maintenance, programming, and other necessary costs.
- Encourage the preservation of critical natural, historic, and scenic resources in permanently preserved open space.

- Encourage the preservation of, and funding for, protected open space in appropriate areas by landowners, public agencies, and non-profit organizations.
- Balance the protection of resources on open space with the desire for public access and recreation.
- Ensure that open space protection efforts include planning and funding for the long-term maintenance of the property.
- Pursue joint public-private recreation initiatives, and support private and institutional entities that provide community recreation opportunities such as organized team sports, community events, active recreation areas, and school related play and athletics.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 1: Provide a safe transportation system, which optimizes mobility and access, sustains quality of life, strengthens the economy, and protects the environment.

Objectives

- Enhance the safety of the transportation system for all users—motorized and non-motorized.
- Encourage the use of alternative non-motorized modes of transportation such as: walking, hiking and biking.
- Promote development design that encourages bicycling and walking, including sidewalks or other pedestrian facilities.
- Efficiently maintain the existing roadway network and supporting infrastructure.
- Encourage the expansion and utilization of public transportation.
- Recognize and promote the importance of the Braden Airpark in relation to economic development.

Goal 2: Improve the Township's infrastructure to support future demands.

Objectives

- Support continued maintenance and improvement of all stormwater and sewer facilities.
- Support continued maintenance and improvement of the Township's road network.
- Encourage utility companies to utilize existing rights-of-way and utility easements for the expansion and/or upgrade of service lines.
- Coordinate water and sewage facilities planning with land use planning and natural resource protection objectives, and assess the impacts of proposed sewer, water, and stormwater facilities on groundwater quality, quantity, and recharge.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Protect the natural environment and conserve the natural resources of the Township while accommodating planned growth.

Objectives

- Protect the Township's natural resources by limiting adverse impacts into the area.
- Encourage and advocate the use and protection of native species of plants.
- Educate Township residents on the impacts associated with using non-native/invasive plant species and the effects they have on the environment.
- Ensure regulatory controls preserve and protect natural resources throughout the development process.
- Promote innovative stormwater management and wastewater disposal that emphasize the recharge of groundwater and water balance.



CHAPTER 4: EXISTING FEATURES ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 4: EXISTING FEATURES ANALYSIS

LAND USE

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the largest use of land in Forks Township amounting to just under 42 percent of the total land area or approximately 3,100 acres. A majority of these agricultural land uses are subsidized under Act 319 or Act 515. Act 515 (1965) predates Act 319 (1974) but both Acts essentially are a preferential tax assessment program, that bases property taxes on use values rather than fair market values.

Often land that is ideal for agricultural production is also well suited for development purposes. When the market value of this land rises, real estate taxes also increase which can prove to be a hardship for



Local farmland

local farmers prompting them to sell their land to reduce taxation and take advantage of the land's increased value. To assist farmers from having to pay higher taxes on their land and preserve agricultural uses, Pennsylvania adopted the Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act (Act 319), also referred to as the Clean and Green Act. The intent of the act is to protect farmland, forest, and open space (agricultural reserve) uses by allowing for land taxation according to its use value rather than the prevailing market value. These programs are not permanent protection for farmlands. They provide assistance to farmers to

preserve farming operations through reduced taxes. However, the landowner can sell their farmland for development so long as back taxes are paid.

Northampton County has a Farmland Preservation Program also referred to as the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program. Agricultural conservation easements are purchased by Northampton County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to permanently protect farms for agriculture in perpetuity. Land preserved by an agricultural conservation easement cannot be used for any purpose other than agriculture. Two farms within Forks Township, amounting to 70.5 acres, are permanently preserved through the County program.

Table 10: Preserved Farmland

<i>Parcel Number</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Preservation Mechanism</i>
H9 4 12	SO HAHN RD	40	Act 515
J9 3 1	4901 KESSLERSVILLE RD	56.52	Act 515
H9 10 12A	WO KESSLERSVILLE RD	14	Act 515

J9 1 2	NOCHURCH LN	127	Act 515
J9 21 4	KESSLERSVILLE RD	46	Act 515
J9 3 2	KESSLERSVILLE RD	28.14	Act 515
J9 15 10	SO KUEBLER RD	14	Act 515
J10 3 11	N DELAWARE DR	31	Act 515
J10 3 11	N DELAWARE DR	31	Act 515
J10 1 3	BROADWAY	42	Act 515
K9 32A1	RICHMOND RD	54	Act 515
J9 16 2	197-99 PADULA RD	32	Act 515
K9 15 5	1713 SULLIVAN TL	21	Act 515
Total Act 515 Land		536.66	
H9 4 27B-1	1510 CONCETTA CT	14.21	Act 319
H9 4 27B-4	1540 CONCETTA CT	36.07	Act 319
H9 4 25A	5715 YOUNGS HILL RD	13.303	Act 319
H9 4 27B	1500 CONCETTA CT	20.06	Act 319
H9 4 24	YOUNGS HILL RD	14.77	Act 319
H9 4 27	206 RICHARD GARR RD	10.69	Act 319
J9 17 7	3700 BROADWAY RD	74.53	Act 319
H10 7 1C	LOWER MUD RUN RD	150.1	Act 319
H9 4 27B-3	1530 CONCETTA CT	36.44	Act 319
H9 4 27B-2	GARR RD	4	Act 319
H9 13 2	400 KLEIN RD	52.5	Act 319 and County Preservation Program
H9 13 5	NO UHLER RD	29	Act 319
H9 13 3A	UHLER RD	60	Act 319
H10 7 3	LOWER MUD RUN RD	25.24	Act 319
J9 4 10	4110 RICHMOND RD	75.21	Act 319
H9 15 1	UHLER RD	8	Act 319
J9 5 7	RICHMOND RD	8.487	Act 319
H9 16 2	4900-5010 RICHMOND RD	20	Act 319
H9 14 2	125 RICHARD GARR RD	5	Act 319
J9 5 5N	4413 RICHMOND RD	7.72	Act 319
J9 15 5	4210 GLOVER RD	35	Act 319
H9 14 1A	EO YOUNG'S HILL RD	4.92	Act 319
H9 10 13	5328 KESSLERSVILLE RD	17.175	Act 319
H9 10 13A	5330 KESSLERSVILLE RD	10.17	Act 319
H9 14 9	AYERS RD	12	Act 319
H9 10 11	KESSLERSVILLE RD	4.7	Act 319
H9 12 5	KLINES RD	18	Act 319 and County Preservation Program
K9 4 1	NEWLINS RD W	15	Act 319
H9 12 3	YOUNGS HILL RD	20.4	Act 319
H9 12 1E	SO TR 627	50	Act 319

H9 14 10	RICHMOND RD	65	Act 319
H9 14 3	RICHARD GARR RD	13	Act 319
H9 14 4	5325 AYERS RD	9	Act 319
H9 10 12	5326 KESSLERSVILLE RD	10	Act 319
H9 12 8	KESSLERSVILLE RD	8.748	Act 319
H9 13 3	AYERS RD	36	Act 319
J9 4 7	4500 RICHMOND RD	112.45	Act 319
J9 4 6	GLOVER RD	103	Act 319
J9 3 4F	UHLER RD	28.76	Act 319
J9 4 3	240 UHLER RD	37.28	Act 319
J9 5 5Q	FRUTCHEY HILL RD	10	Act 319
J9 5 2	4505 RICHMOND RD	28.355	Act 319
J10NW4 1 1	1120 FRUTCHEY HILL RD	13.462	Act 319
J9 4 2	GLOVER RD	30	Act 319
J9 5 5A	520 FRUTCHEY HILL RD	17	Act 319
J9 5 6	1000 FRUTCHEY HILL RD	19.45	Act 319
J9 15 9	RICHMOND RD	2.584	Act 319
K10 1 10	FROST HOLLOW RD	13	Act 319
J9 10 1	950 FRUTCHEY HILL RD	44	Act 319
J9 17 3A	950 FRUTCHEY HILL RD	15	Act 319
J9 17 11J	740 E NEWLINS RD	11.531	Act 319
J9 17 1	FRUTCHEY HILL RD	18.432	Act 319
J10 1 2	BROADWAY	58	Act 319
J10 3 13	NEWLINS RD E	8	Act 319
K10 1 9	1410 FROST HOLLOW RD	10.78	Act 319
K10SW1 1 11	LOWER RD	1.02	Act 319
J9 16 4	RICHMOND RD	13.319	Act 319
J10 1 4	3103 BROADWAY RD	16	Act 319
J9 17 9	RICHMOND RD	139.72	Act 319
J9 17 11L	760 E NEWLINS RD	13.572	Act 319
J9 22 1	NEWLINS RD W	19.8	Act 319
K9 9 2	BUSHKILL DR	3	Act 319
K10NW4 1 8	1421 FROST HOLLOW RD	23	Act 319
K10NW4 1 8A	FROST HOLLOW RD	1	Act 319
K9 16 12F	2107 RICHMOND RD	18.33	Act 319
K10NW4 1 2	FROST HOLLOW RD	5	Act 319
K10SW1 8 1	601 E PAXINOSA RD	1.3	Act 319
K10SW1 1 9	LOWER RD	8	Act 319
K10SW1 1 8	805 FROST HOLLOW RD	6	Act 319
K10SW1 1 10	LOWER RD	1.57	Act 319
K10SW1 2 1	LOWER RD	7.33	Act 319
L9 11 1	FAIRFIELD AVE	14	Act 319
H9 12 5D	475 KLEIN RD	2	Act 319

H10 7 1B	4991 RICHMOND RD	13.45	Act 319
H10 7 1	5001 RICHMOND RD	20.91	Act 319
H9 10 10	5549 KESSLERVILLE RD	44.31	Act 319
Total Act 319 Land		1948.158	
GRAND TOTAL		2484.818	

RESIDENTIAL

The Township contains approximately 12.11 square miles of land. Approximately 31 percent of the Township is dedicated to residential land use. The total acreage utilized by residential uses is approximately 2,344 acres.

The current Forks Township Zoning Ordinance has provisions for several housing types: single-family detached dwellings, twin dwellings, duplexes, townhouses, apartment dwellings, cluster developments, mobile/manufactured home units, and age restricted housing.



Residential development

COMMERCIAL AND MIXED USE

Commercial and mixed-use account for a small portion of the Township – less than 2.5 percent of the land area. The majority of commercial land uses are concentrated along Sullivan Trail between Mecos Road and Paxinosa Road. There are other sporadic areas of commercial and mixed use – north of Mecos Road along Sullivan Trail, along Uhler Road, and Bushkill Drive. Some of these commercial areas are primed for development/redevelopment.

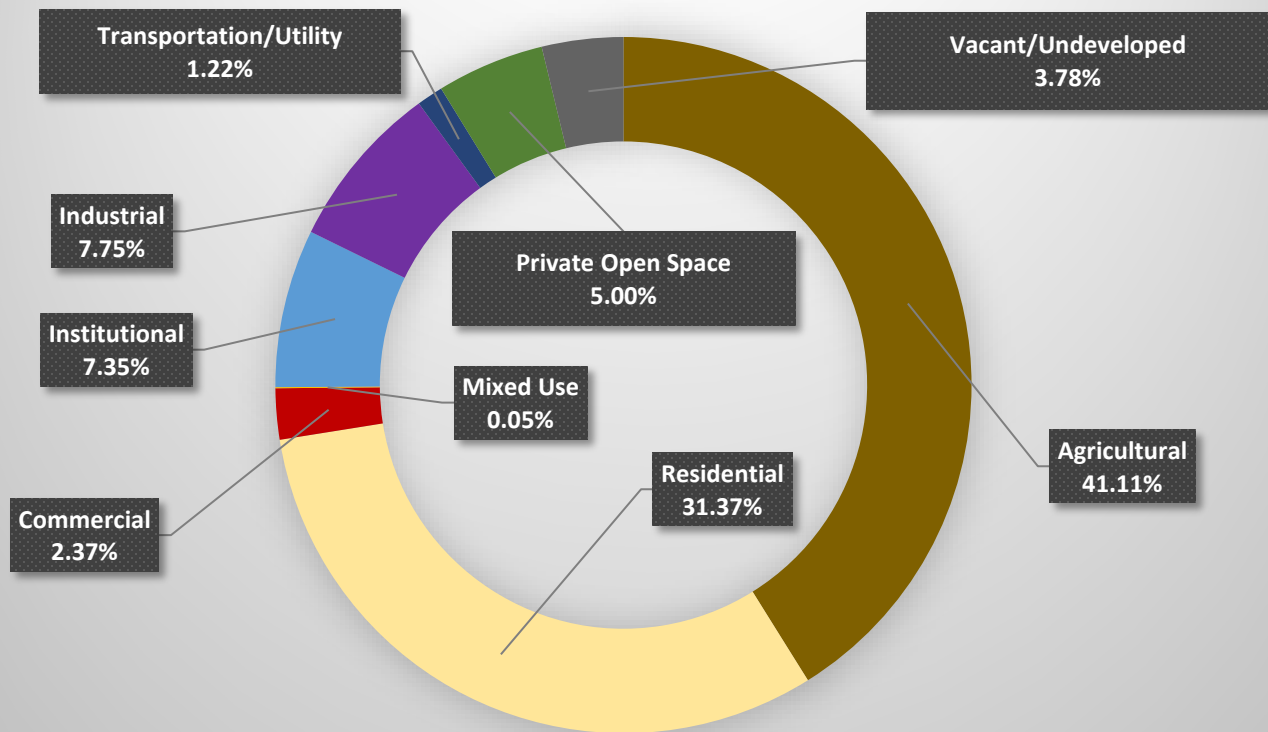


Park Plaza at 1800 Sullivan Trail

INDUSTRIAL

Industrial land is a fairly sizeable area in Forks Township and is the third largest land use in the Township after agriculture and residential. Industrial uses are mostly concentrated in the central northern part of the Township along Uhler Road and Kesslersville Road. Industrial uses are necessary for a community's economic base, accounting for local jobs and tax revenues.

Chart 6: Forks Township Land Use by Percentage 2019



INSTITUTIONAL

Institutional land includes land owned by the Township, schools, and churches. Almost half of the institutional land in Forks is township-owned, this includes public open space and parks, and approximately one-quarter of institutional land in the Township is owned by Lafayette College. The remainder of these lands are owned by schools or other private institutions (i.e., churches, etc.).

OTHER LAND USES

Open space amounts to 5 percent of land area in the Township and includes private open space areas commonly owned by homeowner's associations. Less than 2 percent of Township land is used for transportation and utility purposes which includes the airport and utility providers. Vacant and/or undeveloped land accounts for approximately 4 percent of land in the Township. A parcel is considered undeveloped if either a parcel contains no structure (often due to demolition) and has not been permanently preserved as open or green space (through deed restriction, identification on official plans or maps, etc.), or if the parcel contains a structure that is not currently in use and/or has been abandoned by the property owner.

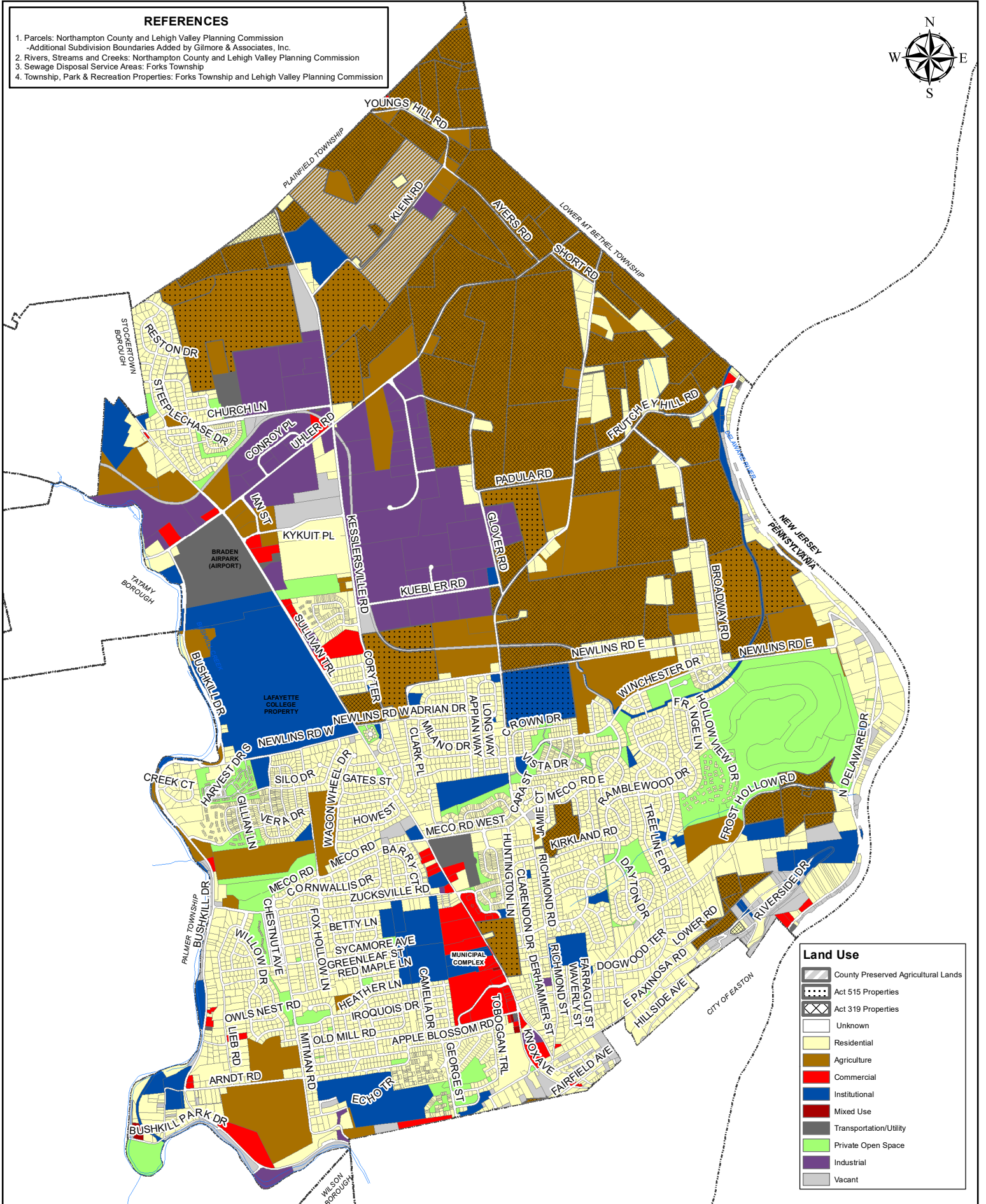
Table 11: Land Use		
<i>Land Use Category</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Agricultural	3070.90	41.11%
Residential	2343.58	31.37%
Commercial	176.96	2.37%
Mixed Use	3.77	0.05%
Institutional	548.96	7.35%
Industrial	578.69	7.75%
Transportation/Utility	91.47	1.22%
Private Open Space	373.31	5.00%
Vacant/Undeveloped	282.18	3.78%
TOTAL	7469.80	100.00%

LAND USE REGULATIONS

The two principal regulatory documents guiding land use in Forks Township are its Zoning Ordinance (adopted 2014, as amended) and its Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (adopted 2014, as amended). These ordinances are the primary tools available to the Township for implementing the future land use related objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

Generally, the Zoning Ordinance governs the density and location of land uses, as well as dimensional requirements such as setbacks, heights, area and bulk standards. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance establishes minimum requirements for building lot layout and design, as well as for necessary development-related improvements such as water supply, road access, stormwater management, and sewage disposal. These two regulatory ordinances are not static; the Township continues to amend them from time to time to ensure that overall land use goals are being met in the best way possible.

1. **Parcels:** Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. **Rivers, Streams and Creeks:** Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. **Sewage Disposal Service Areas:** Forks Township
4. **Township, Park & Recreation Properties:** Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



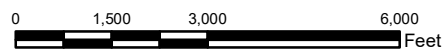
	County Preserved Agricultural Lands
	Act 515 Properties
	Act 319 Properties
	Unknown
	Residential
	Agriculture
	Commercial
	Institutional
	Mixed Use
	Transportation/Utility
	Private Open Space
	Industrial
	Vacant



LER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18901-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: January 2021

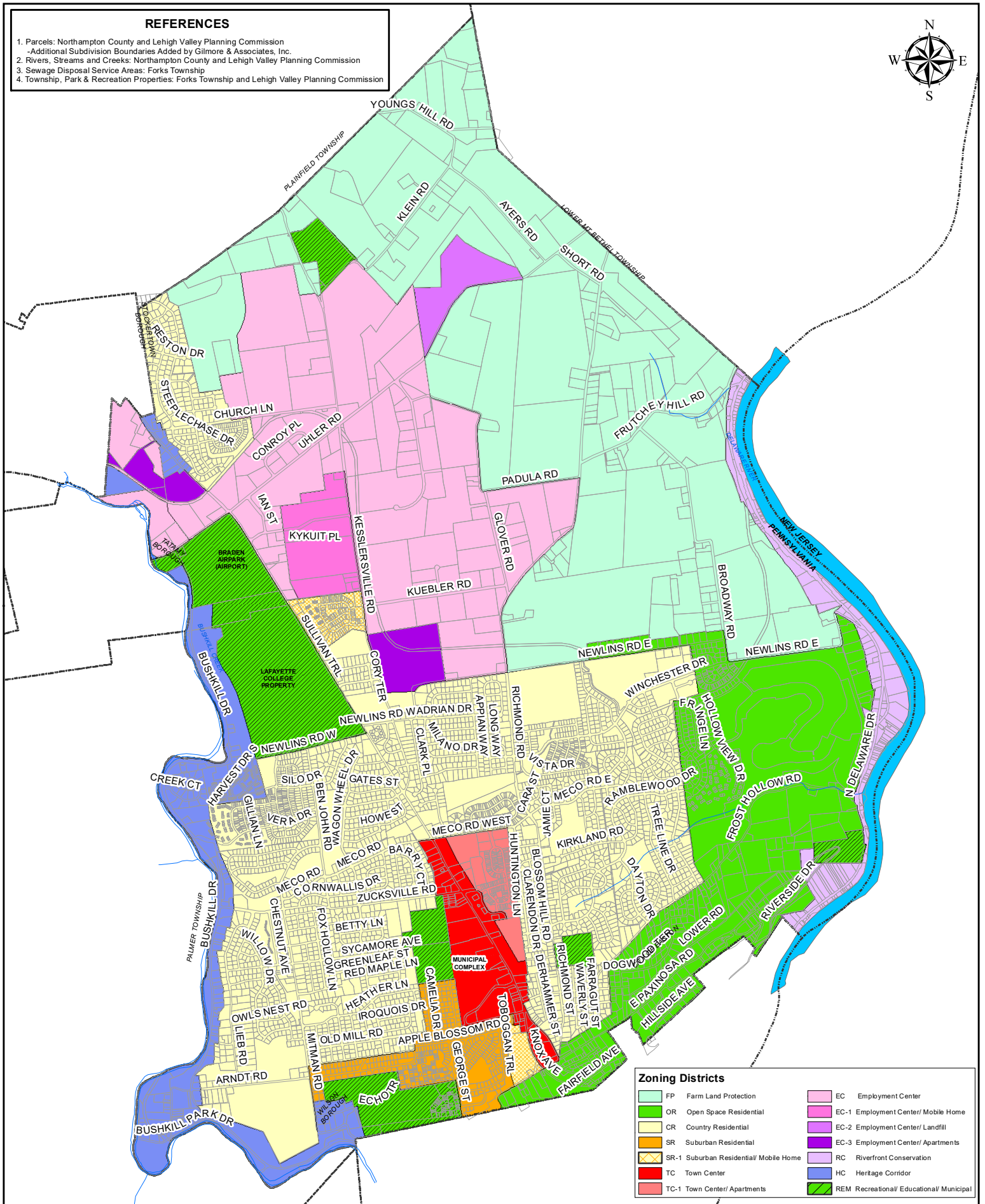


FORKS TOWNSHIP Land Use Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Township, Park & Recreation Properties: Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES

85 E. BUTLER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18061-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: November 2020

0 1,500 3,000 6,000
Feet

FORKS TOWNSHIP
Zoning Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSING TRENDS

Fork Township's residential units are primarily single-family (1-unit) detached homes. This dwelling unit type comprises approximately 75% of the entire housing stock in Forks Township. The second largest dwelling unit type is single-family attached dwellings (twin units) which represents a total of 1,156 units or 19% of the housing stock. The housing unit anomaly within the Township is the 280% increase of multi-family dwellings in excess of 20 units which increased from 34 to 129 units from 2010 to 2018. It should be noted the Township experienced a growth in 3-4 unit dwellings and mobile homes as well. Two-unit dwellings, and 5-19 unit dwellings experienced a drop.

Table 12: Housing Units in Structure, 2010-2018

Housing Type	2018 Estimates	Percent	2010 Estimates	Percent	# Change	% Change
Total housing units	6,045	(x)	5,400	(x)	645	11.9%
1-unit, detached	4,536	75.0%	3,958	73.3%	578	14.6%
1-unit, attached	1,156	19.1%	1,116	20.7%	40	3.6%
2 units	27	0.4%	115	2.1%	-88	-76.5%
3 or 4 units	38	0.6%	26	0.5%	12	46.2%
5 to 9 units	21	0.3%	40	0.7%	-19	-47.5%
10 to 19 units	0	0.0%	29	0.5%	-29	-100.0%
20 or more units	129	2.1%	34	0.6%	95	279.4%
Mobile home	138	2.3%	82	1.5%	56	68.3%

Source: 2018 and 2010 American Community Survey: 5-Year Estimates

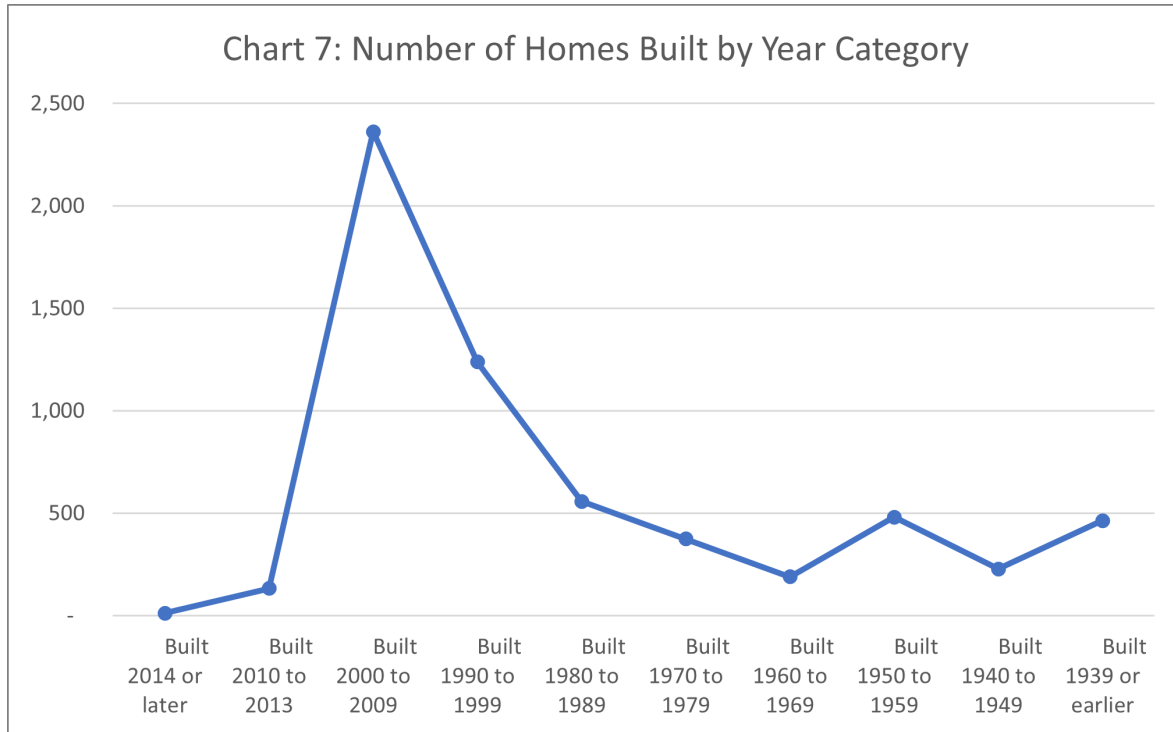
The number of housing units totaled 6,045 in 2018, according to ACS Estimates. Total housing units increased by just under 12 percent from 2010 to 2018.

The Township experienced a significant surge in housing stock between 1980 and 2009, and then a steep decline in new construction of housing units since 2009. New construction has continually tapered off. Housing age is detailed in Table 13, below.

Table 13: Housing Age, Forks Township

Year Built	Number	Percent
Built 2014 or later	13	0.2%
Built 2010 to 2013	133	2.2%
Built 2000 to 2009	2,363	39.1%
Built 1990 to 1999	1,239	20.5%
Built 1980 to 1989	558	9.2%
Built 1970 to 1979	375	6.2%
Built 1960 to 1969	190	3.1%
Built 1950 to 1959	481	8.0%
Built 1940 to 1949	228	3.8%
Built 1939 or earlier	465	7.7%
Total housing units	6,045	(x)

Source: 2018 American Community Survey: 5-Year Estimate



In 2010 the median housing value was \$289,400. By 2018 the median housing value decreased to \$263,600; a decrease of \$25,800 or 9%. The housing value decrease experienced in Forks Township is on par with the immediate region. Adjacent municipalities all demonstrated a decrease in housing value between 2010 and 2018 with the exception of Stockertown Borough which experienced an increase in housing value. Forks continues to have the highest median housing value for the region, while Easton continues to have the lowest median housing value at \$130,500. Additionally, in the year 2018, Forks Township was above the County median housing value of \$214,200 by approximately \$49,400.

Table 14: Housing Values														
	Forks Township		Easton City		Lower Mount Bethel Township		Palmer Township		Plainfield Township		Stockertown Borough		Tatamy Borough	
	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total	No. of Homes	Percent of Total
Owner-occupied units	5,405	(x)	4,257	(x)	1,140	(x)	6,816	(x)	2,155	(x)	330	(x)	291	(x)
Less than \$50,000	58	1.1%	182	4.3%	67	5.9%	91	1.3%	69	3.2%	13	3.9%	0	0.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	241	4.5%	1,079	25.3%	130	11.4%	83	1.2%	64	3.0%	0	0.0%	20	6.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	311	5.8%	1,399	32.9%	78	6.8%	482	7.1%	354	16.4%	17	5.2%	68	23.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	709	13.1%	663	15.6%	221	19.4%	1,870	27.4%	545	25.3%	61	18.5%	68	23.4%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2,120	39.2%	556	13.1%	435	38.2%	2,729	40.0%	605	28.1%	163	49.4%	92	31.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,894	35.0%	305	7.2%	169	14.8%	1,461	21.4%	309	14.3%	72	21.8%	40	13.7%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	72	1.3%	73	1.7%	33	2.9%	100	1.5%	180	8.4%	4	1.2%	3	1.0%
\$1,000,000 or more	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.6%	0	0.0%	29	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Median (dollars)	\$263,600.00		\$ 130,500.00		\$ 215,200.00		\$226,900.00		\$205,800.00		\$ 236,300.00		\$192,300.00	

Source: 2018 American Community Survey: 5-Year Estimate

Population growth rates are projected to continue for the foreseeable future. This growth will likely lead to the need for additional housing within the Township. This may put pressure on agricultural uses within the Township to be converted to residential uses. Ensuring that future growth occurs in a manner acceptable to the Township and having the least impact on its resources must continue to be a high Township planning priority.

Housing affordability is a growing issue for the population in the Township, surrounding area, and County overall, an issue that is likely to continue within the timeframe of this Comprehensive Plan. Even with drops in housing prices from 2010 to 2018 in the Township and County, housing affordability continues to be a concern for many Northampton County residents and communities. The Township must continue to provide a variety of housing choices at varying prices to accommodate changing housing demands and needs.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Community facilities serve the public and are necessary for public health, safety, and welfare. Some of these are quite visible, such as police and emergency services, schools, and township parks. Others are less obvious, such as sewer and water infrastructure. They all make up the foundation of a municipality and have a direct bearing on residents' quality of life.

This Chapter identifies and examines community facilities and services available in Forks Township, and provides direction for the continued provision of adequate facilities and services. The availability of adequate community facilities is also important to the local economy, since businesses, as well as residents, are more likely to locate near an area with adequate facilities and services.

ADMINISTRATION

The Township Administration is responsible for directing the daily operations and achieving the established goals and objectives of the governing body. The administrative department employs a manager, a fiscal administrator and financial department, a building and grounds director, a zoning and assistant zoning officer, a building inspector, a director of public works, a chief of police, a fire chief, and a park and recreation director and parks department. Staffing appears to be adequate to meet current needs. However, according to the Township website the fiscal administrator position and the administrative assistant position are both open.



Forks Township Municipal Building

The staff in the administrative departments often interact with Township residents and business owners on a daily basis. The Township's municipal complex is located at 1606 Sullivan Trail.

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Township is served by the Forks Township Fire Department. As per Ordinance 12 – Fire Department, the officers of the Forks Township Fire Department consist of a Fire Chief and a Deputy Fire Chief, and such other officers as may be determined by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief are appointed annually. In conjunction with the Forks Township Fire Department there is the Community Fire Company of Forks Township which is a volunteer firefighting organization that supplies manpower to the Forks Township Fire Department during firefighting operations and functions.

Emergency medical/ambulance services are provided by Suburban EMS which provides emergency medical services to nineteen municipalities. Suburban EMS has a 24/7 Dispatch Department which tracks all calls the company receives and is also responsible for assigning crews to emergency responses from both Northampton and Monroe Counties.

POLICE PROTECTION

Forks Township is served by its own police department. As per the Township website, the police department consists of 23 sworn officers and 1 civilian employee. The breakdown of the department consists of administrative, investigative, patrol, and community policing divisions.

- Administrative Division - Responsible for budgeting, personnel, facilities management, purchasing, statistics, technology, and communications.
- Investigative Division - Responsible for criminal investigation, forensics, drug investigations, intelligence, evidence management, applicant background investigations, and juvenile crime investigations.
- Patrol Division - Responsible for uniformed patrol duties, bicycle patrol, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, and emergency response.
- Community Policing Division - Responsible for crime prevention, youth oriented and community based initiatives, G.R.E.A.T., and the Adult and Youth Academies.



Forks Township Police Department

PUBLIC WORKS

The Forks Township Public Works Department is responsible for street paving, leaf collection, storm sewer facility maintenance, snow removal, street cleaning and the yard waste recycling program. The Department consists of ten full-time and one part-time employee, and maintains approximately sixty miles of Township roads. Specific responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of roadways, curbing, signs, signals, pavement markings and roadside vegetation along Township Roads
- Oversight of the recycling/yard waste drop off center located at 1051 Frost Hollow Road
- Maintenance of Township-owned stormwater pipes, inlets, swales, and basins
- Oversight of bid specifications for road, storm water, buildings projects; as well as other supply contracts such as: gasoline, diesel fuel, concrete, aggregates, and asphalt
- Maintenance of Township buildings, vehicles and equipment

PARKS AND RECREATION

Forks Township has a designated Parks and Recreation Director who works alongside an appointed Recreation Board “...to create leisure, enrichment and recreational opportunities for personal growth and enhancement for all ages...”⁶ The current Recreation Board consists of seven members.

In addition to the Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Director, the Township has an athletic

association which organizes youth sports activities. The Forks Township Athletic Association (FTAA) is a non-governmental, non-profit volunteer organization. Sporting activities supported and organized by the FTAA include baseball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, football, lacrosse, softball, soccer, and wrestling.



Community Center

The Township has a community center located within Community Park which offers many amenities and programs to residents. The Forks Township Community Center was built in 1995, and expanded in 2003, and is approximately 40,000 square feet consisting of three gymnasiums, five meeting rooms, snack bar/vending area, fitness center, and atrium.

⁶ Forks Township Recreation website. <http://www.forkstownship.org/recreation/index.html>

Table 15: Inventory of Existing Recreational Township-Owned Properties			
Site	Facilities	Acreage	Location
Community Park	Amphitheater, baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, biking and walking paths, football fields, gazebo, grills, lacrosse fields, pavilion, picnic tables, snack bars, soccer fields, playground, volleyball court	52 acres	500 Zucksville Road
Lions Park	Fishing, hiking and walking paths, picnic tables	2.78 acres	1950 Bushkill Drive
Penn's Ridge Park	Basketball courts, picnic tables, playground	6 acres	2755 Penns Ridge Blvd.
Braden Airport Park	Picnic tables, playground	23 acres	3520 Sullivan Trail
Vista Drive Park	Baseball fields, biking and walking paths	1.9 acres	110 Vista Drive
Meco Fields	Baseball and softball fields, biking and walking paths, field hockey and lacrosse fields, soccer fields	19.84 acres	2600 Appian Way
Gollub Park	Passive recreation	20.82 acres	1300 Paxinosa Road East

The Forks Township Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan is considered a component of this comprehensive plan. The Strategic Plan provides a fiscal analysis, a SWOT analysis, and recommendations for enhancing park and recreation opportunities within the Township.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

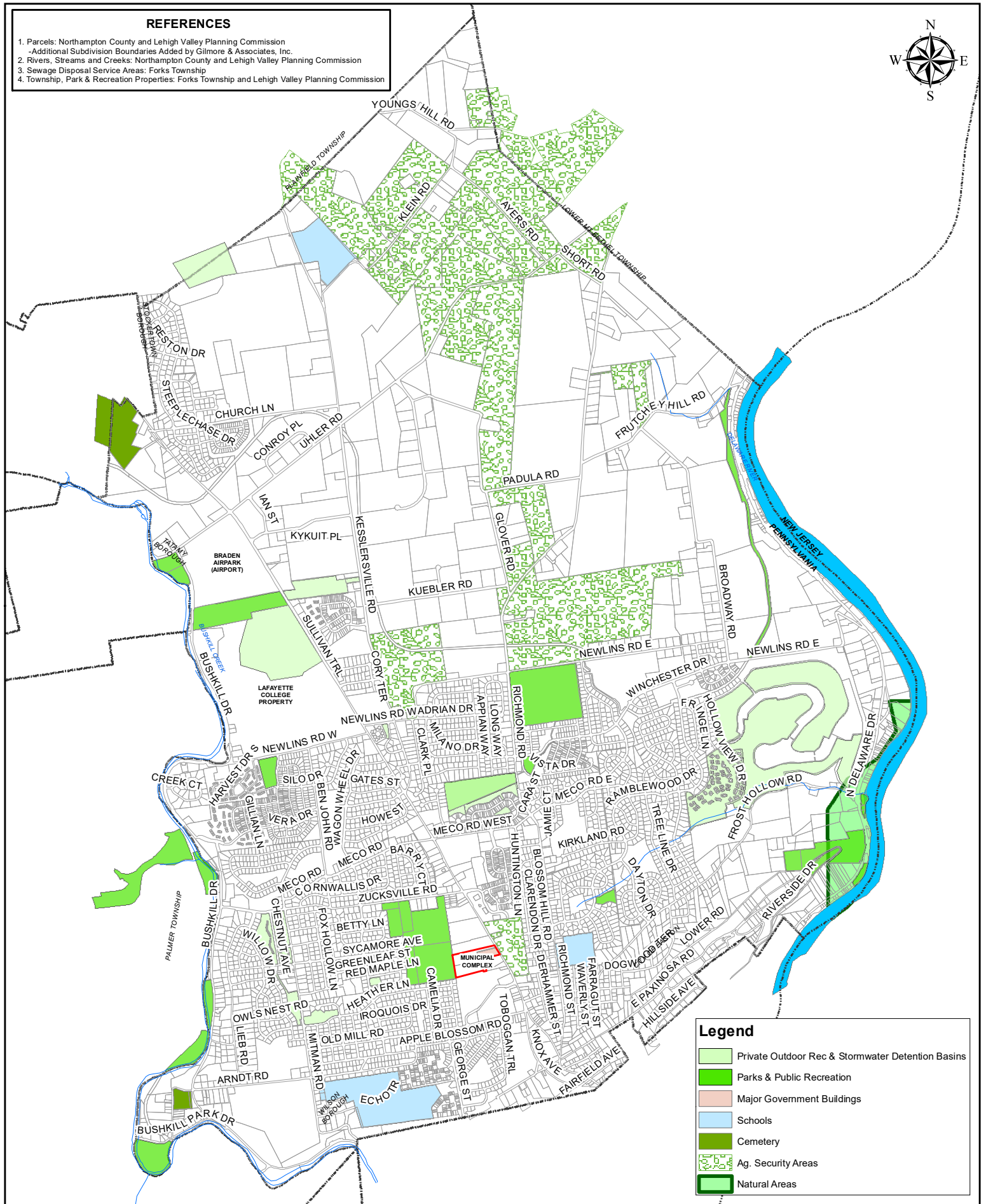
Forks Township is part of the Easton Area School District along with the City of Easton, Palmer Township and portions of Lower Mount Bethel Township. The Easton Area School District is comprised of ten schools, including one high school, one middle school, seven elementary schools, and an alternative education program. As of February, 2017, the district served approximately 8,500 students.

Forks Elementary, Shawnee Elementary, Palmer Elementary (temporary), and Easton Area Middle School are all located within Forks Township. Additionally, the District's Administration Building is also located within Forks Township.

Community facilities and services determine, to some extent, the quality of life experienced in Forks Township. Issues concerning community facilities and services generally include staffing, funding, and ongoing maintenance to ensure that adequate services are provided well into the future. Therefore, planning for these facilities and services should be interrelated and consistent with land use planning in the comprehensive plan.

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Township, Park & Recreation Properties: Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



Legend

- Private Outdoor Rec & Stormwater Detention Basins
- Parks & Public Recreation
- Major Government Buildings
- Schools
- Cemetery
- Ag. Security Areas
- Natural Areas



GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING SERVICES

85 E. BUTLER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18901-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: November 2020

0 1,500 3,000 6,000
Feet

FORKS TOWNSHIP
Community Facilities Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

The function of the transportation system is to provide for the movement of people and goods between places. The adequacy of this system is directly influenced by the type and size of the population growth and land development that occur along the network.

Proper land use planning is critical to prevent adverse effects on the transportation network due to improper development. Conversely, when transportation improvements are designed, it is important to address the needs of the general public, individual property owners, and neighborhoods. Where appropriate, transportation improvements should be designed as multiple-use facilities that provide for pedestrians, bicycles, public transit, and motor vehicles. As the Township maintains and upgrades its roads, a balance among parking needs, local vehicle movements, and emergency vehicle movements must be upheld.

ROAD SYSTEM

Roadways are generally classified by its function. Each function class is based on the type of service the road provides to the vehicular movement. Accordingly, design standards are tied to function class, i.e. each class has a range of allowable lane widths, shoulder widths, curve radii, etc. The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) provides for four major road function classifications: interstates, arterials, collectors, and local roads.

- Interstates
 - Highest level of mobility
 - Highest speeds (usually between 55 and 75 mph)
 - Longest uninterrupted distance
- Arterials
 - Includes freeways, multi-lane highways, and other important roadways that supplement the interstate system
 - Generally, connect principal urbanized areas, cities, and industrial centers
 - Posted speed limits range between 50 and 70 mph
- Collectors
 - Connect local roads and streets with arterials
 - Balance mobility with land access
 - Posted speed limits range between 35 and 55 mph
- Local Roads
 - Limited mobility
 - Access to residential areas, businesses, farms, and other local areas
 - Posted speed limits range between 20 and 45 mph
 - Majority of roads in the U.S.

The 1997 Forks Township Comprehensive Plan establishes the Township's street hierarchy which includes minor arterials, collectors, and local roads.

Many of the Township streets are local roads, owned by the Township and maintained by the Public Works Department (over 60 miles of roads). All of the arterials and a few of the collectors are owned

Road classifications are as follows:

- Minor Arterials
 - Route 611
 - Sullivan Trail
 - Bushkill Drive
- Collectors
 - Church Lane
 - Uhler Road (west of Glover Road)
 - Kessler'sville Road
 - Richmond Road
 - Frost Hollow Road
 - Zucksville Road
 - Newlins Road East and West
 - Mitman Road
 - Mecos Road
- Local roads
 - All other roads

and maintained by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

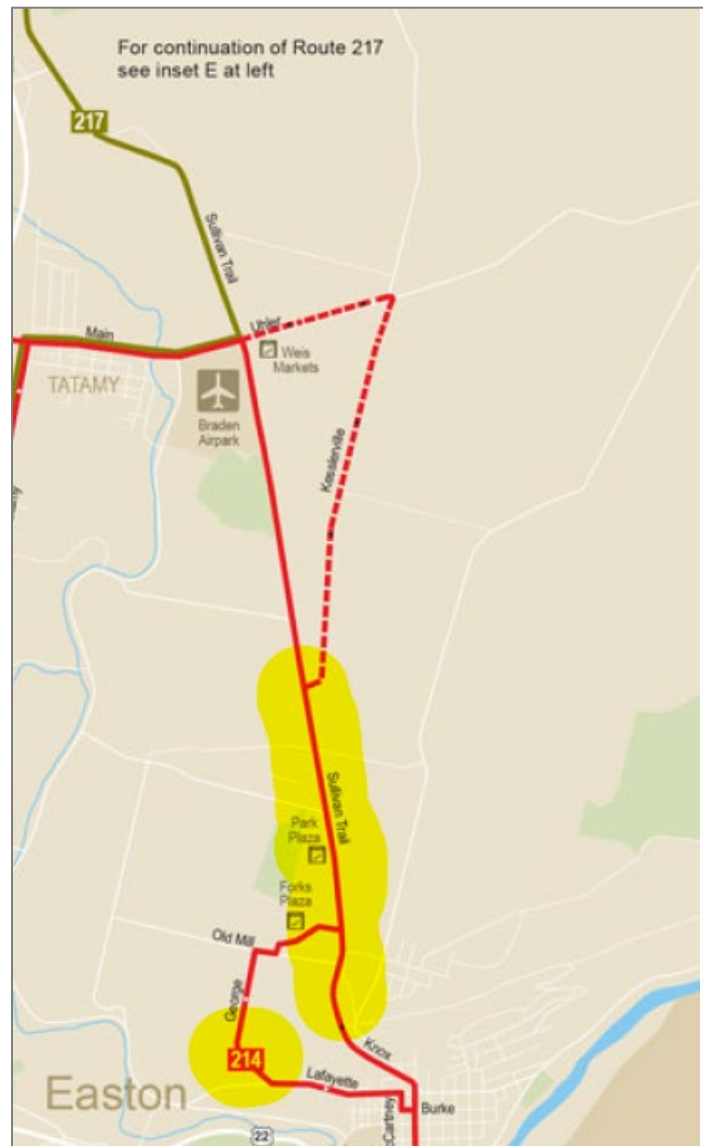
The Township is in the process of preparing an Act 209 Transportation Impact Fee Study. As per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Section 501-A, "To further the purposes of this act in an era of increasing development and of a corresponding demand for municipal capital improvements, to insure that the cost of needed capital improvements be applied to new developments in a manner that will allocate equitably the cost of those improvements among property owners and to respond to the increasing difficulty which municipalities are experiencing in developing revenue sources to fund new capital infrastructure from the public sector, the following powers are granted to all municipalities, other than counties, which municipalities have adopted either a municipal or county comprehensive plan, subdivision and land development ordinance and

zoning ordinance." The intent of this study is to prescribe the process for developing and calculating transportation impact fees associated with new development.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Forks Township is served by LANTA bus service. The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) is charged with operating a "public transportation system for public use in the metropolitan area consisting of the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton." LANTA operates the LANTaBus system, a network of 30 fixed bus routes throughout the Lehigh Valley providing daily, later evening, Saturday, and Sunday services. Two designated LANTaBus routes operate within Forks Township: Route 214 and Route 217.

The Route 214 bus runs from the Easton Intermodal Transportation Center to the Chrin Commerce Centre with stops at Forks Towne Center (Giant), Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road (Weis Markets), and East Braden Boulevard (Forks Industrial Park). The Route 217 bus runs from the Bethlehem Transportation Center to Roseto (Garibaldi and North) with a single stop in Forks Township at Weis Markets.



LANTA Bus Route

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Providing a walkable environment is essential to efficient ground transportation. Every trip begins and ends with walking. Walking remains the cheapest form of transportation, and a walkable community provides the most affordable transportation system any community can plan, design, construct, and maintain. The Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) requires sidewalks be constructed on both sides of the street in all developments. Additionally, the SALDO requires recreation paths be constructed as part of all developments consistent with the Township's conceptual recreation path plan.

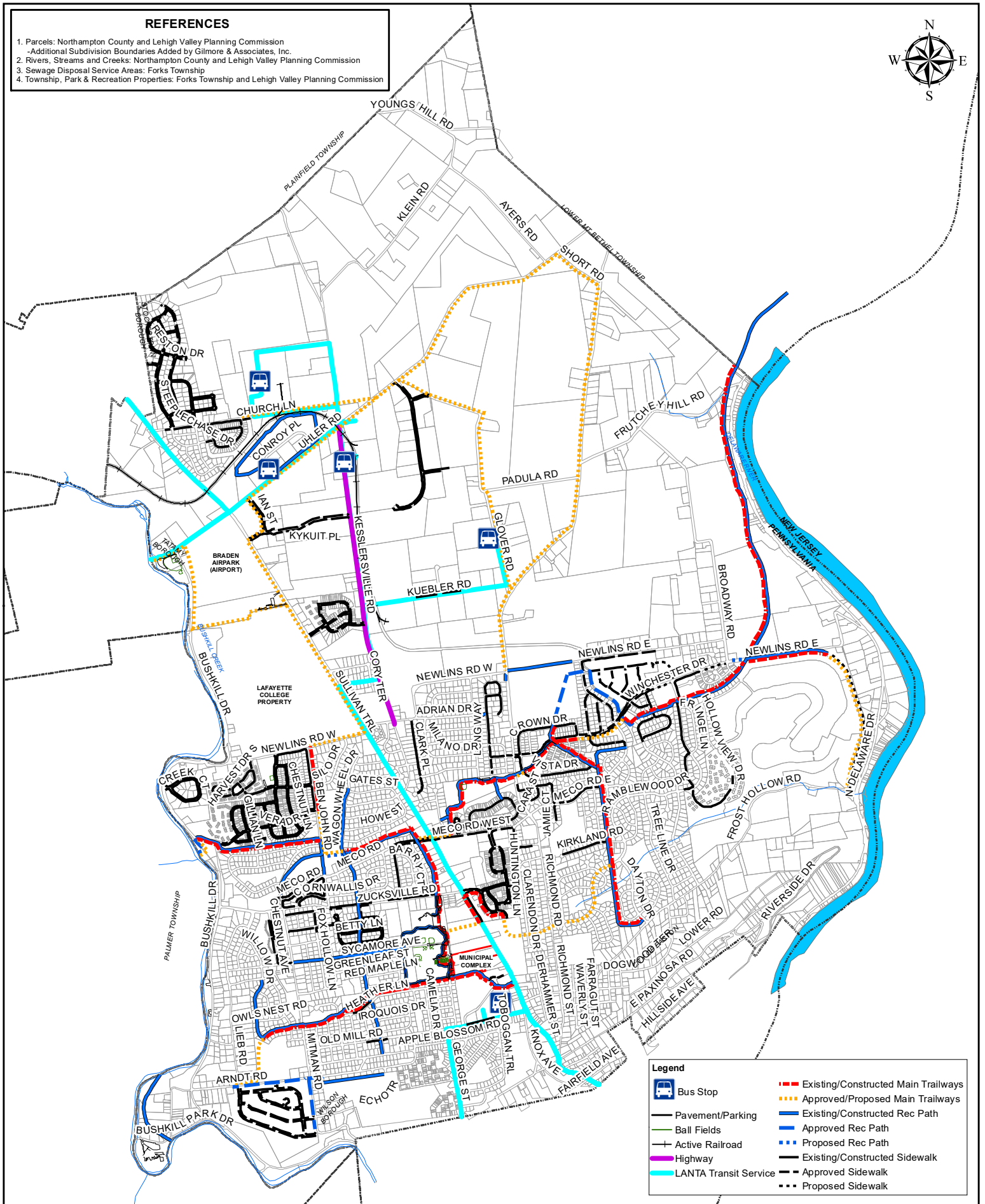
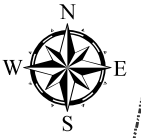
Several residential development areas have existing sidewalks and there are numerous recreation paths throughout the Township (see Transportation Features Map and Parks and Recreation Map). The Township should continue working towards connecting these existing sidewalks and paths to each other and to destinations such as schools, shopping centers, and community facilities. Additionally, the Township may wish to pursue opportunities for constructing pedestrian connections in those areas of the Township not currently outfitted with sidewalks or paths.

Although traffic congestion is a subjective issue, based on the results compiled from public input traffic congestion is a significant concern for Forks. When asked about current traffic congestion issues, only 17% of residents that responded to the Resident Survey felt that there was often traffic congestion within the Township. The majority of respondents (64%) felt traffic congestion occurred sometimes, mostly during peak A.M. and P.M. rush hours. However, in the general comments section many residents expressed concern about how potential future development would impact traffic congestion on existing roadways.

Transportation planning must maximize the interrelationship and coordination between all modes of travel to achieve an appropriate balance that serves all Township residents. This includes seeking ways to alleviate traffic congestion and improve travel times, planning for road improvements specifically those that may encourage mode-sharing, and identifying areas in need of connections.

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Township, Park & Recreation Properties: Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES

85 E. BUTLER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18901-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: November 2020

0 1,500 3,000 6,000
Feet

FORKS TOWNSHIP Transportation Features Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



Forks Township
Northampton County, Pennsylvania
1606 Sullivan Trail / Easton, Pa 18040 / 610-252-0785

Parks and Recreation Map



	Location	Address
1	Community Park	500 Zuckville Road
2	Lions Park	1950 Bushkill Drive
3	Station #2	115 Kuebler
4	Frost Hollow East (Panuccio's)	2200 Meadow Lane Drive
5	Frost Hollow West (Frenchy's)	2811 Newlins Road
6	Ramblewood	117 Ramblewood
7	College Hill Estates	2085 Blossom Hill Road
8	Artley Estates	3089 Cory Terrace
9	Frost Hollow Knolls (Sheffield)	2625 Sheffield Drive
10	Sullivan's March	935 Meco Road
11	Vista Drive Park	110 Vista Drive
12	Golf Club Park	1300 Paxinos Road East
13	Edgewood Ave (Kilby Park)	1025 Edgewood Avenue (near Craylag)
14	Frost Hollow Knolls	1980 Dayton Drive
15	Penn's Ridge Park	2755 Penn's Ridge Blvd
16	Meco Road Park	2600 Applian Way
17	Baden Airport Park	3520 Sullivan Trail
18	Newlins & Richmond Undeveloped Park	223 Newlins Road East
19	Lambert Estates	2965 Lambert Court
20	Countryside	2875 Destiny Lane
21	Sheplechase	4099 Sullivan Trail
22	Pleasant Ridge	1604 Millman Road
23	Ben John Pond	2540 Ben John Road
24	Township Garage	969F Frost Hollow Road
25	Paxinos & Merion Ave	404 Tohlgan
26	Pistosa (Across from Exxon)	Knex Ave. & Sullivan Trail
27	Recreation House	708 Zuckville Road
28	Cottage	610 Zuckville Road
29	Spring House	Bushkill Drive
30	Recreation Trail	Fritchey Hill Road to Newlins Road East

Legend

- Existing Recreation Path
- Approved Recreation Path
- Existing Sidewalks
- Approved Sidewalks
- Proposed Sidewalks
- Streams
- Parks & Recreation Area

PARKS AND RECREATION MAP
FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA

GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES
5100 TILGHMAN STREET, SUITE 150, ALLENTOWN, PA 18104 • (610) 366-8064 • www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A DATE: JANUARY 2020 SCALE: 1" = 400'

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Township's historic, cultural and natural resources contribute to its character and fabric. These resources also hold potential as an economic development and revitalization tool that can spur retail activity, the arts and tourism. If these resources were to be demolished, inappropriately modified, or neglected, the Township's heritage would be diminished.

HISTORY

Forks Township was founded in 1754 and originally extended westward to the townships of Bethlehem, and Lower and Upper Nazareth and southward to the Lehigh River, including the entire area of Palmer, which was not separated from it until the year 1857. The Bushkill Creek was eventually adopted as the line of division.⁷

The Bushkill Creek also served as a primary source of water power. Numerous mills were located along Bushkill Creek and associated streams. Additionally, many taverns, inns and hotels developed in the Township due to the areas location along major roads (Route 611). Despite these uses, Forks Township was predominantly an agrarian community.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Under the Pennsylvania History Code and the National Historic Preservation Act, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the Commonwealth's official history agency, is designated as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO administers all official state historic preservation programs and activities. These include:

- Maintaining the Commonwealth's cultural resource inventory
- Preparing a state preservation plan
- Nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places
- Reviewing state and federal undertakings for effects on cultural resources
- Assisting in certifying historic building rehabilitation projects seeking federal tax incentives
- Conducting archaeological investigations
- Overseeing the designation of historic districts under municipal ordinances
- Advising local governments on preservation issues
- Providing grants to restore historic buildings
- Conducting cultural resource surveys
- Assisting Certified Local Governments with local historic preservation programs

⁷ Lehigh Valley History <http://www.lehighvalleyhistory.com/the-history-of-forks-township/>

PHMC now hosts PA-SHARE a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and online project management system for documenting historic and cultural resources throughout Pennsylvania. As per this program, there are numerous historic and cultural resources within Forks Township.

Table 16: Historic Resources, PHMC and PA-SHARE

Type	Name	Location	Details
Marker	Sullivan Campaign	Knox Ave. (SR 2025, former PA 115) near Raub St., just N of Easton	This major expedition of the Revolution aimed at the Indian-Tory alliance in New York, was organized at Easton under Gen. John Sullivan. Over a month's preparations preceded the first day's march, begun near here June 18, 1779.
Site	Sullivan's Road	Multi-municipal	Indian paths of Pennsylvania. General John Sullivan in 1779 turned an Indian path into a military road for the invasion of the Iroquois country.
Building	The Old Log House	1010 Sullivan Trail	Pre-colonial single-family farmhouse
Building	Phillip Messenger Farmstead	1008 Zucksville Road	Mid-19 th Century single-family farmhouse
Building	Markley Farmstead	900 Zucksville Road	Mid-19 th Century single-family farmhouse
Site	Waegener Estate	Bushkill Drive	Stone house and associated collection of 19th and early 20th century outbuildings, and pristine agricultural setting
District	Waegener/Newlin's Mill Historic District	Multi-municipal	Numerous historic structures and farm land
District	Easton Airport	Sullivan Trail Road	Originally laid out in 1938, the Easton Airport today contains few structures from that date. Structures which appear to date from the 1940s-1950s are altered with aluminum siding and additions.
Building	SI Handling/Strober	600 Kuebler Road	Historic industrial structure
Building	Russell Ike Property	197-199 Padula Road	Historic structures built in 1900
Building	Uhler Road Farmhouse	Uhler Road	The Uhler Road farmhouse, just west of Kesslerville Road, is a ca. 1880s farm house set very close to the two-lane road, with three intact outbuildings around it. *Conditions are no longer as listed on PHMC and PA-SHARE. Currently, the building has been relocated and is part of an office building park.
Building	Jonas Sandt Farm	Klines Road	The Jonas Sandt Farm is an 1837 four-bay, side gable brick farmhouse with a ca. 1930 barn and other concrete block and frame sheds and outbuildings.
District	Lehigh and New England Railroad	Multi-municipal	Lehigh & New England Railroad incorporated 1895

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Forks Township Historical Society was created in 2002. The mission of this group is the assembling of documents, artifacts and items of historical significance regarding the township. The Society has



1010 Sullivan Trail – Old Log House

assembled a substantial collection of documents, photos and artifacts from property deeds written on sheepskin to farm implements and a 100-year-old merchant wagon crafted by the late Cyrus Graver, a township blacksmith and wagon builder.⁸ The Forks Township Historical Society meets monthly (4th Monday) at Faith Lutheran Church, 2012 Sullivan Trail.

The Forks Township Zoning Ordinance has provisions for a Heritage Corridor (HC) District. This district, predominantly located along Bushkill Drive (refer to Forks Township Zoning Map), is lined with historic properties, old post roads, historic mills, industrial uses, farmhouses, major scenic attributes and a mix of uses. The intent of the HC District is to preserve the cultural landscape, vistas, views and the integrity of the existing historic structures while still permitting the development of appropriate new uses.

New development often poses a potential threat to valued and unique historic assets. It is necessary to plan for historic and cultural resource protection and preservation. Changes in land use and development can alter or obscure the context of a historical resource. Therefore, consideration should be given to strengthening and enhancing the preservation and zoning tools that can be used by the township to protect and showcase historic and cultural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are defined as geology, topography, slopes, water resources, soils, flora, fauna, and significant natural areas, all of which have economic, recreational, aesthetic, and educational benefit which can be depleted if resources are not protected. These resources contribute to the character of a place and can enhance a community's quality of life. Understanding the importance of these resources is crucial in order to guide land use planning and future development responsibly.

The basis for protecting natural and environmental resources is found in the Commonwealth's Constitution, in judicial decisions, and in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The Constitution states in Article 1, Section 27:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are common property of all people, including generations yet to come."

⁸ Forks Township Historical Society <http://www.forkstownship.org/hs.html>

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

MAP 13

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCES OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY
www.dcnr.pa.gov/Geology

SCALE 1:2,000,000

0 10 20 30 40 50 M
0 20 40 60 80 KM

CENTRAL LOWLANDS PROVINCE
Eastern Lake Section

APPALACHIAN PLATEAUS PROVINCE
Northwestern Glaciated Plateau Section
High Plateau Section
Pittsburgh Low Plateau Section
Waynesburg Hills Section
Allegheny Mountain Section

RIDGE AND VALLEY PROVINCE
Deep Valleys Section
Glaciated Low Plateau Section
Glaciated High Plateau Section
Allegheny Front Section
Appalachian Mountain Section

PIEDMONT PROVINCE
Glaciated Low Plateau Section
Glaciated High Plateau Section
Reading Prong Section
Piedmont Lowland Section
Piedmont Upland Section

ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN PROVINCE
Lowland and Intermediate Upland Section

EXPLANATION

CENTRAL LOWLANDS PROVINCE

- Eastern Lake Section
- Northwestern Glaciated Plateau Section
- High Plateau Section
- Pittsburgh Low Plateau Section
- Waynesburg Hills Section
- Allegheny Mountain Section
- Allegheny Front Section
- Deep Valleys Section
- Glaciated High Plateau Section
- Glaciated Low Plateau Section
- Glaciated Plateau Section
- Glaciated Plateau Section

RIDGE AND VALLEY PROVINCE

- Appalachian Mountain Section
- Susquehanna Lowland Section
- Susquehanna Upland Section
- Blue Mountain Section
- Great Valley Section
- South Mountain Section

NEW ENGLAND PROVINCE

- Reading Prong Section
- Gettysburg-Norfolk Lowland Section
- Piedmont Lowland Section
- Piedmont Upland Section

ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN PROVINCE

- Lowland and Intermediate Upland Section

SYMBOLS

- Approximate boundary between physiographic provinces
- Approximate boundary between physiographic sections

Page | 58

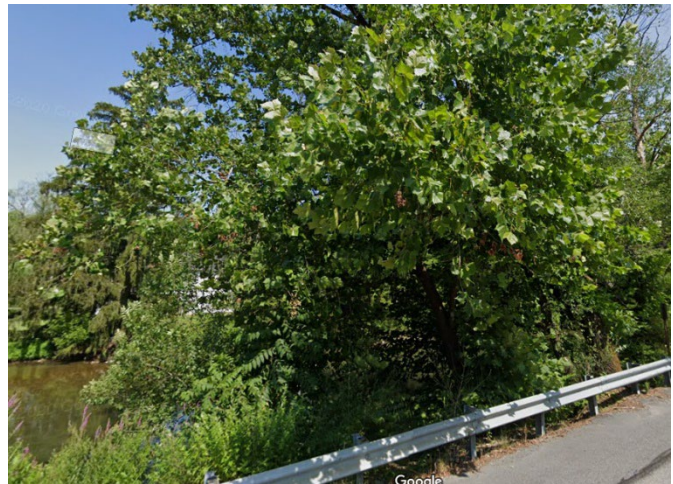
minimum elevation 140 feet; maximum elevation 1,100 feet). The underlying rock type of the Great Valley section is shale and sandstone (northwest), slate (east end), and limestone and dolomite (southeast).⁹ Forks Township consists mainly of limestone and dolomite. Dolomite and limestone are very similar rocks. They share the same color ranges of white-to-gray and white-to-light brown (although other colors such as red, green, and black are possible).

Forks Township is relatively flat with areas of steeper slopes adjacent to waterways, i.e. Bushkill Creek and Delaware River, as well as the southern portion of the Township along the border with Easton. The Forks Township Zoning Ordinance has provisions for the protection of steep slopes greater than 15 percent.

HYDROLOGIC FEATURES

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place (generally a creek or river). Watersheds vary in size and often cross municipal, county, state, and national boundaries. The entire Northampton County is within the greater Delaware River Watershed. Most of the county drains directly into the Delaware River via streams like Slateford, Jacoby, Martins and Bushkill creeks. The western end and most of the southern tier of the county first drains into the Lehigh River, via streams like Hokendauqua, Catasauqua, Monocacy and Saucon creeks, before entering the Delaware in the City of Easton. From there, our water flows to the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Forks Township is located within the Bushkill Creek Watershed and the Delaware River Watershed. The Bushkill Creek Watershed drains 80 square miles in the heart of Northampton County, including the boroughs of Wind Gap, Stockertown, Nazareth, Tatamy and Wilson, the City of Easton, and the townships of Plainfield, Bushkill, Moore, Upper Nazareth, Lower Nazareth, Bethlehem, Palmer and Forks. Bushkill Creek is designated a High Quality Coldwater Fishery and drains into the Delaware River in the City of Easton. Major tributaries include Little Bushkill Creek, Schoeneck Creek and Sober's Run.¹⁰ The Delaware River Watershed covers 13,500 square miles and four states – Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. More than 13.3 million people obtain clean, abundant water from the Delaware River



Bushkill Creek

⁹ Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources. "Physiographic Map of Pennsylvania."

¹⁰ Northampton County. "Meet Your Watershed." June 2010

<https://www.northamptoncounty.org/CTYADMN/CONSVK/Pages/Watershed.aspx>

Watershed, including 4.5 million residents of New York City, as well as Philadelphia, Allentown and Trenton.¹¹

Floodplains are relatively flat or low-lying areas adjacent to surface waters that experience or are susceptible to being inundated with water. Floodplains comprise the floodway, which consists of the stream channel and adjacent areas that carry flood flows, and the flood fringe, which is the adjacent area covered by flood water. Floodplain and floodplain soils are areas adjoining streams, ponds, or lakes that are subject to 100-year recurrence interval flood.

Floodplain areas are associated with the Delaware River and Bushkill Creek and a stream corridor which runs through the center of the Township. These areas are vital as the interface between the land and water and are crucial for the protection of water quality and aquatic life. The natural vegetation supported by floodplains helps trap sediment from upland surface runoff, stabilizes stream banks for erosion control, and provides shelter for wildlife and stream conditions beneficial for aquatic life. Development on floodplains restricts flooded rivers from draining properly, displacing flood waters that then flow farther inland, damaging communities and forcing more water downstream.

The Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act (Act 166 of 1978) requires that municipalities adopt regulations with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards as a minimum and encourages planning and development in floodplains that is consistent with sound land use practices. Municipalities are required to adopt zoning regulations to control development in floodplains in order to participate in the NFIP. Forks Township participates in the NFIP and has adopted a Floodplain Management Ordinance. Additionally, the Zoning Ordinance has provisions for the protection of floodplains, lakes, ponds, wetlands and watercourses, and lake and pond shorelines.

VEGETATION

Woodland resources serve multiple purposes. They moderate environmental conditions, support wildlife as habitat and provide recreational opportunities. They also have significant aesthetic value.

The environmental functions of woodlands are particularly important. Trees and shrubs anchor soil and reduce erosion and sedimentation in streams. The vegetative cover softens the impact of falling rainwater, enables groundwater recharge and reduces the volume and rate of runoff. Woodlands also play a role in filtering air pollutants and moderating microclimates. Additionally, woodlands provide visual and sound buffering.

Forks Township is not heavily wooded. Most wooded areas are found adjacent to waterways and floodplain areas. The Zoning Ordinance requires the protection of woodlands. Additionally, the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requires the planting of street trees.

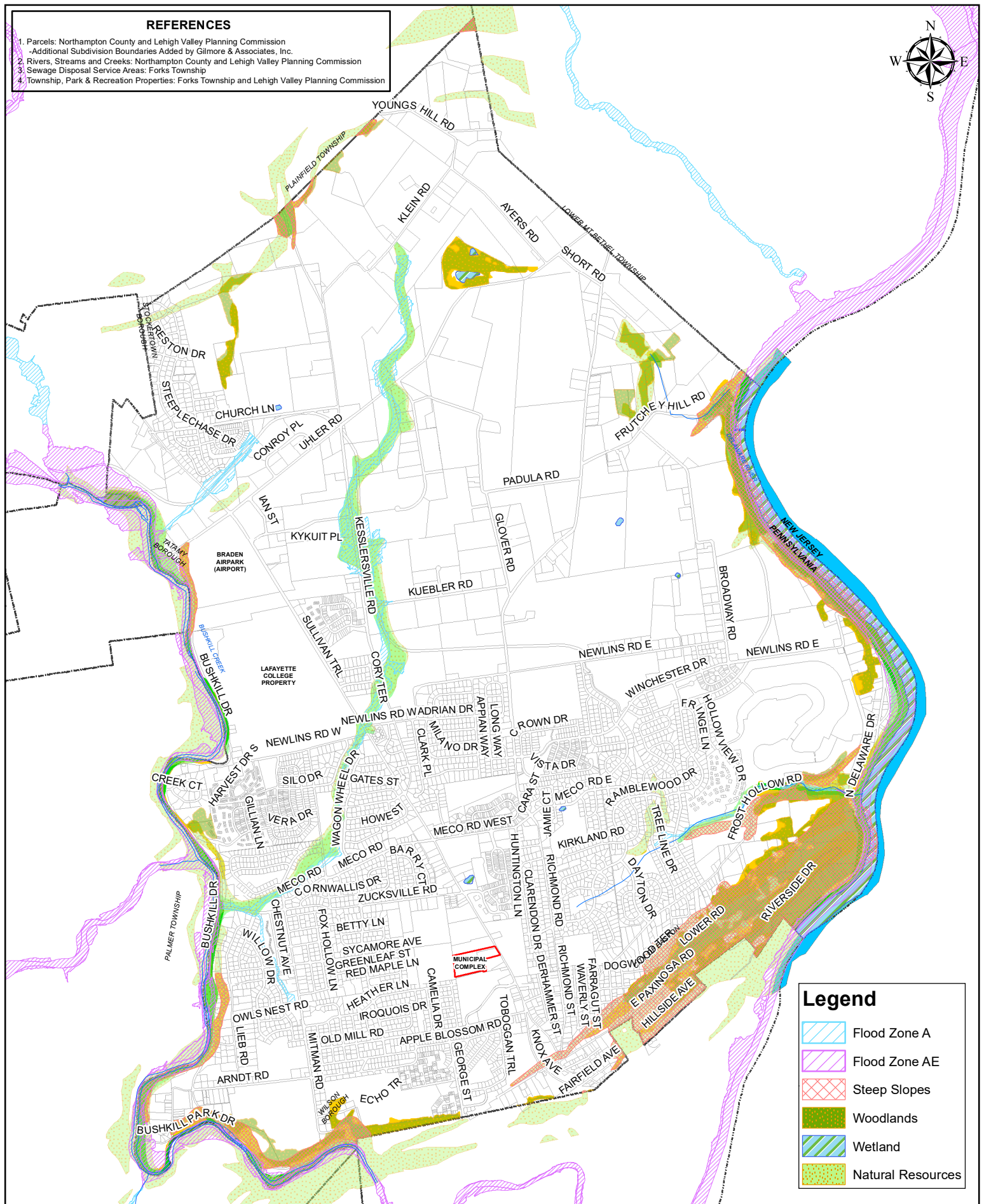
¹¹ Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed <http://www.delriverwatershed.org/the-watershed>

The natural features of the landscape contribute to the quality of life in the Township. If these features are to remain assets, land-use decisions must consider protection of specific natural resources. Development practices that include concern for natural limitations of the land often benefit both the builder and the community.

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Township, Park & Recreation Properties: Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

1. **Parcels:** Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
2. **-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.**
3. **Rivers, Streams and Creeks:** Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
4. **Sewage Disposal Service Areas:** Forks Township
5. **Township, Park & Recreation Properties:** Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

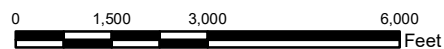


GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES

65 E. BUTLER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18901-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: November 2020



FORKS TOWNSHIP Natural Features Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



CHAPTER 5: FUTURE CONDITIONS

CHAPTER 5: FUTURE CONDITIONS

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

Land use planning recommends an overall future land use pattern for the Township for the next 10 to 20 years and provides suggestions for how best to achieve that pattern. Township policy goals in Chapter 3 and the other Plan chapters provide guidance in directing land use planning and are factored into recommendations.

Section 301.a.2 of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code requires that the land use component of the Comprehensive Plan provide:

“A plan for land use, which may include provisions for the amount, intensity, character and timing of land use proposed for residence, industry, business, agriculture, major traffic and transit facilities, utilities, community facilities, public grounds, parks and recreation, preservation of prime agricultural lands, floodplains and other areas of special hazards and other similar uses.”

Future land use categories were developed based on relevant issues that emerged during the Comprehensive Plan update process. The following outline these primary considerations:

-
- *Existing land use patterns.*
 - *Location and functioning of local and regional transportation network.*
 - *Location of existing and proposed community facilities and services.*
 - *Location and types of businesses/industries and economic need for these uses.*
 - *Accommodating housing for estimated population growth and addressing fair share housing needs.*
 - *Implementing Township policy goals and objectives for land use and related topics.*
 - *Consistency with the LVPC Comprehensive Plan, Future LV and adjacent municipal comprehensive plans.*
-

The primary purpose of implementing a Land Use Plan is growth management. Forks Township is a fairly well-balanced community in terms of land uses. However, there are several factors which could potentially threaten the rural/suburban character of the Township.

1. The availability of agricultural and vacant lands which are prime for development.
2. The Township’s location in the “fastest-growing corridor for warehousing and logistics”¹² and its proximity to major roadways accessing this corridor.
3. The potential for redevelopment of underdeveloped properties.

¹² Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. *Future LV: The Regional Plan*. November 2019

Forks Township has been divided into eight future land use categories: Rural Residential/Agriculture, Suburban Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Mixed Use 1, Mixed Use 2, Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial as shown in the Future Land Use Map.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL/AGRICULTURE

The Rural Residential/Agriculture land use categories consists primarily of agricultural lands, larger lot single-family detached dwellings, and areas of environmental resources that potentially limit development such as steep slopes. A large portion of the Rural Residential/Agriculture land use category is located within the Farmland Preservation (FP) zoning district. This district requires a larger minimum lot size – 1 acre minimum lot for single-family detached cluster development and 3 acre minimum lot size for all other permitted uses. This is consistent with the intent of the Rural Residential/Agriculture land use category.

Areas categorized as Rural Residential/Agriculture along the Township boundaries are located in the River Conservation (RC) District, the Heritage Corridor (HC) District, and the Open Space Residential (OR) District. The minimum lot area within these districts is almost 1 acre (40,000 s.f.) unless the lot can be served by public water and sewer.

SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL

The Suburban Residential future land use category comprises a variety of housing types including single-family detached dwellings, and attached dwellings such as twin or duplex. The density of this land use category is typically 2 to 8 units per acre.

Those areas identified as Suburban Residential are predominantly within the Open Space Residential (OR) District and the Country Residential (CR) District. The minimum lot area/density requirements for these districts are generally consistent with the recommended density for the Suburban Residential land use category.

MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

The Multi-Family Residential land use category includes attached dwellings and townhouses and is characterized by a density of approximately 8 or more units per acre. The areas identified as Multi-Family Residential on the Future Land Use Map are existing residential developments. No new areas of Multi-Family Residential are proposed. The purpose of this future land use category is to retain and maintain the character and density of existing residential areas where a variety of housing types are permitted.

The areas of Multi-Family Residential are located in the Town Center (TC-1) District, the Suburban Residential (SR and SR-1) Districts and the Country Residential (CR) District. As per the Township Zoning Ordinance the purpose of the Suburban Residential District is “...to encourage a greater variety of residential housing types within the portions of the Township that are most appropriately suited for relatively higher densities...” The Zoning Ordinance is generally consistent with the Future Land Use Map. However, there is an area categorized as Multi-Family Residential at the lower end of the Township to

the west of George Street which is located in the Recreational/Educational /Municipal (REM) Zoning District. The Zoning Map should be amended to rezone this area Suburban Residential.

MIXED USE

Although Forks Township may not currently have the “typical” town center of a smaller community, the Township does have specific corridors that function as the hub of commercial and social activity. The intent of the Mixed-Use category is to promote infill development, encourage redevelopment, and provide more flexibility in design regulations.

The Mixed Use 1 land use category is located along Sullivan Trail and consists of the larger parcels between Mecro Road and Apple Blossom Road. The intent of the Mixed Use 1 is to permit a mix of non-residential uses in a cohesive design which promotes walkability and serves as a community gathering destination. The area of the Mixed Use 1 category is located in the TC and TC-1 Districts. These districts are intended to promote a cultural, social and commercial center in the Township. It should be noted that the TC-1 District permits apartments. To be consistent with the intent of the Mixed Use 1 land use category it is recommended that the TC-1 District be amended.

The Mixed Use 2 land use category is located in three areas – the vicinity of Kesslersville Road and Newlins Road, the northwest border of the Township off Sullivan Trail, and along Sullivan Trail across from the Municipal Complex – and is intended to serve as a transitional area between residential and non-residential uses. The Mixed Use 2 land use category may include both residential and non-residential uses and is currently located in the EC and EC-3 Zoning Districts. As per the Forks Township Zoning Ordinance, there is a mixed use apartment with commercial-retail component permitted in the EC-3 District. This specific use may need to be reviewed and amended to be consistent with this Plan.

The Forks Township Future Land Use Map identifies eight land use categories:

- Rural Residential/Agriculture,
- Suburban Residential,
- Multi-Family Residential,
- Mixed Use 1,
- Mixed Use 2,
- Commercial,
- Institutional, and
- Industrial

These land use categories are intended to guide future development within Forks. However, it should be noted the Future Land Use Map is a policy guide and is not the same as the Zoning Map.

The Future Land Use Map makes recommendations about the future but is not legally binding.

COMMERCIAL

The Commercial future land use category is concentrated along major roadways within the Township: Sullivan Trail, Uhler Road and Kesslersville Road. The land use composition of this area includes a wide variety of commercial uses, office and institutional uses, a variety of residential dwelling types, agricultural lands and open space and/or vacant parcels.

The purpose of this future land use category is to provide for a wide variety of retail and personal service business uses, serving residents of adjacent neighborhoods. The proposed Commercial future land use

category is generally consistent with the existing zoning ordinance. However, the Braden Airpark parcel is located within the Recreational/Educational /Municipal (REM) Zoning District which should be rezoned to permit commercial, retail and office uses.

INSTITUTIONAL

Forks Township is home to many institutional buildings and uses scattered throughout the Township. Such uses include municipal buildings and facilities, and religious and educational facilities. It is the Township's policy to maintain the established institutional land use patterns in areas where they currently exist. Such institutional uses are permitted in multiple zoning districts.

INDUSTRIAL

The Industrial future land use category is predominantly centered along Uhler Road and Kesslersville Road. Infrastructure and appropriate facilities already exist in these designated areas which is conducive to promoting continued industrial use. Current uses in this area include industrial, commercial, agricultural and vacant properties. The Industrial future land use category corresponds to the Employment Center (EC and EC-1) Districts.

The intent of the EC District is to promote and encourage employment opportunities within the Township for desirable office, service and manufacturing uses. Principal access to this area is via Kesslersville Road, Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road. This district is intended to be the Township's multipurpose district which could permit both research-office and manufacturing uses. The EC District will contain the majority of the business and industry that will help to support the residential growth in the community.

Future development and/or redevelopment of the Industrial area should consist of high-quality, well-planned, well-landscaped industrial/business facilities while minimizing land use impacts on surrounding areas. Future development and/or redevelopment of the Industrial area should strive to satisfy regional market preferences. There is consideration for developing categories of industrial uses with a designated area of higher intensity industrial uses located at the center of the Industrial future land use area (along East Braden Boulevard) and an outer ring of lower intensity industrial uses. The Township could potentially consider an overlay district to accommodate such an option.

Future Land Use Implementation Strategies and Recommendations:

Maintain the commercial and industrial corridors within the Township.

Encourage appropriate economic development on undeveloped parcels.

Review and amend the current Zoning Ordinance to be consistent with the Future Land Use Plan.

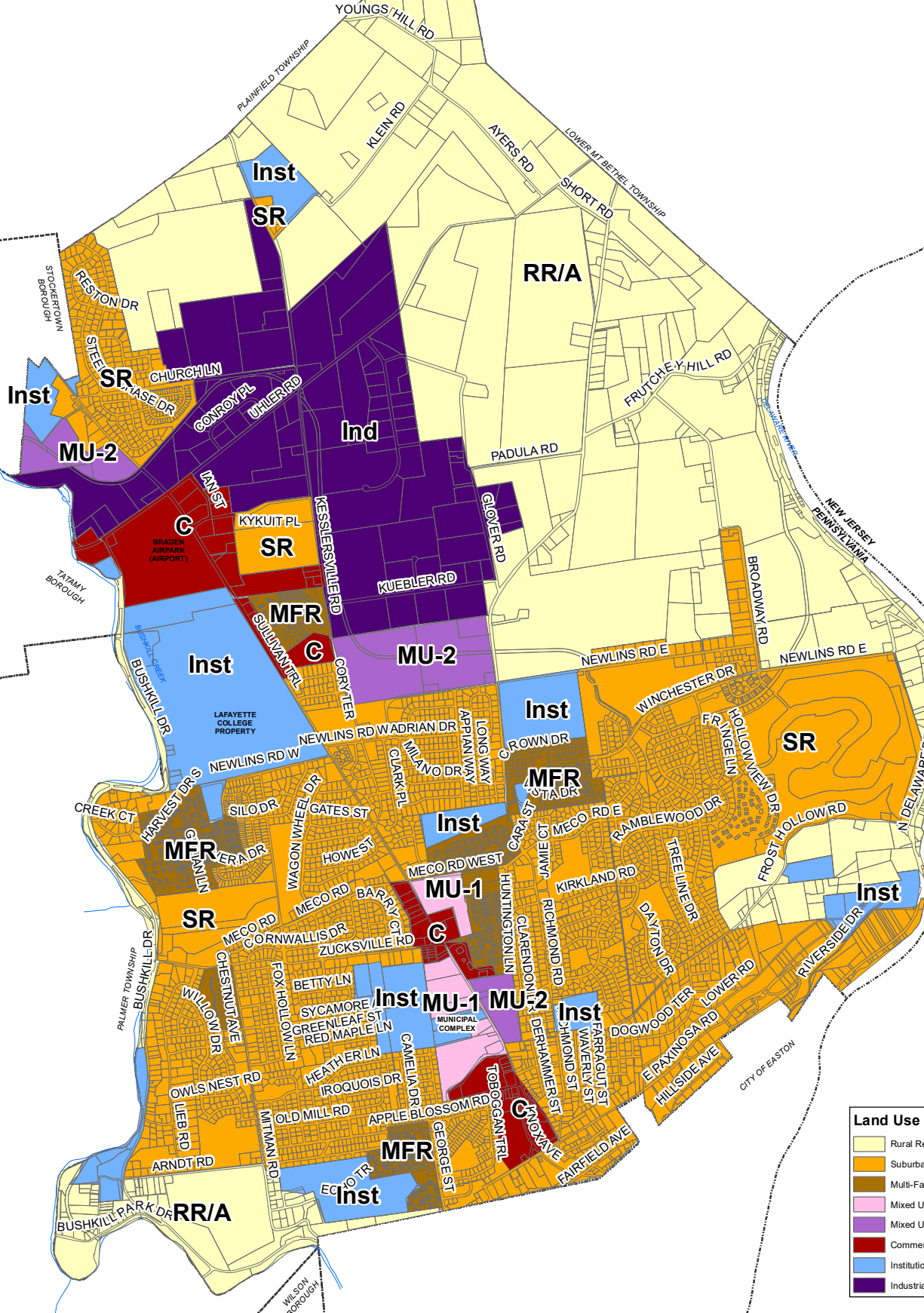
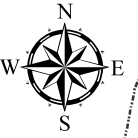
The Township should coordinate with the surrounding municipalities to ensure consistency with land use patterns across municipal borders.

The Township should conduct a windshield survey to identify areas suitable for redevelopment and/or infill development.

Continue to pursue opportunities to preserve areas of open space.

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Township, Park & Recreation Properties: Forks Township and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



Land Use

- Rural Residential/Agriculture (RR/A)
- Suburban Residential (SR)
- Multi-Family Residential (MFR)
- Mixed Use (MU-1)
- Mixed Use 2 (MU-2)
- Commercial (C)
- Institutional (Inst)
- Industrial (Ind)

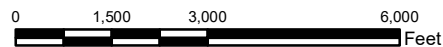


GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES

65 E. BUTLER AVE. SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18901-5106 • (215) 345-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 20-01020A3

DATE: September 2021



FORKS TOWNSHIP Future Land Use Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSING PLAN

Access to transportation, commuting patterns, access to services and education, and consumption of energy and other natural resources are all important factors in determining the value and desirability of housing. By creating a range of housing choices, communities can mitigate the environmental costs of auto-dependent development, use infrastructure more efficiently, ensure an adequate jobs-housing balance, and generate a strong foundation of support for transit, commercial centers, and other services.

Sections 301.a.2.1 and 604.4 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code require that the housing component of the Comprehensive Plan provide:

“A plan to meet housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality, which may include conservation of presently sound housing, rehabilitation of housing in declining neighborhoods and the accommodation of expected new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels.” and

“To provide for the use of land within the municipality for residential housing of various dwelling types encompassing all basic forms of housing, including single family and two-family dwellings, and a reasonable range of multifamily dwellings in various arrangements, mobile homes and mobile home parks, provided, however, that no zoning ordinance shall be deemed invalid for the failure to provide for any other specific dwelling type.”

As per the 2020 Decennial Census there are 6,204 housing units, which is an increase of approximately 11 percent from the 2010 Decennial Census (5,595 housing units). The LVPC estimates that population will grow by 2,694 people by 2030. Using the average household size of 2.69 persons per household from the 2019 ACS Estimates, this translates into approximately 1,000 new housing units. Between 2010 and 2020, the Township received land development plans for residential activity amounting to over 900 residential units in total. Projecting housing demand can be difficult because of unknown factors such as the state of the economy, interest rates, accuracy of population projections and changes to household size; however, it provides estimates that are useful for long range planning.



Attached residential dwelling

One significant trend that may have an impact on housing demand into the near future is the aging population. As shown in the age pyramids in Chapter 2, the largest cohort of Township residents is between 35 to 64 years of age, and between 2010 and 2018 there has been an increase in residents aged 65 years and older. This is indicative of persons looking to age in place. In the coming decades, increasing life expectancy, a declining birth rate, and the aging of the baby boom generation will dramatically

increase the number and proportion of the U.S. population over the age of 65. Most seniors indicate that they would prefer to age in place, either staying in their current home or choosing from a range of affordable, age-appropriate housing options within their community. A 2010 AARP survey found that 88 percent of respondents



Detached residential dwelling

over age 65 wanted to remain in their homes for as long as possible, and 92 percent said they wanted to remain in their communities.¹³ Providing affordable housing and diverse housing types encourage aging in place. This demographic benefits from pedestrian-friendly communities, transit access, neighborhood retail and services, and public spaces for social interaction.

The Township has several zoning districts which permit varying types of housing. The Farmland Protection District permits larger lot single-family detached dwellings and cluster developments; the Open Space Residential District and the Country Residential District also permits single-family detached dwellings and cluster developments, as well as performance subdivisions which includes a mix of housing types (i.e. single-family detached units, twin units, townhouse units, and apartments or duplex units); the Suburban Residential District permits single-family detached dwellings, apartments, cluster developments, performance subdivisions and age-restricted housing; the Suburban Residential/Mobile Home District permits single-family detached dwellings, apartments, cluster developments, performance subdivisions, age-restricted housing and mobile/manufactured home parks; the Town Center/Apartment District permits apartments; the Employment Center/Mobile Home District permits mobile/manufactured home parks; the Employment Center/Apartment District permits apartments; the Riverfront Conservation District and the Heritage Corridor District permits single-family detached dwellings.

Housing Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

Continue to encourage a variety of housing types at appropriate densities and scale through land use and adaptive re-use provisions.

Periodically review land use ordinances to ensure that housing choices continue to be provided for all types of living units and arrangements.

Monitor zoning to ensure that it continues to support mixed-uses in commercial and higher density areas while protecting the quality of residential life and neighborhood character.

Support public and private efforts to rehabilitate and maintain housing stock, including, but not limited to, disability-adaptive improvements, rehabilitation of owner-occupied and rental properties, and historic preservation.

Continue certificate of occupancy inspections and other building, health, and safety code enforcement.

¹³ Teresa A. Keenan. 2010. "Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population." AARP Public Policy Institute.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The function of the transportation system is to provide for the movement of people and goods between places. The adequacy of this system is directly influenced by the type and size of the population growth and land development that occur along the network.

As per Section 301.a.3 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that the transportation component of the Comprehensive Plan provide:

“A plan for movement of people and goods, which may include expressways, highways, local street systems, parking facilities, pedestrian and bikeway systems, public transit routes, terminals, airfields, port facilities, railroad facilities and other similar facilities or uses.”

Proper land use planning is critical to prevent adverse effects on the transportation network due to improper development. Conversely, when transportation improvements are designed, it is important to address the needs of the general public, individual property owners, and neighborhoods. Where appropriate, transportation improvements should be designed as multiple-use facilities that provide for pedestrians, bicycles, public transit, and motor vehicles.

An effective and efficient multi-modal transportation system is critical if Forks Township is to continue to thrive as a desirable place to live and work. Transportation issues within the Township are a result of the continuous congestion along major traffic corridors, truck volumes accessing industrial areas within the Township, the lack of a comprehensive mass transit system and the need for a more pedestrian friendly transportation network.

Transportation access and traffic issues are a great concern to the residents of Forks Township. To fully understand traffic issues within the Township we must analyze data, patterns and trends. Traffic count data is readily available for interpretation and analysis.

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC COUNT DATA

Traffic count data collects vehicle volume on roadways and expresses the data as Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT). AADT represents an estimate of all traffic during a 24-hour period at the location indicated for the year in which it was collected. Traffic information is critical in transportation decision making related to highway funding, traffic engineering, highway design, planning, programming, and air quality analysis. Table 17 provides actual AADT data for several arterial and major collector roads in the Township.

Table 17: Traffic Counts for Road Segments, Forks Township

Road Name	Location	Segment	Date	AADT
Kessler'sville Rd	2200 ft north of Kuebler Rd	0030	April 2016	3,861
Sullivan Tr	1.0 mile north of Newlins Rd	0090	April 2016	8,563
Sullivan Tr	600 ft north of Town Center Blvd	0050	July 2019	15,284
Uhler Rd	Between Ayers Rd and Short Rd	0120	July 2019	7,223
Uhler Rd	500 ft west of Kessler'sville Rd	0090	April 2016	10,803
Uhler Rd	200 ft east of Bushkill Dr	0080	October 2018	20,592
North Delaware Dr	0.2 miles south of Frutche Hill Rd	0290	October 2019	4,836
Richmond Rd	Between Newlins Rd and Glover Rd	0060	July 2019	2,465
Frost Hollow Rd	50 ft east of Meadow Lane Dr	0020	August 2016	1,445
Bushkill Dr	0.6 miles northwest of Lafayette St	0040	August 2018	6,157
Bushkill Dr	North of SR 2036	0080	June 2020*	6,176
*Traffic volumes may be lower than normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Source: PENNDOT Traffic Information Repository (TIRe)				

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and the TIP are the first four years of the Twelve-Year Program (TYP), which outline the multimodal transportation improvements spanning a four-year period. The STIP covers the entire state and includes 23 individual TIPs representing the Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPO/RPO). The TIPs feed into the statewide STIP. Federal law requires TIPs to be updated at least every three years. The MPO for the Lehigh Valley region is the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). Transportation projects identified on the TIP are multi-modal; that is, they include bicycle, pedestrian, ITS, and freight related projects, as well as the more traditional highway and public transit projects.

There are currently two projects listed on the TIP within Forks Township. Both are improvements to signalized intersections along Uhler Road – one at the intersection with Bushkill Drive and the second at the intersection with Sullivan Trail. Five million dollars has been allocated to each project for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.¹⁴

¹⁴ LVPC. *Transportation Improvement Program 2021-2024*. <https://lvpc.org/2021-2024-tip.html>

For a project to receive funding in the TIP it must align with the vision of FutureLV: The Regional Plan, and its 25-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The final list of Long-Range Transportation Plan projects was adopted by Lehigh Valley Transportation Study on October 2, 2019.

The following projects in Forks Township are listed on the Long-Range Transportation Plan:

- Sullivan Trail Signalization – update signalization along portions of Sullivan Trail, between Old Mill Road and Mecro Road
- Frost Hollow Road (State Route 2038) Bridge – bridge replacement over tributary to Delaware; replace with box and improve road 500 feet in each direction
- Forks Township Transportation Plan – study the entire active transportation system within the township
- Forks Township Walk/Bike Plan – study current and proposed pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout the township
- Crossing Safety Upgrade (3)
 - Enhance the crossing of the Forks Township Trail at the intersection of Wagon Wheel Drive and Old Mill Road
 - Enhance the crossing of the Forks Township Trail over Mitman Road
 - Enhance the crossing of the Forks Township Trail over Wagon Wheel Drive
- Bus Shelters along Sullivan Trail

TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES

The Township is currently in the process of adopting and implementing a transportation impact fee. Municipalities experiencing intense development often struggle to fund roadway improvements needed to serve that development. Transportation impact fees are one tool that can assist the Township in obtaining funds necessary for infrastructure improvements.

Transportation impact fees are a funding mechanism permitted by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Fees can be assessed to new development in proportion to its impact on transportation—the traffic the development is expected to generate during peak commuter periods. Funds collected are used to improve roadways used by development-related traffic, enabling Pennsylvania municipalities to provide adequate infrastructure to support economic growth and development.¹⁵

The MPC authorizes municipalities within the Commonwealth to enact, amend, and repeal impact fee ordinances and to charge impact fees to cover the cost of off-site road improvements. As per Section 501-A of the MPC, the purposes of transportation impact fees is to:

“... in an era of increasing development and of a corresponding demand for municipal capital improvements, to insure that the cost of needed capital improvements be applied to new developments in a manner that will allocate equitably the cost of those improvements among property owners and to respond to the increasing difficulty which municipalities are experiencing in developing revenue sources to

¹⁵ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. *Transportation Impact Fees: A Handbook for Pennsylvania’s Municipalities*. Publication 639. March 2009

fund new capital infrastructure from the public sector, the following powers are granted to all municipalities, other than counties, which municipalities have adopted either a municipal or county comprehensive plan, subdivision and land development ordinance and zoning ordinance.”

Impact fees can be used for capacity improvements to accommodate traffic generated by new development, but not to address existing or anticipated deficiencies unrelated to the development. Eligible improvements include adjustments to existing traffic signals, new traffic signals, auxiliary turn lanes, additional through travel lanes, new roads, and any other items associated with those types of improvements. Improvements can also include the correction of any existing design deficiencies within the limits of work for the capacity improvements.

A component of this process is the preparation of a Capital Improvement Plan which identifies and ranks public infrastructure projects to be undertaken during a specified timeline, usually four to ten years. The Capital Improvement Plan and all other documents produced as part of this process are incorporated as part of this Comprehensive Plan.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Planning for public transit, pedestrian walkability, and bikeway systems is crucial for meeting the needs of the community and can potentially alleviate strain on the roadway system. LVPC adopted an active transportation plan, *Walk/Roll LV*, in May 2020¹⁶. Goals of this plan include:

- **Safety and Accessibility** – Reduce crashes and improve personal security for people who walk, roll, bicycle or use public transit. Eliminate barriers for people with disabilities. Provide supportive education, enforcement and public engagement programming.
- **Convenience and Connectivity** – Make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to get to where they want to go by walking, rolling, bicycling and using public transit.
- **Seamless Multimodal Integration** – Provide seamless integration between trails, sidewalks, roads and public transit.
- **Regional Coordination** – Foster regional coordination to improve pedestrian and bicycle conditions and develop a connected regional bicycle network.
- **Culture** – Make walking, rolling, bicycling and public transit use key elements of regional transportation.
- **Equity** – Provide equal access to high-quality, low-stress walking, rolling, bicycling and public transit networks for everyone in the Lehigh Valley.
- **Air Quality and Climate** – Improve air quality and mitigate the impact of the transportation system on climate change.
- **Emerging Technologies** – Leverage emerging technologies to increase the safety, comfort, and convenience of walking, rolling, bicycling and public transit use.

The Township does not have a current trail plan, and until an official plan is prepared, the regional active transportation plan should be incorporated as part of this Comprehensive Plan. According to *Walk/Roll LV*, there are significant gaps in sidewalk connections throughout the Township. To promote a more walkable community these gaps should be completed especially connecting residential neighborhoods to destinations, i.e. shopping,

¹⁶ Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. *Walk/Roll LV: An Active Transportation Plan*. May 30, 2020.
<https://lvpc.org/pdf/2020/WalkRoll/WalkRoll%20Reduced.pdf>

schools, parks, etc. Additionally, as noted above, the long-range transportation plan includes a line item for a comprehensive walk/bike plan for Forks Township.

The long-range transportation plan also includes transit projects. The only noted project specific to Forks Township is bus shelters along Sullivan Trail. Other transit projects include:

- Transit vehicle maintenance and replacement
- Enhancements to bus/bus rapid transit
- Intelligent transportation systems and security

Transportation Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

Maintain and improve streets to ensure the safety of residents, pedestrians, and motorists and the livability of neighborhoods while maintaining the high level of connectivity of the Township's street pattern.

Develop policies regarding traffic calming, including the participation of any neighborhood that could be affected by the addition of traffic calming measures.

Work with LANTA to ensure that the public transportation needs of residents are being met.

Improve the pedestrian circulation system through improvements to the sidewalk system and pedestrian crossings at street intersections.

Identify gaps in the pedestrian/bicycling network and recommend specific improvements needed to fill these gaps in the system.

Provide pedestrian and bike trail connections to schools, parks, community facilities, and public transportation hubs/stops.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Economic development is the manifestation of a community's fiscal, social, and physical resources as part of a long-term planning process aimed at preserving and improving its overall quality of life. Economic development focuses on important aspects of a community that are provided by the private sector—employment opportunities, businesses serving residents, a stable and growing tax base, and business involvement as corporate citizens in a community's activities and decision-making. Understanding the demographics of those who live and work in Forks Township as well as local and regional retail markets helps to identify potential economic development opportunities.

Vibrant and attractive commercial districts are an integral component of a successful residential suburb. Traditionally centered on public transit nodes, along heavily traveled streets or at prominent intersections, suburban commercial districts are a natural extension of their immediate residential neighborhoods and provide locations for the day-to-day services and operations necessary for modern life, such as grocery stores, restaurants, dry cleaners, florists, and offices. The Township's various commercial districts are essentially the "downtown" of their respective neighborhoods, places where residents can conduct business, gather, or informally socialize. Because of their prominent locations along major roadways, the visual appearance of non-residential districts often defines the identity of the neighborhood which it represents.

*Shopping center**Industrial warehouse*

The Township has a sufficient supply of land designated for commercial activities to serve local needs and support the local tax base. No net increase in commercial areas is recommended, but it is recommended that there be no further loss of commercial land area to non-commercial land uses. Forks Township will continue to attract residential development so care should be taken to ensure that areas currently designated for commercial land use remain commercial and that commercial areas evolve to serve community needs.

An emerging trend in the Lehigh Valley region is the development of "mega" warehouses. These warehouse developments are designed to accommodate the continuing growth of e-commerce and one-day delivery. The Lehigh Valley serves as a prime location for these new warehouse distribution centers with the accessibility of I-78 and other highways and the proximity to major metropolitan areas along the East Coast, along with a readily available workforce. Forks Township is primed to experience this surge in warehouse development and should plan proactively to manage the impacts of such development.

Economic Development Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

Evaluate the feasibility of implementing physical improvements (i.e., façade improvements, landscaping, signage) and improving access within the commercial corridors.

Market vacant spaces within the commercial areas for appropriate uses.

Promote regional activities (e.g., recreation, entertainment, and retail events) to benefit the local and regional economy.

Examine existing off-street parking requirements and develop regulations which minimize impervious coverage while still meeting parking demand.

Update local ordinances to address emerging trends in industrial development.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

Community facilities and services are necessary for public health, safety, and welfare. These facilities include police, fire protection, emergency services, medical and healthcare facilities, schools, libraries, other municipal services provided by the Township (e.g., public works, and solid waste and recycling) and utilities. Many of these community facilities tie into other elements of this Comprehensive Plan such as the promotion of historic and cultural resources, and the preservation of natural resources. Community facilities and services help determine the quality of life experienced in Forks Township and involve such matters as staffing, funding, on-going maintenance, and capital project needs to ensure that adequate services are provided well into the future.

Section 301.a.4 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that the community facilities component of the Comprehensive Plan provides:

“A plan for community facilities, which may include public and private education, recreation, municipal buildings, fire and police stations, libraries, hospitals and other similar facilities or uses.”

Planning for utilities is a critical component of municipal planning. The Township Code of Ordinances includes Chapter 150 Sewers and Sewage Disposal and Chapter 163 Stormwater Management. The public sewer service area for Forks Township is concentrated in the southern and western portion of the Township where most development is located. Areas in the northern and eastern portions of the Township are served by on-lot systems (refer to Sewer Service Area Map). The Township’s Stormwater Management Ordinance was adopted in 2014 and is intended to reduce runoff and improve water quality through the implementation of regulatory tools and best management practices. The Easton Suburban Water Authority (ESWA) provides water service to Forks Township.

While Forks Township has been affected by natural and man-made disasters in the past, Township staff and emergency management personnel are more prepared than ever to protect life and property from these hazards. Township officials also recognize the potential impacts of disasters and the need to support proactive mitigation efforts to prevent or reduce the impacts of hazards. Investing in mitigation planning and practices now will significantly reduce the need for future recovery efforts and costs associated with recovery, repair, and reconstruction.

Township finances and budgeting are an important part of the comprehensive planning process. To carry out the goals and objectives of this Comprehensive Plan, the Township must be in good financial shape. Moreover, decisions about how funds are spent reflect the Township’s priorities, making it essential to link what the Township wishes to do with the available funds.

Each year an annual budget is submitted as required by local and state ordinances. The budget for each fiscal year reflects as nearly as possible the estimated revenues and expenses for budget and calendar year. The budget is intended to meet Board goals and objectives, set service priorities, make clearer the operational service demands and establish base funding available. The budget encompasses capital equipment and projects and continues allocating resources to reserve and emergency funds to ensure the financial stability of the Township in the future. The budget is a public document and is available for review.

The maintenance, continuation and update of existing community facilities is essential to the Township's ability to provide its residents with needed services which is a major contributor to the quality of life and safety within Forks.

Community Facilities and Services Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

Prepare and implement a comprehensive greenway and trail network study to identify where connections can be made within the Township and to neighboring municipalities, and ensure these facilities are designed to provide safe measures for its users.

Identify potential improvement projects (e.g., trail construction, signage/crosswalks/trail markers, and information kiosks) and potential funding sources for their implementation.

Collaborate with adjacent municipalities to provide regional trail connections.

Continue to work with other organizations in the development of facilities to maximize the use of public and quasi-public buildings or recreation space.

Continue to seek opportunities for the preservation and acquisition of open space.

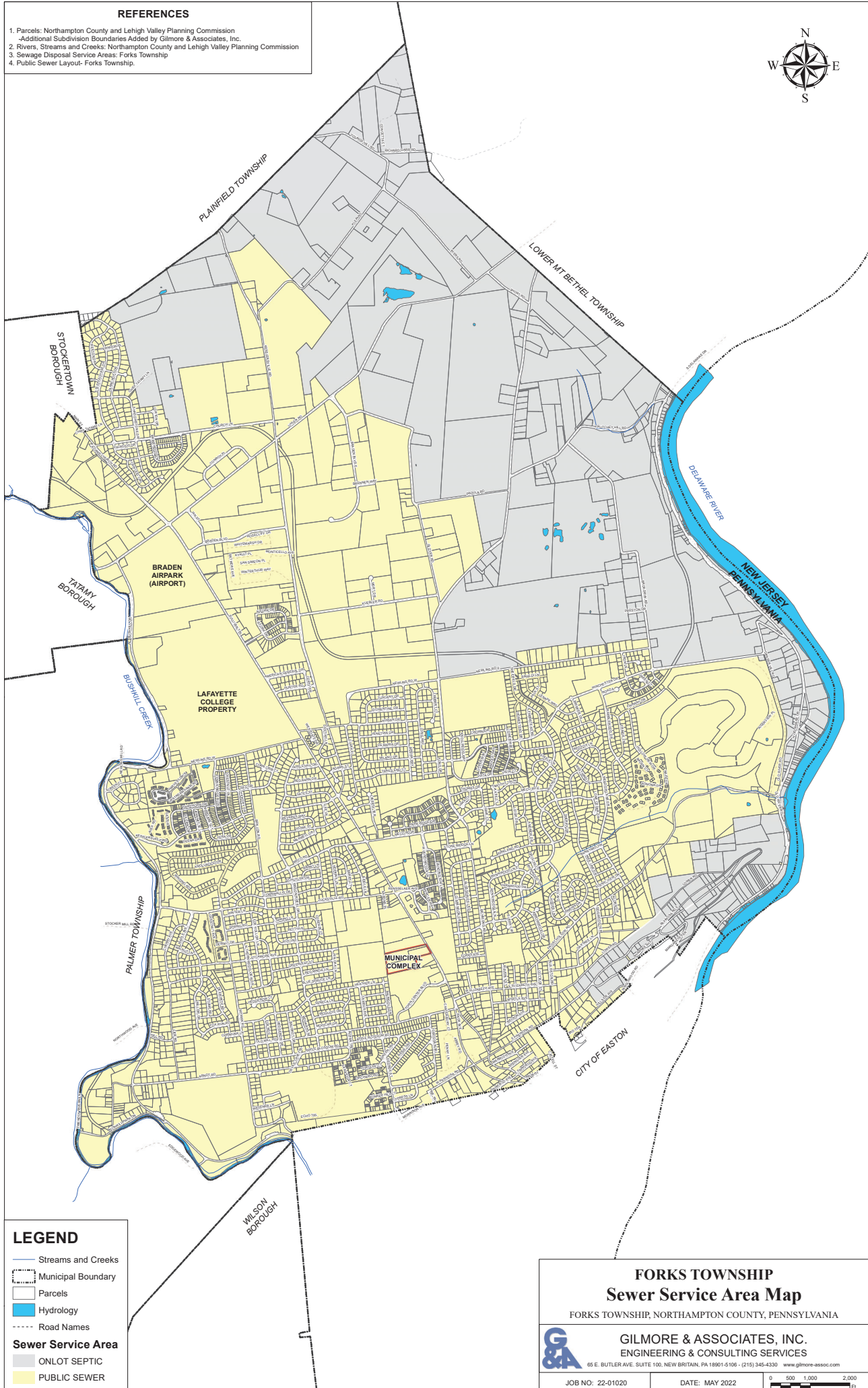
Continue to monitor resident needs to evaluate demand for service and facilities expansion that may arise.

Cooperate with State, County, and adjacent municipalities to ensure that adequate provision of regional services such as fire services, ambulance services and medical services are provided for the Township's residents.

Establish a long-range, strategic plan that closely monitors the response times and needs of emergency services and ensure that the police and fire services have sufficient capabilities and are efficiently meeting the needs of the current and future Township residents. If necessary, and when appropriate, such services should be expanded.

REFERENCES

1. Parcels: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
-Additional Subdivision Boundaries Added by Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
2. Rivers, Streams and Creeks: Northampton County and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
3. Sewage Disposal Service Areas: Forks Township
4. Public Sewer Layout- Forks Township.



LEGEND

- Streams and Creeks
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Hydrology
- Road Names

- Sewer Service Area**
- ONLOT SEPTIC
 - PUBLIC SEWER

FORKS TOWNSHIP Sewer Service Area Map

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES

65 E. BUTLER AVE., SUITE 100, NEW BRITAIN, PA 18061-6106 - (215) 346-4330 www.gilmore-assoc.com

JOB NO: 22-01020

DATE: MAY 2022

0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet

HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION PLAN

Forks Township's historic and natural resources are a significant part of the community's fabric and character. There are many historic and culturally significant properties in the Township. If these resources were to be demolished, inappropriately modified, or neglected, the Township's heritage would be diminished. Natural resources play an important role in the ecology of a community and region. These resources include waterways, floodplains, open space, wetlands, riparian vegetation, steep slopes, and woodlands. The natural areas present in Forks Township support a rich diversity of native vegetation and wildlife, indicating a healthy living environment for people, plants, and animals. Both historic and natural resources also carry economic, recreational, aesthetic, and educational benefits which can be depleted if resources are not protected.

Section 301.a.6 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that this component of the Comprehensive Plan provide:

"A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources, to the extent not pre-empted by federal or state law. This clause includes, but is not limited to, wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, flood plains, unique natural areas and historic sites."

The importance of protecting natural resources has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Constitution, which guarantees the rights of all citizens to clean air and pure water. While Federal and Commonwealth regulations



Bushkill Creek

provide some broad-brush protection for certain natural resources such as wetlands, municipal regulations are necessary to preserve and protect the majority of a community's natural heritage. Forks Township recognizes the importance of protecting natural resources and has provisions in the zoning ordinance for preserving them.

Forks Township has a historical society involved with the preservation of the Township's historic and cultural heritage, as well as residents with a vast knowledge and interest in the history of the Township. The zoning ordinance has a Heritage Corridor District which is an area with a concentration of historic properties, old post roads, historic mills, industrial uses, farmhouses, major

scenic attributes and a mix of uses. As per the ordinance, the intent of the Heritage Corridor District is "to preserve the cultural landscape, vistas, views and the integrity of the existing historic structures, yet not limit the possibility of new uses. In addition, it is the intent of the district to promote cultural and recreational tourism, enhance the visual and environmental character of the Bushkill Creek area and provide opportunities within and along this resource."

The preservation of open space is a high priority task within the Township. Open space is a term that includes all parcels or areas of land or water set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment or for the use and enjoyment of the land by the land owners, occupants and their guests, or for the general benefit of the community as preserved lands. In Forks the term open space includes active and passive parks, recreational facilities, greenways, trails, natural areas, agricultural and historic areas. Forks Township recently convened an Open Space Task Force (established in November of 2021) with the intent of pursuing available options for open space acquisition. Members of this Task Force include representatives from the Board of Supervisors, members of Planning Commission and local residents.

To further support the preservation of historic and cultural resources the Township, with the assistance of the historical society, should prepare a historic survey which inventories the existing resources and catalogs changes over time.

Climate change is also becoming a serious problem with substantial impacts such as extreme weather events, flooding and runoff problems, increased risk of respiratory disease, and changes to farming. Additionally, a plan for the conservation of energy and moving toward the future of alternative sources of energy to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources is a part of this Comprehensive Plan. Such a plan for energy conservation includes various actions that will contribute to a comprehensive approach to a sustainable energy future.

Historic and Natural Resources Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

Undertake a historic survey to identify potential additions, deletions, or modifications to the Township's historic resources.

Continue to support preservation efforts by the Forks Township Historical Society and other local groups and individuals to identify, maintain, and protect sites significant to the Township's past.

Consider identifying key resources with historic or cultural markers.

Continue seeking funding sources for historic and cultural resources in need of preservation and rehabilitation.

Continue to promote site development practices that are sensitive to the natural features of the site.

Conduct an assessment of existing riparian areas and establish appropriate standards to protect water quality and habitat of Forks Township's waterbodies.

Continue to provide enforcement of existing regulations providing natural resources protection.

Encourage conservation design standards which offer flexible and innovative approaches to site development, which enhance environmental features of the site and minimize impacts on natural resources.

Continue to encourage flexible and innovative approaches to site development such as reductions of unnecessary impervious coverage and replacement with open space, landscaping, or pervious materials.

Promote, through educational material and social media, energy conservation and efficiency practices to residents and businesses. Implement practices that reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency, and increase use of alternative and renewable energy sources.



CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY CONTEXT

CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY CONTEXT

This chapter discusses the relationships of the policies set forth in this Comprehensive Plan to those of Northampton County, neighboring municipalities, and the region.

Section 301.a.5 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires that this component of the Comprehensive Plan provide:

“A statement indicating the relationship of the existing and proposed development of the municipality to the existing and proposed development and plans in contiguous municipalities, to the objectives and plans for development in the county of which it is a part, and to regional trends.”

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

As part of the Lehigh Valley region, Northampton County is included in *Future LV*, the region’s comprehensive plan. Adopted in 2019, *Future LV: The Regional Plan* establishes a single, innovative comprehensive plan for the Lehigh Valley region which “merges the land use, community, economic, natural resources, agricultural, historic preservation, housing, utilities and community facilities planning of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) with the transportation planning and investment of the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS).”

Goals of the Regional Comprehensive Plan include efficient and coordinated development pattern; connected mixed-transportation region; protected and vibrant community; competitive creative and sustainable region; and safe, healthy, inclusive and livable communities.

Based on the General Land Use Plan, the southern and western portions of Forks Township is characterized as Development and the northeast section of the Township is Farmland Preservation with an area of Preservation Buffer between the two. The Plan also identifies two Centers in the Township – the industrial area along Uhler Road and the town center area on Sullivan Trail. Additionally, these two roads – Uhler Road and Sullivan Trail – are designated corridors. Centers are defined as existing active economic districts near residential neighborhoods that are interconnected by busy roads, trails and transit corridors.

The Forks Township Future Land Use Plan and the zoning ordinance are both generally consistent with the regional General Land Use Plan. Other objectives that are consistent between the two comprehensive plans include:

- Preserving natural areas and farmland by managing growth and development.
- Maintain character by preserving environmental, historic, cultural, scenic and agricultural assets.
- Develop a mixed-transportation network to encourage alternative travel options.
- Provide a safe, well-maintained transportation network to move people and goods efficiently.
- Encourage enhanced transit connections to improve mobility and job access.
- Preserve farmland to maintain rural character and provide open space.
- Provide a variety of attainable housing.
- Create community spaces that promote physical and mental health.

ADJACENT MUNICIPAL PLANS AND ORDINANCES

The MPC requires that the adopted Comprehensive Plan be compatible with the existing and proposed development and plans of neighboring municipalities, and consistent with the goals and objectives of the County Comprehensive Plan. In preparing the Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Update, the comprehensive plans of neighboring municipalities and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Regional Plan were considered to facilitate sound regional planning.

Municipalities adjacent to the Township and an overview of their existing land uses and development patterns are briefly described as follows:

- City of Easton is located to the South of Forks. The city is primarily a mix of housing types and development intensities with the College Hill District adjoining the Township's Suburban Residential future land use category at the boundary. The purpose of the College Hill District is to protect the character of this unique hillside neighborhood adjoining Lafayette College, accommodating a mix of housing types and development intensities, neighborhood retail and commercial services, green space, and appropriate infill. The intent and permitted uses of the College Hill District is generally consistent with the intent and permitted uses of the Suburban Residential land use category
- Wilson Borough is to the south of Forks Township with just the northern point of the Borough, zoned I-1 General Industrial, bordering the Township. The Forks Township Future Land Use Map designates Rural Residential/Agriculture in this general area. The Wilson Borough Comprehensive Plan 1993-2020 Future Land Use Plan shows boulevard uses and local commercial in the area bordering Forks Township. Although these uses may not be ideally compatible the Borough and Township are separated from one another by Bushkill Creek and Bushkill Drive.
- Palmer Township is located to the southwest of Forks Township. The two townships are separated by Bushkill Drive and Bushkill Creek. Palmer Township is primarily a residential

community. Bordering land uses are predominantly residential and recreational/open space areas. Uses are generally compatible, however, in the area where industrial uses in Palmer Township exist adjacent to the Rural Residential/Agriculture future land use category in Forks it should be noted that Bushkill Creek, Bushkill Drive and Lion's Park serve as a buffer to mitigate any impacts between uses.

- Tatamy Borough is located to the west of Forks Township generally in the area of Uhler Road. The area of the Borough which borders Forks is zoned industrial and commercial along with some medium-low density residential. This is generally consistent with the Forks Township Future Land Use Plan which designates most of the bordering area as Industrial and Commercial with a small area of Institutional and Rural Residential/ Agriculture.
- Stockertown Borough is located northwest of Forks Township. Stockertown Borough is a long-established residential community that also contains large industries such as Hercules Cement, Polymer Products, and Praxair on the western end of the Borough along the State Route 33 corridor. The area of the Borough bordering Forks is zoned residential. The Township Future Land Use Plan designates the adjacent area as Suburban Residential, Mixed Use and Institutional which is compatible with the Borough's residential land uses.
- Plainfield Township – is located north of Forks Township. The Pen Argyl-Plainfield-Wind Gap Regional Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 2004 and identifies a strong agricultural preservation effort in Plainfield Township, particularly in the southern area bordering Forks Township. The zoning map indicates Farm & Forest (FF) for the entire border adjacent to Forks Township. The existing land use map identifies conservation and agricultural preservation with some parks and other outdoor recreation and a pocket of commercial/retail north off of Youngs Hill Road adjacent to Forks Township. These uses are compatible with the Forks Township Future Land Use Map which designates Rural Residential/Agriculture in this area.
- Lower Mount Bethel Township is located northeast of Forks Township. The area of Lower Mount Bethel Township which borders Forks Township is mostly agricultural/vacant or rural residential land uses. The Forks Township Future Land Use Plan identifies the area adjacent to Lower Mount Bethel as Rural Residential/Agriculture which is generally consistent with the neighboring land uses of Lower Mount Bethel Township.

It appears that the existing and proposed development in Forks Township and this Comprehensive Plan are generally compatible with existing and proposed development or plans for the proposed development along adjacent portions of contiguous municipalities.



CHAPTER 7: ACTION PLAN

CHAPTER 7: ACTION PLAN

An Action Plan provides a ‘blueprint’ guide for carrying out Comprehensive Plan policy. It lists the Goals and Objectives as described in previous Plan chapters, and outlines ‘when’, and ‘how’ planning efforts should be implemented.

The action plan is an effort to itemize the goals and objectives to be addressed by the Township. Goals and objectives, as well as action items are not binding, and may be modified, deleted or added to, as circumstances require. Plan recommendations should be re-evaluated on a regular basis to ensure they are still valid, appropriate, and current.

Together, the set of goals and objectives, and this plan for action address the Township’s planning vision. It should be noted that, to date, the Township has addressed and successfully undertaken some of the key recommendations from its 2009 Comprehensive Plan. While there are outstanding but still relevant recommendations from the 2009 Plan that are carried forward into this 2022 Plan update, it also includes updated and new recommendations.

Recommendation Priorities

A key component of the Action Plan is setting an anticipated timeline to pursue and complete specific recommendations. Each recommendation is assigned a ‘priority’ – high, medium, low.

- *High Priority is to be completed within the next year*
- *Medium Priority is to be completed within the next two to five years*
- *Low Priority is to be completed between five and ten years*

LAND USE

GOAL

Plan for and manage the use of land in a manner that provides for a balanced range of uses, meets the needs of current and future residents, and establishes a balance among resource protection, conservation of open space, preservation of community character, and growth.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Manage growth to create livable and sustainable development, and maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Township residents.	Create a Township sustainability planning advisory committee including representatives from the Planning Commission, Recreation Board, community volunteers, and other relevant committees	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Develop a Township-wide Sustainability Plan as an implementation component of the Township Comprehensive	Low	BOS and Township staff

	Plan.		
	Develop Township measures to promote and recognize sustainable practices of residents and businesses in the Township.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Conduct windshield survey to identify areas suitable for redevelopment and/or infill development.	High	Township staff
	Continue to pursue opportunities to preserve areas of open space.	On-going	Open Space Task Force, BOS and Township staff
Provide for growth in appropriate areas, through new development and redevelopment, as supported by the necessary infrastructure.	Update zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances to support infill development and redevelopment/adaptive re-use efforts.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Locate smaller-scale, neighborhood-serving commercial and office use clusters so they complement and provide convenient access from nearby residential areas.	On-going	BOS, PC and Township staff
Accommodate a range of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional land uses and, through appropriate land use regulations, ensure their compatibility with the existing Township character.	Review and revise local codes to encourage appropriate and flexible design options.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Update sign ordinance.	High	Township staff
	Create a clear and concise method for code enforcement.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Promote area beautification and community identity through context sensitive building and site design principles, appropriate signage, and attractive landscaping.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Coordinate with surrounding municipalities to ensure consistency with land use patterns across municipal borders.	On-going	BOS, Township staff and representatives from adjacent municipalities
Protect agriculture, natural resources, and open space through the use of regulatory provisions.	Review and evaluate current ordinance provisions.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
	Explore opportunities for preservation of land through purchase of land and/or easements.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Promote economically viable and environmentally sustainable agriculture as an important land	Support appropriate agriculture operations as a source of locally grown food i.e. farmers market, roadside stands.	On-going	BOS and Township staff

use and industry within the community.			
Maintain the existing pattern of commercial and industrial development, which complements the Township's character and is based on the availability of supporting infrastructure.	Encourage the development of supportive commercial near employment areas.	On-going	BOS
	Plan for industrial areas with convenient access to state highways and/or the rail corridor, where appropriate.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Require all new development to create a site design compatible with surrounding uses through buffering, screening, transitional densities, and other best site design practices.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
Ensure regulatory controls support the land use policies of this Plan.	Encourage land uses and site designs that do not harm natural systems and resources.	On-going	BOS, PC and Township staff
	Require appropriate landscaping, buffers, and noise mitigation with new development along transportation corridors (setback, vegetation, low walls, berms, etc.).	High	BOS and Township staff
	Require appropriate building design, and landscaping elements to buffer, screen, beautify, and integrate commercial, industrial, and parking lots into existing neighborhoods.	On-going	BOS, PC and Township staff
Ensure that regulatory design standards for commercial, industrial, and institutional development are current with accepted best practices.	Encourage and support mixed-use areas that provide the benefits of being able to live, shop, dine, play, and work in close proximity, thereby reducing vehicle trips, and enhancing overall livability and sustainability.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Promote sustainable land use and building practices.	Require pedestrian circulation plans to ensure safety and convenient access across large commercial and mixed-use developments.	High	BOS and Township staff

HOUSING

GOAL

Provide diverse housing options to meet the needs of all households now and into the future.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Support the viability of existing housing stock and neighborhoods.	Regularly monitor property tax revenue and vacancy rates in the rental and ownership market.	On-going	Township staff
	Elevate and enhance the quality and connectivity of residential site and subdivision planning.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Pursue funding options to assist property owners with upkeep and revitalization.	Medium	Township staff
	Provide existing regulations to property owners regarding property maintenance.	High	Township staff
	Update Township website to serve as a resource clearinghouse for residents (i.e., local contractors, retailers, etc.)	High	Township staff
	Support public and private efforts to rehabilitate and maintain housing stock, including, but not limited to disability adaptive improvements, rehabilitation of owner-occupied and rental properties, and historic preservation.	High	BOS and Township staff
Ensure that regulatory controls permit a range of housing types and densities to meet the diverse needs of current and future residents in a manner compatible with the overall character of the community.	Align local ordinances with the policies of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the community's desires for various types, sizes, and designs of residential neighborhoods.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Regularly assess permitting activity and work to encourage a mix of housing types.	On-going	Township staff
	Maintain a range of residential land use designations that allow diverse lot sizes, housing types, and densities.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Regularly monitor local codes and ordinances to ensure compliance with state and federal laws such as the Fair Housing Act	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Encourage a variety of housing types that meet the needs, preferences, and financial capabilities of the Township's present and future residents.	High	BOS and Township staff
Develop design guidelines and regulations to allow	Remove regulatory barriers and develop design criteria that	High	BOS and Township staff

developers the opportunity to explore more innovative and greener designs.	support the construction of accessory dwelling units and micro homes where appropriate.		
	Incorporate green design standards into the land use ordinances.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Research and pursue opportunities for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) projects in the Township.	Medium	Township staff
	Encourage development and/or redevelopment of housing that meets LEED, Energy Star, or other 'Green' building standards.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Consider Township assistance for energy efficiency improvements and alternative energy installations.	Low	Township staff

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL

Seek a balanced, diversified economy in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life of local residents.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Expand the Township's tax base through appropriate commercial and industrial development and redevelopment, thus contributing to the Township's economic and budgetary sustainability.	Provide location-specific standards as incentives to attract high-quality businesses and living-to-high wage jobs.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
	Regularly conduct industry market analysis to determine feasibility of existing and emerging industries to better understand workforce, land use, and transportation needs.	On-going	Township staff
	Implement a clear development application review process for new and expanding businesses.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Promote regional activities (e.g., recreation, entertainment, and retail events) to benefit the local and regional economy.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Encourage commercial and industrial development and redevelopment along the	Review and update Zoning Map as necessary to be generally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff

existing commercial and industrial corridors.	Provide incentives for the adaptive re-use of vacant and/or abandoned or underutilized commercial and industrial properties/structures.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Establish and maintain relationships with existing businesses and industry groups to determine present and future needs.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Evaluate the feasibility of implementing physical improvements (i.e., façade improvements, landscaping, signage) and improving access within commercial corridors.	Medium	Township staff
Promote adaptive reuse and redevelopment initiatives for abandoned/vacant industrial and commercial sites.	Remove requirements for large minimum tract sizes and open space design development to allow for infill development on smaller tracts.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
	Establish methods to support the business community by drafting an Economic Development Plan in partnership with the Forks Business Association and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.	Medium	BOS, Township staff, Forks Business Association and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
	Connect businesses with local, state, regional, and federal resources for incentives, resources, and opportunities.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Promote clean and green industry development in the designated commercial and industrial corridors.	Incorporate green design standards into the land use ordinances.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Research and pursue opportunities for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) projects in the Township.	Medium	Township staff
	Examine existing off-street parking requirements and develop regulations which minimize impervious coverage while still meeting parking demand.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
Develop design guidelines and regulations to allow developers the opportunity to explore more innovative and greener designs.	Incorporate green design standards into the land use ordinances.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Prepare/provide educational information to developers,	Medium	Township staff

	realtors and design professionals to encourage the use of green designs.		
	Examine current off-street parking requirements and develop regulations which more accurately reflect parking demands.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL

Provide for appropriate and adequate community services and facilities within the practical fiscal limits of the Township.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Recognize future facilities and services needs of Township residents as a function of population, age, and household trends.	Evaluate comprehensive impacts of growth and consider Master Plans and Strategic Plans in all land use decisions (e.g., traffic impacts, school enrollment, and parks).	High	BOS
	Ensure that regulations and plans support and encourage desired development and land use patterns.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Protect investments in existing public facilities (water, sewer, streets, fire, police, etc.) by ensuring extension of services by new development is in the best interest of the Township.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Support the appropriate expansion of Township facilities, services, staff, and other resources to keep up with demand and established levels of service.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Continue to provide open and clear communication between Township government and the community to ensure that residents are informed and have the opportunity to participate in important local issues.	Review Township commission and committee purposes to ensure there are clear and defined functions.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Maintain a current social media presence.	On-going	Township staff
Continue to provide residents with access to information on Pennsylvania municipal land use laws to promote better understanding of the limiting	Actively engage with Township leadership and community members to explore the idea, process, and potential impacts of implementing districts,	High	BOS and Township staff

conditions under which a township operates.	subareas, neighborhood association areas, or similar concepts.		
	Prepare articles/information pamphlets/media blasts which highlight specific land use policies and processes.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Continually assess Township ordinance and other standards in light of increasing technology innovations, needs, and accessibility as well as growing and changing alternative energy sources.	Review and update ordinances as required.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Maintain communication with the Easton Area School District concerning proposed developments to assist them in anticipating trends in future enrollments.	Assist Easton Area School District in identifying potential future school sites, by providing information about anticipated future land uses, utilities, and entitlements.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Support construction of multi-use facilities that can be used by both schools and the community.	Low	BOS
	Invite Easton Area School District staff to pre-application meetings with potential developers and discuss school siting and access needs.	High	Township staff
	Work with Easton Area School District to connect schools to safe and accessible walking, bicycle, transit, and automobile routes.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Encourage the School District to maintain better communication with the Township and residents of the school district, particularly on issues relating to taxes.		On-going	BOS and Township staff

GOAL

Continue to maintain, enhance, and expand natural, historical, and cultural open space areas, trails, and parks and recreation opportunities for Township residents.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Provide sufficient publicly-owned and managed parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space to provide a variety	Evaluate developer impact fee to align with Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests and current park land level of service.	Medium	BOS and Township staff

of active or passive recreation opportunities.	Continue to find and purchase additional land for future park development where level of service is below threshold.	On-going	BOS, Township staff and Recreation Board
	Look for opportunities to add parks and pathways in new growth areas.	On-going	BOS, Township staff and Recreation Board
	Prepare and implement a comprehensive greenway and trail network study to identify where connections can be made within the Township and to neighboring municipalities, and ensure these facilities are designed to provide safe measures for its users.	High	BOS, PC and Township staff
Provide for continued maintenance and improvements to existing parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space to ensure adequate recreational areas for residents.	Identify desired sports facilities or complexes and establish partnerships that foster their development.	Medium	Township staff and Recreation Board
	Continue to explore partnerships with alternative providers, such as schools, to increase level of service.	On-going	Township staff and Recreation Board
Require developers to help meet the increased demand for public recreation created by new development.	Evaluate impact fees for public open space to ensure development is paying the full allowable fee.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Plan for and encourage neighborhoods that provide reasonable pedestrian and bicycle access to services like healthcare, daycare, grocery stores, and recreational areas.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Encourage recreation programming that serves all segments of the population.	Explore additional partnership opportunities as well as build on existing partnerships with focus on low-service areas.	Medium	Township staff and Recreation Board
	Enhance and improve internal and external communication regarding recreation activities and services using social media and mobile tools.	On-going	Township staff and Recreation Board
	Consider programming needs for all ages and abilities when adding new components to existing parks or when developing new parks.	On-going	BOS, Township staff and Recreation Board
	Continue to monitor recreational trends to stay current with programming and demand.	On-going	Township staff and Recreation Board

Pursue public and private grants and funding sources for recreation while continuing to dedicate municipal funding for recreation capital improvements, maintenance, programming, and other necessary costs.	Increase special event and activities sponsorships.	On-going	Township staff and Recreation Board
	Implement a cost recovery and pricing policy to determine a consistent method of pricing Parks and Recreation activities.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Encourage the preservation of critical natural, historic, and scenic resources in permanently preserved open space.	Identify waterways, wetlands, other natural resources, viewsheds, and natural features of topographic interest for preservation.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Consider the creation of an environmental advisory committee.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Improve and protect creeks and other natural waterways throughout commercial, industrial, and residential areas.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Encourage the preservation of, and funding for, protected open space in appropriate areas by landowners, public agencies, and non-profit organizations.	Prepare an open space plan.	Low	BOS and Township staff
Balance the protection of resources on open space with the desire for public access and recreation.	Evaluate open space and amenity requirement and criteria for consistency with community needs and values.	On-going	Township staff
Ensure that open space protection efforts include planning and funding for the long-term maintenance of the property.	Work with residents and homeowners associations to maintain and take pride in their common areas and landscaping along public rights of way and other areas visible to the public.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Encourage volunteerism within the community.	High	Township staff
	Evaluate impact fees for public open space to ensure development is paying the full allowable fee.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Pursue joint public-private recreation initiatives, and support private and institutional entities that provide community recreation opportunities such as organized team sports, community events, active recreation areas, and school related play and athletics.		On-going	BOS, Township staff, Recreation Board, Easton Area School District, Forks Athletic Association

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL

Provide a safe transportation system, which optimizes mobility and access, sustains quality of life, strengthens the economy, and protects the environment.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Enhance the safety of the transportation system for all users—motorized and non-motorized.	Coordinate with planning partners, neighboring municipalities and appropriate stakeholders during the planning, design, and implementation of transportation improvements.	On-going	BOS, Township staff, LVPC, PennDOT
	Consider the adoption of an Official Map to delineate desired location, and to extent possible, the character of roadways, public transit amenities, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the Township.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Implement traffic mitigation strategies along major roadways.	On-going	BOS, LVPC, PennDOT
	Provide pathways, crosswalks, traffic signals and other improvements that encourage safe, physical activity for pedestrians and bicyclists.	On-going	BOS
	Use traffic impact fees to implement improvements recommended in the Capital Improvement Plan.	On-going	BOS
Encourage the use of alternative non-motorized modes of transportation such as: walking, hiking and biking.	Review land use controls to ensure roadway, sidewalk, and trail standards are current.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities along major roadways.	Medium	BOS, LVPC and PennDOT
	Consider pedestrian connections to serve recreational and commuter purposes.	High	BOS, PC, Recreation Board and Township staff
	Evaluate current conditions and consider developing a specific bicycle and pedestrian plan.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Promote development design that encourages bicycling and walking, including sidewalks or other pedestrian facilities.	Update land use ordinances to encourage a mix of land uses, densities, and site plans that support alternative modes of transportation.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Improve the 'bikeability' of roads throughout the Township.	Low	BOS, Township staff and PennDOT
	Consider the use of various planning tools to plan, fund, and	High	BOS, Township staff and LVPC

Efficiently maintain the existing roadway network and supporting infrastructure.	implement transportation improvements including, but not limited to, ordinance updates, public/private partnerships, and design/build delivery methods.		
	Implement municipal capital projects to address identified transportation needs.	On-going	BOS
	Advance priority roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Seek funding from traditional and nontraditional sources and consider alternative local funding source options for transportation improvement projects.	On-going	Township staff
	Evaluate and update traffic light synchronization along major corridors.	Medium	BOS, Township staff and PennDOT
Encourage the expansion and utilization of public transportation.	Work with LVPC to encourage the use of and distribute information regarding alternate modes of transportation.	Medium	BOS, Township staff and LVPC
	Maintain open communication with LANTA	On-going	BOS, Township staff and LANTA
	Evaluate the need for a share bus ride system, i.e. LANTaVan	Low	BOS, Township staff and LANTA
Recognize and promote the importance of the Braden Airpark in relation to economic development.	Prepare a master plan for the future of Braden Airpark.	High	BOS, Township staff and representative(s) from Braden Airpark

GOAL

Improve the Township's infrastructure to support future demands.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Support continued maintenance and improvement of all stormwater and sewer facilities.	Review the Act 537 Plan and update, as necessary, to accommodate new technologies.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Assess flood resiliency of critical infrastructure located in flood zones.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
Support continued maintenance and improvement of the Township's road network.	Consider the use of various planning tools to plan, fund, and implement transportation improvements including, but not limited to, PennDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), ordinance updates, public/private	Medium	BOS and Township staff

	partnerships, and design/build delivery methods.		
	Implement municipal capital projects to address identified transportation needs.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Take into account access management issues to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow along major corridor.	High	BOS
Encourage utility companies to utilize existing rights-of-way and utility easements for the expansion and/or upgrade of service lines.	Coordinate with utility companies to create a comprehensive map of utility easements.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Coordinate water and sewage facilities planning with land use planning and natural resource protection objectives, and assess the impacts of proposed sewer, water, and stormwater facilities on groundwater quality, quantity, and recharge.	Promote best management practices (BMPs) to protect soil from erosion and reduce sedimentation into waterways.	High	Township staff

NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL

Protect the natural environment and conserve the natural resources of the Township while accommodating planned growth.

Objective	Action Item	Priority	Responsible Entity
Protect the Township's natural resources by limiting adverse impacts into the area.	Encourage the enforcement of existing regulations and/or establish new protection standards for natural resources.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Update and implement geology, slopes, and soils protection standards based on current mapping.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Encourage establishing a Township-wide network of riparian buffers, and promote restoration and maintenance of riparian buffers along streams, ponds, lakes, and where appropriate, wetlands.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
	Undertake a historic survey to identify potential additions, deletions or modifications to the Township's historic resources.	Low	Township staff, historical society
	Support preservation efforts by the Forks Township Historical	On-going	BOS and historical society

	Society and other local groups and individuals to identify, maintain and protect sites significant to the Township's past.		
	Identify key resources with historic and cultural markers.	Medium	BOS and historical society
	Pursue funding sources for historic and cultural resources in need of preservation and rehabilitation.	On-going	BOS, Township staff and historical society
Encourage and advocate the use and protection of native species of plants.	Update land use regulations to include provisions requiring the planting of native species and the removal of non-natives.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Provide a sample garden that allow residents to see what a native plant garden looks like.	Low	Township staff
	Pursue potential grant opportunities to establish a demonstration project for the Township.	Low	BOS and Township staff
Educate Township residents on the impacts associated with using non-native/invasive plant species and the effects they have on the environment.	Produce a pamphlet that describes and depicts invasive plants to educate Township residents.	High	BOS and Township staff
	Promote community-based volunteer initiatives that encourage the public to experience the outdoors.	Medium	BOS and Township staff
Ensure regulatory controls preserve and protect natural resources throughout the development process.		On-going	BOS and Township staff
Promote innovative stormwater management and wastewater disposal that emphasize the recharge of groundwater and water balance.	Protect public health and watersheds through adequate treatment and disposal of wastewater.	On-going	BOS and Township staff
	Develop a source water protection plan and/or a wastewater resource recovery plan.	Low	BOS and Township staff



APPENDICES

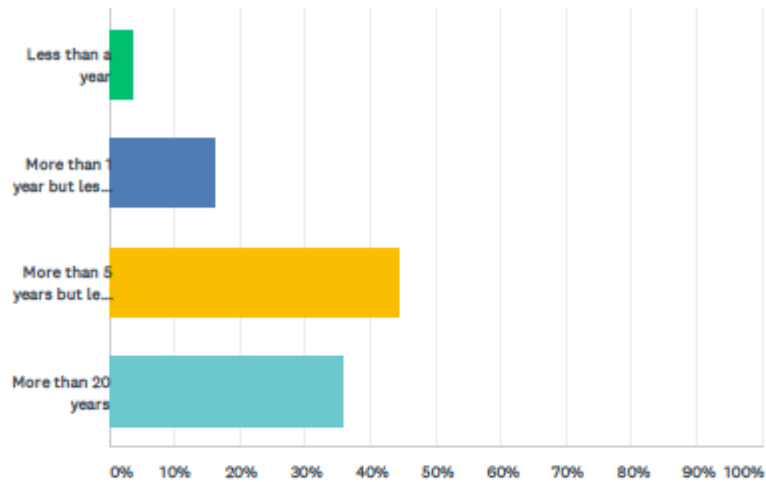
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q1 How long have you lived in Forks Township?

Answered: 1,483 Skipped: 2

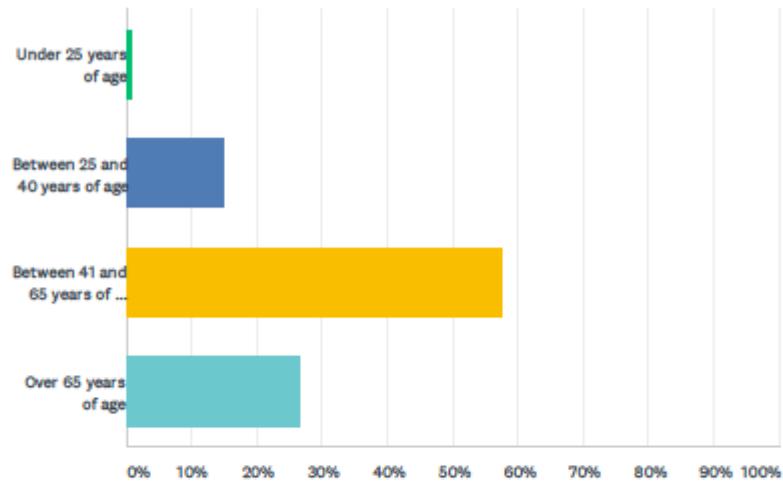


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than a year	3.51%	52
More than 1 year but less than 5 years	16.18%	240
More than 5 years but less than 20 years	44.50%	660
More than 20 years	35.81%	531
TOTAL		1,483

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q2 Please select your age category.

Answered: 1,482 Skipped: 3

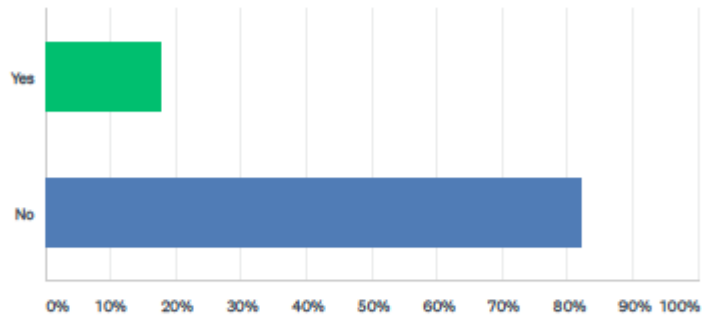


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 25 years of age	0.74%	11
Between 25 and 40 years of age	15.05%	223
Between 41 and 65 years of age	57.62%	854
Over 65 years of age	26.59%	394
TOTAL		1,482

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q3 Have you or a family member relocated back to the Township after having lived elsewhere?

Answered: 1,480 Skipped: 5

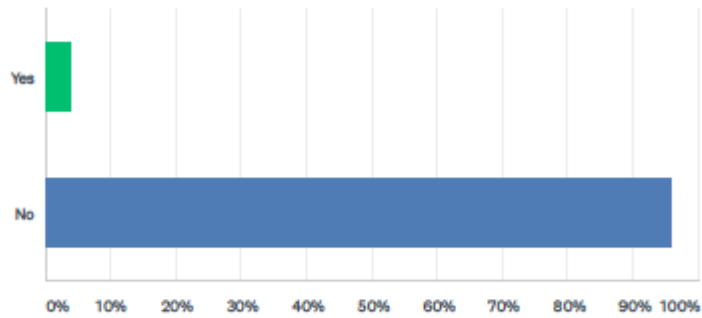


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.77%	263
No	82.23%	1,217
TOTAL		1,480

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q4 Are you anticipating relocating outside Forks Township within the next year?

Answered: 1,481 Skipped: 4

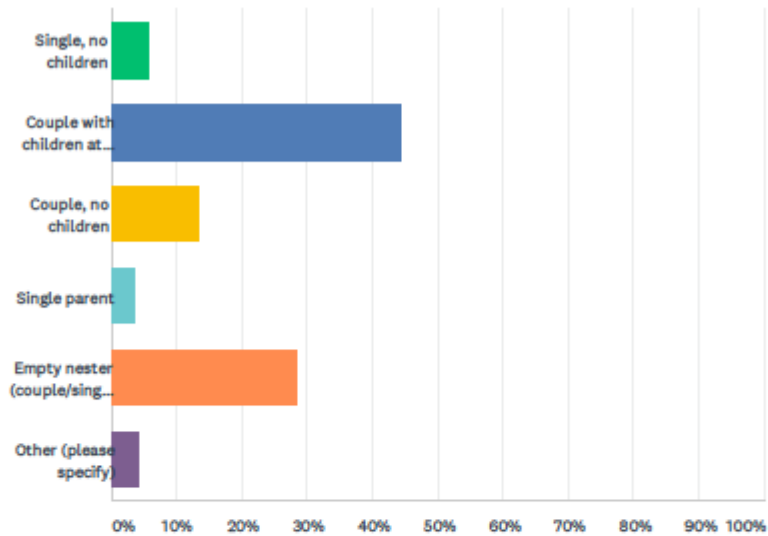


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		4.05%	60
No		95.95%	1,421
TOTAL			1,481

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q5 Which of the following describes your family?

Answered: 1,481 Skipped: 4

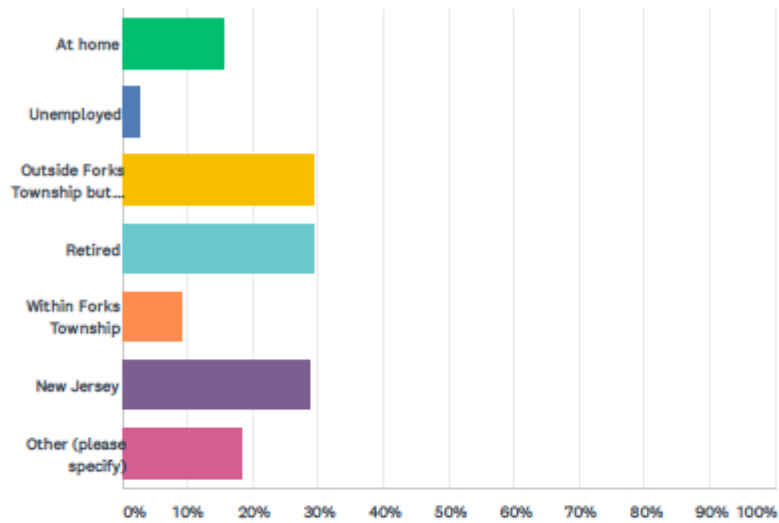


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single, no children	5.94%	88
Couple with children at home	44.29%	656
Couple, no children	13.44%	199
Single parent	3.51%	52
Empty nester (couple/single with no children at home)	28.43%	421
Other (please specify)	4.39%	65
TOTAL		1,481

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q6 Where are you or other members of your household employed?

Answered: 1,481 Skipped: 4

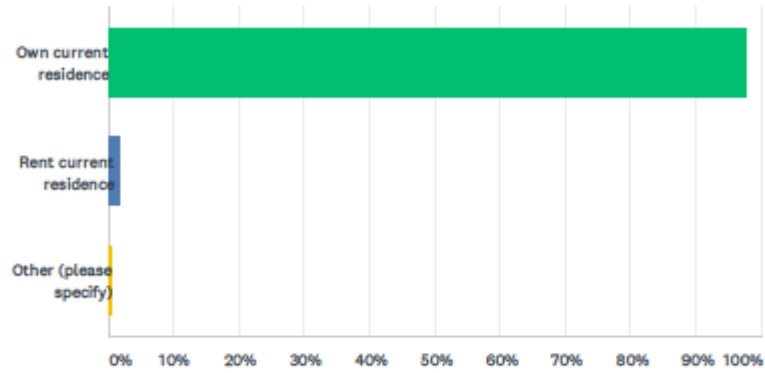


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At home	15.73%	233
Unemployed	2.70%	40
Outside Forks Township but in Northampton County	29.30%	434
Retired	29.24%	433
Within Forks Township	9.05%	134
New Jersey	28.90%	428
Other (please specify)	18.43%	273
Total Respondents: 1,481		

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q7 Home ownership status. Please select one:

Answered: 1,482 Skipped: 3

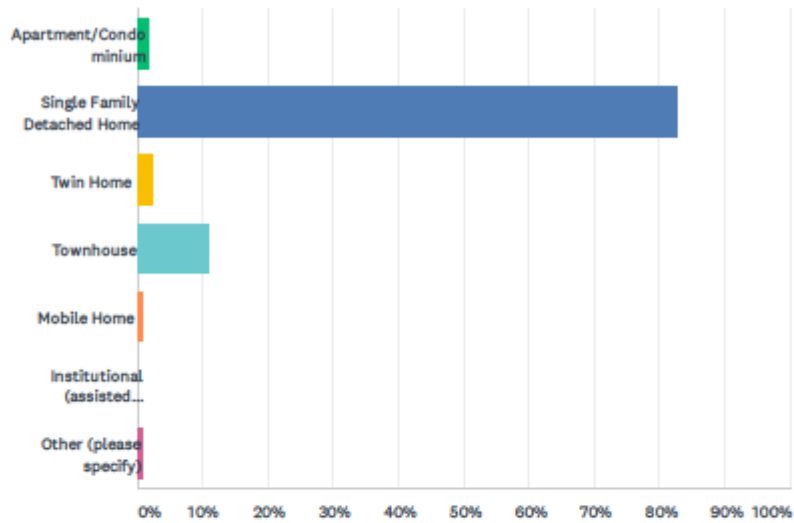


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own current residence	97.77%	1,449
Rent current residence	1.62%	24
Other (please specify)	0.61%	9
TOTAL		1,482

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q8 In what type of home do you live?

Answered: 1,483 Skipped: 2

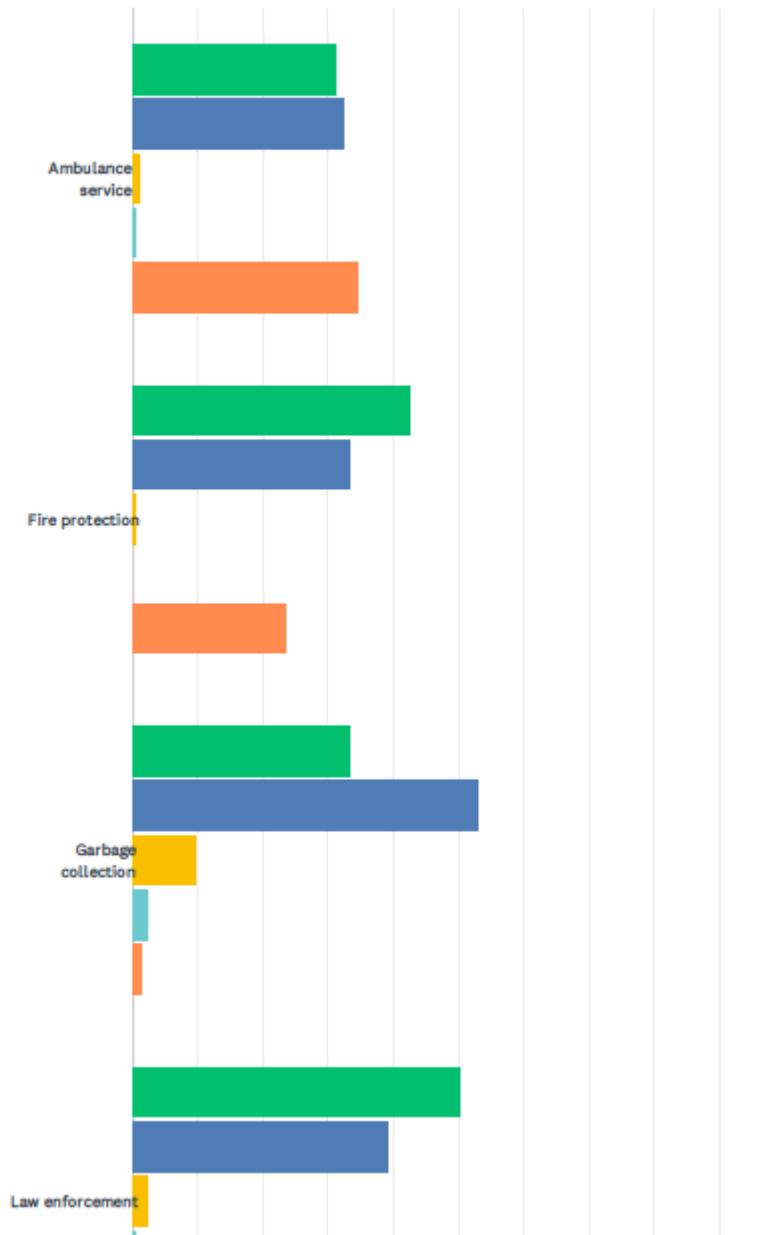


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Apartment/Condominium	1.89%	28
Single Family Detached Home	82.94%	1,230
Twin Home	2.36%	35
Townhouse	11.06%	164
Mobile Home	0.81%	12
Institutional (assisted living, nursing home, etc.)	0.07%	1
Other (please specify)	0.88%	13
TOTAL		1,483

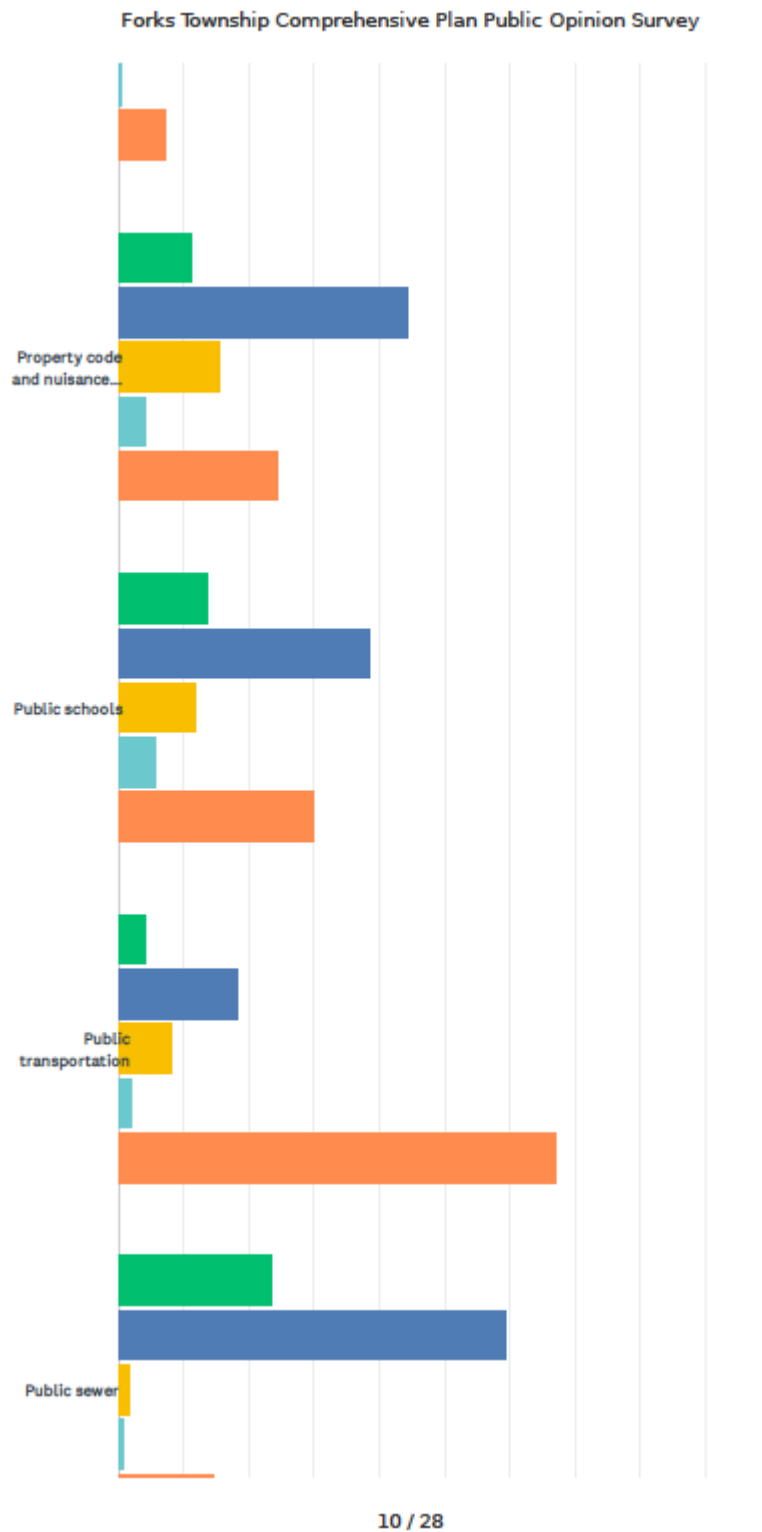
Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

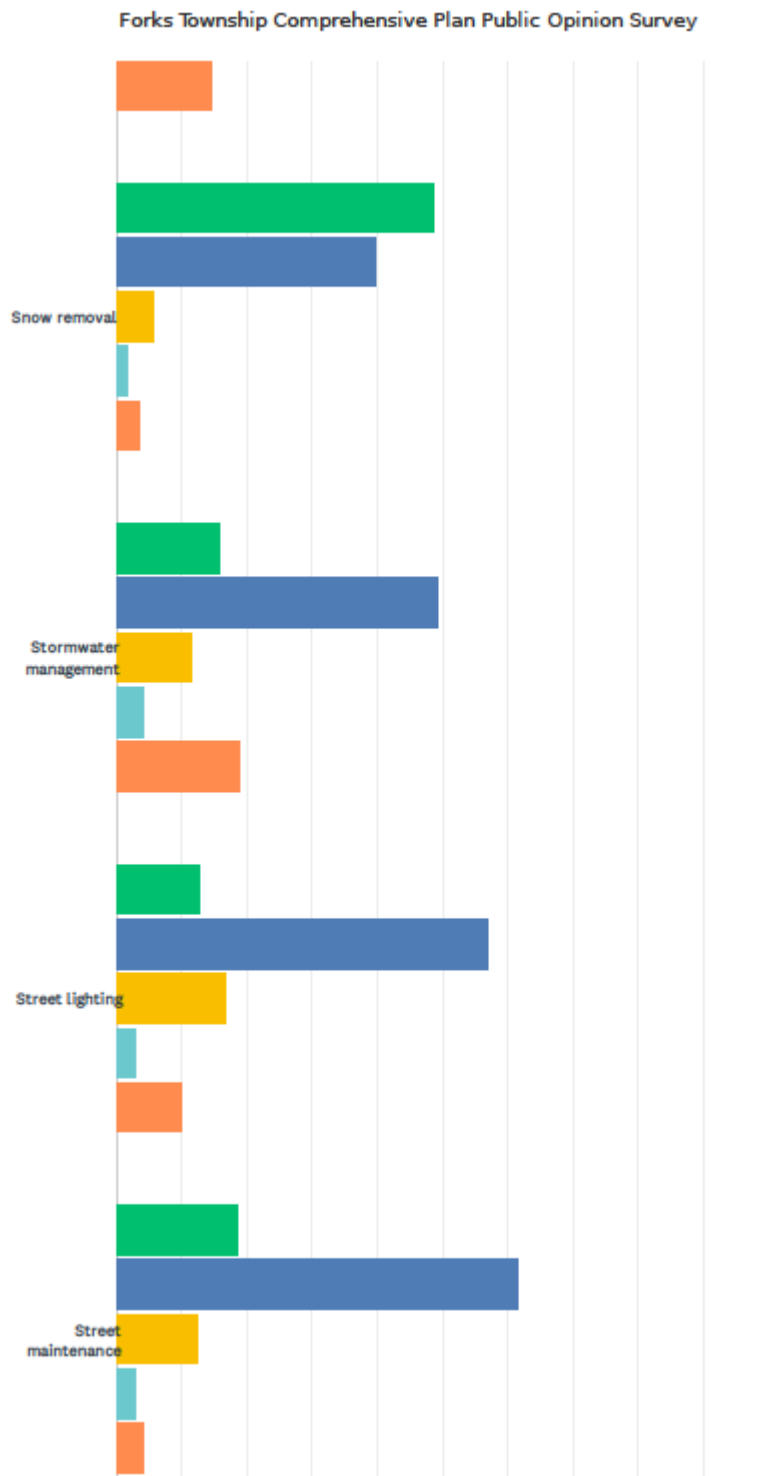
Q9 Presently, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of Forks Township? (Check one option for each aspect)

Answered: 1,483 Skipped: 2

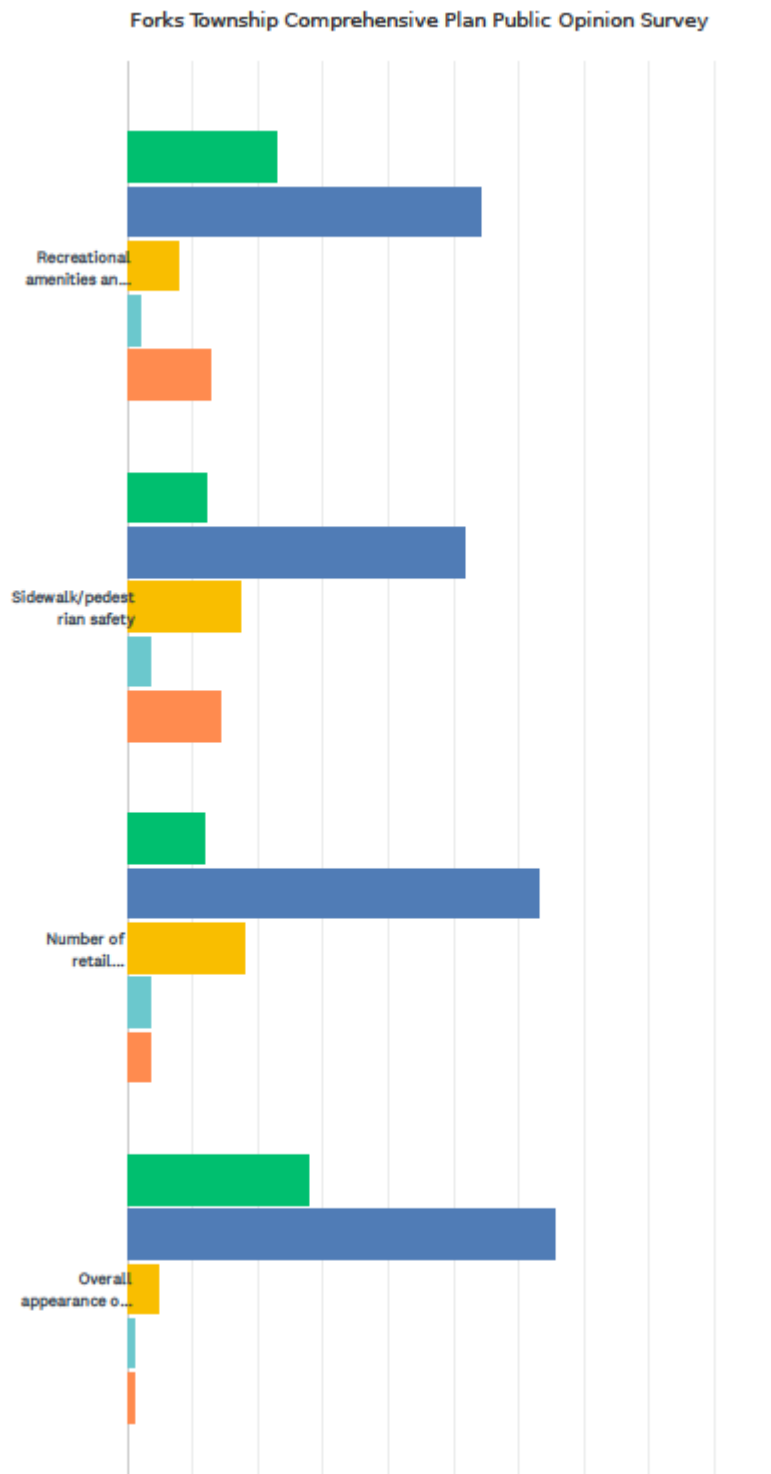


9 / 28

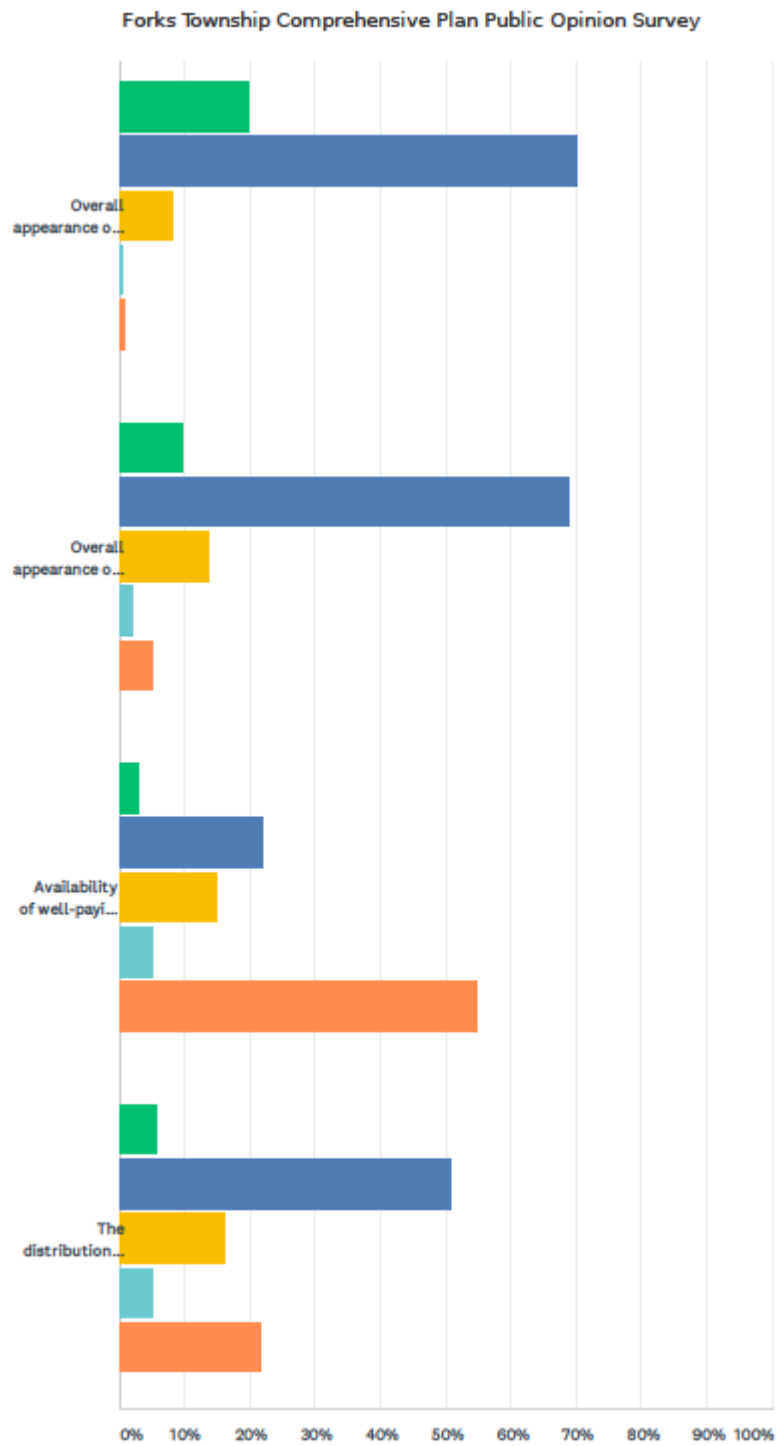




11 / 28



12 / 28



13 / 28

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

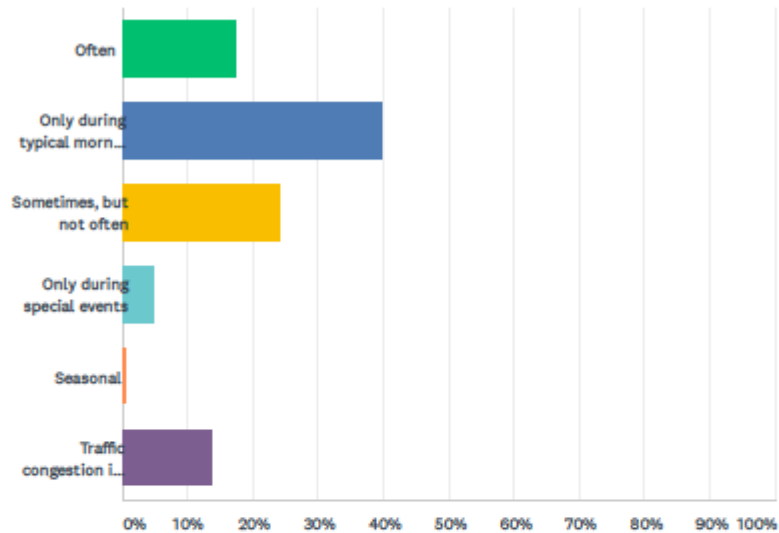
■ Strongly satisfied
 ■ Satisfied
 ■ Dissatisfied
 ■ Strongly dissatisfied
■ No opinion

	STRONGLY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSASTISFIED	STRONGLY DISSASTISFIED	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Ambulance service	31.12% 459	32.34% 477	1.22% 18	0.54% 8	34.78% 513	1,475
Fire protection	42.52% 625	33.40% 491	0.34% 5	0.07% 1	23.67% 348	1,470
Garbage collection	33.29% 491	53.15% 784	9.83% 145	2.31% 34	1.42% 21	1,475
Law enforcement	50.24% 742	39.27% 580	2.57% 38	0.68% 10	7.24% 107	1,477
Property code and nuisance enforcement	11.30% 166	44.38% 652	15.72% 231	4.08% 60	24.51% 360	1,469
Public schools	13.77% 203	38.74% 571	11.94% 176	5.70% 84	29.85% 440	1,474
Public transportation	4.14% 61	18.18% 268	8.28% 122	2.17% 32	67.23% 991	1,474
Public sewer	23.34% 344	59.50% 877	1.83% 27	0.75% 11	14.59% 215	1,474
Snow removal	48.85% 721	39.91% 589	5.96% 88	1.76% 26	3.52% 52	1,476
Stormwater management	15.90% 234	49.39% 727	11.68% 172	4.21% 62	18.82% 277	1,472
Street lighting	13.04% 192	57.13% 841	16.64% 245	3.13% 46	10.05% 148	1,472
Street maintenance	18.58% 273	61.54% 904	12.53% 184	3.06% 45	4.29% 63	1,469
Recreational amenities and programs	22.72% 336	54.23% 802	7.98% 118	2.10% 31	12.98% 192	1,479
Sidewalk/pedestrian safety	12.14% 179	51.93% 766	17.63% 260	3.80% 56	14.51% 214	1,475
Number of retail establishments	11.87% 175	62.96% 928	17.91% 264	3.60% 53	3.66% 54	1,474
Overall appearance of your neighborhood	27.76% 410	65.47% 967	4.87% 72	0.95% 14	0.95% 14	1,477
Overall appearance of the Township	19.84% 293	70.35% 1,039	8.46% 125	0.61% 9	0.74% 11	1,477
Overall appearance of commercial buildings	9.88% 146	68.99% 1,019	13.81% 204	2.10% 31	5.21% 77	1,477
Availability of well-paying, diverse job opportunities	3.18% 47	22.14% 327	14.76% 218	5.01% 74	54.91% 811	1,477
The distribution of commercial and residential uses throughout the Township	5.83% 86	50.81% 749	16.42% 242	5.16% 76	21.78% 321	1,474

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q10 How often do you feel that there is traffic congestion in the Township? (check one)

Answered: 1,480 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Often	17.43%	258
Only during typical morning and evening rush hours	39.66%	587
Sometimes, but not often	24.32%	360
Only during special events	4.73%	70
Seasonal	0.34%	5
Traffic congestion is not a problem in Forks Township	13.51%	200
TOTAL		1,480

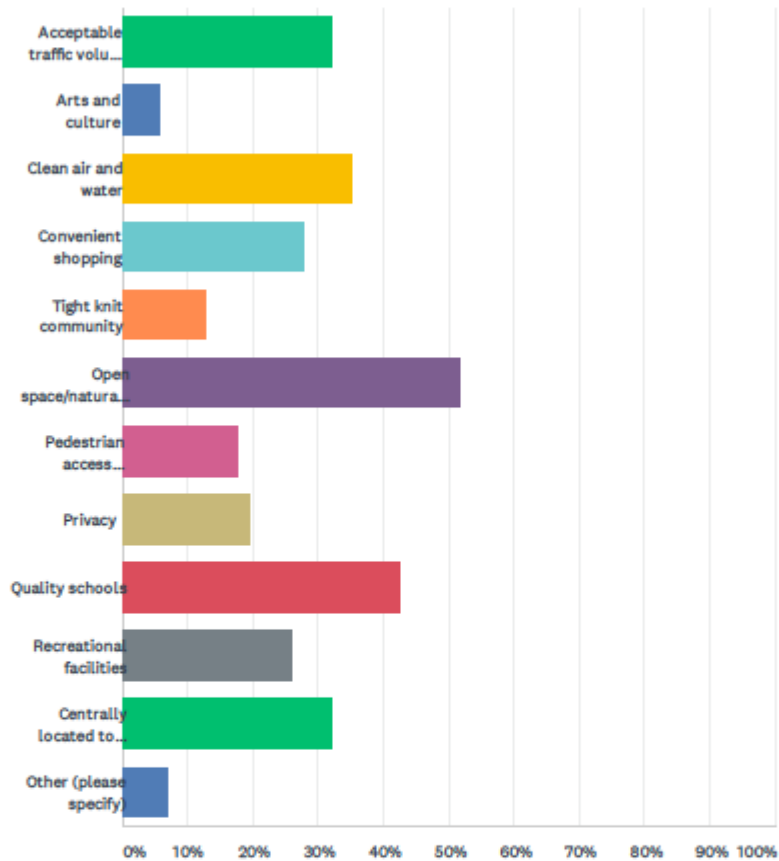
Q11 At what location(s) do you feel traffic congestion is the worst?

rush hour Giant shopping times especially Near Giant coming S Church None trucks
 traffic Center Boulevard Bushkill Zucksville Trail Sullivan Trail Elizabeth
 Penn Pump Mill Road Newlins Rd Knox Meco Road Along Sullivan opinion
 Elizabeth Ave Near Sullivan Uhler near Town N onto Bushkill
 Newlins Dr Zucksville Mill Rd problem Rd weis Trail Old
 Elizabeth Avenue traffic lights truck traffic
 Zucksville Bushkill Route Sullivan bad light
 Mitman Trail Uhler Elizabeth Town Center Tatamy
 Old Mill Corner Sullivan Trail need
 intersection Kessler'sville Uhler Road Bush kill
 Uhler Rd left turn road going Bushkill Drive
 Richmond Road Center Blvd Na Uhler onto area Richmond Rd
 Giant 13th street Zucksville Sullivan Trl Meco Church Lane
 College Hill west Bushkill Dr Tatamy rd Kessler'sville Knox Ave also
 Wells Fargo gas station Knox Avenue Zucksville Rd turning left
 shopping center drive Trail near street Trail Meco dangerous around
 construction Zucksville Road township bushkill needs left Newlins Road
 Sullivan tr

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q12 In your opinion, what are the top 3 qualities that make a place a "good community"? Please check only 3 options.

Answered: 1,479 Skipped: 6



17 / 28

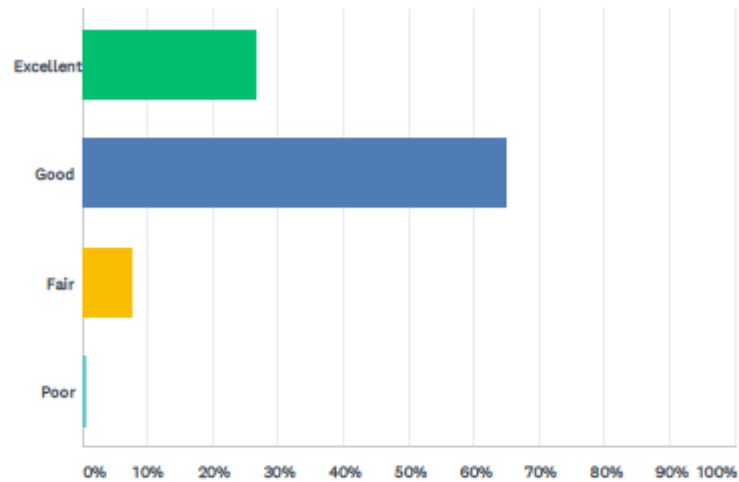
Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Acceptable traffic volumes and road conditions	32.05%	474
Arts and culture	5.88%	87
Clean air and water	35.36%	523
Convenient shopping	27.72%	410
Tight knit community	13.05%	193
Open space/natural areas	51.72%	765
Pedestrian access throughout community	17.85%	264
Privacy	19.68%	291
Quality schools	42.53%	629
Recreational facilities	25.90%	383
Centrally located to services	32.12%	475
Other (please specify)	6.96%	103
Total Respondents: 1,479		

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q13 Do you believe the quality of life in Forks Township is:

Answered: 1,481 Skipped: 4

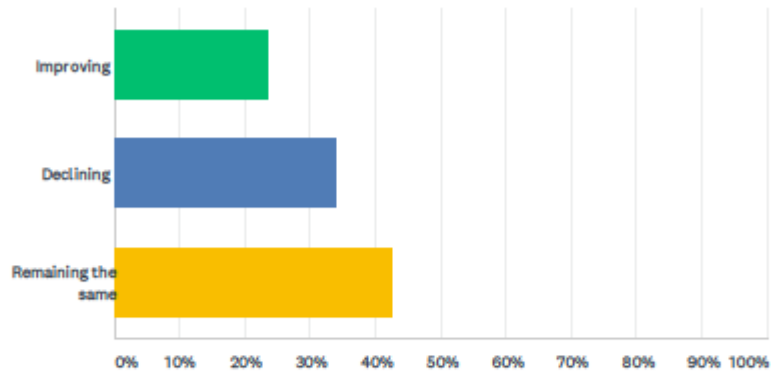


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	26.87%	398
Good	65.16%	965
Fair	7.63%	113
Poor	0.34%	5
TOTAL		1,481

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q14 Do you believe the quality of life in Forks Township is:

Answered: 1,477 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improving	23.56%	348
Declining	33.99%	502
Remaining the same	42.45%	627
TOTAL		1,477

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q15 How important are each of the following when planning for the future of Forks Township? (1 being the most important to 11 being the least important)

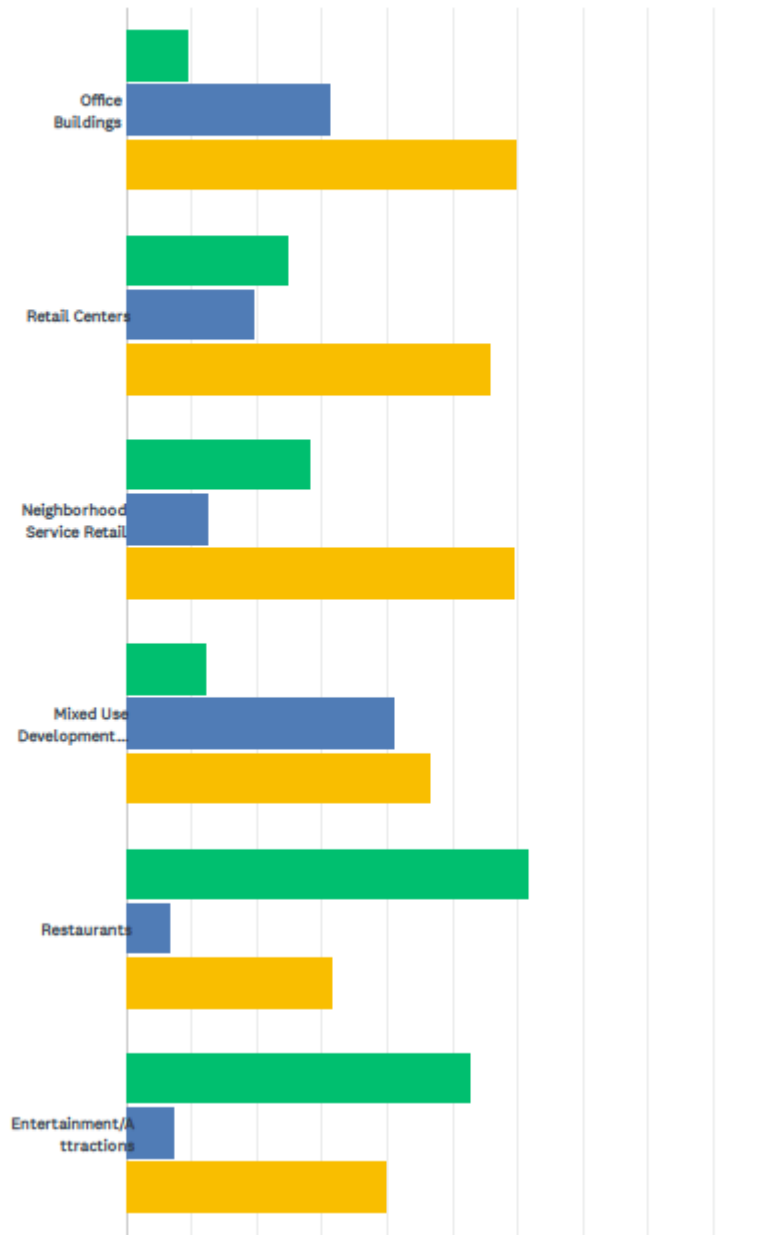
Answered: 1,419 Skipped: 66

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Affordable housing	94.50%	1,341
Arts and culture	93.52%	1,327
Community recreation facilities	95.35%	1,353
Growth management	95.91%	1,361
Activities for youth	94.50%	1,341
Activities for seniors	93.73%	1,330
Employment opportunities	93.16%	1,322
Natural resource protection	96.19%	1,365
Public schools	95.42%	1,354
Traffic and road conditions	96.83%	1,374
Other (please specify)	20.51%	291

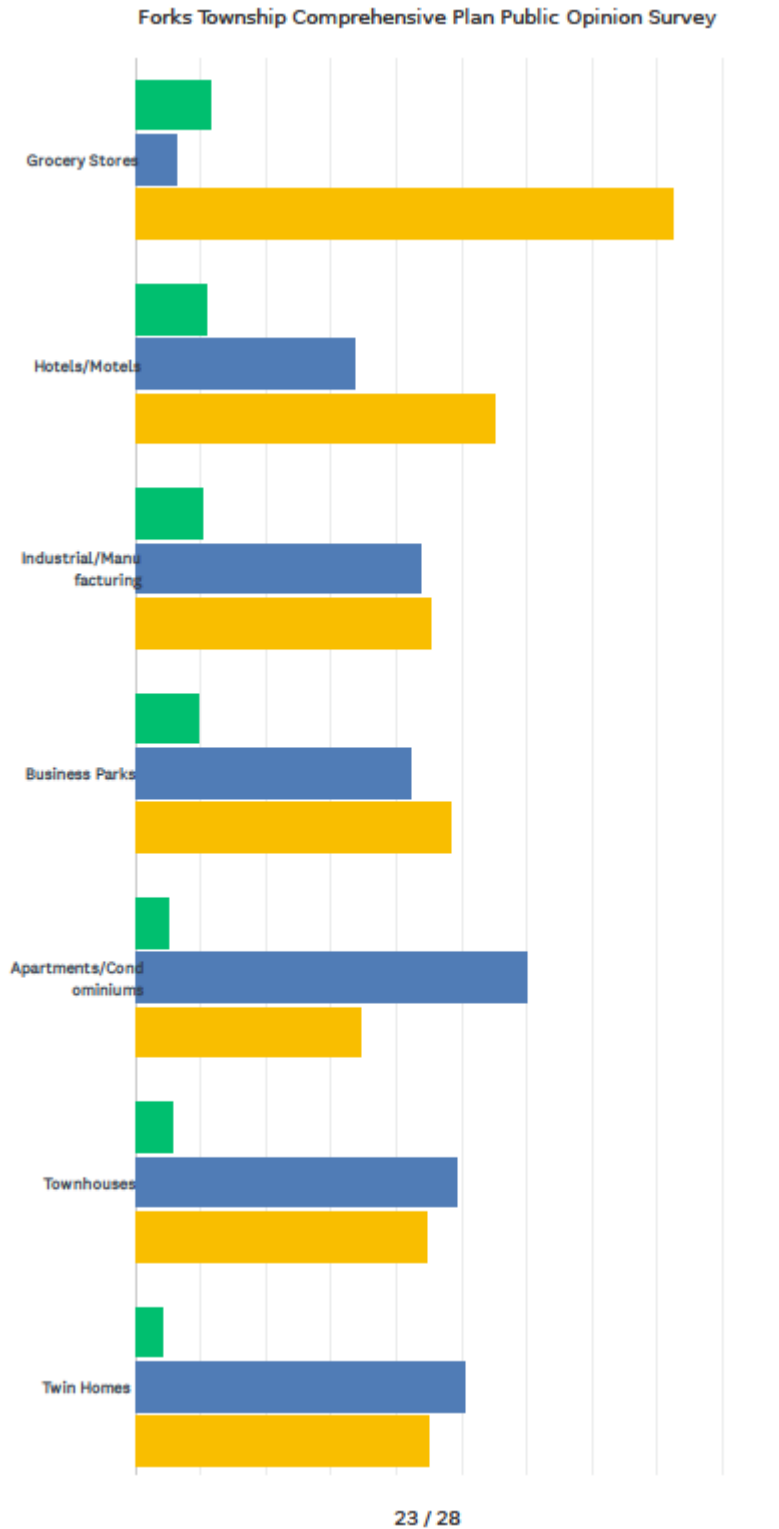
Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

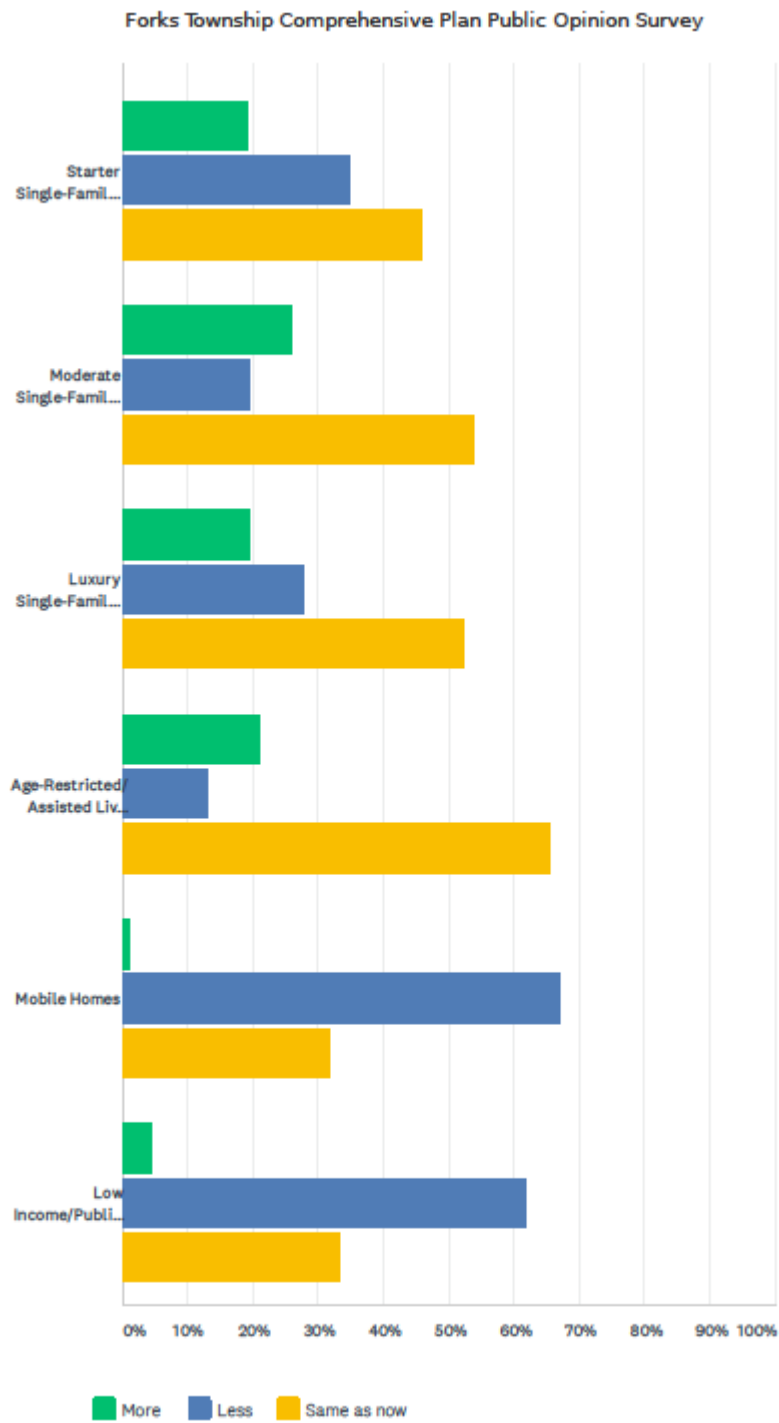
Q16 What type of development do you feel that Forks Township needs more or less of?

Answered: 1,478 Skipped: 7



22 / 28





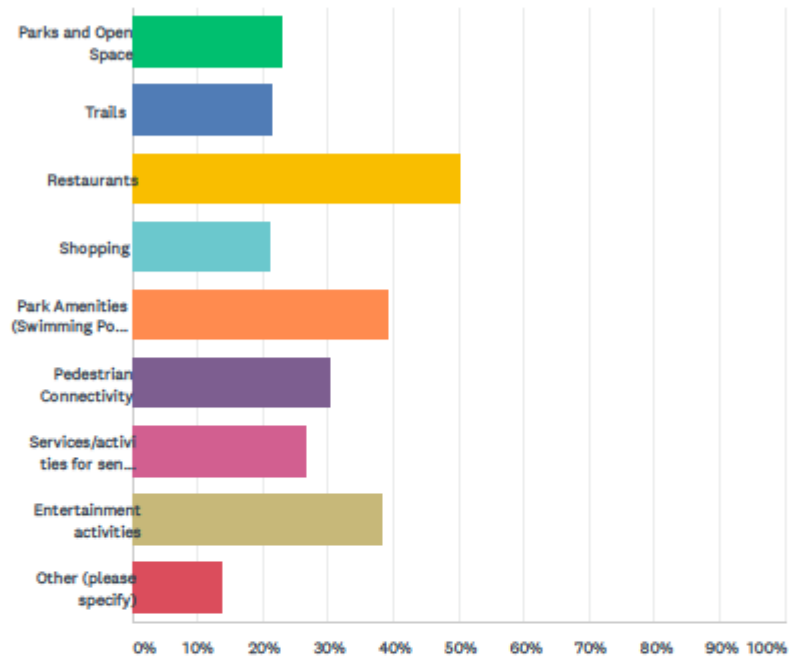
Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

	MORE	LESS	SAME AS NOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Office Buildings	9.36% 135	31.07% 448	59.57% 859	1,442	2.50
Retail Centers	24.81% 359	19.42% 281	55.77% 807	1,447	2.31
Neighborhood Service Retail	28.20% 405	12.47% 179	59.33% 852	1,436	2.31
Mixed Use Development (Commercial + Residential)	12.29% 177	41.04% 591	46.67% 672	1,440	2.34
Restaurants	61.65% 902	6.77% 99	31.58% 462	1,463	1.70
Entertainment/Attractions	52.81% 770	7.34% 107	39.85% 581	1,458	1.87
Grocery Stores	11.45% 167	6.17% 90	82.37% 1,201	1,458	2.71
Hotels/Motels	11.11% 162	33.61% 490	55.28% 806	1,458	2.44
Industrial/Manufacturing	10.54% 153	44.01% 639	45.45% 660	1,452	2.35
Business Parks	9.52% 138	42.17% 611	48.31% 700	1,449	2.39
Apartments/Condominiums	5.20% 76	60.03% 877	34.77% 508	1,461	2.30
Townhouses	5.90% 86	49.35% 719	44.75% 652	1,457	2.39
Twin Homes	4.33% 63	50.69% 737	44.98% 654	1,454	2.41
Starter Single-Family Detached Homes (Under \$150,000)	19.25% 281	34.86% 509	45.89% 670	1,460	2.27
Moderate Single-Family Detached Homes (Between \$150,000 and \$300,000)	26.20% 383	19.77% 289	54.04% 790	1,462	2.28
Luxury Single-Family Detached Homes (Over \$300,000)	19.68% 287	27.91% 407	52.40% 764	1,458	2.33
Age-Restricted/Assisted Living Housing	21.15% 309	13.21% 193	65.64% 959	1,461	2.44
Mobile Homes	1.03% 15	67.10% 979	31.87% 465	1,459	2.31
Low Income/Public Housing	4.60% 67	61.84% 901	33.56% 489	1,457	2.29

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q17 What do you think is missing from Forks Township? Check all that apply.

Answered: 1,425 Skipped: 60

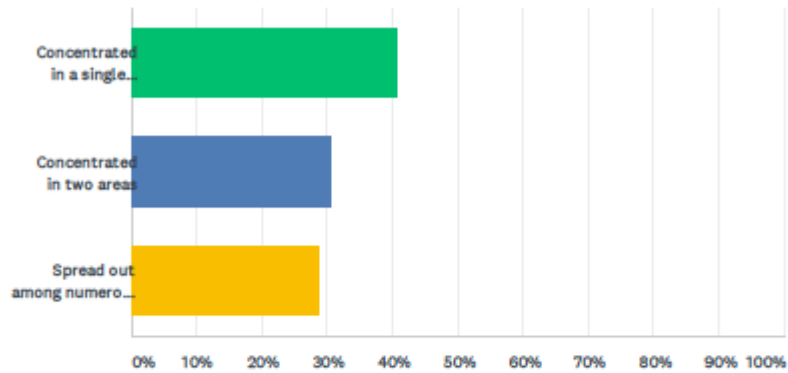


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parks and Open Space	23.02%	328
Trails	21.61%	308
Restaurants	50.25%	716
Shopping	21.19%	302
Park Amenities (Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Ball Fields)	39.23%	559
Pedestrian Connectivity	30.32%	432
Services/activities for senior citizens	26.67%	380
Entertainment activities	38.39%	547
Other (please specify)	13.54%	193
Total Respondents: 1,425		

Forks Township Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Q18 How do you think commercial uses should be dispersed throughout the Township?

Answered: 1,453 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Concentrated in a single area	40.74%	592
Concentrated in two areas	30.63%	445
Spread out among numerous areas	28.63%	416
TOTAL		1,453

Q19 Any other comments are welcome here.

less lights nice put don't turn schools especially time plans look family now
 community pool increase high s rural make residential None things think cars use
 years feel work good great love truck traffic Also new
 Forks Township speeding development commercial
 living become warehouses take community children
 roads left Forks residents need sidewalks
 township property area pool Keep land built
 beautiful people N housing growing traffic drive going
 apartments see don't need park restaurants Sullivan Trail space
 homes crowded Please neighborhood many growth police limit taxes
 seniors town coming much high school will trucks issues preserve streets old one
 well open space already move add Thank enough

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC VISIONING SESSION RESPONSES

QUESTION #1: Currently, what do you like most about Forks Township	
GROUP 1 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Mix of residential and commercial	0
Mix of urban/rural/suburban	10
Farmland preservation	10
Green space/parks	7
Access to water	2
Reasonable permitting and regulations	6
Economic opportunity	0
Single family residential homes	0
Township services	5
Outdoor activities and amenities	4
GROUP 2 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Town park	6
Community center	1
Nicely maintained community	5
Schools	3
Mix of suburban and rural	5
Diversity of land uses and people	4
Recreational and athletic opportunities	5
Farmland	9
Small town feel	6
The services received for tax dollars	4
GROUP 3 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Current population as it exists	5
Recreational facilities and parks	0
Proximity of stores and bank together	4
Parks and recreation	10
Still farmland	11
Festivals and community events	3
Availability of services and necessities	3
Availability to New Jersey	0
GROUP 4 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Convenience of stores	3
Quality of life	7
Sense of community	7
Not too commercial	2
Community center	0
Opportunities for recreation	3
Wide open spaces	2
Farmland/Fields	14
Walkability	1
Quiet	2

QUESTION #2: Currently, what do you like least about Forks Township	
GROUP 1 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Road system	4
Rapid development	1
Expansion of EC zoning	12
Lack of infrastructure to support development	1
Traffic	2
Flooding/Stormwater issues from development	12
Mischief and lack of oversight at Lions Park	3
Intersection of Zucksville and Bushkill	6
Over-development of farmland	3
School over-crowding	0
GROUP 2 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Too much rapid growth	9
School taxes	6
Commercial truck traffic	6
Too many warehouses	9
Traffic congestion	7
Impacts from industrial uses	4
Traffic management and safety	0
Residential growth	4
No more senior club	3
GROUP 3 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Have to travel for more cultural events outside Forks	0
Expansion of warehouses and loss of farmland	19
Reputation, hear negative things outside of Forks	1
Rampant development/loss of farmland	2
Traffic	7
Truck traffic getting worse	6
Lack of infrastructure for trucks and traffic	0
Access of heavy commercial vehicles and semi's to residential and undersized roads	1
GROUP 4 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Traffic	9
Higher density housing	13
Intense development pressure	5
Sullivan Trail traffic	0
Lack of Main Street feel	1
New development	2
Problem intersections and roadways	1
Warehouse "creep"/development	11
Truck traffic through Township	0

QUESTION #3: What would you want to preserve / maintain about / in Forks Township	
GROUP 1 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Open space feeling	10
Trails and parks	7
Maintain and expand CR and FP Zoning	8
Maintain existing commercial / industrial mix	1
Opportunities for small business	2
Appropriate tax level	7
Sullivan Trail as a 2-lane road	6
Existing size of industrial area	3
GROUP 2 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Open space preservation	7
More trails	5
Farm preservation	8
Park preservation	5
Community events	5
Limit new development	13
Maintain community identity	5
GROUP 3 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Open space low density and lack of commercial vehicles on roads	17
Green open space farmland and park	10
Low density residential	6
Preserve farmland	3
GROUP 4 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Open space and farmland	20
Historic and cultural resources	3
Sense of community	5
Boundaries between residential, commercial and agricultural land uses	0
Sense of security	6
A well-run town's budget	7

QUESTION #4: What would you want to change about / in Forks Township	
GROUP 1 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Limit single-family home development	0
Designated and enforced truck routes	7
Farmland preservation	6
Diversity of housing options	1
Reduced speed and noise on Bushkill Drive	7
Lights on 611 South of Frost Hollow	0
Stop/Slow high density housing and industrial development	11
Maintain/Ensure reasonable tax rate	8
Attract light industrial as opposed to warehouses	4
GROUP 2 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
More variety in retail uses	2
Small town, main street feel	7
White collar jobs	4
Better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists (trails)	4
More restrictive zoning	10
More schools	4
Limit new development	9
Limit new apartment residential development	8
Engagement with Lafayette college	0
GROUP 3 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Less commercial development warehouse	7
Less truck traffic on residential roads	4
Build more schools	3
Change zoning to make easier for farmers to keep farming	5
Better enforcement of truck traffic on residential streets	4
Car wash	0
No more high density development	4
No more housing development or large commercial development	2
Change the power developers carry in the decision that shape our community	7
GROUP 4 RESPONSES	# OF VOTES
Not to become too commercial	1
Less development (much)	23
Less commercial development	0
Walkability connections to commercial	3
Less warehouse development	6
Less commercial development including warehouses	0
Increase focus on quality of life	9

APPENDIX C: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding in the form of grants and loans are provided through local, state and national organizations year- round. Below is a list of potential funding sources that should be pursued for the planning, design and construction of the recommendations made in the Forks Township Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The *PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)* provides funds for Housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvements, development and planning through the Entitlement program which provides annual funding to designated municipalities. Competitive program is also available to all municipalities that are not direct federal recipients of CDBG funds and state Act 179 entitlement municipalities with a population less than 10,000. Expand economic opportunities geared to low-and moderate-income individuals and improve critical community health and welfare infrastructure.

- Request Amount: Competitive Program has a minimum request of \$100,000 and has no ceiling limit.
- Match: None required
- Contact Information:
Lehigh Valley: Berks, Lehigh, Monroe, Lebanon, Northampton, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties
Department of Community and Economic Development
Fadia Halma, Director
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Commonwealth Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
717 877-8481
fhalma@pa.gov

ALTERNATIVE AND CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (ACE)

The *Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)* and the *Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)* under the direction of the *Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA)* administer funds for activities to promote the utilization, development and construction of alternative and clean energy projects, infrastructure associated with compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas fueling stations, plus energy efficiency and energy conservation projects in the state.

- Request Amount: Loans for manufacturers of alternative and/or clean energy generation equipment or components shall not exceed \$10,000 for every job projected to be created by the business within three years after approval of

the grant. Grants for any alternative energy production or clean energy project shall not exceed \$2 million or 30 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less.

- Match: Matching investing requirement of at least \$1 for every \$1 of program funds awarded. There is a 1 percent commitment fee on all approved loans.
- Contact Information:
 PA Department of Community and Economic Development
 Center for Business Financing – CFA Programs Division
 Alternative and Clean Energy Program
 Commonwealth Keystone Building
 400 North Street 4th Floor
 Harrisburg PA 17120-0225
 Telephone: (717) 787-6245
 Fax: (717) 772-3581
 E-mail: ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov

EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANT ASSESSMENT, CLEANUP, OR REVOLVING LOAN FUND GRANT PROGRAM

The *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substance co-mingled with petroleum). Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach. Revolving loan Fund (RLF) Grants provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfield sites. Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant. Multipurpose Grants provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfields sites in a target area.

- Request Amount: Community-wide Assessment Grants up to \$300,000, Site-specific up to \$200,000; up to \$350,000 with a waiver. Assessment Coalition up to \$600,000; For Revolving Loan Funds up to \$1 million Community-wide or Coalition; Cleanup Grants up to \$500,000 for Single-site and up to \$500,000 per application for multi-site
- Required Match: none for Assessment Grants, 20% for Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants 20% (waiver)
- Contact: Joseph Nowak
 Brownfields & Revitalization Branch
 USEPA Region 3
 1650 Arch Street (3LD50)

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: 215-814-3303
Fax: 215-814-3002
Email: nowak.joseph@epa.gov

BASELINE WATER QUALITY DATA PROGRAM

The *Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)* allocates funds from the Marcellus Legacy Fund for The *Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)* to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the “Authority”) for projects which involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies using the Baseline Water Quality Data Program (BWQDP).

- Request Amount: Not to exceed \$250,000
- Required Match: 15% match of the total project cost
- Contact Information:
PA Department of Community and Economic Development Office of Business
Financing – CFA Programs Division
Baseline Water Quality Data Program
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
Telephone: (717)787-6245
Fax: (717)772-3581
E-mail: ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov

AUTOMATED RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (ARLE)

The *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation* provides funds through ARLE revenues to improve highway safety and reduce congestion through a wide range of projects that aim to reduce the number of violations and crashes at implementation sites, as well as provide benefits to highway users. Funded projects upgrade, improve, or install traffic-control signs and other forms of roadway markings and structures to increase road capacity and/or further pedestrian safety and mobility, and projects that work to enhance visibility or drainage, etc.

- Request Amount: Dependent upon available yearly revenues
- Match: None required
- Contact: District 5 (Northampton County)
Mithun Patel (610)871-4490
Email: mithunpate@pa.gov

BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)

The *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation* administers funds from National Infrastructure Investments to support capital projects for surface transportation infrastructure that improve, repair, and develop transportation frameworks, economic revitalization, community connections and safety. FY2018 BUILD will administer a greater share of the awards to rural areas.

- Request Amount: Not to exceed \$25 Million; Minimum \$1 Million in rural area
- Match: Minimum 20% in Urban; Minimum 0% in Rural
- Contact Information:
FTA Region 3 Office
1760 Market Street, Suite 500
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-4124
Telephone: (215) 656-7100
Fax: (215) 656-7260, TDD (215) 656-7269
(Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia)

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM (TA SET-ASIDE)

The *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation* administers funding assistance for alternative transportation programs and projects that improve accessibility and mobility, public transportation and school links, recreation and environmental mitigation. This includes funding for on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and safe routes to school projects. The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside is not a grant program and no money is provided upfront. Applicants pay pre-construction costs on their own (design, environmental, right of way acquisition, utility). Project sponsors must, in most cases, pay for project design, pre-construction permits, clearances, etc.

- Request Amount: \$50,000 minimum construction cost; Not to exceed \$1 Million unless regional or of statewide significance
- Match: None required
- Contact Information:
Jackie Koons-Felion; Transportation Planning Manager
Phone: 717.787.6388
Email: RA-pdTASA@pa.gov
District 5 (Northampton County)
TASET-Aside Coordinators
Scott Vottero
Phone: 610.871-4550
Email: svottero@pa.gov

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS PROGRAM

The *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation* and the *Department of Community & Economic Development* provides grants for projects that support safe and reliable transportation systems and encourage economic development. Supported projects develop or rehabilitate transportation assets for existing communities including but not limited to streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, as well as improving connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development.

- Request Amount: \$100,000 - \$3,000,000
- Match: 30% Cash; The fiscal codes enacted in 2020 provides that a municipality receiving financial assistance through the CFA Multimodal Transportation Fund may not be required to provide a local match. This provision shall expire December 31, 2021.
- Contact Information:
Ryan Emerson; Director
PA Department of Community & Economic Development
Business Financing – Grants Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
Phone: 717.720.1422
Email: ryemerson@pa.gov

GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM (GTRP)

The *Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development* administers funds from the Marcellus Legacy Fund for the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, park and beautification projects. These projects involve the renovation and development of linear public facilities, such as bicycle, walking, equestrian, snowmobile, and nature trails: passive recreation areas; riparian forest buffers; wetland boardwalks; observation decks. Related support facilities including: access roads, parking areas, walks, comfort station, lighting, landscaping and signage are also eligible.

- Request Amount: Not to exceed \$250,000
- Match: 15% Cash/Equivalent
- \$100 application fee
- Contact:
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Office of Business Financing – CFA Programs Division
Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program

Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
Phone: 717.787.6245
Email: ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

The *Department of Community & Economic Development* provides funds for local governments to the planning and implementation of multiple services including shared service activities, community planning, and floodplain management. For shared service activities, applicants shall involve two or more participating municipalities.

- Request Amount: Dependent upon available funds
- Match: 50% cash match and may include labor costs; 25% of which must be non-state funded
- Contact Information:
Department of Community & Economic Development
Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
Phone: 888.223.6837 or 717.787.8158
Email: ra-dced-kcp@pa.gov

KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (KCP)

The *Commonwealth Financing Authority* provides a grant and designation program for community and economic development by encouraging public and private partnerships to support local initiatives and target focus areas or regions. Funded projects include planning, implementation, façade, accessible housing, and development projects, which can incorporate streetscape and roadway improvements. Communities may wish to consider designation through the KC program as a Keystone Main Street, Keystone Elm Street, Keystone Enterprise Zone, or Keystone Community.

- Request Amount: Dependent upon designation and activities
- Match: 50%
- Contact Information:
DCED Regional Director
Lehigh Valley: Berks, Lehigh, Monroe, Lebanon, Northampton, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties
Department of Community and Economic Development
Fadia Halma, Director
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Commonwealth Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

717 877-8481
fhalma@pa.gov

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *TRAILS*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants for the planning, acquisition, construction, enhancement, and maintenance of multi-use trails and trail-related facilities. This can include, but is not limited to, motorized and non-motorized trails, interpretive signs, trail amenities, access roads and parking areas, and equipment required to build and maintain trails.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50%

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *COMMUNITY RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants to prepare for future planning, acquisition, development, and management of parks, recreation facilities, critical habitat, open space, natural areas, greenways, and river/watershed passageways.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50%

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSERVATION*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants for the purchase and/or donation of land for the purpose of recreation and park areas, critical habitat areas, greenways, and open space.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50%

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *PARK REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants for the rehabilitation and development of public parks, both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, small communities, greenways, and river conservation and restoration projects.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50%

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *PEER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants for expanding the local capacity for parks, recreation, and conservation through the partnership of

municipalities, counties, and government councils and the hiring of a shared professional who is jointly funded by the formal partnership, commission, or authority.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 10%

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *RIPARIAN FORREST BUFFERS PROGRAM*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants to provide financial assistance to identify locations in need of riparian forest buffers, and to design, establish, monitor, and provide short-term maintenance for those buffers.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: Varies

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (C2P2) *STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS*

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* presently offers matching grants for the formation of collaborative initiatives that improve the capacity to develop and manage park and recreation facilities and advance conservation of resources through education, training, and implementation.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: Varies
- Contact: (for Community Conservation Partnership Programs listed above)
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Regional Advisor
Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger
Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610.746.5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

LEHIGH VALLEY GREENWAYS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Funded by the *PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*, and administered by *Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor*, this program provides mini grants for municipalities, non-profits, and educational institutions for strategic planning efforts and ready-to-go implementation projects in Lehigh or Northampton County. Key focuses include the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Goals: 1) Land Conservation & Restoration including ecological restoration projects, 2) Outdoor Recreation & Trail Connections including improvements to the LINK Trail

Network, 3) Community Revitalization including municipal ordinances, and 4) Local Education & Outreach including educational events and workshops.

- Request Amount: Min: \$1,000 Max: \$10,000
- Match: Minimum 50% Cash
- Contact information:
Lehigh Valley Greenways
c/o Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
Easton, PA 18042
Phone: 610.923-3548 ext. 226

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY-LIVABLE LANDSCAPES GRANT PROGRAM

Administered by *Northampton County*, this program aims to protect the County's natural features by providing grant funds under the Open Space Initiative to support projects focused on municipal parks, land preservation, and environmental services. Projects can include acquisition, conservation easements, park rehabilitation and development, and environmental restoration.

- Request Amount: No Parameters Identified
- Match: Minimum 50% Cash; 35% allowed to be In-Kind.
- Contact information:
Sherry L. Acevedo
Conservation Coordinator, Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation
Louise W. Moore County Park
151 Country Club Road
Easton, PA 18045
Telephone: 610.829.4872
Email: sacevedo@northamptoncounty.org

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY-FARMLAND PRESERVATION EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

Administered by *Northampton County*, this Commonwealth Program supports the preservation of farmland by purchasing agricultural conservation easements within Northampton County to prevent changes or development of the land for purposes other than farming. Program objectives include: encourage long-term commitment to agriculture, protect farming operations, conserve viable farmland, and purchase agricultural conservation easements.

- Request Amount: N/A
- Match: N/A
- Contact information:
14 Gracedale Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064
Phone: 610.829.6287

Email: mbentzoni@northamptoncounty.org

REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP)

The *Pennsylvania Office of the Budget* administers funds from the Commonwealth for regional or multi-jurisdictional economic development, civic, cultural, recreational, and historical improvements through acquisition and construction projects. Projects that obtain funding from PENNDOT, PENNVEST, the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) or other state agencies are generally restricted from participating in RACP.

- Request Amount: \$1,000,000 minimum total project cost
- Match: 50% of project cost must be match (non-state) participation. Can be local, private, land or building as-is appraised value, and/or federal funds. CDBGs administered by DCED is acceptable for use in a RACP project. The use of Gaming Local Share Assessment (LSA) can be used as matching funds for RACP in Northampton County.
- Contact information: Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program
Office of the Budget
Bureau of Redevelopment, Capital and Debt
333 Market Street Tower
18th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210
Attention: RACP Administrator
Email: RA-OB-RACP-PPR@pa.gov

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NPS-RTCA)

The *National Park Services* provides funding assistance to support resource conservation and recreation projects throughout the United States of America. The program links national conservation and recreation planning professionals with applicants to design, conserve and improve natural and recreational opportunities and connect the public to these resources.

- Request Amount: N/A
- Match: N/A
- Contact information:
Helen Mahan, Programs Manager
Email: ner_rtca@nps.gov

TRAIL GRANTS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* provides funding for land acquisition, planning, construction, rehabilitation and maintenance, development and operation of trail educational programs and purchase or lease of maintenance and construction equipment. 75% of project must be related to trail activities and/or trail-related facilities. Generally

speaking, a recreational pathway that falls completely within a local park will be considered a *Park Rehabilitation and Development Project* rather than a Trail project.

- Request Amount: depending on program
- Match: 20% of project cost (cash and/or non-cash)
- Contact information:
Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger, Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610 746-5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION GRANTS

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* provides funding and technical assistance support for local recreation and park improvement projects through its Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants. Funding priority is given to projects that implement elements of Pennsylvania's 2020-2024 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

- Request amount:
- Match: 50% cash or non-cash
- Contact Information:
Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger
Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610.746-5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

KEYSTONE RECREATION, PARK AND CONSERVATION FUND

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* provides funds for construction and rehabilitation, planning, and acquisition of non-motorized and motorized trails and trail-related facilities.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50% of project cost. Match can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values
- Contact information:

Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger
Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610.746-5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

SMALL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* provides grant funding to municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less with a reduced match requirement for rehabilitation and/or new development of basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that provide a high level of recreational value, such as playground and pavilions with ADA accessibility.

- Request Amount: minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$70,000
- Match: \$10,000 is earmarked for Professional Services only and requires no match; \$20,000 is earmarked for Materials and/or Equipment only and requires no match; Grants over \$30,000 may be used for Materials, Equipment, and/or Labor and require a \$1 for \$1 match
- Contact:
Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger
Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610.746-5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUND (GROWING GREENER 1)

The *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* administers funds for construction and rehabilitation, planning, and acquisition of non-motorized and motorized trails and trail-related facilities, greenways, open space, natural areas, river corridors and watersheds, community park, and recreation projects. Receives revenues from an increase in the fee charged for dumping trash at landfills and has received funds from the 2005 Growing Greener bond initiative.

- Request Amount: Reasonable requests
- Match: 50% of project cost. Match can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values
- Contact:

Northeast Region 2
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Rd
Nazareth, PA 18064
Lorne Possinger
Recreation and Conservation Manager
Phone: 610.746-5607
Email: lpossinger@pa.gov

PENNSYLVANIA RECREATIONAL TRAILS (PRT) PROGRAM

The *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)* provides grants to develop and maintain trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trails uses. Funding supports maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new recreational trails, and acquisition of easements or property for recreation trails or recreation trail corridors. Project proposals that utilize youth conservation or service corps will earn extra credit in the selection process.

- Request Amount: minimum of \$2,500 to a maximum of \$100,000
- Match: 80% grant funds and 20% project sponsor funds. Acquisition costs require a 50/50 match. “Soft match” donation of materials and services are permitted.
- Contact: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Recreation & Conservation
Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program
P.O. Box 8475
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475
Email: vtierney@dcnr.state.pa.us

FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The *US Department of Interior* provides annual appropriations of federal funds to states to provide 50% of matching grants for general public outdoor parks, recreation and conservation, land acquisition and development projects.

- Request Amount
- Match: 50%
- Contact:
Washington Office
State and Local Assistance Programs
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW, Org-2225

Washington, D.C. 20240

Joel Lynch

Phone: 202.354-6905

Northeast Region 2

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

400 Belfast Rd

Nazareth, PA 18064

Lorne Possinger

Recreation and Conservation Manager

Phone: 610.746-5607

Email: lpossinger@pa.gov