

2002 Annual Report

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2003

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PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION - MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection

of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

The Planning Commission and the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department assist the County in meeting these important goals.

DEPARTMENT RELOCATES

After weeks of preparation, the Planning and Development Department moved to Huntingdon County Annex I on July 9, 2002. Also moving to the Annex were the Human Service and Veterans Affairs Departments.

Annex I is located at 205 Penn Street, Huntingdon; across the street from the previous Planning office.

Annex I provides additional space for the Department as well as convenient storage and conference room facilities. Prior to the move, the County renovated the Annex, which once housed County Children's Service Offices.

The major improvement was the addition of new heating and air conditioning systems. Offices were also repainted, new floor covering was

installed, a handicapped access was built, and the building was pre-wired for Internet and telephone services.



Annex I, 205 Penn Street

AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first planning director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the Comprehensive Plan. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

New staff was hired to assist in 911 addressing during 2002. Sabrina Thompson was hired in July and Scott Williams was hired in September to assist Brian Young in completing the 911 Addressing Project.

Interns continued to fulfill an important role in the Office. During the year, two interns worked for the Planning and Development Department. Angela Worthy, a South Hills Business School student; and Melody Sechrist, a JTPA summer worker, assisted the Office personnel during the maternity leave of two full-time staff members.

During the year, staff participated in numerous training workshops and conferences to enhance their skills. Major conferences included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, the CDBG Annual Conference, and the GIS Annual Conference.

WORK PROGRAM

- **Comprehensive Economic Analysis**

The Planning Commission plans to publish the *Comprehensive Economic Analysis of Huntingdon County* during early 2003. This Study involves an analysis of economic issues and the development of strategies for economic development. The Study was completed by consultant, Delta Development of Mechanicsburg, PA.

- **Geographic Information System**

Development of GIS information for Huntingdon County will focus on development of a second grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to fund conversion of County Tax Maps to a digital basis. Additional work will include creation of detailed maps for water and sewer systems and updating existing data. The Spatial Sciences Research Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania will continue to assist the County.

- **Demographic Analysis**

The Department has requested that IUP's Spatial Sciences Research Center develop a demographic analysis of Huntingdon County, including thematic maps and digital census data.

- **911 and Rural Addressing**

It is expected that new addresses will be issued for Region 2, which consists of Alexandria and Petersburg Boroughs; Barree, Jackson, Logan, Morris, Porter and West Townships. It is expected that field work will be completed for Regions 3 and 6, the Huntingdon and Mt Union Areas. Full implementation of the

Huntingdon County Street Naming and Addressing Policy is expected by the end of 2004.

- **Community Development**

The administration of Community Development and other grants will continue to be a major staff activity. Work expected during the year includes development of the entitlement grant application, development of a competitive grant application for the Broad Top City and Dudley Water Systems, development of a Three Year Community Development Plan and administration of numerous funded activities.

- **Municipal Waste Management Plan**

A new *Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon Municipal Waste Management Plan* will be initiated in 2003. Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties will share work on the Plan, with Bedford County as the lead county.

Pennsylvania Act 101 requires counties to revise their Plans every ten years. Funding for the new Plan will be sought from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

- **Enterprise Zone and Information Technology**

The Planning and Development Department will implement an Enterprise Zone, including supervision of an Enterprise Coordinator, and oversee major investments in broadband communication technology. These are major elements of the recently completed *Huntingdon County Economic Analysis*.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2002, the operation of the Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$105,441.00) and through several state and federal government grant programs (\$213,245.00).

The 2003 General Fund budget decreased by 5.64% from 2002; and the 2003 budget for Grants and Special Projects increased by 7.53%. This increase in Grants is because more money has been allocated for 911 and the Street Naming and Addressing Project. Overall, the 2003 budget is 3.27% higher than it was in 2002.

General Fund Budget Report

Grants and Special Projects Budget Report *

	2002 Budget	2002 Expenditures	2003 Budget
Personnel	\$77,641.00	\$77,641.98	\$79,972.00
Services	\$22,300.00	\$21,674.05	\$16,700.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,824.39	\$2,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$2,500.00	\$2,445.02	\$1,140.00
Total	\$105,441.00	\$103,085.44	\$99,812.00

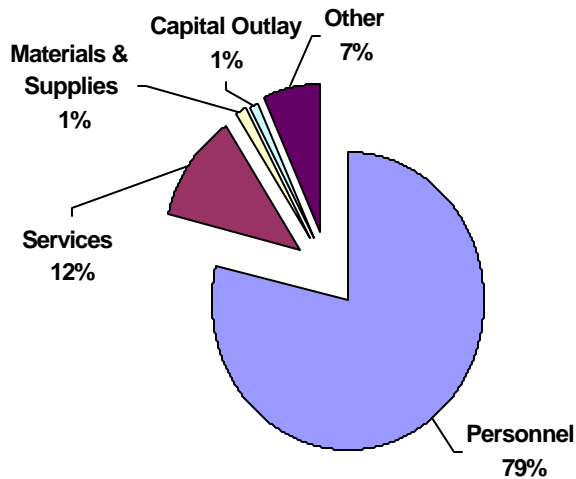
	2002 Budget	2002 Expenditures	2003 Budget
Personnel	\$115,721.00	\$116,656.44	\$136,384.00
Services	\$36,050.00	\$7,537.78	\$32,050.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,600.00	\$1,756.55	\$7,600.00
Other	\$57,874.00	\$16,666.16	\$53,266.00
Total	\$213,245.00	\$142,616.93	\$229,300.00

Grant & General Fund Totals

2002 Budget	2002 Expenditures	2003 Budget
\$318,686.00	\$245,702.37	\$329,112.00

*Grants and Special Projects include Community Development Block Grant funds used for administrative purposes. State Planning Assistance Program Grant Funds, PA Shared Municipal Services Grant Funds, and County Funds budgeted for mapping and recycling.

2002 Grant and General Fund Expenditures



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* sets public policy for the development of land, public facilities, transportation, and other elements as authorized by the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code*. The Plan is kept current through the development of various planning studies and Plan updates.

Comprehensive Economic Analysis

Economic problems topped the list of issues identified in *Continuity Through Conservation II*. Therefore, the County obtained a Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Grant to prepare an analysis of economic issues facing the County. The *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Economic Analysis* was completed in 2002.

Delta Development, Inc. was selected to develop the economic analysis. Key components of the *Huntingdon County Economic Analysis* include: review of previous studies, analysis of industrial structure and performance, business survey, evaluation of economic agencies, recommendation for participation in the enterprise zone program, an assessment of technology, a marketing plan, and recommended economic development strategies.

Analysis

The *Economic Analysis* identifies the industrial base of the County, industries which inject revenue into the local economy through the export of products and services. These industries not only include manufacturing but agriculture, mining, construction and services such as education. The two state correctional facilities are also basic industries in the County.

Also identified are industries that exhibit growth potential, either because they are growing nationally or because the County currently imports these services. Some of these potential growth industries include: retail, business services, health services, hotels and lodging, and engineering and management.

Approximately 70% of the County's workforce of 18,887 workers work within Huntingdon County. The table below provides a workforce comparison based both on place of residence and place of employment.

Proposed Enterprise Zone

One of the key recommendations of the Economic Analysis is the

creation of a state-designated enterprise zone in a corridor running from Huntingdon to Mount Union. The recommended strategy focuses on the importance of broadband technology, hiring an enterprise zone coordinator, close communication with area businesses and the provision of financial incentives such as low-interest revolving loans and state tax credits.

Recommended Initiatives

Recommended initiatives designed to implement the goals of economic prosperity and rural quality of life are found on page 5.

Huntingdon County Employment - 2000

<i>Industry Code</i>	<i>By Place of Residence</i>		<i>By Place of Employment</i>	
	<i>Total Employment</i>	<i>% of sector</i>	<i>Total Employment</i>	<i>% of sector</i>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHING	739	3.91%	180	1.43%
MINING	0	0.00%	125	0.99%
CONSTRUCTION	1,730	9.16%	618	4.92%
MANUFACTURING	4,085	21.63%	2,531	20.13%
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	786	4.16%	322	2.56%
WHOLESALE TRADE	409	2.17%	331	2.63%
RETAIL TRADE	1,851	9.80%	2,169	17.25%
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	555	2.94%	508	4.04%
SERVICES	5,964	31.58%	2,914	23.18%
GOVERNMENT	1,418	7.51%	2,874	22.86%
TOTALS	18,887	100.00%	12,572	100.00%

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

Business & Workforce Development	Marketing & Visitor Promotion
1.1 Establish an Early Warning Network to monitor the health of existing business and to provide rapid response to at-risk companies.	2.1 Continue offering Customer Service Training to support downtown redevelopment and expansion within the County's tourism sector.
1.2 Promote business participation in PA SourceNet.	2.2 Establish a locals-only program to familiarize residents with local attractions.
1.3 Promote utilization of the U.S. Small Business Administration's SCORE (State Corps of Retired Executives) program.	2.3 Automate the Huntingdon County Data Book.
1.4 Establish a shared-risk seed fund to provide gap financing to business start-ups and local firms.	2.4 Align potential sites with the next phase of Select-Sites.
1.5 Work in partnership with area businesses and school districts to implement a Teacher/Job Shadow program.	2.5 Form a Student/Community Relations Committee to establish a dialogue with the County's student population.
1.6 Support the continuation of Huntingdon County's family farms by identifying market niche opportunities, supporting agricultural land preservation, and advocating policy changes at the State and National level.	2.6 Coordinate a work session with Penn State and Juniata College to discuss a niche strategy for the County's marketing plan.
Explore niche market opportunities	2.7 Establish an indirect marketing campaign that complements the Quality of Life video project.
Continue to support the preservation of agricultural land in Huntingdon County	2.8 Prepare a market study to document the spending habits and purchasing power of the County visitor base.
Advocate for improvements to existing Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs to reward farmers that implement conservation practices.	2.9 Conduct a workforce assessment to document workforce availability and skills within Huntingdon County's labor force.
Work with Penn State Cooperative Extension to educate farmers about non-traditional financing opportunities	2.10 Continue to promote the community assets that distinguish Huntingdon County as a progressive rural community.
1.7 Perform a market analysis of Huntingdon Borough's Central Business District (CBD).	2.11 Utilize signage, landscaping, and other streetscape enhancements to delineate gateways along the County's major transportation arteries.
1.8 Introduce a hospitality curriculum as an adjunct to the Culinary Arts Program currently offered at the Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center.	2.12 Develop a public awareness campaign to build support for the Comprehensive Economic Analysis.
1.9 Work in conjunction with Juniata College to establish an E-business Network.	Enterprise Zone (EZ) & Technology
1.10 Sponsor a Workforce Development Summit.	3.1 Form an organizational structure to ensure coordination of business development efforts.
1.11 Diversify Huntingdon County's tourism sector and encourage year-round visitation.	3.2 Hire an Enterprise Zone (EZ) coordinator.
1.12 Establish a Partnership Agreement among the area's economic development entities.	3.3 Identify financial and technical resource needs of EZ corridor businesses with larger than local markets, and procure resources which will respond effectively to those needs.
1.13 Retain the Economic Task Force as a permanent organizational body.	3.4 Develop a business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to be capitalized by repayments of loans provided by DCED and other public lenders.
1.14 Implement a countywide leadership development program	3.5 Form a Rural Area Network to aggregate broadband demand.
1.15 Encourage the implementation of the County's comprehensive plan – Continuity Through Conservation II.	3.6 Review State and Federal funding assistance programs
	3.7 Prepare a Broadband Business Plan
	3.8 Develop an Anchor Building project in Huntingdon Borough's Central Business District (CBD).

COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review and Subdivision and Land Development Reviews.

AGENCY LIAISON

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

The Planning and Development staff continued to work closely with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and the new Juniata Clean Water Partnership.

Agricultural Land Preservation Board

Planning staff also continued to work closely with the Huntingdon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to implement an agricultural land preservation program. The Planning Director works closely with Conservation District staff, who administer the agricultural program. During the year, the Preservation Board received an application for purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on a 100 acre farm in Brady Township.

Housing Advisory Committee

The Department continued to support a Housing Advisory Committee comprised of bankers, real estate firms and public housing

agencies. The Committee meets quarterly to share information on housing programs, particularly those that benefit low and moderate income persons.

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees: Planning Advisory Committee (PAC); DSF Committee; Transportation Technical Committee (TTC); and Tourism Confederation. The Planner/GIS Technician is a member of the GIS Users Group (GUG).

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) provides planning, economic development and job training services to a six-county area including Huntingdon County. The Huntingdon County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee of Southern Alleghenies .

Major activities carried out during 2002 included: participation in the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) and initiation of the I-99 Transportation and Community System Preservation Project (TCSP). The TCSP project provided the Department with new GIS software and training. The Transportation Technical Committee met frequently during the year to develop a regional Transportation

Improvement Program.

Southern Alleghenies has been designated a Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the purpose of transportation planning and is responsible for prioritizing the transportation needs of the four rural counties within the region. The Transportation Improvement Program or TIP was approved by PA DOT in 2002. The TIP includes the first four years of the Twelve-Year Transportation Program.

Southern Alleghenies provided financial assistance to the County through three programs in 2002: TSCP I-99, PennSTEP and the Municipal Technology Assistance Program. The TSCP I-99 program provided funds for GIS technology. The PennSTEP program provided \$10,000 to assist in extending water and sewer service to the Broad Top KOEZ Site. The MTAP program provided funds for coordination of technology purchase by local municipalities.

Juniata Clean Water Partnership



The Juniata Clean Water Partnership (JCWP) took several actions last year designed to assure implementation of the *Juniata Watershed Management Plan*:

- Establishment of a watershed resource center;
- Restructuring the former Steering Committee to a 22 member Board;
- Incorporating JCWP; and
- Applying to the IRS for nonprofit status.

JCWP entered into an agreement with Juniata College early in 2002 to establish a Watershed Resource Center at the College, and moved its offices to the Baxter Building at 1701 Penn St in Huntingdon in January 2003.

During the fall of the year, the Partnership agreed to restructure the Steering Committee, creating a 22 member Board. The Board is composed of four groups: Representatives of County Conservation Districts, Representatives of County Planning Commissions, Representatives of Watershed and Environmental Organizations and Juniata College.

The Partners decided that incorporation and nonprofit status were critical to sustaining the organization. Formalization of these goals should be realized during the first half of 2003.

The Planning Director sits on the Partnership Board. The seven counties that participate in the Partnership are: Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry; along with regional groups, such as the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Susquehanna River Commission, Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and the Rural Communities Assistance Program.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCB&I)

The Planning Director continues to serve on the HCB&I Industrial Development and Transportation Committees. The Grant Administrator has also been working closely with HCB&I while developing a more dependable water source for the Mount Union Area.

Huntingdon County Heritage Committee

The Planning Director and Nancy Shedd, Executive Director of the

Huntingdon County Historical Society, continue to co-chair the Heritage Committee. Planning staff assisted the Heritage Committee in setting up and staffing a booth at the Outdoor Discovery 2002 Fair, held at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

COUNTY-MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247) gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision and other land development ordinances.

Local government and state agencies submitted the following 23 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2002:

1. Walker Township Comprehensive Plan
2. STEDCO, Prison Land Development, Smithfield Township
3. Bruce Cox, NPDES Permit, DEP General Information Form, Warriors Mark Township
4. Proposed Huntingdon County Enterprise Zone
5. Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Rural Business Opportunity Grant, Update Management Action Plan
6. Cromwell Township Agricultural Security Area
7. Mill Creek Area Municipal Authority, Fousetown Area Water and Wastewater Extension
8. Richard W. Anderson, Jr., Shale Borrow Area, Oneida Township
9. Dudley, Carbon, Coalmont Municipal Authority, Phase II Wastewater Extension
10. Lake's Septic Tank Cleaning, Richard Covert Farm, DEP Land Application of Sludge Permit, Shirley Township
11. Harmony Hogs/Thomas Haas Hog Farm, Lincoln Township

12. Lincoln Township Agricultural Security Area Amendment
13. Tell Township Agricultural Security Area Modification
14. Huntingdon House, Emergency Shelter Grant Application
15. Canoe Valley Quarry, Morris Township
16. Branch Camp Proposed Expansion, Juniata Township
17. Carbon Township Act 537 Plan Amendment
18. Allenport Water Line Replacement
19. Broad Top KOEZ Water and Sewer Extension
20. Texas Eastern Transmission, LP Environmental Assessment, Lincoln Township
21. Brady Township Subdivision Ordinance
22. U. S. Silica North Quarry Expansion, Brady Township
23. Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority, DEP, Water Supply Permit Amendment

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits, or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for state permits. The Commission received 75 state permit activity notices in 2002.

FEDERAL-STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan, under the authority of Executive Order #12372, in cooperation with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission.

Under the state-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission reviewed and commented on 5 projects in 2002.

1. Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Southwestern Region, Pennsylvania

This project involved a funding request of \$99,900 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant funding to identify, develop and implement customized accounting and/or database software for a coalition of farmer cooperatives.

2. Big Valley Concrete, Concrete Batch Plant, Brady Township

This project involved a funding request of 80% of \$926,000 from the USDA Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program to construct a ready mix concrete plant.

3. Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania

This project involved a USDA funding request of \$95,000 to establish an office in the Southern Alleghenies Region to assist start-up companies with technical and business services.

4. Bob and Eileen Sill Business Incubator, Huntingdon Borough

This project involved a request for state and federal grants to develop a 5,400 square foot Business Incubator in the former Alfarata Elementary School building. The Incubator will provide both physical facilities and services for new businesses.

5. Allegheny Ridge Corporation

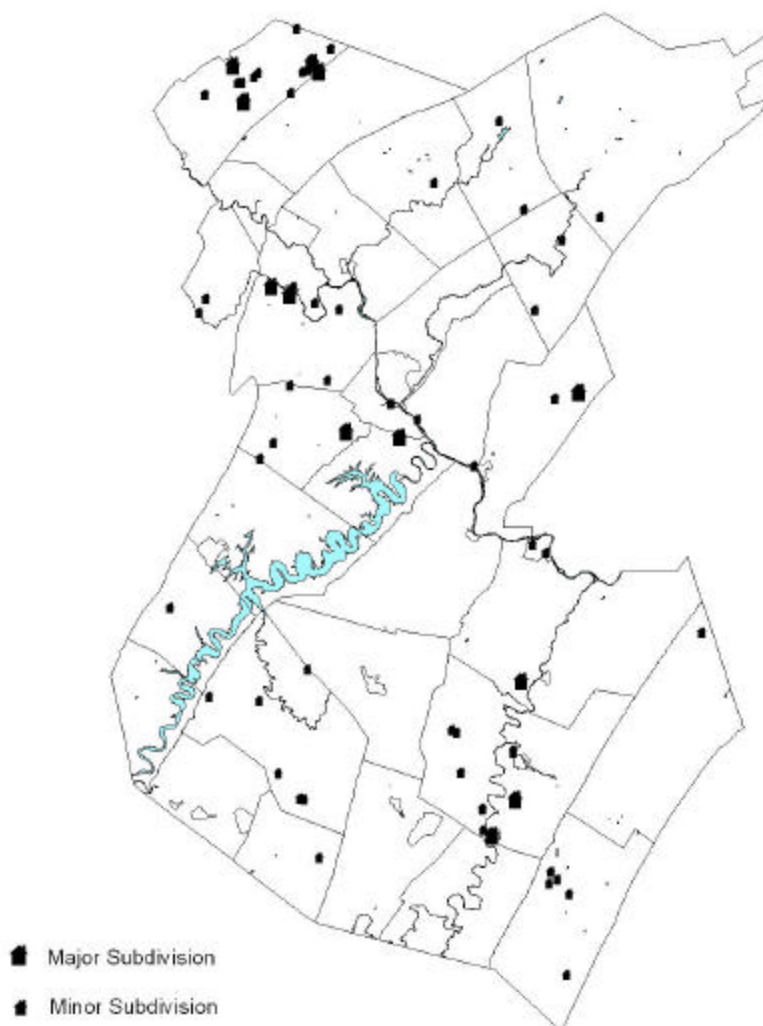
This project involved a \$35,000 USDA funding request to fund an update of the Corporation's 1992 Management Action Plan.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and

land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act.

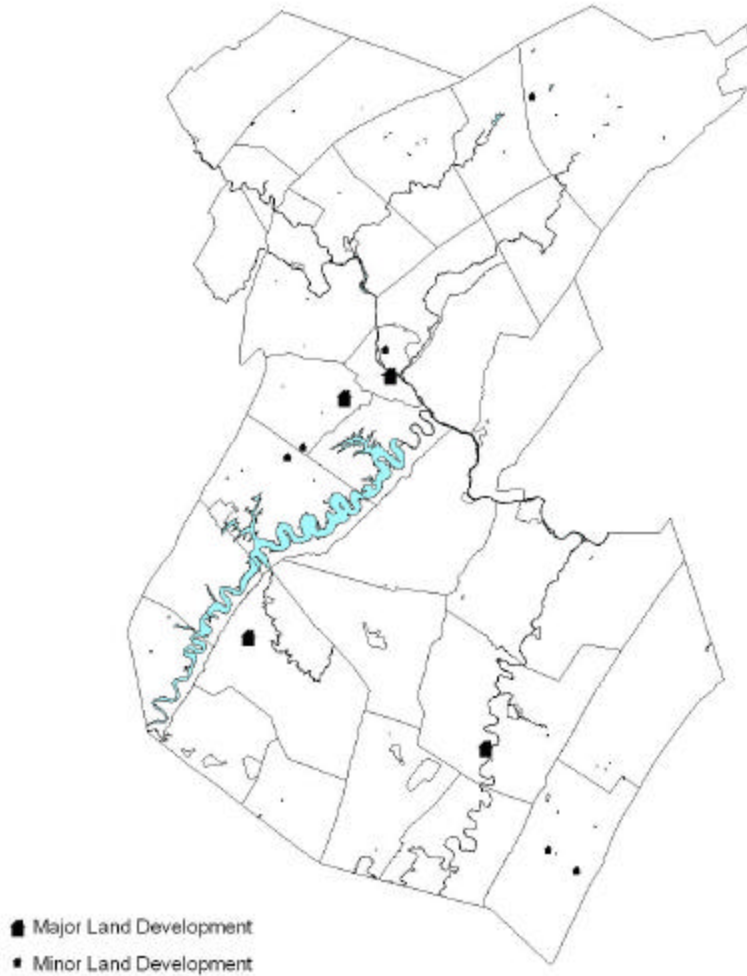
The Commission reviewed 80 subdivisions in 22 municipalities in 2002, up by 14 since 2001. These included 12 major subdivisions, 57 minor subdivisions, 4 major land developments, and 7 minor land developments encompassing 176



2002 Subdivision Activity Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
2/24/03





2002 Land Development Activity Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
2/24/03



lots and 7,579 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 8 and 9.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2002 were:

- the Bruce E. Cox Subdivision with 35.44 acres and 16 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Vista Rise Subdivision with 74.989 acres and 16 lots in Juniata Township;
- the Larry and Brucette Metz Subdivision with 91.4 acres and 14 lots in Brady Township;

- the Sportsman's Ridge Subdivision with 83 acres and 12 lots in Porter Township;
- the Endres Residential Subdivision with 10.7 acres and 11 lots in Porter Township; and
- the Walter Dobozyński, Jr. Subdivision with 52.362 acres and 10 lots in Shirley Township.

The major land development reviews conducted in 2002 included:

- Huntingdon Hospitality, Inc., Huntingdon Borough, construction of a 56 unit hotel with parking;

- Hemlock Hideaway Campground, Todd Township, expansion of existing campground to create 48 new campsites, new comfort and dump stations, access roads, stormwater detention ponds, and a new single-family dwelling for the owner;
- Shaner Energy Office and Maintenance Building, Walker Township, construction of a 12,500 square foot building; and
- Southern Huntingdon County High School, Cromwell Township, additions to existing school building, new and modified parking areas, vehicle passages and curbing, and additions to existing stormwater conveyance system.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities that request it. Such assistance typically involves development of:

- ☒ subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances;
- ☒ grant applications and administration;
- ☒ requests for proposals for professional services;
- ☒ various planning studies.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

- **Brady Township** - Staff attended a public hearing on adoption of a township subdivision ordinance.
- **Henderson Township** - Staff met with members of the Township Planning Commission to review the Model Subdivision Ordinance and answer questions.
- **Huntingdon Borough** - Staff assisted members of the Huntingdon Borough Trails Committee in locating trails using GPS and in developing and printing maps of the trails on the Flag Pole Trail.
- **Miller Township** - Staff met with Township Planning Commission members and Supervisors to review the Model Subdivision Ordinance.
- **Morris Township** - Staff met with the Township Planning Commission to discuss implementation of the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- **Porter Township** - Staff met with the Township's newly formed Planning Commission to review subdivision review procedures, planning commission organization and bylaws.
- **Walker Township** - Staff consulted with the Township on noise standards in connection with the review of a Motocross Track.

Model Subdivision Ordinance

At the completion of the Intergovernmental Action Plan, twenty municipalities requested and received customized copies of the Model Subdivision Ordinance.

Planning and Development staff has been working with these municipalities to customize the Ordinance for their use. Thus far, the Model Subdivision Ordinance has been adopted by four municipalities: Brady, Morris, Porter and Union Townships.

MTAP Program

Eleven municipalities and five municipal authorities participated in the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, receiving financial assistance to purchase computers, peripherals and software. These include: Mill Creek, Mount Union and Saltillo Boroughs; Lincoln, Porter, Dublin Juniata, Miller, Shirley, Walker, and Wood Townships; Shirley Township General Authority, Mapleton Municipal Authority, Walker Township Municipal Authority, Mill Creek Municipal Authority, and Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority.

Planning and Development staff coordinated the Program with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and provided assistance to many of these communities in the development of their MTAP applications and with computer set-up.

All Municipalities - Staff surveyed municipal officials to update a municipal contact database; provided an opportunity

for participation in the Huntingdon County CDBG Entitlement Program; requested municipal financial support for a PA Council on the Arts Local Government Grant; and notified municipal officials about possible financial savings on computer equipment through the Pennsylvania Technology Investment Authority Program.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Department staff applies for state and federal grants each year on behalf of Huntingdon County municipalities and non-profit groups to assist them in meeting local needs. Staff efforts to obtain grant funds are often supplemented by private consultants.

During 2002, staff submitted two successful grant applications to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. A HOME grant provided \$500,000 toward the countywide owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer programs. The Competitive Community Development Block Grant program awarded \$500,000 toward construction of a sanitary sewer system for the Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Area.

As in previous years, significant municipal assistance efforts were dedicated to administration of Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Programs. The Three Year Community Development Plan shown on page 13 outlines County priorities for the coming three years.

In addition to the CDBG Program, the Planning and Development Department staff applies for and administers other grants. Grant sources include: the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, State Planning Assistance Grants, and Shared Municipal Services Grants through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally. Some activities are done to assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas. Major Planning projects in 2002 included:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Planning Director continued to serve on the Huntingdon County Economic Development Task Force, created in 2000 by the County Commissioners. The role of the Task Force is to "encourage economic development in Huntingdon County." Agencies represented include: Greater Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon Area Merchants, Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Juniata College, Mount Union Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Township Economic Development Corporation.

911 AND RURAL ADDRESSING

2002 marked the completion of address field work in Region 2, which includes Porter, Logan, West, Barree and Jackson Townships and Alexandria and Petersburg Boroughs. This area includes the Alexandria, Petersburg and Huntingdon postal delivery areas. A total of 4,336 structures were identified in Region 2; of these, 2,619 were addressable. Addressable structures include residential, business, industrial, and seasonal structures.

In November address information for the Alexandria and Petersburg postal delivery area was sent to the United States Postal Service's Regional Office in Johnstown for review. This process is required by the Postal Service before addresses can be released. It is anticipated that addresses will be available for release in the Spring of 2003.

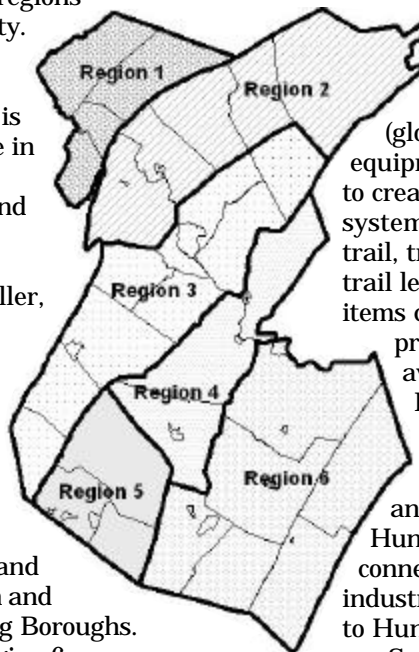
In June 2002, the County hired a second Addressing Technician to speed up field work efforts. The addressing GIS data was modified so that each field technician could collect addressing data in separate addressing regions of the County.

Presently, address verification is taking place in Address Regions 3 and 6. Address Region 3 includes Miller, Henderson, Oneida, Smithfield, Walker, Juniata, Penn, Lincoln and Hopewell Townships and Huntingdon and Marklesburg Boroughs.

Address Region 6 includes Shirley, Cromwell, Tell, Dublin, Clay and Springfield Townships and Mount Union, Rockhill, Orbisonia, Shade Gap, Three Springs, and Saltillo Boroughs. It is anticipated that address field work will be completed in each of these areas in the Fall of 2003.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department maintains maps of over 100 features such as roads, streams and municipal boundaries (known as coverages) as part of the Huntingdon County Geographic Information System (GIS). These maps range from county and municipal boundaries to the detailed location information used in 911 addressing.



GIS work this year primarily involved the ongoing maintenance of these coverages as well as the creation of new coverages and projects.

One of the projects created was the Flag Pole Hill Trail System. Working with the Flag Pole Hill Trails Committee, staff used GPS (global positioning satellite) equipment in conjunction with GIS to create a detailed map of the trail system. Points of interest along the trail, trail location and name, and trail lengths are just a few of the items collected as part of this project. Currently, this map is available on the Huntingdon Borough Web Site.

The Planning Department also used the GIS to create an Enterprise Zone for Huntingdon County. This Zone connects commercial and industrial sites from Mount Union to Huntingdon using the Norfolk Southern Railroad to connect these sites.

Soils Mapping data was also collected this year for use in the GIS. This data was made available by the Penn State Land Analysis Lab. This data contains detailed soils characteristics that have a wide range of planning applications.

With the help of the Spatial Sciences Research Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, data coverage updates were made to several coverages, including State Game Lands boundaries, Agricultural Security Areas, addressing data for Bedford and Mifflin County, and mapping for steep slopes. SSRC also assisted the County with the development of a RFP for the creation of digital tax parcel mapping.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The Planning and Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Huntingdon County Commissioners. A total of \$2,840,453 in grants was received between 2000 and 2002 for a variety of planning and community development projects. Lists of recently funded grant activities are shown below and on page 13.

**CDBG Distribution by
Activity Type**

7	Water	28%
6	Sewer	24%
4	Facilities for Elderly	16%
4	Housing	16%
1	Storm Water	4%
1	Accessibility	4%
1	Economic Development	4%
1	Recreation	4%
25	Total	

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT

A \$5,000 grant for the development of Leadership Huntingdon County was received from Representative Larry O. Sather. This project is a major goal of the Economic Development Task Force.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT - HUNTINGDON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

In cooperation with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, the Department administered a \$2,877 Local Government Grant for art activities in 2002. Matching grant contributions were made by the County and many municipalities for a \$6,302.50 program. These funds are used by the Arts Council to fund various art activities.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

The Recycling Coordinator provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County Schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

During 2002, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for educational programs and materials, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2001 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

OTHER COUNTY ASSISTANCE

The Grant Administrator continues to serve on both the County Safety and Social Committees, and the Planning Technician and Grant Administrator continue to serve as members of the Huntingdon County Human Services Council. The Grant Administrator and Planning Technician also continue to coordinate meetings for the Huntingdon County Housing Advisory Committee, and both continue to conduct Courthouse tours for local school, church and civic groups.

The Department also applied for and received a \$10,000 grant for parcel mapping from the Department of Agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

Appalachian Regional Commission		
2002	Broad Top KOEZ Infrastructure	\$50,000
Economic Development Administration		
2001	Mount Union Well Development	\$510,000
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts		
2002	Local Government Grant - Huntingdon County Arts Council	\$2,877
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development		
2001	LUPTAP Grant - Comprehensive Economic Analysis	\$25,000
2002	HOME Program - Countywide Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	\$500,000
2002	Community Revitalization Grant - Leadership Development	\$5,000
Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission		
2002	PennSTEP Grant Program - Broad Top KOEZ Infrastructure	\$10,000
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture		
2002	Department of Agriculture - Parcel Mapping Grant	\$10,000

Recent Competitive CDBG Funding	Year	Amount
Mount Union Municipal Authority	2000	\$500,000
Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Sewer System	2002	\$500,000

CDBG Usage—Past Three Years	2000	2001	2002
Shirley Home Electrical **	\$18,369	0	0
Shoup's Run Stormwater *	0	\$48,000	0
Mapleton Water Line **	\$83,000	0	0
Petersburg Water Line **	\$90,000	0	0
Shirleysburg Water Meters **	\$20,511	0	0
Broad Top City Water *	0	\$50,000	0
Dudley Water *	\$26,223	\$50,000	0
Dudley Sewer Laterals	0	0	\$85,553
Habitat for Humanity *	0	\$19,500	\$12,000
Warriors Mark Seniors *	0	\$66,000	0
Mount Union Borough Elevator Feasibility Study	0	0	\$15,000
Broad Top City Borough Water and Sewer Extensions to KOEZ *	0	0	\$40,000
Shirley Home for the Aged Roof*	0	\$13,420	\$90,000
Past Three Years Totals	\$238,103	\$246,920	\$242,553

** activity complete * activity underway

CDBG Usage - Next Three Years	2003	2004	2005
Dudley Area Sewer Laterals	\$175,000	0	0
Cromwell Township Laterals	0	0	\$102,000
Puttstown Sewer Laterals	0	0	\$60,000
Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity	0	\$20,000	0
Mount Union Borough Sidewalk Rehab	\$25,000	0	0
Alexandria Borough Water Line Replacement	0	\$97,000	0
Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority Drying Shed	\$20,000	0	0
Orbisonia-Rockhill Homecoming Assoc. Facility Improvements	0	\$58,000	0
Petersburg Borough Sewer Pump Replacement	0	\$45,000	0
Juniata Valley Senior Citizens Center Addition	0	0	\$58,000
Next Three Years Totals	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$220,000

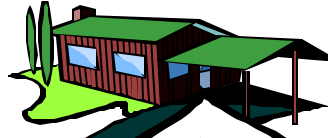
DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes:

- ⊗ Building and Subdivision Activity
- ⊗ Deed Transfers
- ⊗ Municipal Contacts
- ⊗ Municipal Land Use Ordinances
- ⊗ Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The



transferred over the past ten years.

The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2002, both existing and new, showed a 4.4% decrease from 1,658 in 2001 to 1,585 in 2002.

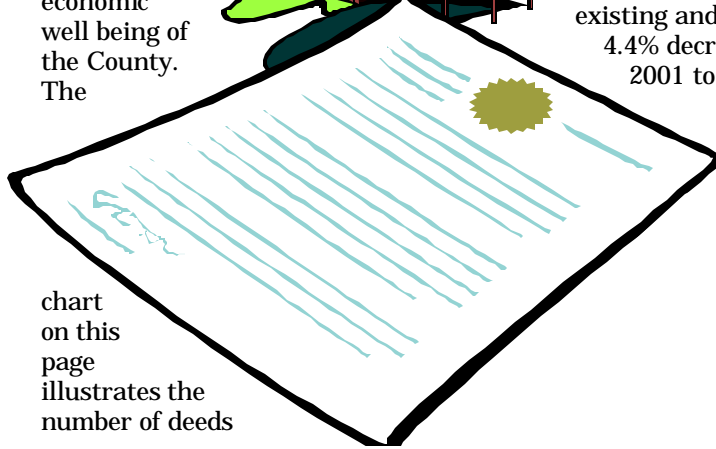
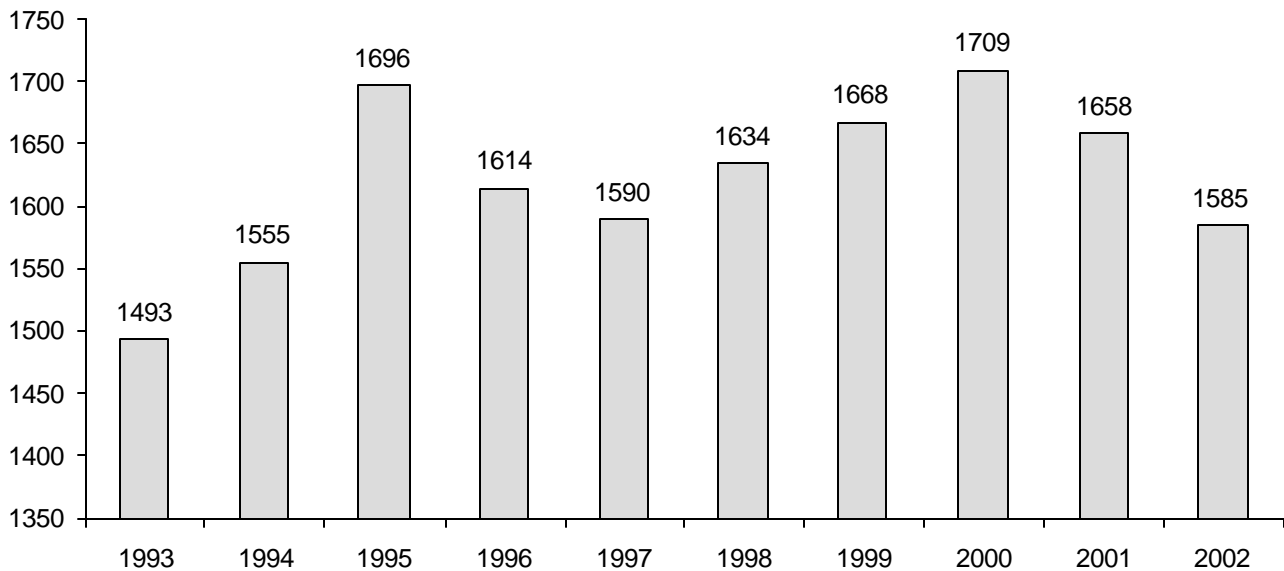


chart on this page illustrates the number of deeds

DEED TRANSFERS 1993 - 2002



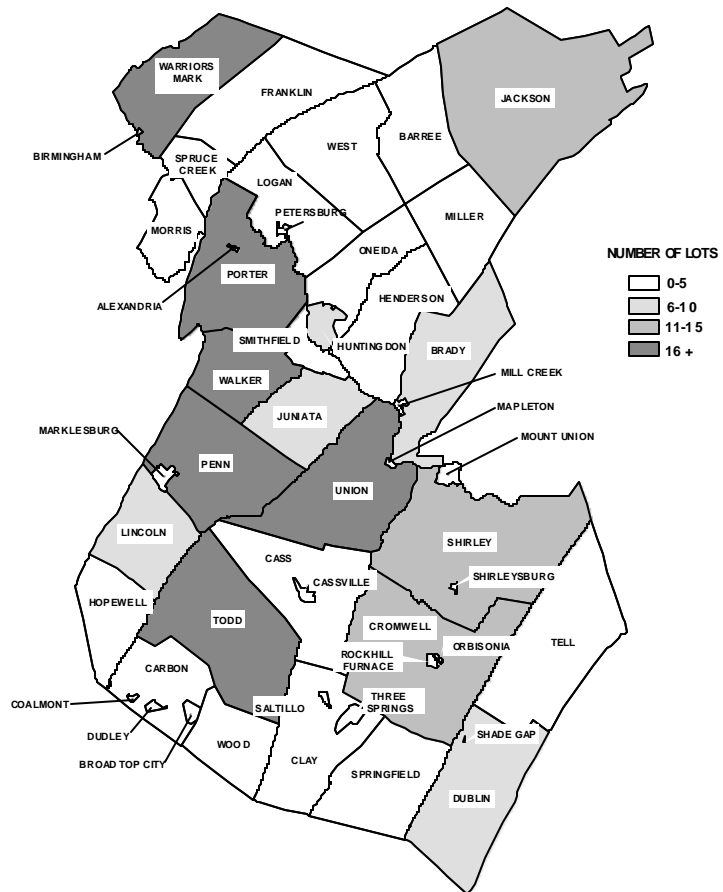
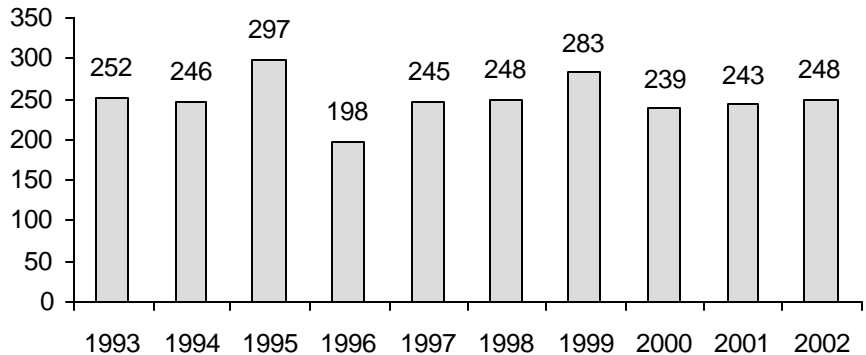
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

The number of new subdivision lots created indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services. Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced in the Coordination section.

During 2002, 248 new lots were created in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 2% from the 243 lots created in 2001. A ten-year history of subdivision activity is shown on the chart opposite this summary.

The largest number of lots were created in Union Township, 34 new lots. The next highest levels of subdivision activity occurred in Warriors Mark Township, 26 new lots; Penn Township, 20 new lots; Walker Township, 17 new lots; Porter and Todd Townships, 16 new lots; Cromwell Township, 14 new lots; Shirley Township, 13 new lots; Jackson Township, 11 new lots; and Dublin Township, 10 new lots. In 2001, the highest level of activity occurred in Todd Township - 24 new lots. The map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2002.

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 1993 - 2002



Subdivision Activity, 2002

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission

2/27/03

BUILDING ACTIVITY

The number of new houses constructed is measured annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits, as reported to the Huntingdon County Tax Assessment Office, to estimate new housing starts.

The number of new houses constructed in Huntingdon County in 2002 (235) decreased 3.8% from the 2001 total (244).

A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart shown opposite and the map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2002.

Todd Township led all municipalities with 25 new homes, followed by Shirley Township (24), Cromwell Township (15), Penn and Walker Townships (13), and Juniata and Union Townships (11).

SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

The housing data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on Valley Rural data, 60 units, or 25.53% of new housing activity in 2002 involved seasonal housing. This is an increase of 9.09% from 55 seasonal units in 2001. Year-round housing activity decreased by 6.79%, from 110 units in 2001 to 103 units in 2002.

Following are the municipalities that led the County in seasonal and year-round housing starts:

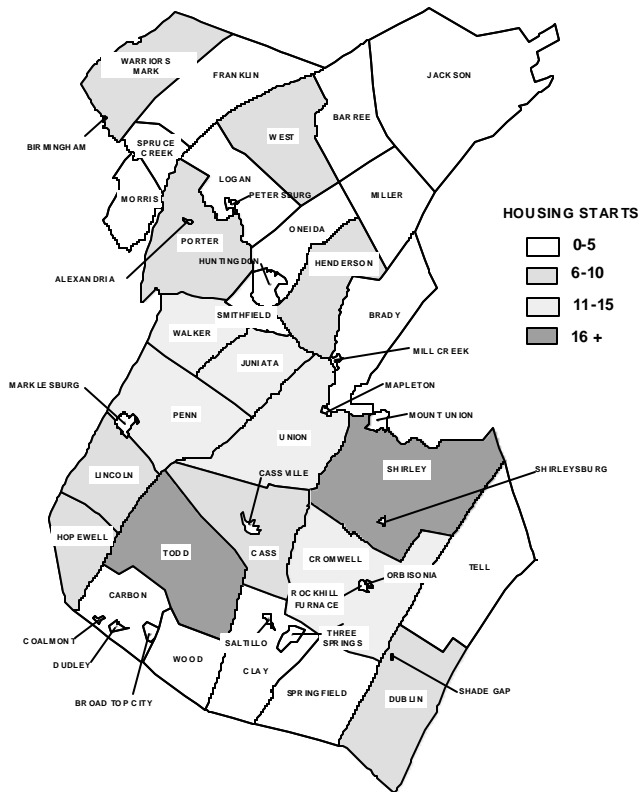
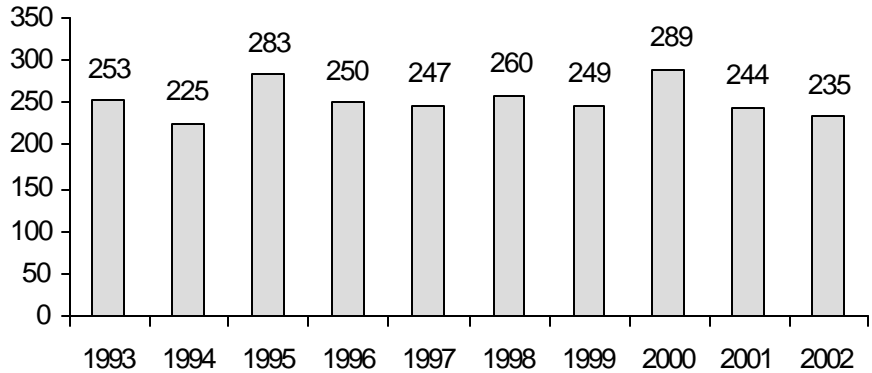
Seasonal Housing:

Todd Township (14); Penn Township (9); Union Township (7); and Hopewell Township (5).

Year-Round Housing:

Cromwell and Todd Townships (11); Shirley and West Townships (7); Dublin and Juniata Townships (6); and Cass, Lincoln and Morris Townships (5).

NEW HOUSING STARTS 1993 - 2002



New Housing Starts, 2002

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
2/27/03

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. Staff fulfills this responsibility through the various methods listed below.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Planning and Development staff took part in a regional web site development effort in cooperation with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission. The County Commissioners asked staff to take the lead in moving the County web site to a server at Southern Alleghenies using dynamic site framework (DSF) technology for web site development.

DSF is designed to allow local staff to manage the content of their own web sites without the aid of a web developer. The County web address will continue to be huntingdoncounty.net, which was first published in March of 2000.

Staff participated in a DSF Coordinating Committee and attended DSF training along with representatives from other counties in the region.

Training was provided by PPT Technologies, Inc. of Lancaster, developers of DSF. DSF was developed by PPT for the State and drives most Commonwealth web sites.

PUBLICATIONS

The Planning and Development Department published several items in 2002:

- ◆ *2001 HCPC Annual Report;*
- ◆ *2002 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke at the Farm-City Banquet about agriculture and the comprehensive plan; spoke to the Juniata Valley Lions Club and Huntingdon Kiwanis Club about "Changes and Challenges"; spoke to the Huntingdon County Builders



Association; presented recent U.S. Census figures and current planning projects to the Huntingdon County Board of Realtors; and prepared a presentation for the Huntingdon County Association of Township Officials' Annual Convention.

The Planning Director served on the Planning Committee for the 2002 Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, and worked with the Huntingdon County Historical Society and volunteers to present a Heritage Booth at Outdoor Heritage 2002

WORKSHOPS

The Planning Director assisted the County Conservation District staff and the Agricultural Land Preservation Board with developing a Spring informational workshop.

The Grant Administrator coordinated DCED-sponsored lead-based paint training for area contractors.

The Planning Director coordinated with DCED staff to conduct a Uniform Building Code Workshop for all Huntingdon County municipal officials.

2000 CENSUS

Planning Staff downloaded and analyzed the first 2000 Census population figures for Huntingdon County.

WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Department receives an average of two inquiries per day concerning:

- ☒ Census Data
- ☒ Municipal Contacts and Ordinances
- ☒ Flood Plain Data
- ☒ Planning Studies
- ☒ Grant Availability
- ☒ Recycling Information
- ☒ County and Municipal Maps
- ☒ GIS Data

Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, professional market analysts, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Kent W. East, Vice Chairman

Roy E. Thomas, Secretary

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ron Rabena, Chairman
Larry Mutti, Vice Chairman
Ginny Gill, Secretary

Larry Pruss
Ann Kyper Reynolds
Mildred Rockwell
Harry Houck*
Herb Cole
Carl Jaymes
Gregory Schneider

*Resigned

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