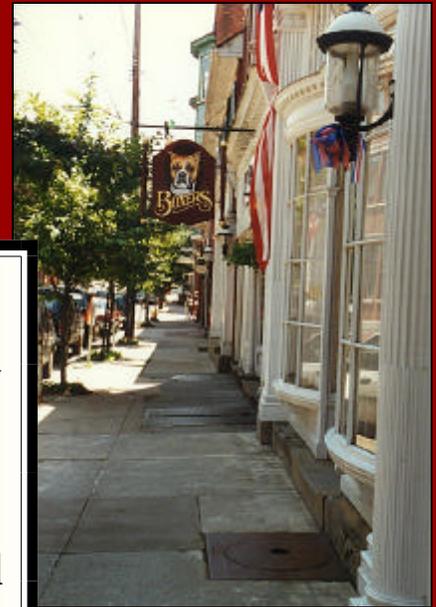
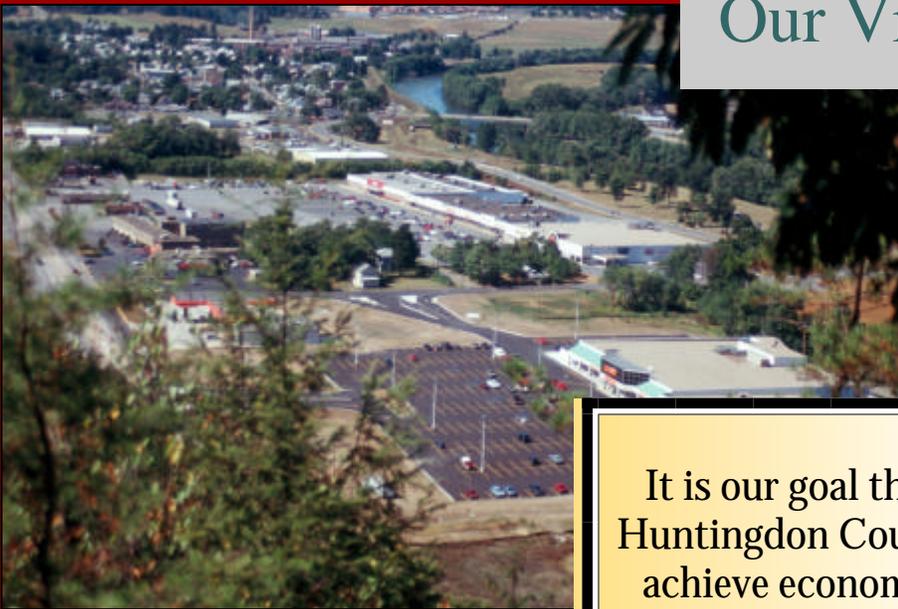
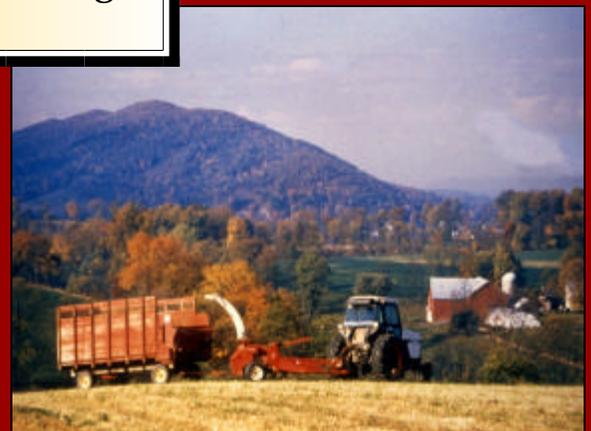


Continuity Through Conservation II

Our Vision for the Future



It is our goal that
Huntingdon County
achieve economic
prosperity while
retaining the
qualities of rural and
small-town living.



HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Acknowledgements

Huntingdon County Commissioners	
<p>1996-1999 Board Harold L. Lockhoff, Chairman Alexa R. Cook, Vice Chairman Lee R. Wilson, Secretary</p>	<p>2000-2004 Board Alexa R. Cook, Chairman Kent W. East, Vice Chairman Roy E. Thomas, Secretary</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Huntingdon County Planning Commission</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Larry Mutti, Chairman Linda Greenland, Vice Chairman Virginia Gill, Secretary Harry E. Houck Larry Pruss Ann Kyper Reynolds Mildred Rockwell Ron Rabena Herb Cole </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">January 2001</p> <p>Residents of Huntingdon County</p> <p>We invite you to review this summary of “Continuity Through Conservation II,” the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. This is a living document, marking an important stage in the planning process. It presents an exciting “vision” for the future of our County, one of economic prosperity and retention of our small town and rural quality of life.</p> <p>According to the old saying, “there is only one thing certain about the weather, it’s going to change.” Our society is faced with rapid change in all areas, particularly technology. Our communities are also faced with changes—in land use, in our economy, and in our infrastructure. Our future depends on how well we deal with change.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Richard E. Stahl, Planning Director Maureen Safko, Grant Administrator D. Brian Young, Planner GIS Technician Peggy A. Walker, Bookkeeper Sally States, Planning Technician Laurie Nearhood, Secretary Kristine Lipuma, Planning Intern Penny Fleming, Addressing Technician </p>	<p>We want to extend our thanks to the many individuals who participated in the development of this Plan, particularly the Plan Advisory Committee and local government officials. Local government is a partner with the County in implementation of this plan. We will continue to work together to achieve our goals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Planning Consultant Graney, Grossman, Ray and Associates Grove City, Pennsylvania</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"> Huntingdon County Commissioners Alexa R. Cook Chair Kent W. East Roy E. Thomas </p>
<p>Project Funding</p> <p>This project was funded in part with a State Planning Assistance Grant (SPAG) from the State of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Bureau of Planning, Community Development Block Grant funds, DCED, and local funds from the Huntingdon County Commissioners.</p>	

Why Plan?

Why do we plan? Simply put, we plan to be prepared for the future. We try to envision what the future will be like, and focus our resources on achieving a goal. Whether it is setting an itinerary for a school field trip or investing in the stock market, everyone engages in some form of planning on a daily basis.

Community planners perform similar activities, only on a larger scale. Rather than planning for themselves, they look at towns, counties, or regions, and try to plan for their future. How can the employment situation be improved? Will the natural beauty of the area be preserved? These are examples of questions a community planner may ask.

Planners study the influences of physical, economic, social, environmental, and cultural forces on communi-

ties. Taking these factors into consideration, planners then try to shape their communities into places we like to live by using strategic planning, goal-setting, analysis, and evaluation. Planners then try to bring all these elements together in an attempt to provide options for future development, all while involving the community.

Under Pennsylvania state law counties are mandated to prepare a comprehensive plan which sets the overall developmental goals for the entire county. In rural counties like Huntingdon, municipalities often do not have local plans.

Continuity Through Conservation II is Huntingdon

Why Plan?

- To develop a vision for the future
- To organize and prioritize
- To work toward goals
- To save time, effort and money
- To be prepared for change!

County's new comprehensive plan, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies, and plans for the next twenty years. The plan is a blueprint for the future.

Change is inevitable! Planning is a systematic, creative approach to manage change in our communities. It is directed toward the future by analyzing trends in land use and community development. Communities who anticipate change and plan to address the opportunities presented by change will be better communities.

Through the planning process, the county can analyze problems, visualize futures, compare alternatives and describe the implications of various choices so that citizens and public officials can make knowledgeable choices. Through careful planning, our communities can make wise use of scarce resources-both natural and financial.



Planning helps save future public costs for road construction and maintenance.

Our Vision

It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living.

It is our vision that future development be focused on existing boroughs and villages to take advantage of the existing public investment in utilities and services. The vast majority of land in the County will remain in productive private land uses such as agriculture, forestry, and recreation. A system of “Greenways” will be established along mountain ridges, streams and rivers to protect water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, enhance recreational opportunities, and protect scenic beauty.

Excellence will be the theme for both personal and community development in Huntingdon County. With the rise of the information/service economy, many economic activities are no longer site specific. Entrepreneurs and employees are no longer restricted to a particular place, as even the shipping of goods is not a barrier to location decisions. It is to be expected that people and capital

will gravitate to the communities with the best jobs, educational/cultural opportunities, and high environmental quality. Huntingdon County’s vision for itself is to be one of those communities.

It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living.

Excellence will be the theme for both personal and community development in Huntingdon County.

While retaining its rural and small-town atmosphere,

Huntingdon County will remain accessible to Pennsylvania and the rest of the

world. Information, goods, and services will travel from Huntingdon County by a complete network of highway, rail, and electronic modes.

- Elements of the Vision
- Economic prosperity, evidenced by an increase in median family income, and a reduction in unemployment.
 - Maintain and enhance rural and small-town atmosphere.
 - Protect farmland, forest land, natural resources, and the environment.
 - Focus new development in and around existing boroughs and villages, the “Centers” concept.
 - Develop greenways along rivers and ridges.
 - Emphasize excellence in both personal and community development.
 - Access to the rest of Pennsylvania and the world.

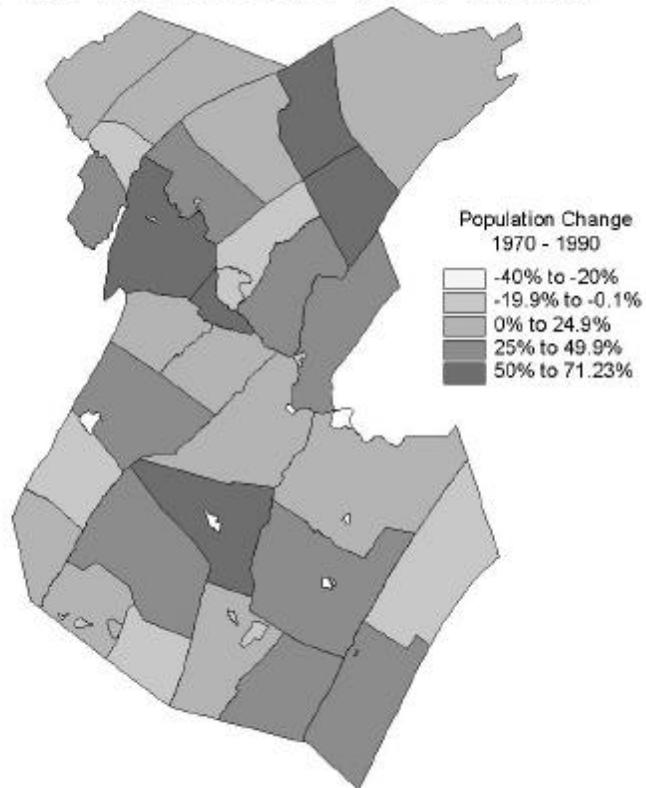
HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Our County

Huntingdon County is similar to other rural Pennsylvania counties, growing slowly between 1970 and 1990 from 39,108 to 44,164 (12.9%). Regionally, Centre, Franklin and Fulton Counties grew faster and Blair and Mifflin experienced slower population growth. Pennsylvania population grew by less than 1% during the same period.

Generally speaking, the County's townships grew while the boroughs declined. Among the largest growth areas were Miller, Smithfield, Cass, Porter, and Barree Townships, each gaining over 57% since 1970. While 26 of 30 townships gained population, 16 of 18 boroughs lost population.

POPULATION CHANGE



Quick Facts		
	Huntingdon County	Pennsylvania
Total Employed, 1997	17,417	5,666,958
Unemployment Rate, 1999	8.50%	4.40%
Median Household Income 1995	\$29,215	\$34,437
Persons below poverty level 1995	13%	11.4%
Percentage of Residents with High School Diploma	71.20%	74.60%
Persons per households 1990	2.57	2.57
Total Households 1990	15,541	4,492,958
Median Value of owner-occupied housing units	\$43,100	\$69,700
Percent housing units with Public Water, 1990	39.60%	78%
Percent housing units with Public Sewer, 1990	33.30%	74.30%

Quality of Life Survey Results

The Quality of Life Survey is the foundation for the Comprehensive Plan. It provides a wealth of information about problems residents would like to see addressed and what they feel is good about the County. The feedback played an important part in deciding the goals, objectives, and vision for the County for the next twenty years.

If the Comprehensive Plan is Huntingdon County’s road map, then the Quality of Life Survey (QOL) is its compass. “Charting a course for the next century: Huntingdon County Quality of Life Survey” details a countywide, scientific community-attitude survey of the residents of Huntingdon County.

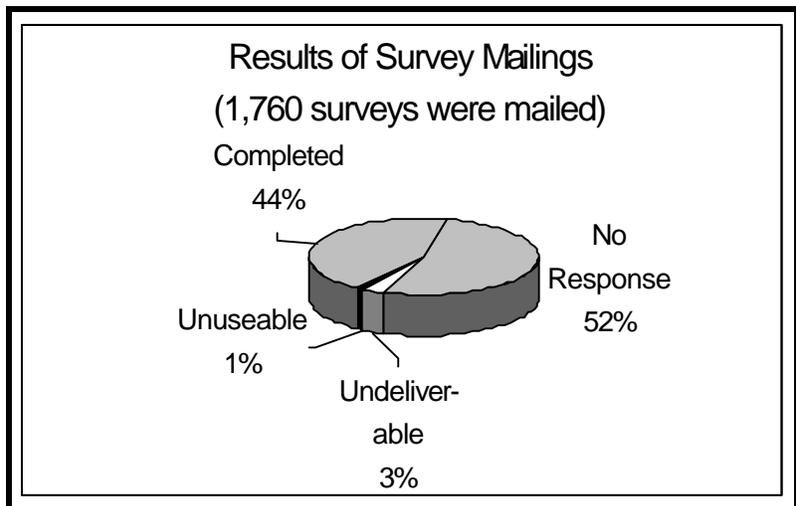
The Quality of Life Survey was conducted in April 1998 in conjunction with the update of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. The survey was six pages, long enough to cover a variety of issues, yet short enough to achieve a high response rate. Approximately 44% of those surveyed (768 persons) responded to the countywide survey.

Creating new jobs and conserving quality and character of existing communities were the top concerns of survey respondents. In response to the question, “During the next five years, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues - - - ;” 97.3 percent of respondents thought that creating jobs should be a “high

or moderate priority” and 85.4 percent felt that community conservation should be at least a “moderate priority”.

Other moderate to high priorities revealed by this question included: developing new retail areas (72.6%), adequate subdivision improvement standards (72.9%), new highways (68.9%), protecting open space from development (67.7%), and channeling new development toward existing boroughs and villages (66.5%).

There were other key findings as well. First, people who live in Huntingdon County like it very much, with approximately 86% of all respondents giving the County a “very desirable” rating. When discussing the quality of the area, scenic



Quality of Life Survey Results

beauty, the environment and recreational opportunities received high marks.

83.8% of survey respondents indicated support for regulations which would protect agricultural land, and 83.8% favored “reasonable” zoning or other land use regulations.

Respondents were in agreement that the County’s natural beauty, small-town and rural atmosphere and clean environment were its chief assets.

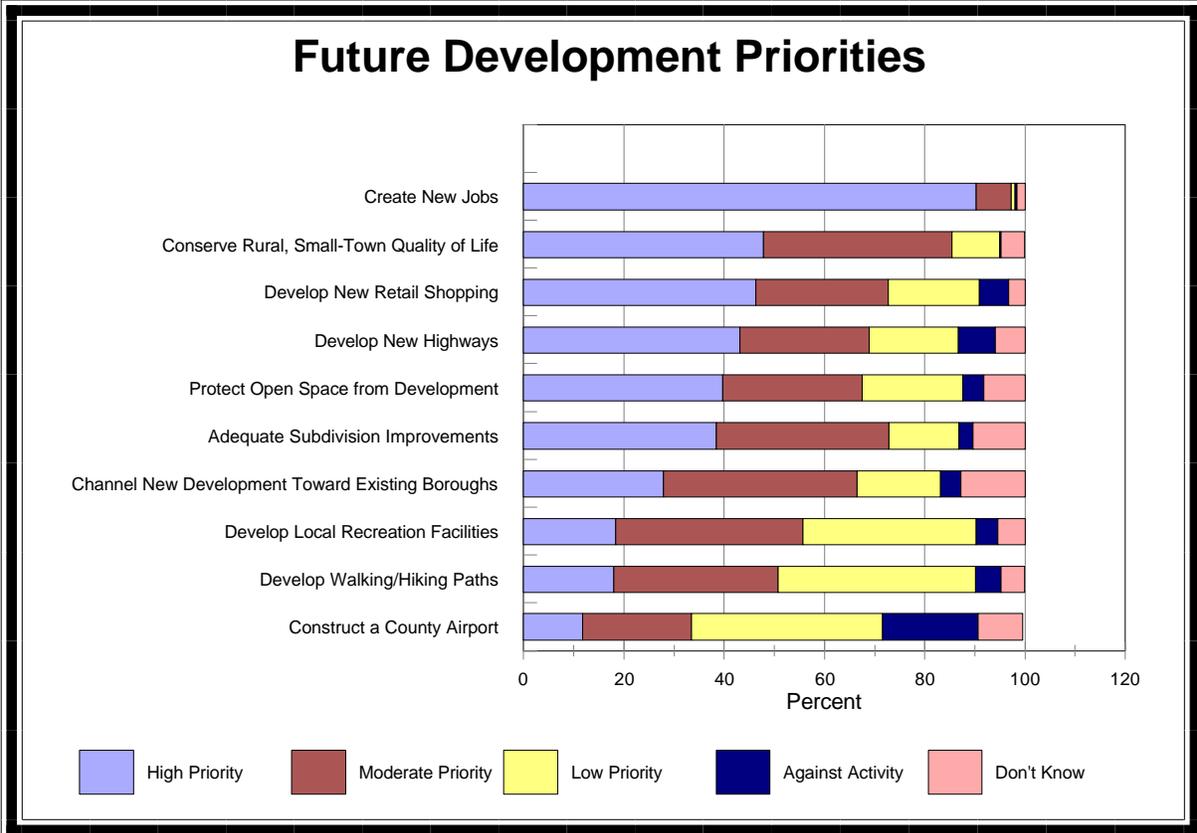
Citizens were also united

Top Rated Characteristics of Huntingdon County *

- Beauty 88.8%
- Small Town/Rural Atmosphere 80.7%
- Environment 75.0%
- Recreation Opportunities 53.6%
- Freedom from Crime 50.6%
- Historical & Cultural Attractions 40.4%
- Health Care Facilities 39.0%
- Highway & Road Maintenance 14.1%
- Employment Opportunities 5.3%

* rated good or excellent

in what they felt were the key problems facing Huntingdon County. High unemployment, storm water and flooding, high taxes and illegal trash dumping were rated as minor or severe problems by a majority of respondents.



Natural Resources and Conservation Analysis

The study of environmental resources takes into consideration factors which may have an impact on land development and which make up the natural environment of the county. Climate, geology, soil types, slope, drainage, and topography are all factors that warrant consideration, especially when planning for development.



Old Crow Wetland, Smithfield Township

Key findings

- A large percentage (46.5%) of the County is regarded as environmentally sensitive because of the presence of steep slopes and floodplains.
- A major asset of the County is its large forested acreage (72.5% of total area). These forests provide timber, watershed protection and wildlife habitat.
- Air quality is excellent (Huntingdon is among the least polluted counties in Pennsylvania).
- Huntingdon County has great mineral wealth, including limestone, coal, sandstone and ganister.
- Due to surface geology, the County's groundwater is vulnerable to pollution.

Overall, the County is environmentally strong with few major areas of pollution. The largest problems are due to acid mine drainage and acid rain.

Citizens agree that the environment is one of the County's great assets. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of the respondents to the Quality of Life Survey indicated that they live here because of the closeness of outdoor activities. Citizen concerns include stormwater runoff and flooding, illegal trash dumping and loss of farmland.

Following are some of the situations where the physical characteristics of the County

have a strong bearing on future development potential:

- ⇒ Determining the ability of underlying rock to support heavy structures.
- ⇒ Locating both surface and sub-surface water supplies.
- ⇒ Estimating the cost of utility placement.
- ⇒ Identifying soils which are unsuitable for septic systems.
- ⇒ Identifying prime agricultural soils.
- ⇒ Locating areas subject to flooding.
- ⇒ Determining where the land is too steep for building and development.

Natural Resources and Conservation Plan

The Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan is actually titled, *Continuity Through Conservation II*. The definition of conservation in this case refers to the appropriate or measured use of all resources in the County (human, economic, and natu-

Our Vision

To provide for the preservation, protection, management, and enhancement of Huntingdon County's natural resources and environmental quality for present and future generations.

ral). Every resident of Huntingdon County is aware of the community's wealth of natural resources, which range from scenic views to silica. To assure the continuity of the human community, Huntingdon Countians must plan for the measured use and stewardship of these resources.

To plan for this conservation, the citizens endorsed a wide variety of planning tools. Among the most important is education for officials, landowners and citizens. Other tools include

adding conservation measures to local regulations, purchasing key areas, purchasing conservation easements, subsidizing conservation practices and encouraging the direct involvement of citizens in activities such as watershed groups.

Education is the key to conserving our resources. It is recommended that the Environmental Advisory Board provide education to community groups and help landowners use their land for conservation purposes which also provide financial benefits. It will also inform the public on the multi-million dollar impact of wildlife in the County.

In the twenty-first century the goal is to have water, agricultural land, greenways, forest, and mineral resources support a high level of employment and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Recommendations

- Do not restrict traditional rural activities when developing land use regulations.
- Develop an energy audit for public buildings.
- Draft a model sign ordinance.
- Conduct a County Natural Heritage Inventory.
- Create development standards for encouraging conservation in rural areas.
- Promote an agricultural land preservation strategy.
- Encourage municipal financial support of local conservancies.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas through local subdivision and zoning ordinances.
- Improve enforcement of local floodplain regulations
- Develop stormwater plans for the County.
- Link public lands into a network of greenways.
- Encourage participation in Stewardship Forestry Program and Tree Farming.

Land Use Data

Huntingdon County is a rural area characterized by large expanses of forested ridges interspersed with agricultural valleys. Numerous small boroughs and villages provide the focal points for human settlement. The natural beauty and resources of the area, along with its historic communities, define and give character to the County.

ral character is highly valued by local citizens.

Of all land uses present, residential use is of most concern to the average citizen. In the last few decades, rural townships have been the County’s primary growth areas. For most of the last twenty years, this growth has occurred in the form of low-density subdivisions of from

Existing Land Use—1997		
Land Use Category	Acreage	Percentage
Urban Residential	4,510.5	0.8%
Rural Residential	8,329.0	1.5%
Commercial	540.5	0.1%
Industrial	496.4	0.1%
Strip Mines/Quarries	1,450.3	0.3%
Public/Semi-public	986.5	0.2%
Streets and Highways	6,924.0	1.2%
Forest (private)	282,094.8	49.6%
Public Lands	129,983.6	22.9%
Agricultural	122,504.3	21.5%
Water	11,020.1	1.9%
Total	568,840.0	100.0%

The largest land use is forest (72.5% including both public and private), followed by agricultural (21.5%). The total percentage of developed land is approximately 4.1% of the County, omitting agriculture. This small-town and ru-

two acres per dwelling unit to two dwelling units per acre.

Commercial and industrial activities in the county are focused in and around Huntingdon and Mount Union, with small pockets in or near the County’s many vil-

Findings

- In the last few decades, rural townships have been the primary growth areas.
- For the past 20 years, the trend has been toward low-density development.
- Residential and commercial growth is increasing in the U.S. 22 and PA 26 corridors.
- Only a small percentage of the County’s total land area is developed.
- Approximately 23% of the County is state or federally owned.
- The predominant land use is forest, at 71%
- Agriculture constitutes 22% of the County’s land area.
- Many areas have natural conditions that significantly limit growth and development.

lages and boroughs. The vast majority of commercial and industrial activity is located within two miles of U.S. Route 22, successor to the canal and railroad, the County’s main economic artery.

Land Use Plan

Our Vision

Maintain and enhance rural and small-town atmosphere. Focus new development in and around existing boroughs and villages, the “centers concept.”

Land use patterns reflect a community’s past and provide an indication of future trends and practices. The relationship of these patterns identifies both conflicting and compatible land use patterns. From patterns of land use and environmentally sensitive areas, land best suited for development, transportation corridors, and public utility locations emerge.

Analysis of land use and demographic data showed that the County should plan for:

- Between 2,600 and 3,950 new households by 2020.
- 100 acres of new commercial development.
- 120 acres of new industrial development.

Success in implementa-

tion of these land use goals will require careful infrastructure planning and the identification of quality sites.

The largest portion of the County is designated as “low-intensity.” A key problem in these areas is that development of an urban and

suburban nature is occurring without the infrastructure and facilities to support it. This includes roads, water, and sewer services. Within these areas, housing density should be kept low and commercial development limited in order to preserve the rural surroundings. Forested and agricultural land needs to be retained as an important economic and environmental resource.

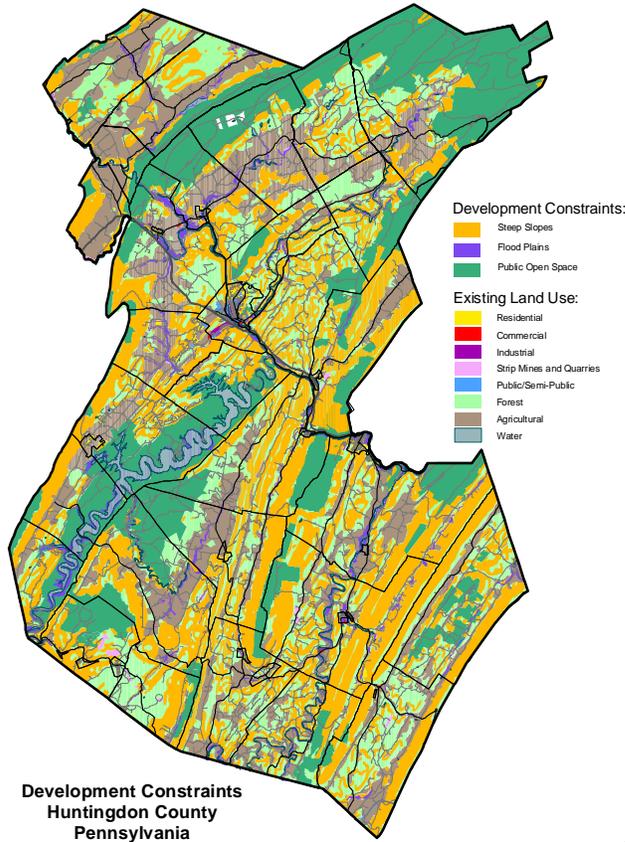
Industrial and commercial growth should be concentrated in a few quality sites. Where industry is light, commercial businesses can also locate in the same area, following the example of the Riverview Business Park. Other areas, where industry is heavy and potentially hazardous, should remain strictly industrial zones.

The goal of the land use plan is to promote the right development for each type of area.

The County will implement the Plan in cooperation with the County’s 48 boroughs and townships. While County government may legally adopt land use regulations, municipal regulation forms the foundation of implementation for the Plan.

Through this Plan, the County defines its role as that of a partner which helps its municipalities meet the needs of local citizens. More specifically, the County will act as:

- A technician, serving municipalities with professional review services and planning assistance.
- An educator, working with communities and citizens.
- A facilitator to help municipalities work out solutions to common problems.
- A grantsman, working to obtain funding to implement the Plan.



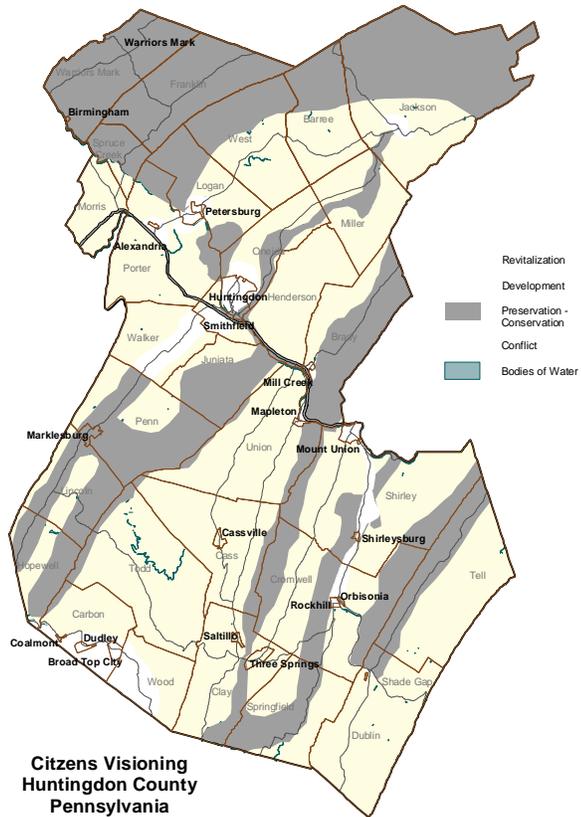
Development Constraints
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

Why Not Develop Here?

The adjacent map illustrates the constraints on development in Huntingdon County. The analysis of the County's natural resources reveals that development should only be encouraged in a limited number of areas within the County. Environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes and floodplains limit the development potential of much of the County. Fortunately, the County still has ample developable land.

The Citizens Speak

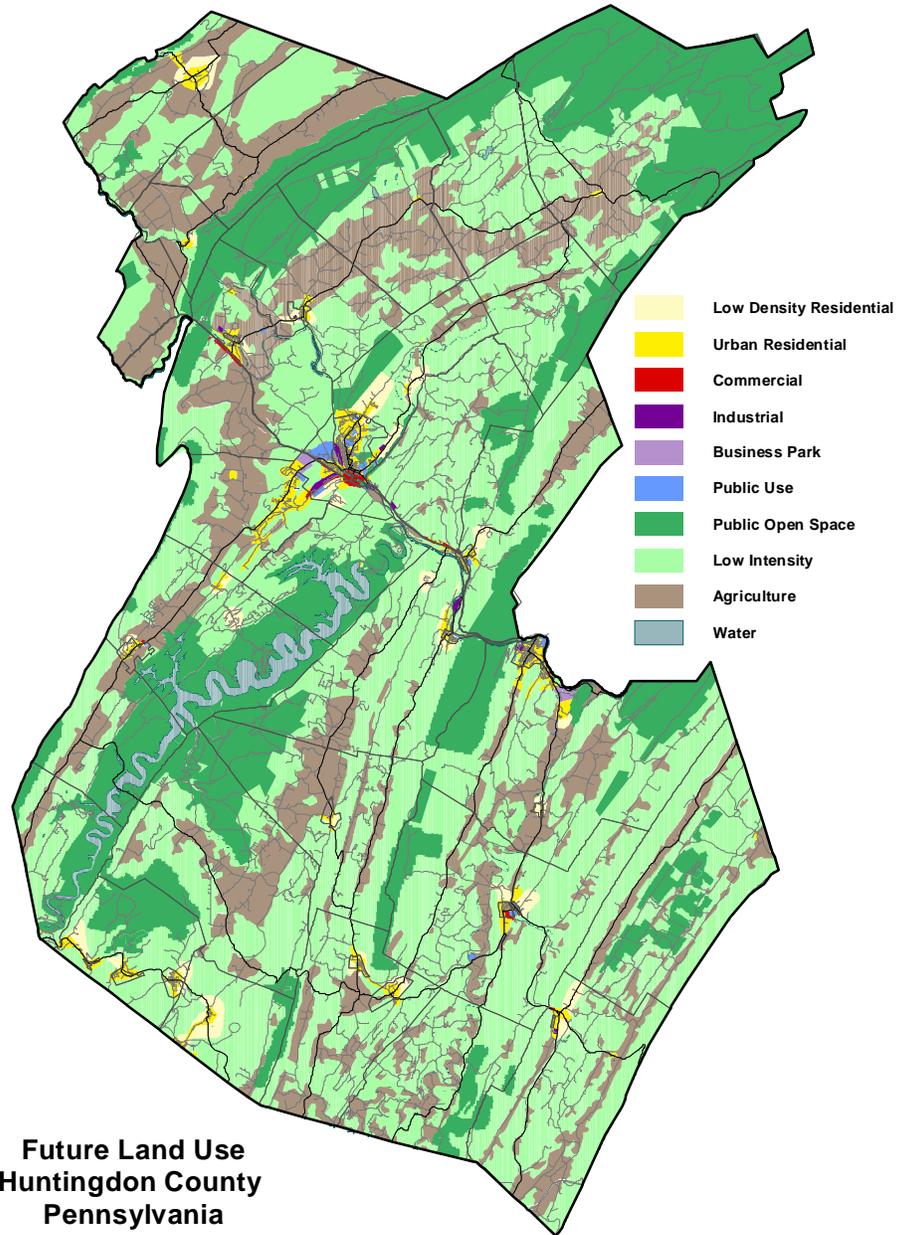
Over three dozen citizens participated in a mini-conference on land use and the environment. These citizens were asked to put parts of Huntingdon County into three categories: revitalization, in developed areas where deterioration has occurred; growth, areas which have little development but would benefit from it; and preservation-conservation, where careful consideration must be given to the environment when deciding whether or not to develop. Where there was agreement between groups, suggestions were added to the map. Areas of disagreement were labeled "conflict."



Citizens Visioning
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

The Future of the Land

This map shows the land use plan for the next twenty years. The map illustrates the trend of development concentrated in core areas with the majority of the land dedicated to agriculture, open space, and low-intensity development.



Economic Data

While Huntingdon County's economy has problems, it is also full of growth opportunities.

The economy has a strong specialization in manufacturing, and, despite its small absolute size, the mining sector is also a major exporter of goods. Services, finance, insurance, real estate, transportation, communication, and public utilities are under-represented, despite growth in these sectors over the past ten years. Tourism is also an important contributor to the economy.

Wages average below the region, state, and national averages. In particular, wages in the manufacturing sector are low relative to even the surrounding area. Establishments tend to be smaller than their counterparts in other areas.

Huntingdon County's labor force situation is similar to that of many non-

Economic Facts

- Total employment by County residents increased from 13,077 in 1950 to 17,185 in 1990.
- 2,471 of the 14,531 workers employed by County establishments (17.0%) commuted from nearby counties.
- 2,654 of Huntingdon County's 17,185 workers (29.8%) commute to jobs out of the County.
- Manufacturing employs 25% of the labor force in Huntingdon County.
- Personal income in the County is growing faster than that of other Central Pennsylvania Counties (8.9% from 1994 to 1996).
- Average unemployment is consistently above the State average (5.9% vs 7.7% in 1990).

metropolitan counties in Pennsylvania. The County has many workers in relatively low-skill manufacturing positions and in vulnerable industries. It has relatively few workers in high-skill occupations and in high-growth sectors of the economy. Growth in good, year-round, jobs has not kept pace with the growth of the labor force. In addition, the low percentage of persons with

college degrees is a concern, especially as the changing economy is reducing the demand for unskilled and semi-skilled workers in high-paying manufacturing industries.

Some of these characteristics may be seen as opportunities. The number of residents working outside the county indicates a potential labor force for jobs within the County. Furthermore, prevailing wages are quite low and the County is in a good position to lure industries seeking an abundant pool of inexpensive labor. Finally, the County's labor force is often recognized as having a strong work ethic.

Top Employers	
Firm	Employment
FCI, Inc.	1,075
State Correctional Institution - Huntingdon	509
Bonney Forge	460
Advanced Glassfiber Yarns	460
State Correctional Institution - Smithfield	430

Economic Plan

Huntingdon County's economy is a complex web of many activities, and the goal of the economic plan is to strive for balance. As illustrated in the Development Constraints map, Huntingdon does not have large areas suitable for intensive job and wealth-creating development. Therefore, development

should be concentrated in a few quality areas close to existing activities.

Agriculture not only contributes to the County's economic structure, it also provides aesthetic appeal. Programs helping to sustain farming in the County need developed. Initial programs include finding ways of selling commodities locally, building agricultural support businesses such as feed mills, and helping younger farmers receive loans. Other natural resource-related sources of income are mining and forestry, which could become

Our Vision
To achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small town living. . . future employment will be balanced between the farm & forest, resource extraction, retail, service, public and manufacturing sectors.

vibrant industries, even on a small scale.

The County has had several successes in encouraging industrial growth, contributing to rising incomes for both households and the entire County. Future manufacturing will be concentrated into core sites, with access to transportation and other facilities.

The Quality of Life Survey reveals that many local residents shop out of the County, which leads to a loss of revenue. The County must work to attract retailers of all sizes, in addition to undertaking a significant "buy local" campaign. A third step in improving the local retail market is providing low-interest loans to businesses.

The final major economic sector is tourism. Expanding existing facilities is perhaps the best way to attract a greater share of tourism dollars. This would include establishing a full-

service family resort at Raystown Lake, expanding the Broad Top Coal Miners' Museum, and completing restoration of the EBT.

By 2020, the hope is that all sectors of the economy will grow, taking advantage of the County's resources and labor force, and contributing to prosperity.

- Recommendations
- Continue present professional business support and recruitment efforts.
 - Target major industrial-commercial development into 2-3 high-quality sites.
 - Encourage the development of agriculture-support businesses.
 - Pursue the redevelopment and revitalization of the Huntingdon County Industrial Park.
 - Ensure access to capital for businesses of all sizes.

Housing Data

Housing attributes such as value, vacancy, growth rate and ownership vary widely between municipalities in the County .

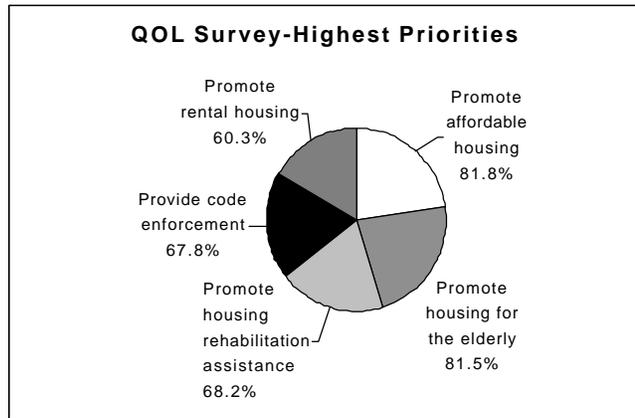
County housing stock grew by 14.2% during the last decade. The fastest-growing municipalities were Barree (47.3%), Morris (28.2%), Cass (23.7%), Cromwell (23.2%), and Walker (29.8%) Townships. Housing starts have continued at a healthy pace during the 1990's, with 1,796 new housing starts between 1990 and 1996.

In 1990, 76.3 percent of occupied housing units in the County were owner-occupied, placing the County above the state average. Rentals are a smaller portion of all occupied housing units, with forty-six percent of all rental

housing located in Huntingdon and Mount Union.

Over 11% of homeowners in the County are over age seventy-five. As homeowners enter their later years, they often become less able to physically and financially take care of their homes. As neighborhoods "age" together, the result can lead to severe deterioration.

Nearly 86.% of houses in the County are single-family homes. Like most rural counties, there are a large number of mobile homes, which may

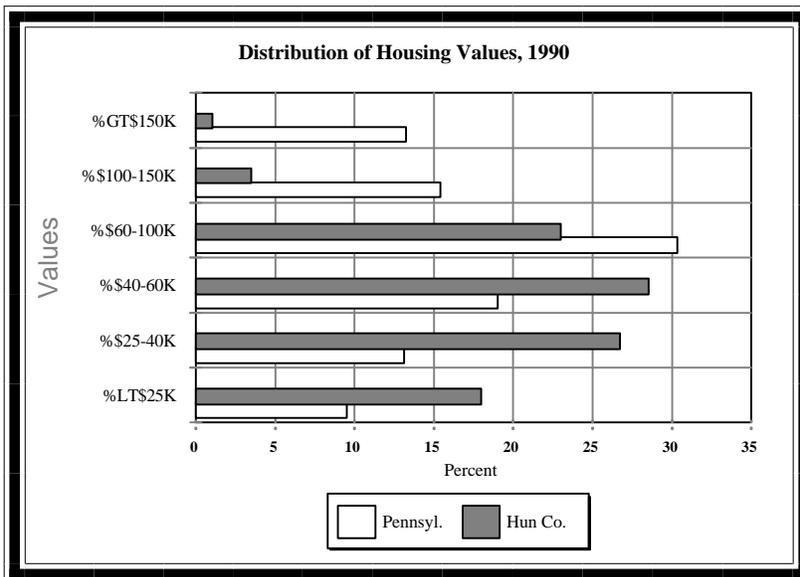


suggest mobile homes are the alternative to multi-family housing units.

In both the state and the County, just over one-third of all housing units were built before 1940. Boroughs have over 50% of their housing built before 1940, while-Birmingham, Orbisonia, and Shade Gap Boroughs all had over 67% of their housing built during this time.

The average cost of a home in Huntingdon County was \$43,100 in 1990. However, only fifteen Pennsylvania counties had lower housing values.

Huntingdon County ranks thirteenth in the state in seasonal homes as a percentage of total homes, with 12.8%. Lincoln (43.7%), Penn (45.5%), and Springfield (44.2%) Townships had the highest percentage of seasonal housing.



Housing Plan

Housing is a critical element in influencing the quality of life of County residents. It is where future citizens are raised and the county's atmosphere created.

Housing conditions are

Our Vision

To encourage the provision of decent, safe and sanitary housing for all the residents of the County; regardless of age, race, sex, income, religious or ethnic background.

one concern for the community. Standard, enforceable building codes are needed in order to ensure that new homes are safe. Rehabilitation standards are also needed for existing structures.

The second identifiable problem is the housing supply. According to estimates, 3,500 to 4,000 new housing units will be needed by the year 2020. A first-time homebuyer program is needed to assist low income households become homeowners. Demographic projections indicate that many

new housing consumers will be over the age of forty. As such, the county needs a variety of housing options, including retirement housing, nursing homes, and apartment units. The private market will supply most of the needed housing, while state and local government ensures quality. Another trend in housing is a possible need for high-end rental and condo units.

One of the most important tasks is ensuring a quality residential environment. Land development and zoning ordinances should be friendly to housing options, whether it be mobile homes or high-density developments.

It is hoped that, over the next twenty years, residents will have a variety of housing options, whether it be old or new, single or multi-family units, owner or renter, all at affordable prices. Homes in older neighborhoods will be maintained through subsidies and through the benefits received from the creation of historic districts. Smaller houses, apartments and retirement communities will be available for retirees and young couples, as will the traditional single-family homes.

- Recommendations
- Facilitate the private sector's development of new housing.
 - Promote a first-time homebuyer program.
 - Encourage the adoption of the BOCA Property Maintenance Code by urban municipalities.
 - Encourage cooperative regional administration of the new Uniform Building Code.
 - Review land use ordinances to ensure that they do not unnecessarily increase housing cost.
 - Support new options for affordable housing in cooperation with the County Housing Authority and others.
 - Support the provision of owner and renter housing rehabilitation grants.

Community Services and Facilities Data

Community services and facilities are the often unseen infrastructure which supports communities. The table lists some of these facilities for Huntingdon County.

Infrastructure in many areas of the County is limited and deficiencies exist. Of particular concern are water and sewer facilities.

Fifteen public water systems serve the residents of the County. An additional eight private systems serve small communities and recreation areas. These systems serve 7,389 customers. New water system have been recently built in Mill Creek Borough and Walker Township. Major system improvements have been made on the Huntingdon and Wood, Broad Top, Wells systems.

Seventeen public sewer facilities serve the County, with another four systems serving various parks. There are 7,280 sewer customers in the County. New sewage systems have been built to serve Broad Top City, Cassville, Mapleton, Mill Creek, Oneida Township, Marklesburg, Wood and Robertsdale within the past decade.

Educational Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Huntingdon Area 2. Mount Union Area 3. Tyrone Area 4. Penn State University 5. Huntingdon County Area Vo-Tech 6. Southern Huntingdon 7. Calvary Christian Academy 8. Huntingdon Christian Academy 9. DuBois Business College 10. Juniata Valley 11. Tussey Mountain 12. Grier School 13. Juniata College
Recreation Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State parks and forests 2. Game lands 3. Raystown Lake 4. Trails 5. Smaller, local facilities
Police	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Larger boroughs have own departments 2. State Police 3. County Sheriff's Office
Ambulance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Services range from basic first aid to advanced life support 2. Most services are volunteer 3. Most affiliated with a local fire company
Fire	Fire protection is provided by 22 fire stations.
Libraries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Huntingdon County Library System 2. Municipal Library in Alexandria 3. Juniata College Library
Health Services	The main supply of hospital care is provided by J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital and four medical facilities.
Senior Centers	<p>The Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging provides facilities in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alexandria 2. Orbisonia, 3. Huntingdon 4. Mount Union 5. Shade Gap 6. Three Springs
Nursing Homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Huntingdon Manor Home 2. Shirley Home for the Aged 3. Westminster Woods 4. Woodland Retirement Center
Day Care Centers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vast majority of day care services are provided by sitters in homes 2. Huntingdon County Child and Adult Development is the only licensed private day care center

Community Services and Facilities Plan

The water systems, public sewers, municipal buildings, schools and parks represent decades of time and millions of dollars in investment. Although water and sewer services are the primary focus of this plan, they are only a part of the big picture. Water and sewer services play an important role in the “centers” concept; encouraging development of existing facilities.

A major foundation of the plan is the support, maintenance, and upgrade of existing water and sewer systems, and the development of a network of new systems where designated. Water systems in Alexandria, Shirleysburg, Mount Union, and Huntingdon all need significant upgrades, and eight more centers should be encouraged to create water systems: Shade Gap, Spruce Creek, Coal-

Our Vision

It is our vision that future development be focused on existing boroughs and villages to take advantage of the existing public investment in utilities and services.

mont, Birmingham, Hesston, Cassville, Marklesburg, and McAlevys Fort.

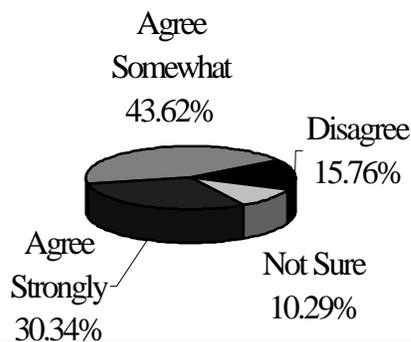
Areas recommended for sewer systems are Warriors Mark, Shirleysburg, McAlevys Fort, Spruce Creek, and Birmingham Borough. New sewer plants should be discouraged in areas that are not designated centers to control pollution and discourage sprawl.

Recreational facilities provide support for tourism, contribute to the scenic nature of the county and provide healthful activity for persons of all age groups. Two new trails, including one around Raystown Lake, are possibilities for improved recreation.

Existing public schools should be renovated whenever possible to prevent building abandonment and

- Recommendations**
- Encourage expansion and interconnection of trails.
 - Prepare a countywide water plan
 - Assist existing developed communities to develop water and sewer to serve their needs.

Where feasible, public water and sewer systems should be extended to areas which lack those services.



preserve existing recreational and cultural facilities.

Further strengthening of public services and government buildings will provide the physical structures for the expansion of community services in the future. 911 addressing is currently underway as a means of improving public safety.

Historical and Cultural Data

Huntingdon County has a wealth of historic resources. The County's history has shaped its land and its people, and this history has, in turn, been shaped by the natural environment.

Historic Resources

- 7 —Historic Districts
- 2 —Historic Landmarks
- 31—National Register Historic Sites

In 1996 the County completed the "Huntingdon County Heritage Plan" to guide the preservation, interpretation, and development of heritage sites throughout the County. The plan seeks not only to preserve historic resources, but to develop them as visitor attractions and as living parts of communities.

Hundreds of sites and structures in the County are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The County has two National Register Historic Landmarks, seven Historic Districts, and thirty-one National Regis-

ter Historic sites. The East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark is the County's most outstanding historic resource.

The Huntingdon County Heritage Committee was created by the County Commissioners to coordinate heritage preservation and development efforts. The Heritage Committee works with local and regional organizations to implement the Heritage Plan.

Huntingdon County has a variety of excellent heritage resources on which to base heritage development. However, the feasibility of heri-



itage development is affected by many factors other than the presence of historic resources. These factors include location, geography, natural resources, economic base, financial resources, local leadership, and institutional factors.



Heritage Plan

The Historical and Cultural Plan focuses on improving current historical sites and landmarks and promoting additional sites to be registered.

Our Vision
Preserve the historic resources of Huntingdon County for their educational, patriotic, economic and quality of life values.

The County has a rich history of railroads, canals, iron and coal industries, and Native American influences, which it celebrates through a variety of sites ranging from the East Broad Top Railroad to Greenwood Furnace. The Historical and Cultural Plan is based on the *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan*, created in 1996.

There are both pros and cons to the feasibility of heritage development. On the pro side, many of the sites are located on public lands and are well documented. These sites frequently lie in scenic areas, which increase marketability as tourist destinations. More importantly, there is a strong interest in heritage development from local officials and citizens of the county. On the down side, there is a lack of

knowledge about many of the sites that could be promoted and limited financial resources to promote them. There are no local ordinances to protect historical districts.

Activities to support heritage sites fall into a few main categories.

First is to focus attention and improvements on National Historic Landmarks and National Register Districts and encourage nominations for new listings. National Register Districts receive protection from the State Historical Preservation Office.

The second main activity is to encourage preservation, restoration, and adaptive use of historic buildings, making

- Historic Districts**
- Huntingdon
 - Mt. Union
 - Robertsdale & Wood
 - Greenwood Furnace
 - Marklesburg
 - Whipple Dam
 - PRR District

historic sites.

The twenty-year plan envisions heritage tourism as playing an important role in attracting people from across the nation to Huntingdon County. Through the steps laid out in the Comprehensive Plan, heritage tourism will help booster the economy while preserving the character of the County.

them functional as well as preserving history. The final activity is linking heritage sites together through common themes and promotion, unifying the

- Recommendations**
- Support implementing the Full-Steam Ahead report for the EBT Railroad.
 - Prepare National Register of Historic Places applications for selected sites.
 - Encourage the conservation of existing neighborhoods through appropriate regulations and financial incentives.
 - Review local zoning ordinances to ensure compatibility with historic town planning and to encourage reuse of historic structures.

Transportation Data

The history and development of Huntingdon County is closely linked with transportation. Indian paths, rivers, early turnpikes, canal, railroad and highways have influenced the development of Huntingdon County communities, and will continue to shape the growth and development of the County in the future.

The County is served by 630 miles of state highways,

597 miles of township and borough streets and 610 miles of other public and private roads. Primary arterial highways in the County include U.S. 22 and 522; PA 26, PA 45, PA 453, PA 655 and PA 913.

Key Findings

- The County has no public transportation, creating a nearly total reliance on private automobiles.
- Intercity passenger access is difficult due to limited air and rail passenger service.
- Most roads operate at an acceptable level of service, but many are inadequately maintained and do not meet modern design standards.
- Ridge and valley topography makes travel difficult and road construction expensive.

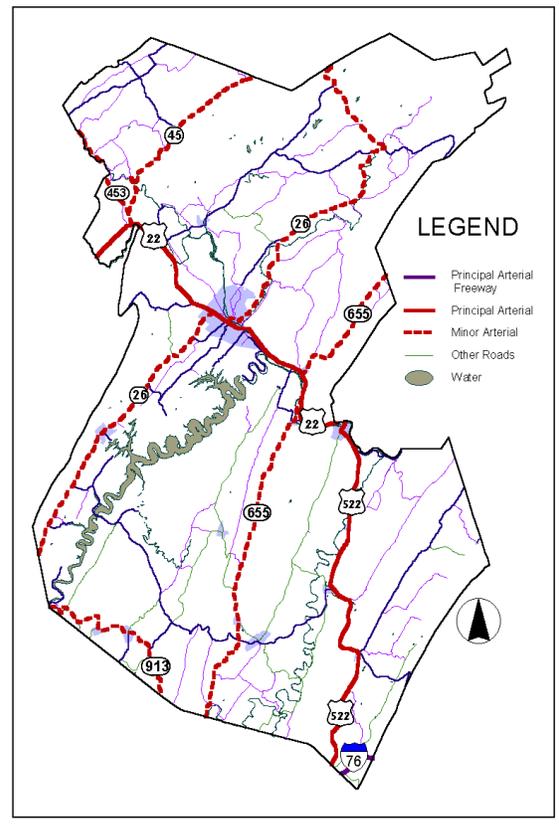
In terms of total usage, railroads lag far behind highways, but still represent an important asset. Daily passenger rail service is available at the AMTRAK station in Huntingdon to Harrisburg, Lewis-town, Tyrone, Altoona, and Johnstown, with connections to Pittsburgh and New York City. Freight rail service within the County is limited.

Travel by airplane is not a major mode in the county's transportation system. Huntingdon County Airport, situated south of Mount Union is the only public-use, yet privately owned airport in the

county.

Public transportation in the county is limited to a demand-response rural transportation system, operated by the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Area Agency on Aging, primarily for those 65 and over. While available to the public at full fare, the system receives very limited use by the general public.

Plan for a high - quality arterial highway system which serves to connect Huntingdon County with the rest of the world.



Transportation Plan

Over the next 20 years, the county's major highways will be upgraded to modern design standards with better maintenance to provide a higher level of service. It is anticipated that U.S. 22 will be expanded into a four-lane highway throughout the county.

Other arterial and collector highways such as U.S. 522, PA 26, PA 45, PA 453, PA 655 and PA 913 will be upgraded to modern two-lane road standards. In addition, scenic lookouts are recommended for major highways to take advantage of the county's historical heritage

Our Vision

Huntingdon County will remain accessible to Pennsylvania and the rest of the world. Information, goods, and services will travel to and from Huntingdon County by a complete network of highway, rail and electronic modes.

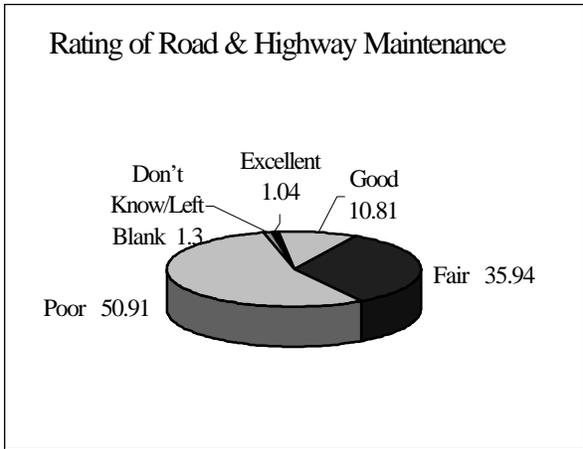
and environmental beauty.

Public transportation should be improved through the addition of a van service shuttle, helping residents commute to work without necessarily owning a private automobile. A private taxi service is also recommended.

Improvement in intercity rail service is recommended. This should include two new AMTRAK trains in both easterly and westerly directions. Also proposed, a new high-speed train from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg, could reduce travel times. Service on the East Broad Top Railroad

could also be expanded for passenger, freight, and tourist traffic.

- Recommendations**
- Focus financial assistance on arterial highway needs such as Routes 22, 26, 522 and 453.
 - Coordinate public and private actions in support of transportation improvements through public participation in the planning process.
 - Promote free-flowing traffic on arterials by promoting sound design standards and avoiding excessive strip development.
 - Discourage excessive entrances to major arterials.
 - Develop appropriate standards for urban, suburban, and rural roads.
 - Promote mass transit options.
 - Improve access to Raystown Lake.

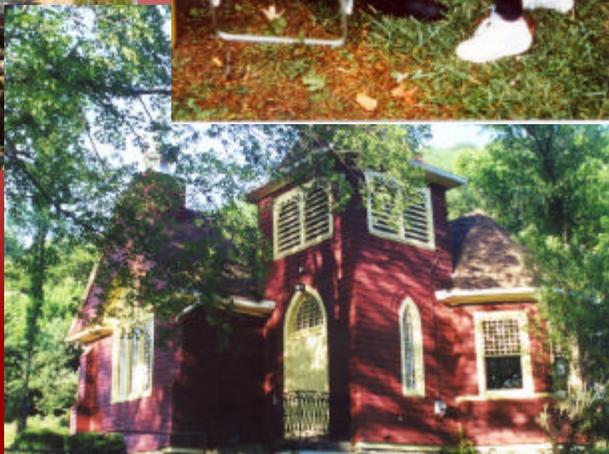
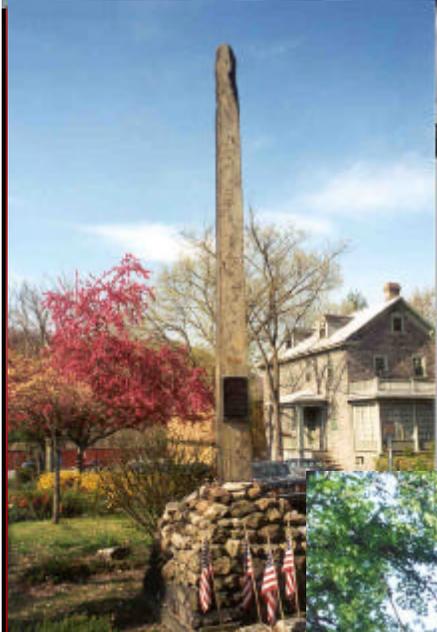


Further improvements include expanding the airport by paving and extending the

runway and by adding hangars and ground support facilities. These improvements will serve business and general aviation users.

Next Steps Implementing the Plan

- Promote a County partnership with municipalities as: planner, educator, technician, grantsman and facilitator
- Municipal adoption of the Plan
- Development of local and regional plans.
- Universal adoption of municipal subdivision and land development ordinances
- Planning workshops for local officials
- Develop a county natural heritage inventory
- Develop two or three high quality commercial/industrial sites
- Incorporate protection of environmentally sensitive areas into municipal land use regulations
- Promote zoning protection for all boroughs and select high-growth townships



**For Further Information
Call (814) 643-5091**