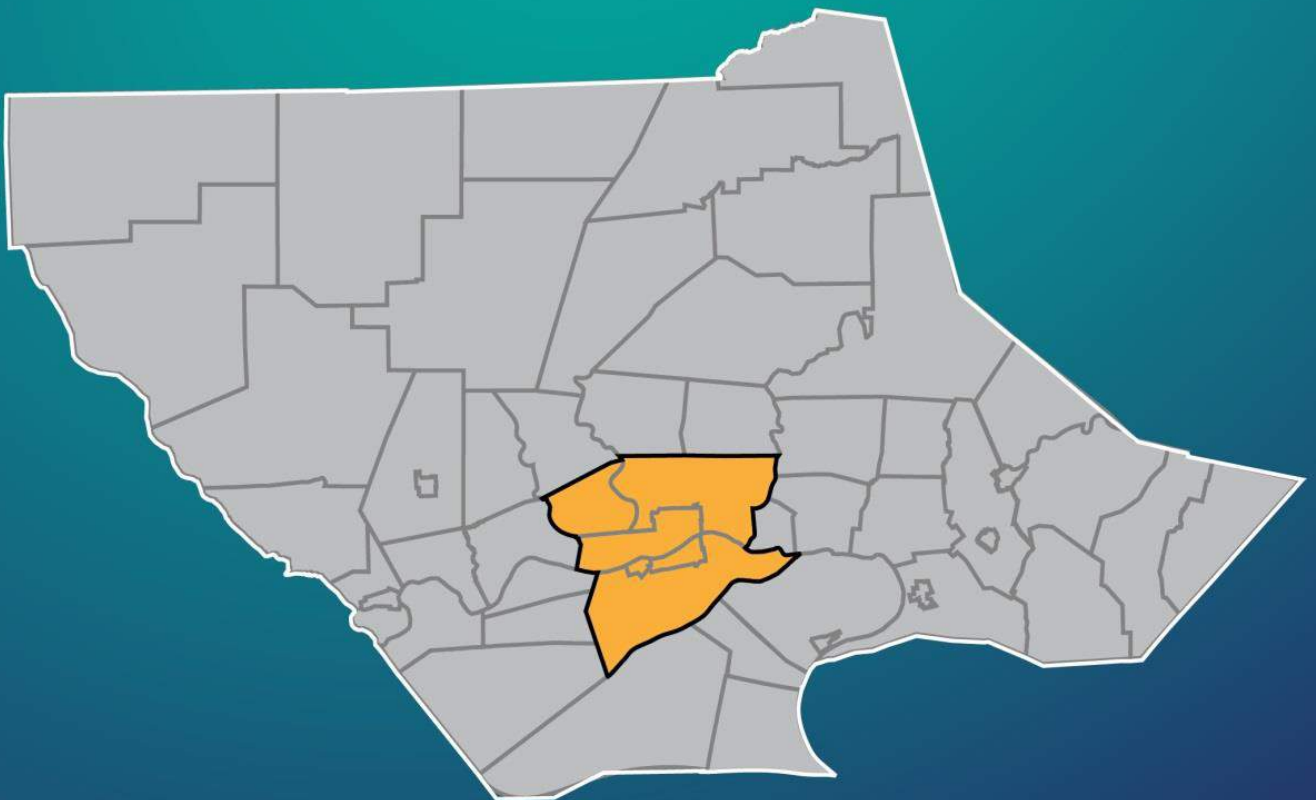




**2016 MULTI-MUNICIPAL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW
AND
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**
Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area
Lycoming County, Pennsylvania



Plan Adoptions

WILLIAMSPORT CITY COUNCIL – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

OLD LYCOMING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Adopted <MONTH DAY, YEAR>

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Chapter 1: Plan Overview

Introduction

This 2016 Greater Williamsport Alliance (GWA) Planning Area Comprehensive Plan Review and Implementation Strategy has been shaped by the issues currently identified as priorities within this multi-municipal planning area.

THIS 2016 GWA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY is the culmination of months of planning, information and data gathering, trend analysis, collaboration, deliberation, task coordination, visioning, and prioritization that teamed dozens of public- and private-sector leaders and stakeholders from within and beyond the GWA Planning Area. Their skill sets, expertise, and institutional and individual insights have resulted in this focused, collaborative blueprint for both growing and preserving quality of life in this area of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

An exhaustive comprehensive planning effort for the GWA Planning Area was last conducted over ten years ago and resulted in a multi-municipal plan that was completed and adopted in 2005. During the 2016 review process, the issues,

priorities, and key recommendations in the 2005 document were re-validated as a planning baseline for the 2016 update. The 2016 Plan translates the adopted 2005 Plan into a set of achievable goals by providing a succinct implementation strategy to address the current priorities of the GWA Planning Area.

Stakeholders from the GWA Planning Area have expressed that “quality of life” is their first and foremost reason for choosing to live here, and thus an asset to be preserved for future generations. GWA Planning Area Team (PAT) members recognized that decisions and choices made daily by residents, businesses, community leaders, landowners, policy makers and policy enforcers can have enduring effects on this area’s quality of life today and for future residents of the this Planning Area.

The people, the economy, and the natural resources help shape and provide:

- Safe environments for raising families
- Invigorating settings for education
- Stimulating opportunities for business and industry
- Scenic landscapes

The six municipalities in the GWA Planning Area offer a wide range of housing options, a diverse spectrum of business environments, and an array of multi-modal transportation options. As the home of Lycoming College and the Pennsylvania College of Technology, residents of this Planning Area have ready access to career and continuing education in liberal arts and technical fields.

The scenic landscapes of the GWA Planning Area include the West Branch Susquehanna River, Loyalsock Creek and Lycoming Creek corridors, the forested northern face of Bald Eagle Mountain, and the rolling foothills of the Appalachian Plateau. In addition, one can find historic structures and neighborhoods, outstanding examples of 19th and 20th century architecture, and beautiful gardens, parks and riverfronts, within an ever-evolving urban core.

While many of the conditions described in the 2005 plan are valid descriptors today, there have been some significant changes in the GWA Planning Area over the past decade. Perhaps foremost is the arrival of the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry. Based on its close location to the drilling fields and the quality and proximity of its transportation routes, Williamsport metro area was identified as an ideal area to locate regional offices for many of the companies and workers who flocked here during the initial boom period between 2008 and 2011.

The short-term impacts were a tremendous benefit to the growth of downtown Williamsport (especially the hospitality industry) and the local business community in general. The industry was also identified as the cause of a well-documented spike in the cost of rental housing that made it more difficult for many local residents to obtain affordable housing. The gas industry’s long-term impact on the GWA Planning Area will be largely dependent on national and global market forces. Certainly one challenge for the GWA Planning Area over the coming years will be to accommodate the fluctuating presence of the natural gas industry while building a more diversified and resilient economy and housing market.

Another significant change affecting the GWA Planning Area has been the heroin and opioid epidemic, which affects not only the urban core of the City, but every municipality in Lycoming County. The struggle against addiction and drug-related crime has taxed our municipalities and public institutions at a time of often-declining state and federal financial aid. The strain caused by the drug problem exacerbated the already-stressed and fragmented public safety system, including EMS, police, and fire services. In many cases, these public service agencies are struggling to meet increasing state and federal mandates for training requirements and other certification standards.

Some Key Developments Since 2005

- Trade & Transit Centre–Phase II
- Church Street Transportation Center
- Pine Street Revitalization
- Several New Hotels
- Liberty Arena
- Downtown Movie Theater
- Faxon Corner Development
- Downtown Apartments
- Memorial Homes
- Grove Street Commons
- Bowman Field Enhancements
- Susquehanna Riverwalk
- Market St. Bridge & I-180 access
- UPMC/Susquehanna Health Campus Expansion & Renewal
- Penn College’s Madigan Library
- JV Brown--Welch Children’s Wing
- Pathway to Health
- Kohls Department Store
- River Valley Regional YMCA
- Via Bella Roundabouts



Renovated Downtown Movie Theater in Williamsport

The GWA Planning Area has become increasingly noted for the quality and abundance of its outdoor recreation amenities. The Planning Area takes pride in:

- Construction of the Susquehanna River Walk
- Expansion and revitalization of the GWA municipalities' park systems
- Renewed attention to designating and maintaining safe bicycle routes within the City
- Increased connectivity between recreation features.

As a result, residents who choose to live in the more densely settled region of Lycoming County have greater access than ever before to the natural world, whether that is a neighborhood park just down the street, the West Branch Susquehanna River, Loyalsock & Lycoming Creeks or the vast mountains surrounding this area. This 2016 GWA Comprehensive Plan Review and Implementation Strategy is a living document, meant to capture the current desires of our communities and provide targeted implementation strategies to achieve those goals. It satisfies the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC - Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended) requirement for reviewing the existing, adopted comprehensive plan every decade.

A key feature of this 2016 document is the set of well-defined priority issues and the key projects that best address those issues.

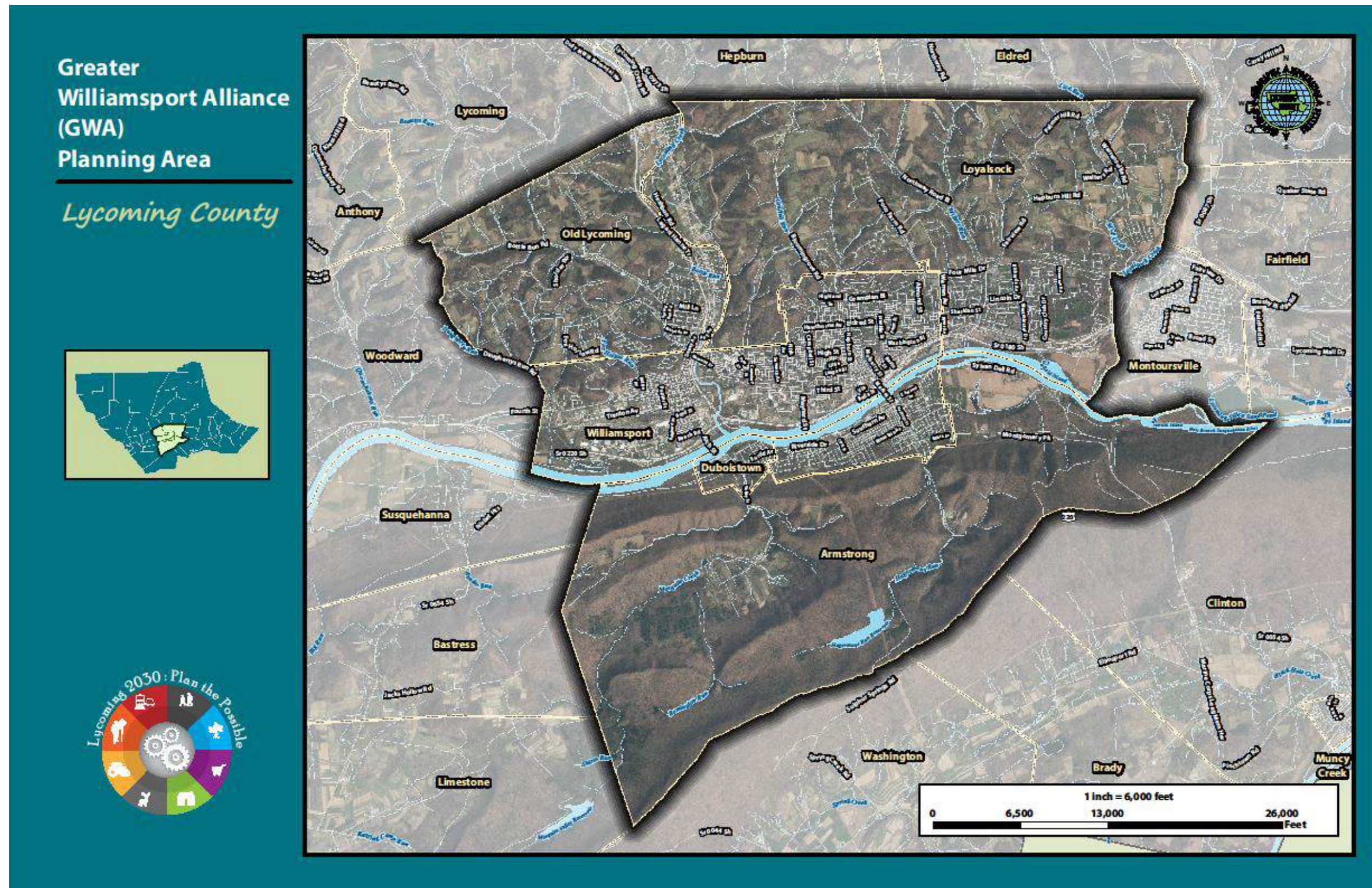
The municipal governments in the GWA include:

- City of Williamsport
- Borough of South Williamsport
- Borough of Duboistown
- Township of Loyalsock
- Township of Old Lycoming
- Township of Armstrong



Kohl's, Liberty Arena, Trade and Transit Phase II, and the Church Street Transportation Center are of some of the many recent infrastructure investments in the planning area

GWA Map –



GWA Summary Profile

GEOGRAPHY

Location: Lycoming County, Northcentral Pennsylvania, USA

Total Area: 68.7 square miles or 43,864 acres

Floodplain Area: 6.6 square miles

Major Watersheds: Susquehanna River Basin, Loyalsock Creek watershed, Lycoming Creek watershed

Land Cover as Percentage of Total GWA Area (University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory): 61% tree canopy, 24% otherwise vegetated, 12% developed, 3% water and wetlands

POPULATION

Population (2010 Census): 53,610 persons; 3.4 % decrease since 2000

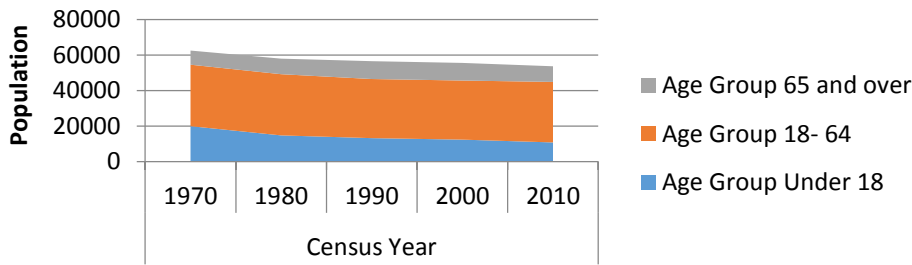
Median Ages, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates

Township of Armstrong	42.1
Borough of Duboistown	46.5
Township of Loyalsock	51.8
Township of Old Lycoming	49.7
Borough of South Williamsport	38.3
City of Williamsport	30.3

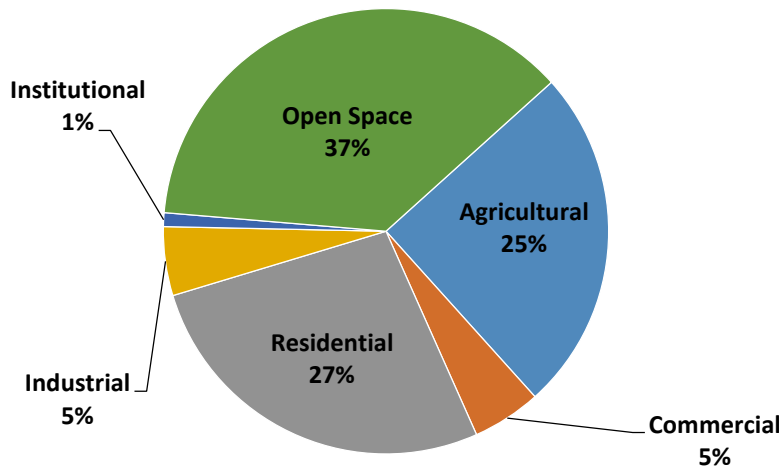
Population in Each Census, 1960-2010

Year	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Armstrong	606	727	724	676	717	681
Duboistown	1,358	1,468	1,218	1,201	1,280	1,205
Loyalsock	9,047	10,581	10,763	10,644	10,876	11,026
Old Lycoming	3,996	4,616	5,220	5,526	5,508	4,938
South Williamsport	6,972	7,153	6,581	6,496	6,412	6,379
Williamsport	41,967	37,918	33,401	31,933	30,706	29,381
TOTAL	63,946	62,463	57,907	56,476	55,499	53,610

Population Composition by Age, 1960-2010



Current zoning as percentage of total area



INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Locally-Owned Roads (PennDOT data): 339.6 miles

State-Owned Roads (PennDOT data): 156.1 miles

Major Transportation Routes: I-180, US-15, US-220, PA-554, PA-654

School Districts: Williamsport Area, Loyalsock Township, and South Williamsport Area

Water and Sewer Providers: Williamsport Municipal Water Authority-Williamsport Sanitary Authority (WMWA-WSA), Lycoming county Water and Sewer Authority, Duboistown Sewer Department, Old Lycoming Sewer Department, Loyalsock Sewer Department

Housing Units (2014 American Community Survey Estimate): 24,042

ECONOMY

Median Household Income, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates

Township of Armstrong	\$54,250.00
Borough of Duboistown	\$50,789.00
Township of Loyalsock	\$46,843.00
Township of Old Lycoming	\$45,268.00
Borough of South Williamsport	\$42,861.00
City of Williamsport	\$33,537.00

Top county employers with presence in the GWA Planning Area (PA Dept. of Labor & Industry):

- UPMC/Susquehanna Health System
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Williamsport Area School District
- Weis Markets, Inc.
- Lycoming County Government
- PA State Government
- Lycoming College
- Brodart
- US Government
- Shop Vac, Inc.
- Hope Enterprises
- Primus Technologies
- Lycoming Division/Textron
- Little League Baseball
- Wirerope, Inc.
- Wegmans

Plan Organization

The plan is designed to be succinct, focused, and action-oriented with emphasis placed on the implementation steps.

This document incorporates a review of the 2005 GWA multi-municipal comprehensive plan with emphasis placed on developing implementable strategies to address the current set of prioritized issues. This review is organized into four (4) sections.

The Plan Overview section presents background of the GWA Planning Area including highlights of its 2005 Comprehensive plan, geography, and demographics.

The Implementation Strategy section identifies nine (9) priority issues. These (9) were determined to be the most important, within the GWA Planning Area, out of the top 14 thematic issues commonly identified across all multi-municipal planning areas during the 2015-2017 comprehensive planning process.¹ Following each priority issue is the PAT's "top viable project(s)" and implementation plan, as well as a list of additional projects chosen by the PAT to be highlighted in the plan. The PAT will continue to meet at least twice a year to evaluate implementation progress. After a top project is completed under one or more of the priority issue categories, the PAT will have the opportunity to complete an implementation plan for the other projects on the list and create specific Project Delivery Teams (PDT) to begin implementation of the additional project(s). The PDT will include those individuals responsible for planning and executing a particular project. The PDT will be prepared to provide status updates on project implementation at each PAT meeting.










The Growth Area and Future Land Use Maps section provides a detailed look at any areas of the multi-municipal planning area for which the PAT has recommended changes in the designated growth area boundaries, future growth area boundaries, and/or future land uses.

The Appendices are the final section of this document and include the following items:

- A. Plan Process
- B. Planning Advisory Team Meeting Summaries and Reports
- C. Results of Research and Analysis
- D. Reference Maps
- E. Plan Consistency and Plan References

¹ See Thematic Issues List at the end of Appendix A

The Current Priority Issues

Issue		Comprehensive Plan Topical Areas								
		Agriculture	Community Development	Community Facilities & Infrastructure	Economic Development	Heritage, Culture & the Arts	Land Use	Natural Resources	Public Safety	Transportation & Mobility
										
#1	Changing Economy vs Local Workforce	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
#2	Local Government Fragmentation		X	X	X	X			X	
#3	Outdoor Recreation		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
#4	Multi-modal Transportation System Deficiencies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
#5	Cultural & Historic Resources	X			X	X	X	X		
#6	Drugs & Crime		X		X				X	
#7	Downtowns		X		X	X	X			X
#8	Water Quality	X		X			X	X		
#9	Water, Sanitary Sewer, & Storm water Infrastructure Needs			X	X		X		X	

Chapter 2: Implementation Strategy

Priority Issue #1



The economy is changing and our communities and workforce are not optimally positioned to realize our untapped economic potential and become more resilient.

Back Story

The economy of the Greater Williamsport Alliance planning area is diverse and multi-faceted. It serves as the County seat and primary economic center of Lycoming County. There are approximately 53,600 people living within the GWA planning area which covers approximately 68 square miles of land. However, the majority of the urbanized area is located within a mile north and south of the Susquehanna River.

As described in the Plan Overview section of this document, the Greater Williamsport Area offers a wide range of housing options, a diverse spectrum of business environments, and an array of multi-modal transportation infrastructure. Furthermore, the fact that it incorporates the Little League World Series, institutions of higher learning, a significant presence of arts and culture facilities, and a close proximity to the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry activity as well as generally favorable proximity to major metropolitan markets along the east coast, positions the GWA planning area positively in the 21st century for economic success.

Several of the County's top employers are located within the planning area including Susquehanna Health System - UPMC, Penn College of Technology, Lycoming College, Williamsport Area School District, Aramark Facility Services, and Lycoming County government. In addition, according to the American Community Survey, the GWA contains approximately 45 percent of the County's total workforce as of 2015. As home to many of the County's primary economic drivers and a significant percentage of the workforce, it is important that the GWA maintains its role as the economic engine for the County.

Since 2005, alone, hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested to improve transportation infrastructure, new housing and hotel accommodations, entertainment and recreation facilities, retail establishments, and educational and healthcare facilities (some of these key developments are noted on page 9 of this document). These investments continue to build and enhance a robust and sustainable local economy that links its population with its workforce, education and housing to its

health, wellness and quality of life. With this being said, the question remains: how does the GWA continue to recognize and capitalize on its untapped economic potential and become more resilient?

Looking at recent data, as of 2015, the American Community Survey estimates that Lycoming is home to over 14,000 jobs in the healthcare, education and social assistance industry with more than half of these (7,469) located in the GWA planning area. These figures represent an increase of 881 jobs (13.4 percent increase) between 2010 and 2015. Over the same period, jobs in this sector increased by 1,062 across the entire County which illustrates that nearly all of the growth in this sector county-wide is occurring in the GWA planning area. As this industry now represents one of the largest, if not the single largest, industry in the County, there are significant opportunities to leverage this recent success to drive further positive economic benefit to the planning area and the region.

The GWA economy is also supported by numerous other strong segments such as finance and insurance (1,191 jobs), real estate and rental leasing (321 jobs), accommodation and food services (3,067 jobs), and arts, entertainment and recreation (336 jobs). All of these economic sectors grew between 2011 and 2016. Many of these growing sectors are also mutually supportive. For example, as the natural gas, education and healthcare industries continue to expand, these new jobs support many local businesses which drives growth in the food service, entertainment and real estate sectors, among others.

To support a robust economy in the GWA, it is important to both reinvest in traditional economic sectors while also capitalizing on emerging economic drivers such as the healthcare, education, and, plastics and petrochemicals industries. To achieve economic resilience and the Planning Area needs both reinvest in its historically strong economic sectors while also adapting to the changing opportunities. Some examples of this include:

- Expanding education and training opportunities: ensure the labor force, including both the youth as well as displaced adult workers, are well-trained and educated to support the 21st century job market
- Diversifying of the local and regional economy: strengthen weaker or declining industry sectors & solidify or enhance the stronger and emerging sectors
- Improving the utilization of land for economic development: ensure every parcel of land is achieving its full potential. This includes capitalizing on opportunities for commercial, educational and industrial land uses while also addressing housing needs.

In order to continue to progressively respond to and compete in the changing economy, first and foremost, **the GWA Planning Area must ensure that its current assets are protected and maintained.** In 2016, the GWA PAT decided that **the 20-mile long flood protection system that protects forty**

percent of the real estate in three of the six GWA communities was the single greatest threat and opportunity to maintaining and pursuing economic resilience.

The flood protection system in the GWA are a series of levees which protects the City of Williamsport, South Williamsport Borough, sections of Loyalsock Township to the east and sections of Old Lycoming Township to the west. The major portion of the levees in the greater Williamsport Area (GWA) was authorized after the 1936 flood and completed in the 1955-1956 time frames by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the local municipalities. Following Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, Bull Run Levee was constructed by the USACE protecting the area of Loyalsock known as the Golden Strip. The local levee owners, or Non-Federal Sponsors (the City of Williamsport, South Williamsport, and Loyalsock Township) must meet certification rules by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There are also issues identified by USACE during regularly scheduled inspection. The levees have held and protected the GWA since 1956.

Priority Issue Overview The levees in the GWA protect areas that include The City of Williamsport, Old Lycoming Township, South Williamsport and Loyalsock Township. Of the \$2.7 billion in real estate in these communities, the levees protect 40%, as determined by the 2004 County Assessment data. Borough, City and County government are located in the protected floodplains as well as commercial and industrial areas. Maintaining the existing economic well-being of the County is dependent on preventing the Susquehanna River from causing potentially catastrophic damage. The current levees in GWA measure approximately 20 miles in length. An estimate of construction cost for a system this size would be around \$150 Million* in today’s dollars, not including land acquisition and relocation of utilities. If this system were constructed with USACE, the local share would be more that \$50 million. Currently, these levee recertification costs are estimated at \$12- 15 million. A non-accredited levee though FEMA would have implications to the property owners regarding building requirements and mandatory purchase of flood insurance. ⁱ

	City of Williamsport					
	All Properties		Levee Protected Area			
Occupant	Total number of properties	Total assessed value	Number of properties protected by levee system	Percent protected by levee system	Total assessed value behind levee system	Percent tax base protected by levee system
Apartments	321	\$78,179,620.00	249	77.6%	\$57,496,720.00	73.5%
Commercial	899	\$239,860,330.00	762	84.8%	\$204,940,150.00	85.4%
Industrial	74	\$68,681,210.00	61	82.4%	\$55,751,310.00	81.2%
Institutional/Other	426	\$403,998,790.00	334	78.4%	\$264,697,650.00	65.5%
Total Residential	7,762	\$577,329,740.00	3,287	42.3%	\$188,655,810.00	32.7%
Owner Occupied Residential	4,412	\$381,464,570.00	1,459	33.1%	\$94,473,720.00	24.8%
Other Residential	3,350	\$195,865,170.00	1,828	54.6%	\$94,182,090.00	48.1%
TOTAL	9,482	\$1,368,049,690.00	4,693	49.5%	\$771,541,640.00	56.4%

Borough of South Williamsport						
	All Properties		Levee Protected Area			
	Total number of properties	Total assessed value	Number of properties protected by levee system	Percent protected by levee system	Total assessed value behind levee system	Percent tax base protected by levee system
Occupant						
Apartments	27	\$8,830,030.00	14	51.9%	\$4,118,810.00	46.6%
Commercial	129	\$26,920,910.00	92	71.3%	\$14,722,170.00	54.7%
Industrial	18	\$6,690,990.00	14	77.8%	\$5,921,040.00	88.5%
Institutional/Other	64	\$33,354,510.00	36	56.3%	\$5,650,020.00	16.9%
Total Residential	2,361	\$208,127,870.00	543	23.0%	\$41,182,570.00	19.8%
<i>Owner Occupied Residential</i>	1,539	\$144,099,050.00	289	18.8%	\$22,743,070.00	15.8%
<i>Other Residential</i>	822	\$64,028,820.00	254	30.9%	\$18,439,500.00	28.8%
TOTAL	2,599	283,924,310	699	26.9%	\$71,594,610.00	25.2%

Township of Loyalsock						
	All Properties		Levee Protected Area			
	Total number of properties	Total assessed value	Number of properties protected by levee system	Percent protected by levee system	Total assessed value behind levee system	Percent tax base protected by levee system
Occupant						
Apartments	30	\$32,574,330.00	6	20.0%	\$1,428,630.00	4.4%
Commercial	246	\$146,879,150.00	128	52.0%	\$99,347,860.00	67.6%
Industrial	16	\$9,358,010.00	7	43.8%	\$6,574,670.00	70.3%
Institutional/Other	99	\$68,476,140.00	12	12.1%	\$879,160.00	1.3%
Total Residential	4,181	\$570,337,130.00	488	11.7%	\$55,109,780.00	9.7%
<i>Owner Occupied Residential</i>	3,079	\$462,569,210.00	354	11.5%	\$42,154,690.00	9.1%
<i>Other Residential</i>	1,102	\$107,767,920.00	134	12.2%	\$12,955,090.00	12.0%
TOTAL	4,572	\$827,624,760.00	641	14.0%	\$163,340,100.00	19.7%

	Township of Old Lycoming					
	All Properties		Levee Protected Area			
Occupant	Total number of properties	Total assessed value	Number of properties protected by levee system	Percent protected by levee system	Total assessed value behind levee system	Percent tax base protected by levee system
Apartments	18	\$6,691,530.00	5	27.8%	\$1,814,350.00	27.1%
Commercial	100	\$27,201,300.00	54	54.0%	\$18,200,480.00	66.9%
Industrial	15	\$6,439,210.00	2	13.3%	\$1,189,350.00	18.5%
Institutional/Other	148	\$12,585,280.00	18	12.2%	\$3,981,240.00	31.6%
Total Residential	2,077	\$212,920,480.00	113	5.4%	\$7,533,270.00	3.5%
Owner Occupied Residential	1,544	\$174,556,130.00	56	3.6%	\$4,163,760.00	2.4%
Other Residential	533	\$38,364,350.00	57	10.7%	\$3,369,510.00	8.8%
TOTAL	2,358	\$265,837,800.00	192	8.1%	\$32,718,690.00	12.3%

Key Implications A levee breach or failure could happen at any time. Ongoing maintenance of the system is vital to its stability and reliability. As the levee ages it is important to ensure it operates optimally. If the levee is not recertified, many homes and businesses in the Williamsport Central Business District and beyond would be forced to pay for costly flood insurance. Additionally, in the event of a levee breach or failure, the federal government would have no obligation to assist in financing recovery efforts for thousands of homeowners.

Indirect costs of levee failure would be devastating to GWA. In Williamsport City alone there are over 14,000 people employed. During clean up and repair of the city many of these people may be unemployed and the city would lose income on taxes as well. The loss of sales to local employers could range from 7 million to 70 million each year, depending on the percent of damage, if they have to close due to flood damage. The levee protects local businesses from this loss every time there is a flood and has done so since 1956. Even if employers are not directly affected they may temporarily lose workers do to damage to their homes. Damage to essential businesses, such as grocery stores, could create issues for people in the area. These indirect costs do not include the potential damage to utilities or infrastructure in the city and these damages could greatly increase the time it takes for the city to recover.

The table below shows the indirect economic loss depending on the percent of damage and the years it takes for local businesses to recover after a major disaster. The numbers below are the result of the estimated market values plugged into a formula by World Bank Finance and Markets Global Practice Group. However, the table does not account for the full value of contents or inventory damaged.

Indirect Economic Losses From a Levee Breach					
		Percent of Damage			
		10% Damage	25% Damage	50% Damage	100% Damage
Total indirect (output) economic losses	Damage Amount	\$53,576,683.79	\$133,941,709.49	\$267,883,418.97	\$535,766,837.94
	1 Year Recovery	\$7,031,939.75	\$17,579,849.37	\$35,159,698.74	\$70,319,397.48
	2 Year Recovery	\$14,063,879.50	\$35,159,698.74	\$70,319,397.48	\$140,638,794.96
	3 Year Recovery	\$21,095,819.24	\$52,739,548.11	\$105,479,096.22	\$210,958,192.44
	4 Year Recovery	\$28,127,758.99	\$70,319,397.48	\$140,638,794.96	\$281,277,589.92
	5 Year Recovery	\$35,159,698.74	\$87,899,246.85	\$175,798,493.70	\$351,596,987.40



A view from the Susquehanna Riverwalk showing the Williamsport Levee protecting its downtown infrastructure

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue

LEVEE CERTIFICATION

The flood protection system that serving Greater Williamsport Planning Area includes a series of levees and tie-backs which protect the City of Williamsport, South Williamsport Borough, sections of Loyalsock Township to the East and sections of Old Lycoming Township to the West. The Bull Run Levee protects the east side of GWA in Loyalsock protecting the Golden Strip. Meeting the FEMA Certification Requirements and addressing USACE deficiencies is paramount to the GWA and Lycoming County in general.

The project is multiphase. The first is to examine the USACE deficiencies by levee and chart a plan to seek funding to remediate the issues. Next is to address any deficiencies with the FEMA Certification. Finally, a study should be done to consider future configurations of how the levee and its maintenance are addressed into the future.



Flooding along the "Golden Strip" in Loyalsock during Hurricane Agnes in 1972

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

Once certified, the area behind a levee is considered protected and the property owners do not have a regulatory requirement to purchase flood insurance. This is the case in the Greater Williamsport area. Insuring that the Levee system operates properly protects life and property.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – This issue must be led by the non-federal sponsors – City of Williamsport, Borough of South Williamsport, Old Lycoming Township and Loyalsock Township. Consideration must be given to identifying and securing the funding necessary to repair the levee system and address the deficiencies and developing alternatives for funding ongoing maintenance.

Other Partners – The Lycoming County Planning Department and the County Commissioners should provide support to these non-federal sponsors.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	<p>REVIEW THE LATEST USACE REPORTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH NEED TO BE COMPLETED..</p> <p>REVIEW THE REPORT RESULTS OF THE FEMA LEVEE CERTIFICATION STUDY</p> <p>BUILD A WORKING PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM</p>	2014-12/31/2017	<p>CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT</p> <p>LOYALSOCK</p> <p>SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT</p> <p>OLD LYCOMING</p> <p>COUNTY OF LYCOMING (PCD)</p> <p>PA DEP</p> <p>WILLIAMSPORT SANITARY AUTHORITY</p>
2	PRIORITIZE WORK AND SEEK FUNDING FOR US ACE SYSTEM REPAIRS AND UPGRADES	JANUARY 2017- JANUARY 2020	PCD, NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS
3	DEVELOP A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MEANS OF FUNDING IT.	JANUARY 2017-2020	PCD

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

The Levee Non Federal Sponsors, working with stakeholders as a Project Delivery Team, will continue to work with the state and community to help fund the rehabilitation of the levee to reduce the risk to life and property should the levee breach. It will continue to seek assistance with accessing funds from the Levee Rehabilitation Assistance Program (LRAP), and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), which are currently pending for reauthorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Project delivery team will also work with FEMA to determine if the FEMA Levee Analysis and Mapping Approach (LAMP) (Analysis for non-accredited levees) is necessary.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue

- **FLOOD PROOFING**

Seek funding for commercial building flood proofing. Many commercial buildings in the county are in the floodplains. Flooding events often put these commercial operations out of commission for lengthy periods of time afterwards because they are not built to today’s flood-proofing standards. There are techniques that can be employed to dry flood proof commercial structures to reduce damages and insurance costs.

- **FLOOD PROTECTION**

Investigate flood protection methods to allow expansion of the commercial areas and protect residents of Old Lycoming Township.

- **FLOODPLAIN PROPERTIES**

Work with the County and state and federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue to acquire lands that are in the floodplain.



Planning area levee protecting nearby homes as flood levels rise during 2011’s Tropical Storm Lee

Priority Issue #2**Fragmentation of local government in Pennsylvania is a barrier to efficient delivery of some public services.**

Back Story The majority of Pennsylvania counties are “fragmented” into a large number of small municipalities. In fact, there are 2,562 local governments in Pennsylvania--Lycoming County has 52 of them. In Pennsylvania, many government rules, regulations and policies are left to the most local level of government to administer. Likewise, many services are provided separately by each municipality. This fragmentation can also result in a lost opportunity for improved cost efficiency and enhanced service delivery.

Government at the Township, Borough and City level is the most local form of government in Pennsylvania. As such, it allows citizens easy accessibility to government officials. This enables the maximum degree of local citizen dialogue related to policymaking, service delivery, and taxation. In general, this form of government is viewed as being accessible, accountable and effective. However, while small, local governments provide accessibility and accountability, many examples exist around the Commonwealth that highlight the shortfalls of Pennsylvania’s fragmented structure of government.

For example, many municipalities find it difficult to recruit adequate numbers of citizens and trained professionals, to serve on their legislative bodies, boards and commissions. Additionally, all local governments are required to provide certain capital-intensive services, such as water, sewer, and emergency services, as well as managing administrative functions. This could be considered redundant overhead in areas with small populations and tax base. Over time, expectations of local governments have changed both from the State government and citizen perspectives. There are growing responsibilities assumed by local governments that are not always easily handled by the traditional structure(s) of local government. However, there have been many creative solutions that PA municipalities have structured to meet the needs presented to them.

Pennsylvania has built up an array of viable regional-scaled entities, such as: regional council of governments (COGs), metropolitan and rural planning organizations (MPOs and RPOs), and various other regional planning-type councils, commissions and organizations. In addition, there have been a growing number of multi-municipal cooperatives, joint efforts, and mergers related to the provision of police, fire, EMS, zoning, codes, sewer, water, stormwater and other infrastructure and public work programs.

A good local example of multiple municipalities joining forces to work towards a common goal is the six multi-municipal comprehensive planning efforts in Lycoming County including the GWA Planning Area. Another excellent example is the Lycoming County MS4 Coalition. MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) is an unfunded Federal mandate of the Environmental Protection Agency. Lycoming County municipalities are required to also prepare Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plans (CBPRP’s) that define how they will reduce

sediment and nutrient levels, including nitrogen and phosphorous because they are in the Susquehanna River Basin and Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The MS4 program is permitted and enforced at the state level through the PA Department of Environmental Protection. To lessen the municipal cost burden of the MS4 program, in 2011, nine municipalities and one college came together to form the Lycoming County MS4 Coalition. Together they fund a county staff position, the MS4 Planner, that manages all of their permits and completes the required six minimum control measures. The Coalition allows them to share costs in permit fees, training, implementation of best management practices and consultant fees. The Coalition has operated successfully since its formation, keeping the participants in regulatory compliance, while maintaining effective economies of scale.

During the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update, the GWA PAT members acknowledged that fragmented government services have impacts in their planning area. Of particular concern was the ability to provide adequate and essential emergency services for Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) due to a decrease in volunteer capacity for communities other than Williamsport, intensive certification requirements and the lack of sustainable financial resources. While GWA PAT members were concerned about all three areas of emergency service, Fire and EMS were the focus of more intense analysis and discussion.

Priority Issue Overview The Fire and EMS Agencies, that serve the GWA Planning Area, as well as the six municipal governments themselves were increasingly concerned with their ability to provide adequate levels of emergency medical services and fire services to the residents of these municipalities. Adequate levels of EMS are dictated by the 2009 Pennsylvania EMS System Act 37 (EMS Act) which establishes requirements for service coverage and certification standards. As in other rural communities around the state, the local emergency medical service providers are also experiencing declining numbers of volunteers. In short, Fire and EMS Agencies are increasingly challenged to provide these essential and required services because of four interrelated factors:

- Increasing service requirements—greater time commitment for training
- Decreasing staff capacity—fewer volunteers
- Increasing cost to provide certification training and essential equipment
- Funding limitations to support the above

In 2010, at the request of the Lycoming County Commissioners, the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services at DCED conducted a study to evaluate the fire services in central Lycoming County. This was done as part of a regionalization effort during that time known as GLESA (Greater Lycoming Emergency Service Alliance). The fire departments that participated in the study included: a) City of Williamsport, b) Old Lycoming Township, c) Duboistown Borough, d) South Williamsport Borough (Citizens, Independent, and First Ward), and e) Montoursville Borough (Willing Hand Hose Company). Several of the fire companies provide fire protection to other municipalities. Armstrong Township is covered by the Duboistown Volunteer Fire Company and the South Williamsport companies. The Willing Hand Hose Company of Montoursville covers Fairfield and Upper Fairfield Townships. Loyalsock Township is the only GWA municipality that did not participate at that time.

The study found that the volunteer fire departments in Duboistown Borough, Montoursville Borough, Old Lycoming Township, and South Williamsport Borough (Citizen's, Independent, and First Ward) were struggling to maintain a consistent level of service due to a decrease in the number of volunteer firefighters. Additionally, the City of Williamsport Bureau of Fire was facing continued increased cost of operations that may eventually reach a point where the current level of service will decrease. The purpose of the project was to review the current methods of deployment, funding, and organizational structure at the time then identify best practices and recommend potential cooperative partnerships that will improve service to the citizens of the community.



Old Lycoming Township Volunteer Fire Company

There were five main recommendations provided by the study to achieve performance standards and for systems improvement. They included the following:

1. Continue the existing collaboration by formalizing the Williamsport Area Regional Fire Alliance as a non-profit or an association.
2. Functionally consolidate certain aspects of fire administration and operations under the Williamsport Bureau of Fire.
3. Increase the use of Williamsport Bureau of Fire members in volunteer stations thru contract staffing.
4. Development of paid incentives for volunteer firefighters and establishment of duty crews.
5. Develop a regional fire commission to establish a regionalized fire and EMS department.

Since the time of that study there have been **Increasing Certification Requirements and continued Decreasing Volunteer base as well as one Fire Company Merger in South Williamsport.** In 2016, there was an effort to merge all three South Williamsport fire companies: First Ward, Citizen's Fire, and Independent. The result of that effort was a merger of First Ward and Citizen's Fire Companies into the South Williamsport Fire Department. Independent Fire Company was decertified, which made them inoperable. In addition, in April 2014, the provisions of the EMS Act took effect which state that all EMS agencies including those located throughout Lycoming County, are required to provide 24/7 coverage in order to respond to a request for EMS assistance that is dispatched. The EMS Act does permit the EMS Agencies to provide less than 24 hours a day, seven days a week services, if they participate in a County-level EMS Response Plan approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The EMS Act created 14 Regional EMS Councils. The Lycoming County Board of Commissioners is the Pennsylvania Department of Health's contract holder for the Regional EMS Council that serves the Counties of Lycoming, Tioga and Sullivan.

In addition to requirements of the EMS Act, local municipal codes also regulate the provision of emergency services. Old Lycoming, Armstrong and Loyalsock Townships are all Townships of the Second Class. The Second Class Township Code requires a township to "be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the township by the means and to the extent determined by the township, including appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services."ⁱⁱ South Williamsport and Duboistown Boroughs are governed by a code that states that a Borough will "...be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the borough by the means and to the extent determined by the borough, including appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services."ⁱⁱⁱ The City of Williamsport is governed by the Third Class City Code. In addition, each of these six municipalities is also required by their respective Codes to consult with these emergency service providers to discuss the needs within their municipalities.

According to the EMS Act, all EMS certification examinations recognized by the Commonwealth are required to align with the National EMS Education Standards. To comply with these standards, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification requires 150 hours of training plus co-requisites including two on-line courses and a 2.5 hour Haz-Mat Awareness class. The Cost of training is over \$1,000. Currently, a Basic Life Support Ambulance must be staffed by one person trained to EMT standard or higher and one Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). The EMR may be the driver if they are credentialed as the driver as well. This requires an additional 16 hour driving course. The extensive training hours and costs required to be a volunteer fireman or EMS personnel are making it very difficult for new recruits to commit the time required to become certified while meeting the demands of a career and family.

The cost and time required to secure increased training and needed equipment is compounded by lower volunteer recruitment numbers resulting in decreased capacity to provide required services. This is a statewide issue. Since 1985 the number of volunteers in PA has declined from 152,000 to 70,000. There are 2,462 fire companies in PA and majority of them are volunteer companies. Across the state, volunteer agencies are being challenged to maintain services while suffering from a declining pool of volunteers. The lack of volunteers has hit the volunteer fire departments and emergency service agencies especially hard. EMS is provided to over 1,200 square miles in Lycoming County through several service methods including: hospital based life support services, paid and volunteer fire department based units, paid duty crews, and all-volunteer crews.

Capacity - Currently the following emergency medical service agencies provide services to these municipalities:

- Williamsport: Williamsport Bureau of Fire (only paid company)
- South Williamsport: First Ward Fire Co. & Citizens Fire Co.
- Duboistown: Duboistown Fire Department
- Old Lycoming Township: OLT Volunteer Fire Co.
- Loyalsock Township: Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Co.



- Armstrong Township: relies on Duboistown, South Williamsport & Loyalsock
- Paramedic Services to PAT – UPMC/Susquehanna Regional EMS



The firefighting capacity and capabilities of the local fire departments are critical to the future growth and development potential in Lycoming County and its municipalities. If adequate capacity is not sustained and able to increase due to limiting capabilities, funding and/or other reasons, businesses and industries seeking new or expanded locations will also be limited. Firefighting capacity and advanced safety training and equipment related to service of hazardous material operations is also critical. It is important that Fire and EMS services also be considered essential infrastructure during the planning and feasibility phases of new development.

Trends - For the five-year period between 2012 and 2016, the call volumes for the two counties served by the Lycoming/Sullivan 911 Center have declined but there has been an increase in the number of Fire/EMS Incidents during this period. The types of 911 calls have also been changing. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in personal care and assistance requests as opposed to traditional emergency situations. Within the GWA Planning Area, these trends are generally consistent, but further analysis is needed.

Lycoming/Sullivan County 911 Center Activity 2012 - 2016 YTD

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Fire/EMS Incidents	17,378	16,915	17,314	18,856	18,601
Police Incidents	43,068	40,403	41,397	42,532	43,773
Total 911 Calls	61,598	59,836	60,628	58,223	56,295
Working Fires	126	97	125	113	137
2nd Alarm Fires	19	18	27	11	12
3rd Alarm Fires	1	2	3	2	2
MVA w/entrapment	74	46	80	75	64
Water Rescues	19	11	17	11	20

The GWA was interested in the exploration of creating a model EMS delivery response system for the county, such as an EMS Authority or umbrella organization. There is desire to consider County support for shared Finance/Planning/Bookkeeping/Auditing for Fire and EMS and consider a paid position to act as a resource for multiple entities.

Cooperative Relationships In addition to the issues described above, strong communication between the volunteer fire departments and the municipal governing bodies is of utmost importance. Because Townships and Boroughs are required to ensure that adequate fire and EMS services are provided in the municipality and the volunteer fire departments are, by enlarge the entities providing these services in Lycoming County, and

particularly in this Planning Area, it is essential that there is an open and transparent relationship between these entities. Most importantly, both parties should have a mutual understanding and agreement upon things such as: annual budget, funding needs, service delivery parameters and requirements, operational management, and problems being encountered. If this is not already taking place, then a healthy working relationship that responds to these objectives needs to be cultivated.

Key Implications If the six municipalities in the GWA Planning Area and the Fire and EMS Agencies do not find ways to more effectively work together to provide more efficient EMS and Fire delivery services in their municipalities, the following five impacts are possible:

- Further increases to program administrative costs for municipalities
- Residents of these municipalities will not be provided the required level of EMS service needed
- The municipalities may not meet the requirements of Pennsylvania EMS System Act 37 of 2009 and their respective Municipal Codes.
- The municipalities may be required to hire emergency service and fire personnel, which would create a substantial cost burden and other related fiscal challenges.
- Municipalities may be forced to cut other existing programs and services that local residents rely on.



Firefighters extinguish a house fire along Isabella Street in Williamsport, March 2017

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**EXAMINE COST EFFECTIVENESS AND PERSONNEL EFFICIENCY OF FIRE AND EMS SERVICES IN THE GWA PLANNING AREA AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE COUNTY EMS RESPONSE PLAN**

The six municipalities and their respective Fire and EMS agencies will work together to evaluate their abilities to provide a readily accessible and efficient level of EMS services to the residents of this Planning Area and meet the service requirements of the EMS Act. The agencies will examine and assess their individual and collective resources, services, capacity, management structures, training requirements, costs, and funding potentials in support of the proposed *Countywide EMS Response Plan*.

The Fire and EMS Agencies of the GWA Planning Area will work with their municipal governments to identify specific shortcomings and needs within these municipalities. They will also help provide the necessary data and information to a third party consultant to support the development of the Countywide EMS Response Plan and assist with its implementation.

The following is a sample of the types of data and information that the third-party consultant will need in order to adequately complete the assessment and make viable recommendations to the county's EMS Response and Staffing Task Force. It is recommended that the planning area municipalities and EMS agencies begin collecting this information prior to the hiring of the consultant.

Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS Providers located in or serving the PAT – data needed:

- Service area
 - Service call volume trend over last 5 years
 - Response time
 - Where are the gaps of providing 24/7 service?
-
- # of paid staff and volunteers
 - Average salary of employee
 - Identify the changes from volunteer to paid programs (EMS)
 - Average age of volunteer (Are the youth and/or younger residents volunteering?)
-
- Annual budget (expense and revenue)
 - Level of financial commitment from local governments
 - Funding received from County and for what purpose
 - Who and how are operations managed?
 - What reporting methods are used by each? Same, different?
-
- Costs for equipment / technology
 - Training costs (trend over time)
 - Training time commitment (trend over time)

- Facility costs

-
- Statutory requirements for training (provide statute/name and identify any changes that have occurred)
 - Other training requirements?
 - Training consortium in county provided for fire departments? If yes, what is the amount of subsidy to whom and how much?

-
- Are there any specific examples of problems related to provision of services?

It is expected that the countywide plan will provide a framework for how EMS Agencies will collectively manage, administer and provide services in these six municipalities, and the other parts of Lycoming County, when they are unable to provide 24/7 staffing coverage. The Plan will include recommended formal agreements among the participating Agencies and municipalities and additional strategies for how they will provide readily accessible service coverage throughout this 6-municipality area in Lycoming County.

In preparation of the proposed Countywide EMS Response Plan, the GWA municipalities should reconsider five the recommendations of the GLESA study:

- 1. Continue the existing collaboration by formalizing the Williamsport Area Regional Fire Alliance as a non-profit or an association.*
- 2. Functionally consolidate certain aspects of fire administration and operations under the Williamsport Bureau of Fire.*
- 3. Increase the use of Williamsport Bureau of Fire members in volunteer stations thru contract staffing.*
- 4. Development of paid incentives for volunteer firefighters and establishment of duty crews.*
- 5. Develop a regional fire commission to establish a regionalized fire and EMS department.*

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The six municipalities of the GWA Planning Area are committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of their residents as well as meeting the requirements of their respective municipal codes for providing EMS services and the requirements of Pennsylvania's EMS Systems Act 37. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the traditional structure of EMS service delivery to remain effective in the 21st century, due to a number of factors:

- Mix of geography and terrain: dense urbanized area as well as low density population areas, some very rural and remote
- Mixture of paid and volunteer service providers
- Changing demographics and family responsibilities

Responding to these concerns, the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety has begun working with the EMS Response and Staffing Task Force to address the requirements and challenges of providing sufficient service to these three municipalities and other municipalities in the County. The development of an *EMS Response Plan* in Lycoming County will meet the requirements of Act 37 as well as provide a blueprint for how each EMS Agency will assist in the provision required and critically important EMS services.

Once funding is successfully secured to develop the Countywide EMS Response Plan, a consultant will be hired. In advance of that, the local PAT members can begin the dialogue and collect the needed data and information. This will help ensure a coordinated and effective planning process.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – GWA PAT

Other Partners – Fire Chief’s Board, Hospitals, Lycoming County Commissioners, Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD) will participate and support this effort.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	GWA PAT TO ESTABLISH A PDT	SUMMER 2017	FIRE RESPONDERS EMS UNITS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS PCD & DPS STAFFS
2	CONVENE STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEFINE THE SHORTCOMINGS AND NEEDS OF THE FIRE AND EMS SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PAT	JULY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017	STEERING COMMITTEE PCD & DPS STAFF
3	DEFINE LIST OF DATA NEEDS AND BEGIN COLLECTION OF INFORMATION IDENTIFY FUNDING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	JUNE 2017 – DECEMBER 2017	STEERING COMMITTEE
4	PARTICIPATE IN THE EMS RESPONSE PLAN FOR LYCOMING COUNTY	SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2018	ALL
5	FORMULATE SOLUTIONS	JANUARY 2018 – JUNE 2018	STEERING COMMITTEE PCD & DPS STAFF CONSULTANTS
6	BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED	ON-GOING	LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

	UPON SOLUTIONS		STEERING COMMITTEE OTHERS – TBD
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FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Applicable potential funding sources will be developed by the Steering Committee in the Jan-Jun 2018 timeframe

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue

1. JOINT MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCES

Develop joint ordinances for purposes of regulating future growth in a cooperative manner, which is allowable under Article VIII-A under the PA MPC. This offers the opportunity for municipalities to meet the requirements of providing for all uses across multiple municipalities. It offers the opportunity to create a joint planning commission and/or zoning hearing board.

2. RECREATION AUTHORITY

Expand the purposes of the Lycoming County Recreational Authority to address recreational needs, oversight, and management of facilities beyond the Golf Course.

3. CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHING REGULAR GWA MEETINGS.

4. EXPLORE BEAUTIFICATION OPTIONS AND GATEWAY OPPORTUNITIES IN/ AROUND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS.

5. DEVELOP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH LAND USE PATTERNS AND DENSITIES THAT DEFINE THE LOCAL CHARACTER OF COMMUNITIES.

6. CONSIDER REGIONAL, MULTI-MUNICIPAL ZONING OPTIONS.

7. ENCOURAGE CONSISTENCY IN ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING PRACTICES WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PLANNING AREA.

These could include better utilization of zoning tools available; training of zoning personnel; and assistance with interpretation of zoning regulations.

8. REVIEW ORDINANCES FOR STANDARDS THAT REQUIRE EXCESSIVE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE COVERAGE.

Revise such standards with provisions for better stormwater management practices, promoting the interception and infiltration of stormwater onsite using green infrastructure wherever possible.

9. WORK WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, THE COLLEGES, AND THE COUNTY TO ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES.

10. COLLABORATE AND PARTNER WITH RELIGIOUS AND NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO ADDRESS MYRIAD COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS.

Priority Issue #3



Outdoor recreation resources are not fully developed, protected, and promoted.

Back Story Lycoming County is known for its beautiful mountains, wide valleys, miles of hiking trails, scenic bikeways and pristine streams and creeks. The recreational resources of the GWA Planning Area contain many of these same amenities and are a key reason why many residents choose to live, work, and play in these six municipalities. In short, these natural and recreational resources are among the greatest assets of this Planning Area. Residents of the GWA communities desire to develop or expand these existing recreation assets, as well as improve access to them, so that residents and visitors alike can more fully capitalize on the benefits they provide:

- opportunities for positive community impacts
- enhanced quality of life
- improved health benefits
- expanded transportation options (e.g., trails)
- new educational opportunities
- economic growth

GWA PAT members identified the natural beauty and scenery of Greater Williamsport as the top strength of this Planning Area. Likewise, the potential to capitalize on outdoor recreation resources located very close to the urbanized area was selected as the top opportunity for this Planning Area.



Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy a walk along the nationally recognized Susquehanna Riverwalk

Priority Issue Overview During the GWA Comp Plan public outreach, the desire for more outdoor recreation opportunities was among the top four priorities listed by respondents (see Appendix C for survey results). The consensus among PAT members and the general public is threefold:

- Expand existing recreation assets
- Add to the area’s recreational resources
- Improve access to these recreational venues

This issue was well documented in the 2005 adopted GWA multi-municipal comprehensive plan. That document identified the development of new recreational opportunities as a key strategy to enhancing the community’s infrastructure. Specifically, the adopted 2005 GWA Comprehensive Plan had two major recommendations:

- Implement recommendations from the Lycoming County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space/Greenway Plan
- Develop community greenway plans that contain implementation strategies at the local level

Additionally, the same strategy was outlined in the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2006. Both the 2005 GWA multi-municipal plan as well as the 2006 Lycoming County plan discuss a strategy of increasing usage of existing recreational and other community facilities. In the 2008 Lycoming County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space/Greenway Plan there was an expanded discussion regarding the optimal ways to fully develop, protect and promote outdoor recreation and scenic areas.

Since 2006, there have been some major additions to the GWA Planning Area's recreation resources. Opened in 2010, the immensely popular Susquehanna Riverwalk has the following attributes:

- Provides a paved three-mile loop trail overlooking the Susquehanna River
- Sits atop the levee system in Williamsport, South Williamsport, and Loyalsock Township
- Connects with the Loyalsock Township and Montoursville Bikeways to the east and the South Williamsport Borough Park traveling south
- Now includes an additional access/parking area at the foot of Hepburn Street in the City of Williamsport

Opened in 2012, the County's 1.2 mile Conservation Learning Trail (pictured below) on the grounds of the County's Lysock View Complex in Loyalsock Township offers a living learning outdoor experience.



Hikers can take in nature on the scenic single-track trail



Educational displays showcase information on indigenous wildlife in the area

While these projects represent a solid beginning to enhance the recreation opportunities in the GWA Planning Area, many more opportunities still exist and need to be advanced.

During the 2016 comprehensive planning process, outdoor recreation was found to be a significant concern for the general public. A 2016 survey involving more than 1000 people was presented in both an online format as well as in-person interviews (conducted during public events). When respondents were asked to identify where they would prefer to see public resources invested, parks and trails was ranked fourth out of a list of twelve.

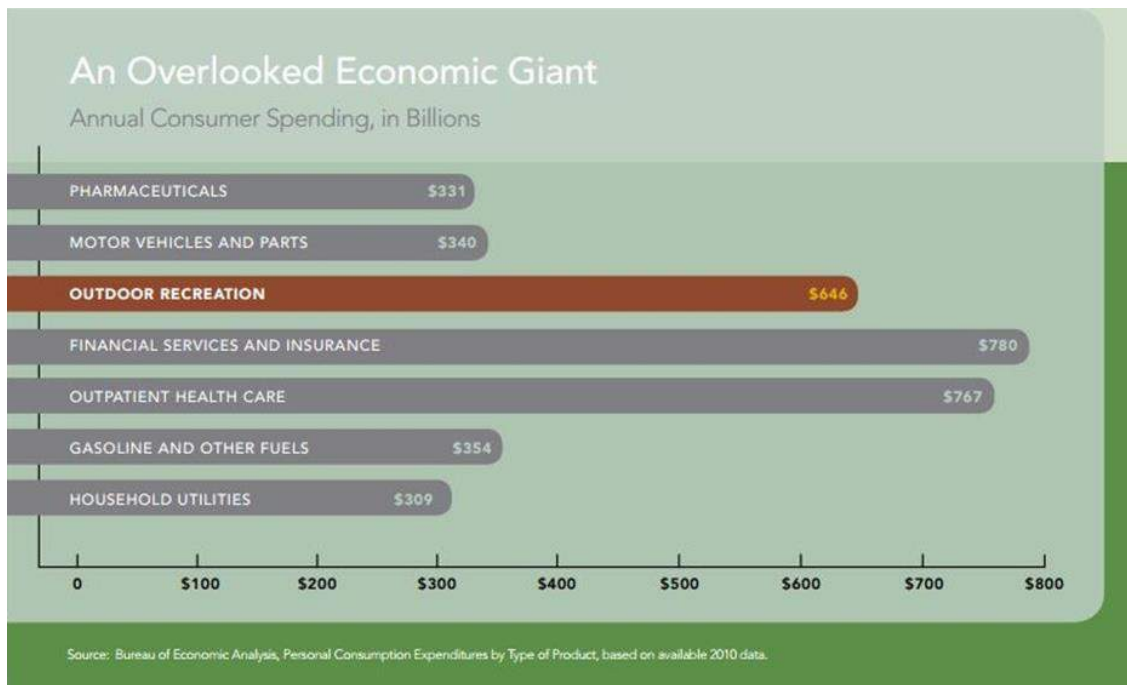
The respondents were also asked what they liked most about Lycoming County and wanted to see preserved. This open-ended question resulted in 22 different areas that the public wanted to preserve. When categorized, the survey results revealed the following:

- Natural beauty---#1
- Parks & Trails---#3
- Other forms of Outdoor recreation---#5

The take-away is that it appears Lycoming County residents, including GWA citizens, strongly value outdoor recreation and scenic beauty. In view of these findings, the 2016 GWA PAT has set forth a set of broad strategies to pursue over the next ten years:

- Explore connectivity options for bikeways, walkways, and greenways.
- Encourage new development to include pedestrian and bike facilities.
- Appropriately regulate new and expanding developments within the floodplain.
- Continue to develop recreational areas for the benefit of residents and visitors
- Continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region.
- Encourage greenway efforts, such as Miller’s Run Greenway, and tie them into Susquehanna Greenway Partnership efforts.
- Encourage recreational uses of floodplain areas, with appropriate regulation.

Furthermore, a 2010 report detailing annual consumer spending by the U.S. Department of Commerce concluded that Americans consume nearly \$646 billion dollars a year on outdoor recreation.



Given the geographic and demographic diversity of the GWA Planning Area, it is not surprising that GWA PAT members had reached a three-way tie for the Top Viable Project for this region. The three top projects include:

- Susquehanna Riverwalk Extension and Access Improvements
- Millers Run Greenway
- Bald Eagle Mountain Ridge Trail

Key Implications Failure to expand outdoor recreation options and access would represent a tremendous missed opportunity for this Planning Area. The need to enhance and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of natural and scenic aspects of this area has a broad consensus of support within the community. Additionally, there are generally recognized economic, social, and health benefits gained by having a superior outdoor recreation infrastructure. Expansion of outdoor recreation represents a crucial component of quality of life throughout the GWA Planning Area.



Located in Williamsport, the Hiawatha Riverboat is one of the most popular attractions in central Pennsylvania. Offering 6 days a week of public cruising and available for private charter rental

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (First of Three)

SUSQUEHANNA RIVERWALK EXTENSION AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

The Susquehanna Riverwalk Extension Project will connect the existing Riverwalk with Susquehanna State Park, as well as improve connections to the existing Riverwalk. The main part of the project consists of a 2.4-mile extension of the existing Susquehanna Riverwalk. In addition, improvements to the Riverwalk access will be pursued.



As a destination the Susquehanna Riverwalk is utilized by residents and tourists alike for sightseeing, fishing, and jogging

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The Susquehanna Riverwalk provides a walkable and bikeable recreation and transportation route, potentially providing a scenic connection to multiple parts of the City of Williamsport including the central business district, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, and Susquehanna State Park.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Lycoming County PCD & Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Other Partners – City of Williamsport, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Williamsport Sanitary Authority, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), PennDOT, DCNR, DCED

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

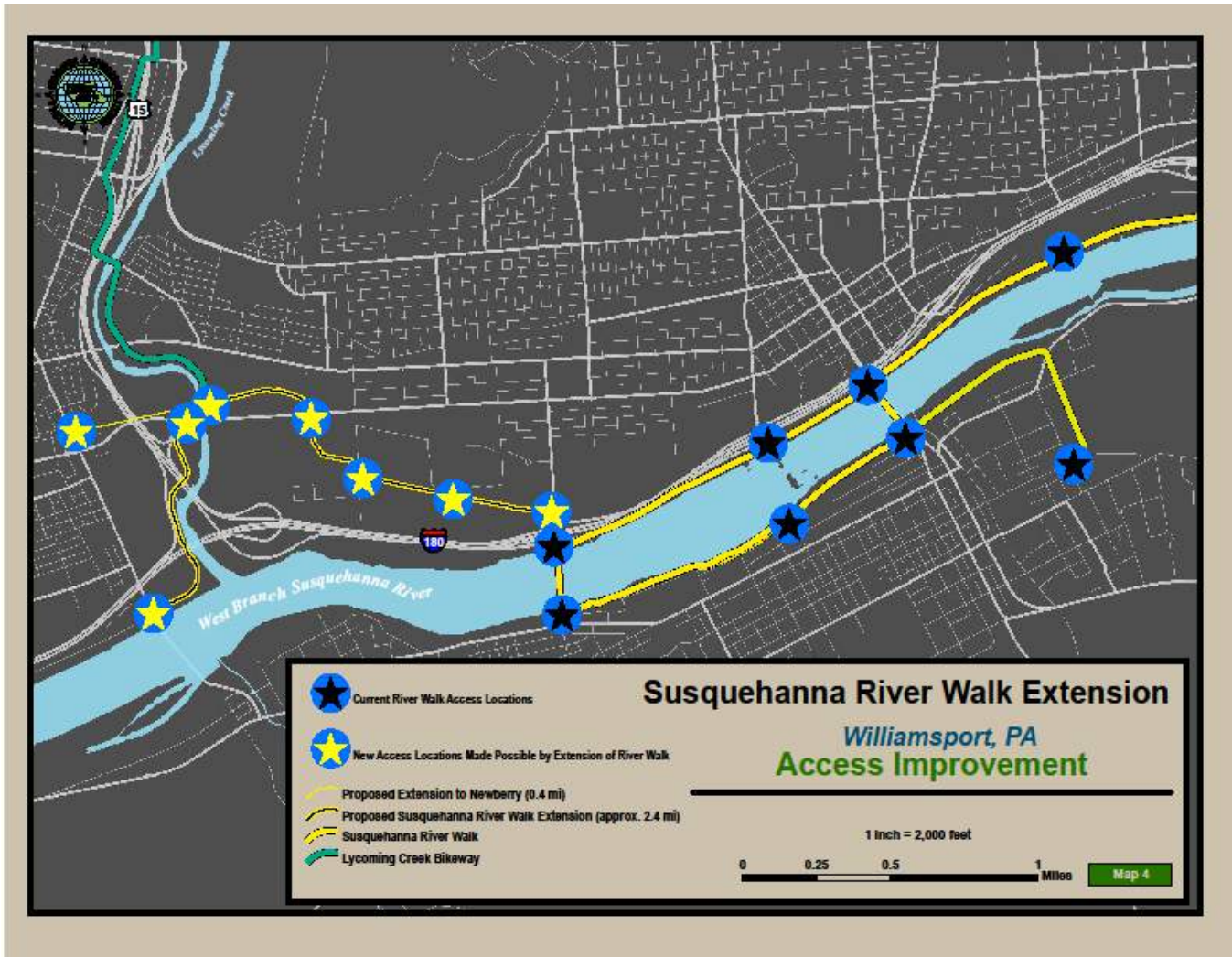
STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	SELECT PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM	FIRST YEAR	GWA PAT
2	PLANNING AND DESIGN TO DETERMINE FINAL ROUTE OF RIVERWALK EXTENSION FROM MAYNARD STREET TO SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK, INCLUDING NEWBERRY CONNECTION	YEAR ONE-YEAR TWO	LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, PENNDOT, USACE, DCNR

	➤ DCNR GRANT SECURED IN EARLY 2017		
3	PLANNING AND DESIGN OF BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS AND NEW RIVERWALK CONNECTION AT BASIN STREET	YEAR TWO	SEDA-COG JRA, LYCOMING COLLEGE, CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD.
4	BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERWALK EXTENSION	YEAR TWO-YEAR FOUR	LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNDOT, PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, USACE, DCNR
5	CONSTRUCT BIKE & PED UNDERPASS & NEW RIVERWALK CONNECTION AT BASIN ST	YEAR THREE – YEAR FOUR	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, SEDA-COG JRA
6	FEASIBILITY/PLANNING AND DESIGN OF RIVERWALK CONNECTION TO SOUTH REACH ROAD	YEAR FIVE - YEAR SEVEN	CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, DCNR, USACE, PENNDOT, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP
7	CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERWALK CONNECTION TO SOUTH REACH ROAD	YEAR EIGHT	CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, DCNR, USACE, PENNDOT, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP

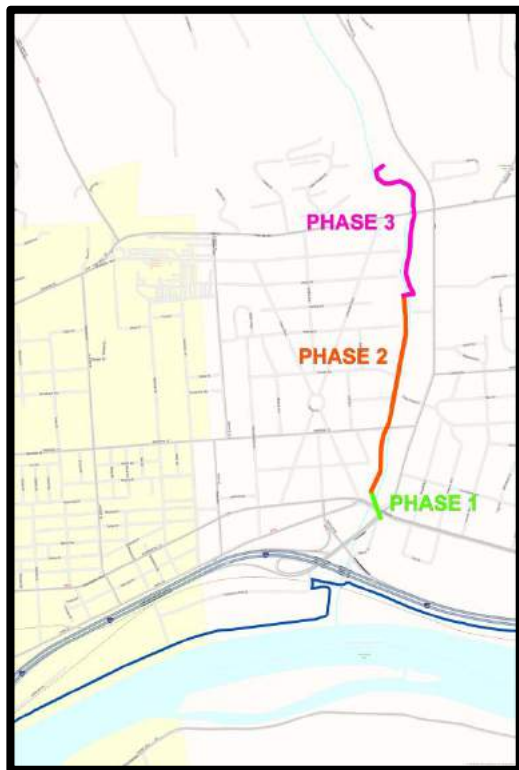
FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources for this project include PA DCNR; PENNDOT Multimodal Funds; Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds; PA DCED Multimodal Funds; and Act 13 Legacy Funds.

The following map displays the proposed Riverwalk extension project:



Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (Second of Three)



MILLERS RUN GREENWAY

This project will establish a greenway and trail along Millers Run in Loyalsock Township to connect the Susquehanna Riverwalk with the township’s schools and recreation center. The Millers Run Greenway will be a multi-use trail that connects the Susquehanna Riverwalk to multiple recreation assets in Loyalsock Township, including Bruce Henry Park, the Loyalsock Community Center, James Short Park and the township’s community swimming pool. The trail will be multi-functional and would be utilized for both transportation and recreational purposes. This trail would serve multiple users, including pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, and others. Connectivity with residential developments, schools, recreation areas, and business districts also represent important functionalities for this trail.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

This project expands and capitalizes on existing outdoor recreation infrastructure by extending the Riverwalk to connect with existing municipal parks. It runs through a densely-populated community, providing new options for non-motorized commuting to school and work, and an additional access point to the Riverwalk. It also reconnects the community to an impaired urban stream, creating new opportunities for nature observation while encouraging stewardship and restoration of the resource. Perhaps most important, this project provides a safe route for township residents to access the Riverwalk without having to navigate traffic on East Third Street and Northway Road.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Loyalsock Township

Other Partners – Loyalsock Township School District, Diamond Pointe Apartments, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PennDOT, PA DEP, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Lycoming County PCD

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PHASE I – 1A: LOYALSOCK COMMUNITY CENTER TO JAMES SHORT PARK/POOL COMPLEX	FIRST YEAR TAP GRANT RECEIVED FROM PENNDOT 2017	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP, PENNDOT, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
	1B: BRUCE HENRY PARK TO NORTHWAY ROAD		PARTNERSHIP, LYCOMING COUNTY PLANNING
2	PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PHASE 2 – BRUCE HENRY PARK TO EAST THIRD STREET	YEAR TWO	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP
3	CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I	YEAR TWO – YEAR THREE	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP
4	PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PHASE 3– EAST THIRD STREET TO THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVERWALK	YEAR THREE	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP, SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, PENNDOT
5	CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 2	YEAR THREE-YEAR FOUR	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP
6	CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 3A & 3B	YEAR FOUR – YEAR FIVE	LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources include PA DCNR programs; PennDOT TAP Funds; and Act 13 Legacy Funds.

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (Third of Three)

BALD EAGLE MOUNTAIN RIDGE TRAIL

Establish the Bald Eagle Mountain Ridge Trail through southern Lycoming County, connecting to Lock Haven in Clinton County. The Ridge Trail is envisioned as a multi-use recreation and conservation corridor linking the River Towns of the West Branch Susquehanna River. The Ridge Trail proposal uses existing and new trail and roadway segments to create a unified and formalized trail from Muncy to Lock Haven.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The Bald Eagle Mountain Ridge Trail will encourage diverse, non-motorized recreation (hiking, biking and equestrian use), creating a recreational amenity for residents and visitors. The Trail will connect people to the beauty and heritage of the mountain landscape, while interpreting and conserving important habitats and water resources. The Ridge Trail will build public-private partnerships and encourage regional coordination and cooperation in the project’s construction and sustainable operations and maintenance.



Mountain bikers prepare for an exciting trail ride

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Other Partners – WLCC, CCVB, DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, Lock Haven City Authority, WMWA, LCWSA, Lycoming County, Clinton County

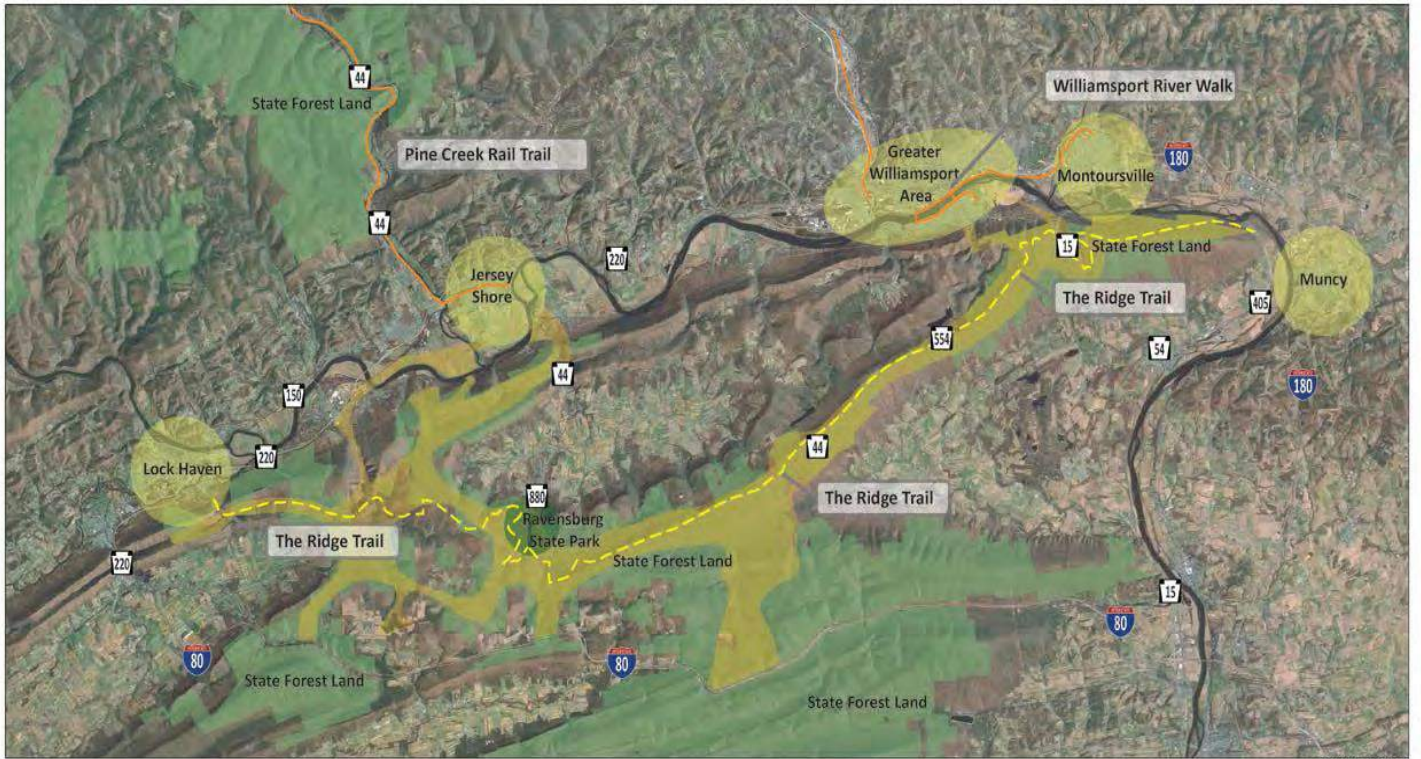
STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NO.	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	FORM A PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM/STEERING COMMITTEE	FIRST YEAR	GWA PAT
2	SEEK ADOPTION OF RIDGE TRAIL MASTER PLAN IN LYCOMING COUNTY AND CLINTON COUNTY WITH SUPPORT FROM DCNR	FIRST YEAR	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, LYCOMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
3	LAUNCH PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR PROJECT	FIRST YEAR	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, WLCC, CCVB
4	PHASE 1 - SUMMIT TRAIL DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR ONE – YEAR TWO	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, WMWA, ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
5	PHASE 1 - SUMMIT TRAIL AND SUMMIT TRAIL HEAD CONSTRUCTION	YEAR THREE	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, WMWA,

STEP No.	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
			ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
6	PHASE 1 - LOCK HAVEN CITY AUTHORITY LANDS DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR TWO	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, LOCK HAVEN CITY AUTHORITY
7	PHASE 1 - LOCK HAVEN CITY AUTHORITY TRAILS, CASTANEA AND ZINDEL TRAIL HEAD	YEAR THREE	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, LOCK HAVEN CITY AUTHORITY
8	PHASE 1 - CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION / SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROJECTS	YEAR THREE	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, WMWA
9	PHASE 2 - FALLING SPRING DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR FOUR	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
10	PHASE 2 - SAWALT TRAIL DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR FOUR	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
11	PHASE 2 - FALLING SPRING TRAIL AND PINE AND RAVENSBURG TRAIL HEAD CONSTRUCTION	YEAR FIVE	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
12	PHASE 2 - SAWALT TRAIL AND WHITE DEER TRAIL HEAD CONSTRUCTION	YEAR FIVE	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
13	PHASE 3 - SKYLINE DRIVE DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR SIX	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
14	PHASE 3 - ARMSTRONG ROAD DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR SIX	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
15	PHASE 3 - SKYLINE DRIVE TRAIL AND SKYLINE AND SUMMIT TRAIL HEAD CONSTRUCTION	YEAR SEVEN-EIGHT	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR
16	PHASE 3 - ARMSTRONG ROAD TRAIL AND ARMSTRONG AND CLINTON TRAIL HEAD CONSTRUCTION AND SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED	YEAR SEVEN-EIGHT	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, LCWSA
17	PHASE 4 - ROUTE 15 CROSSING DESIGN AND PERMITTING	YEAR EIGHT	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, PENNDOT
18	PHASE 4 - ROUTE 15 CROSSING CONSTRUCTION	YEAR NINE-TEN	SUSQUEHANNA GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP, DCNR, PENNDOT

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources for this project include PA DCNR; PENNDOT Multimodal funds; TAP funds; PA DCED Multimodal funds; and Act 13 Legacy Fund.



Bald Eagle Mountain Ridge Trail

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**• GWA PARKS IMPROVEMENT**

Continued improvements to parks within the GWA Planning Area, including softball field lighting in Short Park (Loyalsock Township), facilities improvements and managerial staff capacity for South Williamsport Park Complex, and various enhancements to Brandon Park and Memorial Park (City of Williamsport).

• GWA POOLS IMPROVEMENTS

Continued improvements to the public pools within the GWA area, including Memorial Park Pool (Splash Cove) and the Loyalsock Township pool, wading pool, and waterpark.



Memorial Park Pool

• WEST END SPORTS COMPLEX

The proposed West End Sports Complex, in the City of Williamsport, is a multi-faceted project that will provide many different recreational activities for people to enjoy in the GWA community. It is projected to be a (4) four soccer field complex adjacent to the I-180 corridor. A (4) four softball/youth baseball field and (1) one collegiate baseball field complex at the site of the current Elm Park. Two (2) adult-size softball fields for intramural and adult leagues on Penn College property (behind the current transfer station off of West Third Street) is also being considered. Additional future opportunities have been identified for improvements of the minor and tee ball fields at the Original Fields complex for 2 additional youth baseball fields. All of these properties would be connected by the Riverwalk Extension Project that is currently planned from Maynard Street to Susquehanna State Park.

This project would maximize existing parking in the areas around Bowman Field and Memorial Park. It would also enhance bicycle parking with additional capacity being added to meet the needs of those participating in soccer (or other uses) at the soccer field complex.

Given the close proximity to Memorial Park, the proposed Sports Complex will have the added advantage to offer families, coming to the area for tournament play, the opportunity to access a variety of other recreational amenities including the swimming pool during the summer season. It also will provide them the opportunity to either walk or bike the Susquehanna Riverwalk utilizing the future extension from Maynard Street to Susquehanna State Park. Future consideration can be given to adding additional amenities with the adjacent Lycoming Creek for water activities such as canoeing and kayaking. This project has the potential to also spur economic development given its location adjacent to the former carnival grounds that have been identified as lands ripe for redevelopment.

Priority Issue #4

Our multi-modal transportation system, particularly the airport, has deficiencies in safety, physical condition, and availability of facilities in some areas of the County.

Back Story The GWA Planning Area is blessed with an interconnected multi-modal transportation system that provides safe and efficient access to major regional markets as well as access to the local community. The major highway routes in the PAT area are I-180, US 15, and US 220, which are four-lane highways on the National Highway System. Some sections of this set of roads are part of the future Interstate 99 which will serve as a north-south connector between the PA Turnpike and I-86 in New York State.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is in the process of designing major access management improvements along US 220 to the immediate west of the GWA Planning Area, to enhance public safety and provide more efficient ingress and egress to developing areas. PennDOT is also designing and constructing major roadway reconstruction projects along 4th Street in Newberry and along West 3rd Street in the Williamsport's central business district.

The GWA Planning Area is the hub of Lycoming County's excellent public transit system, consisting of River Valley Transit (RVT)—the fixed-route provider and STEP—the shared-ride provider. RVT currently has a fleet of 29 buses of which six are CNG. It is estimated that by mid-2018, RVT will have 18 CNG vehicles, which will make 62% of the fleet CNG-fueled. RVT transports over 1.3 million passengers a year, an average of 4,300 passengers per day. They have a total of 19 routes that serve 20 municipalities, including the City.



The newly constructed Trade and Transit Center II

The Lycoming Valley Railroad and Norfolk Southern provide shortline and Class 1 rail service, respectively, to area industries and long haul freight operations, especially coal transport along the Harrisburg-Buffalo Mainline. In the City of Williamsport, safety improvements have recently been made at the Rail Road Crossings at Arch Street and Howard Street by SEDA-COG. Also, as part of this PennDOT Safety Improvement Program the Rail Road grade crossing at Depot Street

was abandoned and a quiet zone was established. The quiet zone will prohibit trains from using their horns in the residential section of Newberry, Williamsport.

This Planning Area is also served by the Williamsport Regional Airport, which is located immediately adjacent to the GWA in the Borough of Montoursville. The airport provides local residents and businesses access to commercial air service to Philadelphia with connections to numerous other global market destinations.

The GWA area also includes abundant urban trails, such as the Susquehanna Riverwalk, Loyalsock Bikeway, and Lycoming Creek Bikeway that provide alternative transportation and recreation opportunities. In addition to bikeways being considered a recreational amenity, the City of Williamsport's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has actively promoted bicycle infrastructure as a form of transportation infrastructure. Official bike routes in the City had been mapped in the 1970's, however, pavement markings or wayfinding elements were never incorporated. In 2016, this committee updated the official city bike map to identify streets and corridors that would provide the best connections



Lycoming Creek Bikeway

between residential areas, destinations such as schools and business districts, and the Riverwalk (see Appendix D for 2017 City Bike Map). Along with the updated bike map, the committee recommended a suite of ordinance amendments that would make the existing traffic code, planning code, and zoning code compliant with "complete streets" standards (design of streets to meet the needs of all users without prioritizing any particular mode of travel). City Council adopted these amendments in 2017 paving the way for the development of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian safety effort in the City.

The committee also facilitated a survey with both an online and an intercept portion (361 online/95 intercept). They found that:

- Over 50% of respondents were at least occasional bicycle users.
- The number of bicycle commuters would increase by 50% if riding a bicycle were made "easier and safer" in the city.
- Half of the people who stated that they currently "never" ride a bicycle would take up bicycle riding if steps were taken to increase safety and ease.

When asked what factors would lead people to consider riding a bicycle to be easier and safer, people overwhelmingly identified infrastructure deficiencies (such as lack of bicycle lanes or poor pavement) rather than focusing on un-addressable factors such as "weather." More than half of respondents felt that riding a bicycle in the city of Williamsport is currently unsafe and 96% responded that the city government

(Kim) Add language about MPO WATS bicycle / Ped Advisory committee here

Priority Issue Overview Despite the strong multi-modal transportation network described above, some transportation assets in the planning area suffer from deficiencies that impair mobility and present potential safety risks. A list of some key issues and concerns includes the following:

- Complete streetscape enhancements and the Susquehanna Riverwalk expansions.
- Ensure that safe pedestrian mobility and transportation mode alternatives are an integral consideration in all downtown revitalization efforts and traffic calming plans.
- Improve pedestrian crossings and create bicycle lanes at locations that are currently unsafe or currently underutilized by cyclists and pedestrians due to lack of infrastructure/safety.
- Improve transportation corridors from main arteries to critical facilities.
- Consider establishing a second connection to Commerce Park Drive by extending Basin Street since the Commerce Park dead-end situation yields economic development and public safety issues.
- Consider establishing a connection from Reach Road to Wahoo Drive.
- Other pedestrian and bike connections to enhance the off-road travel network, such as Millers Run Greenway.

Another significant transportation concern is the state of bridges. Bridges in Lycoming County are, on average, over 50 years old. There are 157 additional state and local bridges in the county that are not currently structurally deficient but any deterioration in deck, substructure, or superstructure would result in them being rated SD upon their next inspection.

In 2008, there were over 6,000 structurally deficient bridges on state roads in PA. PennDOT has cut that number nearly in half in less than 10 years. There are an unknown number of structurally deficient bridges on local roads in PA because PennDOT has an incomplete inventory. In Lycoming County alone, there are 204 locally owned bridges. Approximately 50 of these bridges are currently designated as “structurally deficient” (SD) in accordance with federal government bridge inspection criteria. This designation means these bridges typically cannot carry legal loads (40 tons in PA) or have other problems that require short term attention or the bridge may be closed to traffic.

Bridge closure will affect public safety such as emergency response and hinder economic development. Currently, Lycoming County is the only county in PA that inspects all locally owned bridges 8 feet or greater in span length. Federal government regulations require inspection of all publicly owned bridges over 20 feet long, however these regulations do not require bridges under 20 feet to be inspected. Lycoming County maintains that not inspecting these smaller bridges makes little sense as serious safety issues can still arise should a smaller bridge collapse. Therefore, our county has the best available data on all locally owned bridges. The Lycoming County Planning Department has completed a preliminary priority ranking of these bridges which considers the bridge condition and functionality.

To respond to this issue, Lycoming County operates an innovative local bridge inventory and inspection program. Therefore, spending can be effectively targeted to bridges that need it most. By working with PennDOT District 3 to prioritize work on SD state bridges in the county and developing a bundling program for local bridges, Lycoming County has a real chance of being the first and only county in PA to have addressed the “backlog” of bridge maintenance and repair problems.

The Lycoming County Planning Department is currently evaluating funding options for the bridge bundling program whereby groups of bridges can be designed and constructed in a more cost effective manner rather than undertaking individual bridge projects separately. Already, the PA Department of Transportation is realizing substantial cost and time savings by bundling groups of state-owned bridges into larger contracts as part of their PA Rapid Bridge Replacement Program. Presently, this PennDOT program is limited to only state-owned bridges and not locally owned bridges.

In addition to the issues discussed above, GWA PAT members’ focused on two major areas of concern:

- The Need for Airport Improvements
- The Pathway to Health

Key Implications A public survey was conducted in 2016 as part of the comprehensive planning process. More than 1,000 people took a survey. The respondents were asked to choose up to five areas where they would most like to see public resources invested. The third most chosen response was “roads, bridges and sidewalks.” It should be noted that while none of the structurally deficient bridges are in imminent danger of failure and have received regular inspections to ensure they are safe to use, action is still needed. Continued delay in addressing structurally deficient bridges may result in bridge closures or weight limits that would negatively impact emergency response and access to residents and businesses. The Williamsport Regional Airport is in dire need of replacement for burdensome maintenance, technical obsolescence and public safety reasons. The transportation route for emergency vehicles traveling to the Williamsport Regional Medical Center is the focus of the Pathway to Health initiative. That project addresses health and safety concerns.



Structurally deficient bridge segment

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (First of Two)**SUPPORT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TERMINAL AND NEW ACCESS ROAD AT WILLIAMSPORT REGIONAL AIRPORT**

To address existing facility deficiencies and position the airport for long-term viability, this project will create a new 30,000 square foot terminal facility which is modern and energy efficient and has space to house two additional airlines. This project will include state of the art passenger processing and security systems with a secured hold room that will comfortably accommodate up to 200 passengers which is over five times the capacity of the current hold area.

This project is consistent with the Williamsport Area Transportation Study Long Range Transportation Plan adopted by the Williamsport Metropolitan Planning Organization in December 2013. The need for this project is also supported in an FAA approved Airport Terminal Replacement Feasibility Study approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2014.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The Williamsport Regional Airport Terminal Building Replacement addresses the above noted deficiencies in physical facilities and airline operations and services. By addressing these current limitations, the airport's value as a transportation facility, quality of life asset, and economic driver will be expanded.

This project has the potential to positively impact the regional economy by providing the opportunity to add more flights to more destinations at competitive air fares by stimulating more airline competition. The current annual economic impact of the airport is approximately \$66 million based on a PennDOT Bureau of Aviation commissioned study supporting 253 jobs directly related to airport operations and tenants. It is anticipated that this project will create opportunities to

expand the positive economic impacts of the airport. A modern full service airport can also help recruit additional industries to the area as well as better support current employer air service needs, especially with the likely resurgence of Marcellus Shale activity. This project will include a building design which will allow future expansion to ensure the facility is able to continually respond to changing demand and operational needs.



A plane takes off from the Williamsport Regional Airport

This project will also improve ingress and egress at the terminal through a separate but related project that will extend Montour Street to connect with Airport Road and provide a second access to the airport.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Williamsport Municipal Airport Authority

Other Partners – County of Lycoming, PennDOT Bureau of Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, First Community Foundation Partnership, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Senator Gene Yaw, Representative Garth Everett



Artist rendition of the new airport terminal

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	ADVERTISE FOR BIDS	JANUARY 2017	AIRPORT AUTHORITY
2	AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS	MARCH 2017	AIRPORT AUTHORITY
3	INITIATE CONSTRUCTION	APRIL 2017	AIRPORT AUTHORITY
4	COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION	JUNE 2018	AIRPORT AUTHORITY

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Committed Funding Source	Amount
Act 13 (County of Lycoming)	\$ 3,000,000
State Transportation Capital Budget	\$ 5,000,000
Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program, (RACP)	\$ 3,000,000
Passenger Facility Charge	\$ 1,500,000
DCED Multi-Modal Transportation Funds	\$ 1,500,000
FHWA TEA-21 Earmark	\$ 1,172,000
First Community Foundation Partnership	\$ 1,000,000
Total	\$ 16,172,000

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (Second of Two)**PATHWAY TO HEALTH**

The Williamsport Pathway to Health project is a joint, public-private partnership between the City of Williamsport, the County of Lycoming, and UPMC-Susquehanna (formerly Susquehanna Health System).

UPMC-Susquehanna is the largest employer in the City and the County, and is one of the most important organizations to stabilizing the economies of both. Completion of this complex, multi-phase project was ranked as the second highest priority transportation project by the GWA PAT members.

Nearly 15 years ago, UPMC-Susquehanna was evaluating the option of leaving the City for a greenfield site to the east of Williamsport. After substantial review, analysis and dialogue, UPMC-Susquehanna committed to remain in



Susequehana Health in Williamsport

the City and make a \$250 million private investment to extensively renovate and expand its Williamsport Hospital complex. This multi-year project included the construction of the new Patient Tower and Health Innovation Center, and site design improvements to the campus. The decision to remain in the City was achieved in large part because Lycoming County and the City of Williamsport made a significant commitment to making improvements to transportation infrastructure to modernize the corridors leading to the hospital.

A more direct route was designated from I-180 to the doorstep of the hospital. Identified as the “Pathway to Health,” this connecting link not only helps to bring motorists from I-180 to the hospital campus, but it also upgrades a safe pathway for pedestrians to enable residents of the city and the region to better access the new healthcare facilities.

The Pathway to Health project has received wide-spread public support as it has developed over the past ten years. A project of this magnitude and size was intended to be achieved in multiple phases as funding opportunities were identified and resources were secured.

Phases I and II of the Pathway to Health, which have been completed, included new concrete sidewalks, curbs, handicapped-accessible curb ramps, safety lighting, new traffic signals (including EMS pre-emption capability), signage, paving improvements, and landscaping.

Phase III will be constructed in Summer 2017. In January 2017, funding for Phase IV was awarded in the amount of \$798,500 to complete the final phase by the end of 2018. Phase IV will also include a gateway into the Historic District of the City.



The Pathway to Health promotes accessibility and safety

See Appendix D – Reference Map for Pathway to Health Plan

HOW THE PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The Pathway to Health project promotes the federal-level Healthy Communities Initiative by promoting pedestrian access to the hospital. It also enhances emergency response to the hospital by streamlining the approach to the hospital for emergency services vehicles through traffic signal pre-emption, cutting emergency response time in half from prior conditions.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agencies – The City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming, and UPMC-Susquehanna

Other Partners – River Valley Regional YMCA, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Susquehanna Community Health and Dental Center

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	PHASES I AND II	COMPLETED	CITY/COUNTY
2	CONSTRUCT PHASE III	SUMMER 2017	CITY/COUNTY
3	CONSTRUCT PHASE IV	SUMMER-FALL 2018	CITY/COUNTY

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

All funding for the transportation components of the Pathway to Health project has been secured through PENNDOT TAP funds with local match from the City of Williamsport Community Development funds. The final TAP award was made in January 2017.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**1. SYLVAN DELL BICYCLE LANES**

Create dedicated bicycle lanes on Sylvan Dell Road within Armstrong Twp, using as an example the design of the bicycle lanes on Greevey Road in Loyalsock Township.

2. CITY BICYCLE ROUTES

Implement the forthcoming recommendations of the City of Williamsport Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding the revision of official city bicycle routes.

3. LITTLE LEAGUE BOULEVARD

Improve pedestrian crossings at multiple locations on Little League Boulevard in the City of Williamsport, particularly the intersection of Pine Street and Little League Blvd.

4. COMMERCE PARK DRIVE

Establish a second connection to Commerce Park Drive and an additional Riverwalk connection through Basin Street to improve multimodal transportation connectivity in the City of Williamsport and Loyalsock Township.

5. COMPLETE STREETS

Develop policies and update ordinances to ensure all street reconstruction projects are evaluated under the 'complete streets' guidelines prior to design and development. Complete Streets are for everyone and accommodates all modes of transportation. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

6. SHARED PARKING

Explore shared parking opportunities.

7. RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT (RVT) BUS CONVERSIONS

Support conversion of River Valley Transit buses from diesel to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

8. 3RD STREET BICYCLE LANES

Create dedicated bicycle lanes on 3rd Street from Lycoming Creek east to Basin Street within the City of Williamsport.

9. CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) TRAFFIC PLAN

Develop a specific plan for traffic calming in the CBD in the City of Williamsport.

10. HIGH STREET

Improve pedestrian crossings at multiple locations on High Street in the City of Williamsport.

11. REACH ROAD

Establish a connection from Reach Road to Wahoo Drive to improve transportation connectivity within the City of Williamsport.

12. SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

Connect the western end of Susquehanna State park to South Reach Road within the City of Williamsport.

13. LERTA AREA ACCESS

Establish an additional connection to the LERTA designated area bounded by Maynard Street, Rose Street, I-180 and the railroad corridor to improve multimodal connectivity to this potential key development site.

14. RECONSTRUCTION OF MILLIONAIRE DRIVE

Reconstruct the road leading to Williamsport Area High School, including repaving, creating of a new four-foot-wide sidewalk, and replacement of curbing and stormwater infrastructure.

15. MILLERS RUN GREENWAY TRAIL

This project will establish a greenway and trail along Millers Run in Loyalsock Township to connect the Susquehanna Riverwalk with the Township's schools and recreation center.

Priority Issue #5



Significant cultural and historical resources are not adequately documented, protected, and promoted.

Back Story Lycoming County and specifically the Williamsport area is blessed with a growing arts culture and with outdoor walking and biking trails that separately provide many opportunities for the residents to express their creativity and enjoy the beauty of the Williamsport area. Leveraged together, these provide an opportunity to grow the economy while providing more opportunity for our creative residents to express themselves.

The county has a rich cultural history and contains many historic structures and sites. The GWA Planning Area in particular is the home base for most of the countywide arts, culture, and history organizations, such as the Lycoming Arts, Lycoming County Historical Society, Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, Williamsport Community Concert Association, the Williamsport Civic Ballet, and many others.

The GWA Planning Area hosts many of the county’s premier arts and cultural venues, including the Avenue of the Arts, and:

- Community Arts Center
- Community Theater League
- Williamsport Scottish Rite
- Pajama Factory
- Mary Welch Theater—Lycoming College
- Klump Auditorium—PCT
- Thomas Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society
- First Friday Celebrations
- Ways Garden
- Downtown art galleries



Community Arts Center

The GWA Planning Area is also home to a myriad of historically significant structures and sites that draw interest from tourists and residents alike, who are eager to explore and appreciate the cultural heritage of this region. The City of Williamsport has a celebrated and designated historic district known as “Millionaire’s Row”. In 2014, the *Original Little League Field*, located on West Fourth Street, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Distinguished designations such as this are an honor that generates community pride and contributes to a greater sense of place for those that live there.

Priority Issue Overview Cultural and historical resources are not new topics—they were included as issues in the 2005 GWA Multi-Municipal Plan. During the 2016 Comp Plan process, GWA PAT members and local citizens listed an expanded array of issues they were concerned about:

- Recognize the arts and cultural assets as an economic driver
- Identify and preserve the historical transportation routes in the planning area
- Evaluate existing zoning and building codes and subdivision and land development regulations, to ensure they are conducive to the promotion of a vibrant and livable community
- Establish a neighborhood preservation program to support property maintenance and beautification, house-by-house
- Reestablish the historic sign program
- Establish neighborhood associations to promote a sense of neighborhood identity, community, and pride in ownership, and to give residents a stronger voice in local government affairs
- Develop a culture, arts and heritage trails initiative in any areas designated by municipalities as culturally and historically significant
- Increase public awareness of the cultural and historical resources unique to the area.
- Promote the implementation of the Old City/East Third Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy
- Promote the implementation of the Lower West Branch River Conservation Plan

While the above items were each favorably supported, GWA PAT members focused on two major issues:

- Harness, protect and preserve historical resources and assets
- Promote arts and cultural events by expanding, marketing, and reaching out to a variety of audiences in a more efficient and effective way

Historical Resources. Historic resources often help bring a sense of place to our communities and give our communities character. Historical structures are unique properties. In particular, when historic structures are maintained well, there are generally higher property values in the surrounding neighborhoods. While the GWA is rich with historical sites and structures (the City of Williamsport having the greatest concentration), there is not a clear understanding of what is important to preserve nor is there a comprehensive approach to preserving what's most meaningful. The first step is ensuring that historically significant properties are identified then decisions can be made by communities on how to manage those resources.

Historical inventorying and preservation initiatives have not been fully addressed since the 2005 Multi-municipal Plan; in fact, most of the relevant plans and studies that focus on historic structures predate that 2005 plan.



Millionaire's Row

In 1971, Lycoming County Planning Commission completed a county-wide historical site survey that identified 273 historic resources within the county. The 1971 report, the "Historic Sites and Landmarks of Lycoming County," served as the foundation for the County's 1974 Historic Preservation Plan. The recommendations of this Historical Preservation Plan are still relevant today as is the inventory of the historical buildings in the Planning Area. This paper inventory has since been digitized and inventory work has continued.

In 2005, the City of Williamsport completed another inventory of historic resources resulting in a list of 166 Significant Historic Buildings and Sites that were added as an amendment to its Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. In 2015, the County of Lycoming worked with the City and a consultant to survey each property 50 years old or older within the City of Williamsport. The purpose of this survey was to review, refine, and amend the city's 2005 list of Significant Historic Buildings and Sites. This survey ultimately created a new list of 268 significant buildings. Of the 268, 106 were identified on the 2005 list of Significant Historic Buildings and Sites and the remaining 162 were previously unidentified. The survey found that Williamsport's historic building stock is comprised of dwellings, commercial, industrial and municipal buildings. Surveyed significant historic structures date from the late 19th, early 20th, and mid-20th century.



Restored Historic Home along East Third Street

Also in 2015, the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development created a Heritage Plan Map as part of its LycoMap series. This interactive map includes sites listed on the County's 1971 historic resource inventory, 1974 historic preservation plan, and the 2015 draft Williamsport Historic Structures Survey. The map also includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places and historic districts in Jersey Shore, Muncy, and Williamsport.

Continued efforts are needed to identify, protect, and preserve local historic and cultural assets and promote cultural activities. To ensure the protection of local character and history in all of the GWA municipalities, it is important to inventory additional historic assets, assess their conditions, and pursue opportunities for preservation. In terms of protecting these historical resources, the City has adopted protective ordinances for its Historic District and vanguards those assets carefully.

Historic preservation efforts throughout the remainder of the GWA Planning Area have been less formalized, however, a Planning Area-focused program would help in recognizing that there are noteworthy historic and cultural assets throughout the region.

Arts & Culture. Lycoming Arts is a countywide organization dedicated to the promotion of all forms of art and serves as a lead agency to work with a variety of partners, including business, community organizations, and individuals. Since 1995, Lycoming Arts focused on the City of Williamsport, in particular, fostering the branding of Williamsport as an “Art Town” in order to attract more cultural tourism. It is a brand that can include art, history, baseball, and the outdoors because it is a unique expression of the people that live in an area. This focus has been deliberate. The City is not only Lycoming County’s hub of population, commerce, services and tourism, but it is northcentral Pennsylvania’s center of cultural activity. The work done and progress made in the City serves as a model for creative place-making around the county and the greater region as well. Lycoming Arts realizes that it is time to start considering expanding its reach into other parts of the county.



Expanding the diversity and exposure to the arts has been proven to improve and strengthen communities. Arts and Cultural experiences may be very instrumental in generating the following benefits:

- Enhanced social capital of the community
- Increased sense of collective identity of a place
- Enrichment in the lives of underserved populations, such as low-income and minority families
- Increased programming within the schools
- Promotes volunteerism
- An economic driver for the businesses in Lycoming County

2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



Furthermore, the presence of arts organizations and prevalence of arts events may play a role in attracting residents and businesses to (re)locate to a community by improving its image and making it more appealing. In particular, Lycoming County is fortunate to serve as the eastern gateway to the Pennsylvania Wilds, which touts the value of the outdoor experience in north central/north western PA but also recognizes the value of growing and connecting unique small businesses in the PA Wilds region. Many of these small businesses are focused on the arts and the interpretation of the great outdoors as an art form. Lycoming Arts believes a stronger connection to the PA Wilds organization will allow them to position themselves to promote “where the arts have gone wild.”



Bullfrog Brewery Mural

Although Lycoming Arts has grown over the past decade, in order to expand its reach, additional capacity will be needed. Moving forward, Lycoming Arts intends to: create a business plan, begin fundraising from diverse sources, create a three-year plan for implementation of specific projects, hire an executive director, and consider creating a permanent office/storefront to serve as an informational hub and a retail outlet for local artists.

In a 2016 online survey, conducted by Lycoming Arts, respondents felt that the strongest aspects of arts and culture in the County were:

- Variety of programs and events offered
- Level of community support and engagement
- Cultural tourism
- Availability of free programs and events

- Public art installations

The weakest aspects were the coordinated communication of events and programs, levels of government funding and policy support, lack of media coverage, and lack of economic development resources available to the arts and culture initiatives.

Respondents felt that the top priorities for government support of the arts and culture should be for festivals and community events, public art, youth art programs, and general support for arts and culture organizational capacity to carry out these activities.

There appears to be strong public interest in the historical resources as well as the arts and culture of Lycoming County. A public survey, conducted in 2016 as part of the County comprehensive planning process, collected responses from more than 1,000 people. Respondents were asked what they liked most about Lycoming County and wanted to preserve. Local History and the Arts received the fourth highest number of positive comments.

Key Implications If the GWA's historic and cultural resources are not inventoried, documented, developed, supported, celebrated, and protected, then there is the unavoidable risk of losing them. Moreover, the loss of these resources may precipitate cascading impacts throughout the GWA Planning Area, including:

- Diminishment of the character and heritage of the GWA Planning Area
- Decreased quality of life for residents
- Reduced recreational and educational opportunities
- Loss of tourism and other potential ripple effects on local economies and land values
- Negative impact to the tax base due to vacancies and reduced land values



The Cell Block Night Club

Top Viable Projects of Regional Significance for this Issue

LYCOMING ARTS' CULTURE, ARTS, AND HERITAGE TRAILS INITIATIVE

As the first step in expanding the countywide organization's reach, Lycoming Arts seeks to develop a *Culture, Arts, and Heritage Trails Initiative*.

In Williamsport, Loyalsock and South Williamsport, a Cultural Trail will be an urban pedestrian/bike trail that will connect the Riverwalk, the creek trails, the cultural districts (downtown, historic districts, colleges), the neighborhoods, historic sites, entertainments and public art in a way that encourages residents and visitors to get out and explore the built and natural environments.

Throughout the county's rural areas, multiple and various Cultural Trails will connect river trails, waterways, trails, historic sites, scenic routes and storytelling sites with pedestrian/bike routes that invite residents and visitors to explore our story, our land and our natural beauty.

Starting with the Urban Trail network to create a model for Cultural Trail Development, Lycoming Arts is taking the lead on this project in partnership with Williamsport Bicycle Committee, Susquehanna Greenways and Our Towns. The primary models for this project are the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and the local bike tour The Tour De Bill developed by David and Louisa Stone.

In order to fully realize the intent and ability of the *Culture, Arts, and Heritage Trails Initiative* Lycoming Arts plans to augment its volunteer base by hiring a full-time, paid executive director. The organization seeks to become more efficient, focused, and professionalized in implementing events, programs and projects. The objective is to perform greater marketing and networking outside the immediate area and enhance the creative place-making opportunities along with municipalities and volunteer organizations throughout the county.

The trail will identify areas designated by municipalities as culturally and historically significant, including bike routes, driving routes, walking tours, Indian pathways, canals, historic structures and sites, arts, cemetery, and Little League tours. There will be a need to define other improvements needed to be successful, such as: new striping, enhanced crosswalks, bike racks, bike rentals or bike share programs, and signage. This effort will be coordinated with Lumber Heritage Region and PA Wilds.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

Expanding the capacity of Lycoming Arts will allow it to support a wider variety of project and programs to create regional unity. The Lycoming Arts organization, and the Lycoming County arts community in general, have demonstrated that they understand the value of recognizing our community's heritage as a key part of our contemporary arts scene. Local heritage themes are often woven into newly created art, particularly public art installations (the "Inspiration Williamsport" and the "Woodhick" statue on the River Walk are two recent, worthy examples). Expanding the capacity of the Lycoming Arts organization will allow it to take on additional projects to celebrate the arts, culture and heritage of the GWA region and the County. Foremost among those projects is the planned Culture, Arts, and Heritage Trails Initiative.

Developing the Culture, Arts, and Heritage Trail Initiative as a primarily bike and pedestrian tour expands the diversity and exposure to the arts by promoting health, recreation, and tourism.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Lycoming Arts

Other Partners – Municipalities of the GWA, Lycoming County PCD, Lycoming County Visitors’ Bureau/Chamber of Commerce, Williamsport Recreation Department and Bike Committee, First Community Foundation Partnership, local businesses, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, public and private school systems, Little League World Series, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Central Pennsylvania Film Office, and other community non-profits

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	SELECT A PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM (LED BY LYCOMING ARTS); BEGIN MONTHLY PLANNING MEETINGS	FALL 2017/WINTER 2018	LYCOMING ARTS, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, OTHER PARTNERS
2	CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN TO FUND NEW POSITION; CREATE THREE-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION; BEGIN FUNDRAISING & GRANT APPLICATIONS	2018	LYCOMING ARTS, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, OTHER PARTNERS— CONSIDER USING SCORE
3	ADVERTISE AND HIRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION	FALL 2018-SPRING 2019	LYCOMING ARTS
4	DESIGN AND DEVELOP THE CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE TRAIL	2019-2021	LYCOMING ARTS, LYCOMING COUNTY PCD, OTHER PARTNERS

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources include the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; National Endowment for the Arts; City of Williamsport Recreation Department; Lycoming County Visitors’ Bureau/Chamber of Commerce, including hotel tax revenues; Lycoming Arts membership fees and private donations; and revenues from Lycoming Arts events, such as special fundraisers or merchandise sales. Act 13 recreation funds could potentially support staff time in planning specific events relevant to the fund’s purpose.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue

- 1. COMPLETE THE HISTORICAL STRUCTURES DIGITAL INVENTORY**

The inventory and catalogue of historic structures, as documented in 1971 and 1974, has been successfully digitized by Lycoming County/PCD. The County's Historical Preservation Plan is over 40 years old. It is a document whose contents and recommendations are still relevant today. For the past 40 plus years, there has been no sustained effort to update the original document's inventory of historical places and structures

In 2015, the County of Lycoming completed historic structure surveys for sites in Jersey Shore, Montgomery, Muncy Borough, and Williamsport in order to begin to review, refine, and amend the County's 1971 inventory of historic sites and landmarks. The resulting reports are initial assessments of the County's historic resources and will guide the development of an updated, countywide historic resource inventory. These lists represent the group of potential additional structures that have become eligible for historical consideration.

2. RETAIL OUTLET ON THE ARTS

The creation of a retail outlet would serve as an informational hub to display local artists' works and disseminate brochures for arts venues, including galleries and performing art spaces, maps of cultural and historic trails, and other resources that may be produced by the organization or its partners to help promote arts, cultural and history.

3. NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Establish a neighborhood preservation program to support property maintenance and beautification, house-by-house.

4. RIVER WALK SCULPTURE PARK

Implement the River Walk Sculpture Park by installing additional public art locations along the River Walk.

5. AVENUE OF THE ARTS

Implement the Avenue of the Arts plan along 4th Street in the City of Williamsport.

6. FAXON CIRCLE

Enhance and improve the Faxon Circle park area in Loyalsock Township through the installation of brick pavers, benches, trees and landscaping; and the placement of a historical marker commemorating the first planned community built in Lycoming County.

7. HISTORIC SIGN/MARKER PROGRAM

Implement an arts and historical marker/plaque program to improve neighborhood identify and engagement.

8. CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT DOWNTOWN HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT OVERLAY

Create a downtown historic conservation zoning overlay district to protect the character-defining streetscapes of the downtown neighborhood from out-of-character alterations, new construction, and demolition. Establish a set of design guidelines to maintain the historic character of the district. See JMT's 2015 "City of Williamsport Historic Structures Survey" for additional information and recommendations.

Priority Issue #6**Drugs, particularly heroin and opioids, are creating significant social, economic, public health, and safety problems across the County**

Back Story Nationally, drug abuse and drug overdose are becoming a major health problem. According to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School Of Public Health report titled The Prescription Opioid Epidemic: An Evidence-Based Approach: “Drug overdose death rates in the U.S. have increased five-fold between 1980 and 2008, making drug overdose the leading cause of injury death.” In 2013, opioid analgesics were involved in 16,235 deaths — far exceeding deaths from any other drug or drug class, licit or illicit. Specifically, in 2014, nearly 2,500 Pennsylvanians died from drug-related causes, a 20 percent increase from the previous year, according to the PA State Coroners Association. This currently puts PA as seventh in the nation for drug-related overdose deaths.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), in 2012 an estimated 2.1 million Americans were addicted to opioid pain relievers and 467,000 were addicted to heroin. These estimates do not include an additional 2.5 million or more pain patients who may be suffering from an opioid use disorder because the NSDUH excludes individuals receiving legitimate opioid prescriptions.

Other important national statistics from the September 2014 Report for the Center for Rural PA:

- 4.2 million Americans age 12 and older have used heroin at least once.
- 80% of heroin addicts reported abusing prescription opioids before starting heroin.
- Health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers in 2012.
- Heroin abuse affects one out of every four families.

There are significant numbers of people in the country that need treatment and are not receiving it. According to the September 2014 Report for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania the Federal Government reports that only 1 in 10 individuals in the nation that need treatment are able to access it due to a lack funding for addiction services.

Across Pennsylvania, heroin and opioid abuse is becoming a serious epidemic. According the Center for Rural Pennsylvania December 2015 Report - Heroin: Combating this Epidemic in Pennsylvania:

- From 2007-2012 over 3,000 Pennsylvanians died from overdoses.
- Overdose deaths increased by an astounding 470 percent over the last two decades.
- More people are dying from overdoses than from car accidents ages 20-44 in Pennsylvania.
- 52,150 Pennsylvanians are receiving addiction treatment services.
- Approximately 760,703 Pennsylvanians remain untreated.

- 70-80% of criminal offenders in Pennsylvania have serious drug abuse problems.
- Access to treatment is also a concern within the State. According to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's December 2015 report, approximately 1 in 8 Pennsylvanians are not able to access addiction treatment due to a lack of funding.

What is important to understand is that there is not a typical user of heroin. Heroin addiction frequently starts as an opioid addiction. It is cheap and accessible. Heroin addiction brings an increase in crime and it is not easy to beat. However, treatment programs can help.

In Lycoming County, the West Branch Drug and Alcohol Commission serves as the Single County Authority (SCA). It has been in operation since 1974 as a private, non-profit human service agency for helping people find their way to recovery. The Commission is responsible for facilitating the provision of a comprehensive and balanced continuum of care of quality substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services for Lycoming and Clinton County residents. The Commission seeks to reduce the addiction, alleviate its effect and ultimately eliminate the abuse and misuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Priority Issue Overview Heroin is rapidly becoming an epidemic throughout Lycoming County; moreover, heroin and opioid abuse crosses all socioeconomic groups all ages and all races.

Lycoming County is experiencing the same epidemic as all of rural Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania as a whole, and even the United States. According to Lycoming County District Attorney Eric R. Linhardt, in 2012 the heroin epidemic that was devastating Pennsylvania began to impact Lycoming County. There are typically 50-60 heroin overdoses in Lycoming County every month, most of these victims survive. However, the death toll in the County has risen from 8 in 2013 to 28 in 2016. This represents a 250% increase over a three-year period.

A public survey, conducted in 2016 as part of the comprehensive planning process, established the level of angst and concern by the public regarding the drug problem and the crime that accompanies that issue. Presented in an online format as well as in-person interviews at public events, the survey captured the responses of more than 1,000 local citizens. The respondents were asked to choose up to five areas where they would most like to invest public resources. Crime and drugs was the second most frequently selected response, garnering more than 70% of all respondents from of a list of twelve potential investment areas.

Even more telling was the response to the question about what residents would like to see changed in Lycoming County. In that survey, crime was by far the most frequently received comment.

To address this staggering issue, GWA PAT members considered a number of potential approaches:

- REHABILITATE--Support the provision of treatment, rehabilitation, education and counseling to prevent addiction and assist recovery.
- EDUCATE--Reach students at a young age to impress upon them the dangers before possible drug use begins.
- PROTECT--Continue to evaluate the need for a paid police department.

- ENGAGE--Promote volunteerism among all populations and young people in particular through the use of social media and applications, such as the currently popular Pokemon Go app.

Worthy of noting, is that there are several methadone treatment clinics located in the GWA, including in the City of Williamsport and Old Lycoming Township.

Key Implications According to District Attorney Linhardt, from 2012-2016 the crime numbers in Lycoming County rose by 20%, nearly erasing all of the progress that had been made since 2008 in reducing crime in the County. The increase was directly attributable to heroin cases. The heroin crisis has not only resulted in an increase of drug possession cases but also resulted in an increase in shoplifting, DUI while impaired by drugs, credit card fraud, prostitution, burglary and robbery as addicts commit more crimes to support their habit.

Moreover, the heroin and opioid plight is ubiquitous. It is attacking every municipality in the GWA Planning Area regardless of the income or educational level of their residents. Too many families in these six municipalities have been devastated by the human toll from heroin and opioid addiction. It is especially upsetting when this issue hits their children. All too often drug-related overdoses have been listed as the cause of death.

This has a ripple affect all through the criminal justice system from high probation and parole caseloads to overcrowding in the County prison and clogged court schedules. The Lycoming County Criminal Justice System has worked hard over the last half decade to address and overcome the overcrowding issues in the County Prison. The male overcrowding issue has been on a successful downward trend, however, the female population continues to increase and overcrowding conditions persist. The county budget has been significantly affected by of the heroin epidemic due to multi-faceted criminal justice system cost increases, such as: recidivism with multiple periods of incarceration, tying up the court schedule, additional work for APO (Adult Probation Officer), the district attorney, and the public defender's office, as well as the community resources needed for the families and children of the defendants.

The heroin epidemic is also impacting various departments of Lycoming County resulting in increased expenses and therefore increased budgets. As this occurs, the budget increases in some departments has induced unexpected/negative impacts on other departments. The ripple effect of these budget reductions is to limit or substantially reduce the opportunity to implement new priority projects. Moreover, in some instances, these budget decreases have hampered them from providing their current level of public service.

The bottom line is that the County Commissioners and staff have had to face the vexing challenge of finding a way to provide balanced resources to all departments and not just those departments directly impacted by the heroin epidemic.

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**SUPPORT FOUR MAJOR INITIATIVES****Support Project Bald Eagle**

- Local governments and schools can assist by hosting public educational meetings in their municipal buildings to help the community better understand the nature and extent of the epidemic.
- Municipalities and local Police Departments may consider partnering with the County DA to have Drug Take-Back Programs in addition to the program administered by District Attorney's office. A drop box, for example, could be set up for unwanted prescription or over the counter drugs. They would then be safely disposed of.
- Municipalities may consider using their websites, newsletters, and other means of communication to provide information and education about the issue. For example, Doylestown, PA has a Drug Awareness, Prevention and Education information page on their website to keep the community informed.

Support County Re-entry Programing

- Financial assistance from Lycoming County to continue extensive programming particularly related to drug recidivism

Support Law Enforcement and Public Education Programs

- Continue to provide financial and staff support for other educational awareness programs, in the community and in the schools
- The community and parents to educate themselves on the use of prescription drug abuse and overdoses while maintaining effective pain management. Education on the best and safest prescribing and pain management practices.
- For municipality's law enforcement agencies to work closely with West Branch Drug and Alcohol and the criminal justice system to understand and adopt effective intervention efforts – police-assisted referrals into treatment models.
- Municipality first responder and law enforcement naloxone projects

Support Drug & Alcohol Treatment Programs

- Work to support the West Branch Drug and Alcohol Commission prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery programs.
- Friends and Family Naloxone Project
- Support the Williamsport Family Practice Center in Old Lycoming Township, which is a Methadone Treatment Clinic

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

- Lycoming County Government – staff and financial resources TBD
- PA State Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)
- Federal and State Grants

Endnotes:

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5. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings. 2013, NSDUH Ser. H-46, DHHS Publ. No. SMA 13-4795. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA.

6. Kolodny A, Courtwright DT, Hwang CS, Kreiner P, Eadie JL, Clark TW, Alexander GC. The Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Public Health Approach to an Epidemic of Addiction. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2015; 36:559-574.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**1. NEIGHBORHOOD INDICATORS DATABASE**

Following national model of the Urban Institute, establish a regional Community Information System/Neighborhood Indicators Database to provide local governments, institutions, non-profits and other agencies with block-level information to identify distressed areas and target efforts to those areas to provide the maximum return on investment.

2. POLICING

Place more police officers on the street to increase drug interdiction.

Priority Issue #7



Downtown and village center areas across the County are not thriving or achieving their maximum potential.

Back Story The GWA Planning Area includes three different types of municipal government, four unique downtown experiences and various combinations of urban/suburban/rural settings. What these six municipalities share in common, however, is the depth of their history and heritage – each community was settled over 220 years ago.

Municipality	Settled	Incorporated
Williamsport	1786	1866
South Williamsport	1790	1886
Duboisstown	1773	1878
Loyalsock	1768	1786
Old Lycoming	1773	1785
Armstrong	1795	1842

The downtowns of each municipality in the GWA Planning Area reflect the character and culture of their communities.

Williamsport’s downtown is represented by its Central Business District, which serves as the commercial and governmental hub of both the City as well as the County. Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships have well-developed shopping strips—East Third Street and Lycoming Creek Road, respectively. For the boroughs of South Williamsport and Duboisstown, their downtown experience can be represented by the major interconnecting arterial road (State Route 654)—Southern Ave/Riverside Drive. Armstrong Township is primarily rural and mountainous with a limited downtown experience along US Route 15.

Population growth and business activity have varied among these six municipalities. In general the municipalities have shown relative stability since the 2005 Comprehensive Plan was adopted. The City’s population has declined a bit but its central business district (CBD) activity has experienced a welcomed resurgence. The other five municipalities in the GWA Planning Area have shown modest gains—at best—in population and commercial activity.

City of Williamsport CBD Revitalization – Achievements

- Church Street Transportation Center
- Trade & Trade Center Expansion
- AMC Theater Complex
- Housing Above Storefronts
- Redevelopment of Blighted Buildings
- Connection to the River & Riverwalk
- Wmpt/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce relocation to old Northern Central Bank Building

Although the City of Williamsport is the most notable downtown experience, each of these six municipalities has a developed area that has served for many decades as community gathering points for social interactions and commerce.

The GWA has witnessed a number of achievements since 2005 regarding the ultimate goal of promoting downtown revitalization. In fact, for almost the entire decade since the last multi-municipal comprehensive plan, members of the GWA met on a monthly basis to advance mutually beneficial projects and share best practices in government planning and operation. This commitment led to

many partnerships that were needed to accomplish tasks outlined in the 2005 Plan.

Over the last ten years, downtown Williamsport has evolved into an eclectic destination for all ages and interests. From the redevelopment of Williams Street / West 3rd Street corridor into Kohl’s Department Store and the Marriot Hotel to the development of the Liberty Arena, the Bases Loaded installation, and the Sports Walk between the two to the evolution of Pine Square with outdoor patios, music venues and events now occurring in more frequency throughout the downtown that have collectively advanced the downtown business scene and nightlife atmosphere. It has been a ripple effect of more restaurants, pubs and merchants in the last decade that has also led to increasing interest in upper floor residential units being renovated and occupied. A combination of public and private, large and small-scale investments are adding up to make a significant difference in the quality of life and attractiveness of downtown Williamsport.

- Downtown Wmpt Initiatives since 2005**
- Main Street Program to revitalize storefronts to improve the downtown experience
 - Streetscapes Improvements
 - Intersections Improvements
 - First Friday Celebrations
 - Growers’ Market
 - Grand Slam Parade
 - Williamsport Welcomes the World
 - Bases Loaded installation at Market Square
 - Sports Walk thru City
 - Liberty Arena

Priority Issue Overview During the comprehensive planning process there was a discernible amount of public interest in the health of downtowns. A public survey was conducted in 2016 as part of this planning process with more than 1,000 people participating in the survey. The respondents were asked to choose a maximum of five areas where they would most like to see more public funds invested. From of a list of 12 potential investment areas, the fifth most frequently selected response was “downtowns.” Given the importance of the downtown experience to each municipality, it is not surprising that their continued advancement garnered a fair amount of interest and support from both municipal officials and the general public.

Defining downtowns more generally allows each municipality to evaluate their most public and commercial environments to determine if they are growing and developing in a manner that responds to the character, image, and function they desire. Each community has a competitive advantage. Understanding what that is and how it can be harnessed to its best advantage is of critical importance in the 21st century economy.

There is no quick answer; the pathway to a thriving downtown requires a long-term commitment by all members of the community. Moreover, downtown experiences must be uniquely shaped so that it responds to the wants, needs, desires of each municipality. While there is no unified template to achieve this goal, there are a number of widely recognized steps that a downtown improvement initiative should consider:

- Branding—what defines a community—what is it known for
- Number and type of vacant properties
- Condition of existing & vacant buildings
- Desired mix of business and other uses
- Small business outreach plan
- Streetscape opportunities

- Gateways and village greens, parks
- After 5pm foot traffic
- Downtown living
- Walkable communities
- Marketing to support the vision

Bearing these factors in mind, the GWA PAT members have already begun to discuss a number of actions that could help launch the downtown revitalization initiative, such as:

- Develop zoning ordinances that are compatible with land use patterns and densities that define the local character of communities
- Ensure that mixed-use zoning is permitted in downtown business districts
- Promote mixed-use development
- Implement a split-rate real estate tax to promote infill development
- Make urban forest improvements to enhance streetscapes and increase storm water interception
- Continue to explore more affordable and diverse housing options—especially for seniors
- Mitigate some of the challenges to creating small business enterprises
- Develop additional activities in the downtown areas that will increase pedestrian activity during daytime, evening, and weekend hours
- Work locally and cooperatively with Lycoming County to implement central business district revitalization and community gateway initiatives, such as the Route 15 Gateway and the Old City/East 3rd Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy



South Williamsport

A consensus among GWA PAT members established that their top Downtown Revitalization priority is Old City/East Third Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy. This is a “legacy project” intended to uplift a section of Williamsport that had served as the City’s original center over a century ago. The plan includes five major initiatives and focuses on the area east of Market Street and south of Washington Boulevard. A portion of the study area (Mulberry to Chatham St) was re-zoned in 2009 by the City as CBD (Central Business District), and the plan focuses on making that extension of downtown Williamsport a reality.



Williams Street -- Williamsport

Key Implications The downtown districts in the

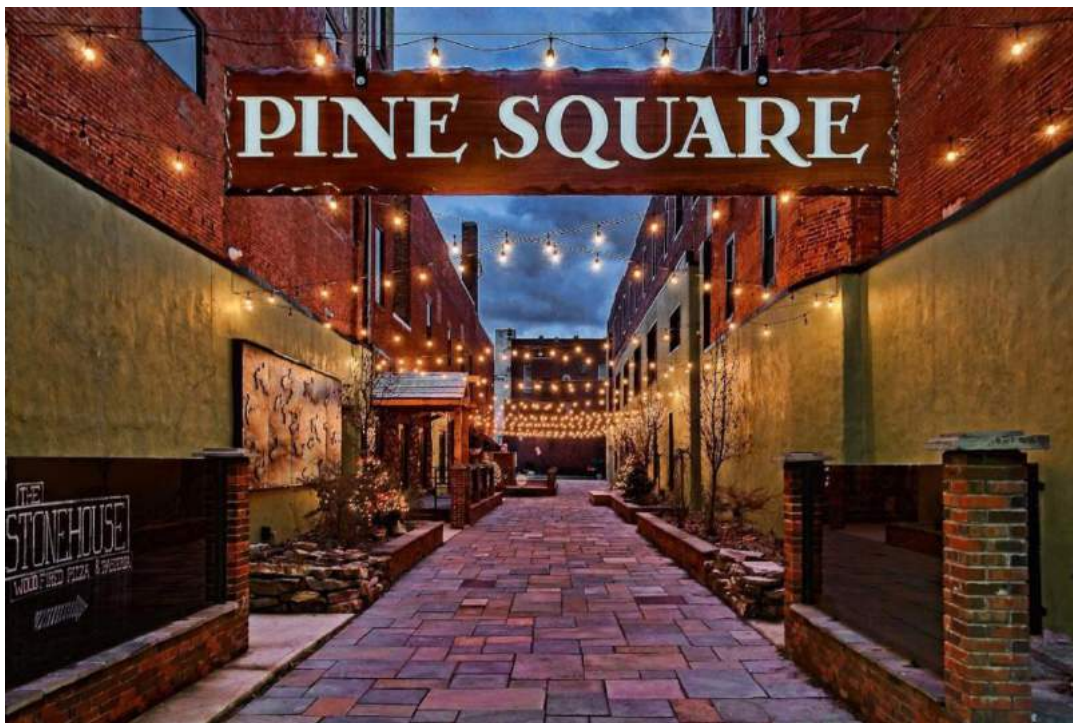
GWA Planning Area communities remain viable locations for residential, governmental, retail and commercial (re)development. There are opportunities for each of the downtowns in the GWA Planning Area to be shopping destinations for the surrounding regions as well as locations for professional services.

One of the keys to unlock the economic potential of these downtowns lies in the strength of the connection between community residents and their downtown. Visioning efforts and planning sessions for any downtown revitalization will be successful only to the extent that the public is actively engaged in selecting and shaping the proposed set of projects to implement the vision. Moreover, consensus on the downtown revitalization plan is an essential pre-requisite to seeking grant funding from either State or Federal sources.

Failing to address downtown revitalization in a holistic manner may result in:

- deterioration of these destinations
- potential decline of the municipality itself
- decreased municipal tax base
- shrinking revenues market share lost to outlying areas

In summary, a vibrant downtown can serve as a magnet attracting future businesses, new residents, and visitors. It enhances the culture and character of the municipality and fortifies the “sense of place.”

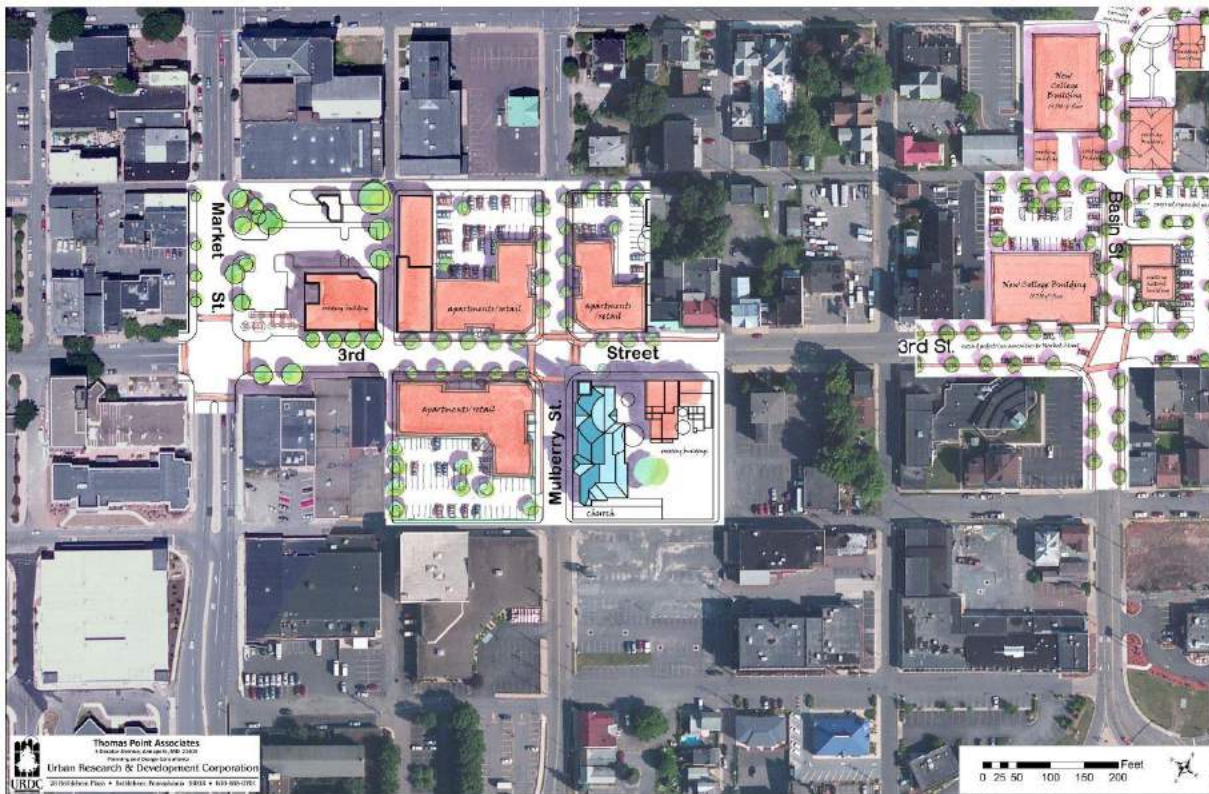


The Pine Square renovation on Pine Street hosts several successful restaurants

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue

IMPLEMENT THE OLD CITY/EAST THIRD STREET GATEWAY REDEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Old City/East Third Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy is a plan to revitalize the southeast portion of the City of Williamsport. It is also the third phase of a 3-part strategy for improving intermodal connectivity throughout the central business district in Williamsport, called *CONNECT WILLIAMSPORT*. This is a partnership between the City, Lycoming College, River Valley Transit, the County of Lycoming, and many private landowners for the purposes of revitalizing the eastern corridor of the Central Business District known as “Old City” and the “East Third Street Gateway.” The project encourages private and public investment and addresses transportation and mobility deficiencies that have stymied economic development for the past several decades. The plan was adopted by City Council in Summer 2015 following a year-long collaborative planning process involving the City, County, Lycoming College, a group of stakeholders in the project area known as the East Third Street Gateway Commission, and public involvement.



Redevelopment Concepts for East 3rd Street Corridor

The plan includes five strategic initiatives that will be implemented in a phased approach. They include:

- 1) **Basin Street Gateway Redevelopment**—The leading strategy and action of the plan is to create a new gateway to Lycoming College from the Basin Street exit off Interstate 180 by redeveloping and realigning Basin Street and constructing new buildings on the college campus. This redevelopment strategy

complements the College's recently completed Master Plan, which looks beyond its current borders as part of their long-term growth and investment strategy.

- 2) **Traffic and Transportation**—A core strategy of the plan is to rebalance the transportation network to include improved traffic circulation (with some conversions of one-way street to two-way), a cohesively-connected sidewalk and greenway system, strategically-located on-street parking, pedestrian amenities, and bicycle routes. For *CONNECT WILLIAMSPORT* Improvement Plan See Appendix D – *Reference Maps*.
- 3) **Private Development Projects**—Private development will be encouraged at specific locations with market-based real estate projects that will provide positive cash flow to the City in the form of tax revenues. The projects recommended include mixed residential and commercial uses. These projects will become anchors in the redevelopment area.
- 4) **Branding**—A marketing program will be undertaken to attract investors, businesses, and residents to the Old City area. The branding program is recommended to link the area's rich history to its future, and to proactively recruit or encourage businesses that were identified as likely targets through a market study.
- 5) **Zoning**—Update zoning ordinances to encourage redevelopment to create a traditional downtown environment in the Old City portion of the study area. Multi-story buildings should be oriented to the street with sidewalks in front and well-designed, right-sized parking behind, with a mix of small- to medium-scale uses. A draft zoning amendment package was created by the project consultants in 2015. City Council subsequently adopted the zoning amendments in May 2017.

The Basin Street Gateway Redevelopment Plan is currently being spearheaded by Lycoming College and the City and the City and County are actively working with PennDOT to advance the traffic and transportation network improvements. To date, \$1 million has been awarded by the First Community Foundation Partnership and nearly \$800,000 of matching dollars has been secured through the PA DCED for the streetscape improvement components, focusing on redevelopment of East Third Street and the Basin/Franklin street intersection, and a Green Infrastructure Pathway connecting the college to downtown via Willow Street. Lycoming College has also committed to an ambitious project (including land acquisition) to construct a new building for admissions, academics, leadership programs, and classroom space, and to redesign existing adjacent portions of campus.



Basin Street Redevelopment

The foundation for all of these improvements stem from the ability to lay a sound transportation infrastructure system. Transportation and mobility is the catalyst for private investment. This is something that PennDOT

recognizes and has been promoting across the Commonwealth in recent years. PennDOT’s philosophy of leveraging innovative ideas to support multi-modal transportation and community investment is known as PENNDOT CONNECTS – *Planning and Engineering 360*. WILLIAMSPORT CONNECTS aligns with this same rationale by working to identify transportation projects that leverage private investment to improve the economic health of the City of Williamsport. It includes streetscape improvements, realignment of Franklin Street, connectivity to Lycoming College, changing traffic patterns, a connection to the Riverwalk, and green infrastructure investments on both sides of Market Street, including the Pine Street Redesign / Access Project.

Implementation of the plan’s recommendations will be a decade-long process as described more fully in the adopted Redevelopment Strategy document. For more information on the Old City/East Third Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy, please see the City Community & Economic Development website.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The Old City/East 3rd Street Gateway project is a vision for a re-imagined section of Williamsport’s downtown that had been underutilized and non-descript for many decades. The city and county governments along with an institution of higher learning and community business leaders and residents collaborated to develop a plan of growth and redevelopment for the resurging success of downtown Williamsport. The plan respects the neighborhood’s history and aesthetics while advancing 21st century community and economic development strategies to attract and retain businesses, people, and investments. This redevelopment plan exhibits an exemplary combination of revitalization strategies from branding and marketing to adaptive reuse, historic preservation, mixed-use development, streetscape improvements and walkable/bikeable connectivity. The development of partnerships between the private and public sector is critical to the success and implementation of projects like this.



Old CityHall Building

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – The lead agencies for the project are the City of Williamsport and Lycoming College, as the majority of the study recommendations would be implemented by one or both of these entities.

Other Partners – Additional partners include the East Third Street Gateway Commission, River Valley Transit, Williamsport Parking Authority, the County of Lycoming, the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Lycoming County Visitors’ Bureau, and the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS “WILLIAMSPORT CONNECTS”	SPRING 2017- 2021	CITY, LYCOMING COLLEGE, COUNTY, PENN DOT
2	ENCOURAGE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT	SPRING 2017-2021	CITY, GATEWAY COMMISSION, LYCOMING COLLEGE, COUNTY
3	IMPLEMENT ZONING AMENDMENTS OUTLINED IN STRATEGY PLAN	SPRING 2017	CITY, GATEWAY COMMISSION, COUNTY, CITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE (ERC)

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

This project will require multiple state/federal/local funding sources in a phased approach over a decade or longer, including significant public and private investment. A detailed funding plan listing many potential sources of grant support and other funding mechanisms is provided in the plan document.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**1. IMPLEMENT A SPLIT-TAX RATE**

Implement a split-tax rate system within the growth area to incentivize infill development and disincentive vacant buildings, empty lots and blighted conditions.

2. REACTIVATE THE LEAD PARTNERS GROUP

Restart the Lead Partners or similar group to carry out downtown revitalization projects, often through public-private partnerships. This subset of the GWA started in 1999 with a combination of community leaders from the county, City, Our Towns 2010, the Chamber of Commerce among others. The group worked collaboratively to further mutually-beneficial projects, starting with Trade and Transit Center I. The projects they worked on were catalysts for economic development. It is time to re-establish this defined working relationship again.

3. DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Create a program to improve the appearance of downtowns, including facades; reduce vacancy rates in downtown areas; utilize aggressive code enforcement to eliminate dilapidated conditions where they exist.

4. DOWNTOWN ZONING DISTRICTS

Ensure downtown zoning districts encourage mixed-use, increased density where appropriate, and redevelopment.

5. COLLEGE TOWN INITIATIVE

Continue to pursue “college town” branding and related investment in downtown Williamsport. This should be a collaborative effort between Penn College of Technology, Lycoming College, the City of Williamsport, the Williamsport Lycoming visitors Bureau, among others.

6. SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT SENIOR HOUSING

Develop senior housing options in South Williamsport within a walkable distance to key amenities, such as transit access, recreation, and other public facilities to serve the elderly residing in southside communities.

PRIORITY ISSUE #8**Water quality is vital but is also vulnerable to a multitude of threats.**

Back Story Most communities and residents within this Planning Area have access to an ample supply of high quality water. Drinking water in the urbanized sections of the GWA Planning Area is provided by the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority (WMWA). The rural sections of the GWA Planning Area rely on private water wells. Regardless of the water's source, the GWA PAT members' primary concern is to maintain the quality and safety of drinking water resources within the Planning Area.

WMWA serves approximately 51,000 residents, is regulated by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), and provides high quality water to the Planning Area for drinking and industrial customers from two different sources:

- Surface water reservoir located in Armstrong Township
- Ground water wells near the mouth of Lycoming Creek as it enters the Susquehanna River



WMWA Water Filtration Plant in Armstrong Township

WMWA has a PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) approved source water protection plan that delineates the groundwater supply areas and identifies potential contamination sources to the water supply.

Although the Authority is exceptionally diligent in following its source water protection plan, they are ever mindful of the potential threats to the quality of their source water.

Priority Issue Overview The protection of water quality is both a public and private responsibility. There are measures that both public entities can and should be doing to protect the county's water systems as well as things that private landholders can do to ensure the quality of the drinking water on their land as well as the public waterways that transect their properties remain in optimal health for future generations. The members of the GWA Planning Area have identified three (3) major interrelated issues regarding water quality. Each issue was further defined by GWA PAT members and targeted projects were identified.

Land Conservation. Water quality is known to improve when large tracks of land are acquired and brought into the land conservation programs. Depending on the location of the conserved piece of property, three water quality benefits can be achieved:

- Conserved land filters stormwater runoff from nearby streets, roads and highways—many of which carry heavy truck traffic and experiences frequent accidents. Runoff from these corridors has the potential to carry a variety of pollutants, including salts, nutrients, sediment, automotive fluids, and other typical transportation corridor contaminants. Thus, potential pollutants are removed before this runoff enters waterways.
- Conserved land provides storage for a greater volume of storm water, because wetlands act as a “great green sponge.” Reducing the volume and velocity of runoff will reduce downstream erosion and peak volumes following rain events.
- Conserved land, especially if they contain forested wetlands, provides shade and cool the water, reducing the potential for storm water runoff to create thermal pollution to the receiving waters of creeks or rivers.

Sourcewater Protection. There are two types of pollution threats to the ground water and surface water sources: Point Source Pollution and Non-Point Source Pollution. Point sources can be attributed to a single identifiable source, such as a sewage pipe or drain and non-point source pollution occurs from a variety of contaminants found in runoff and precipitation. The potential contaminants that create these threats derive from the improper disposal of hazardous chemicals and/or the infiltration of man-made products including gasoline, oil, road salt, pesticides, or fertilizer runoff.



Since the 2005 GWA Comp Plan, a new organization has formed that focuses exclusively on sourcewater protection. The North Central Source Water Protection Alliance (NCSWPA) is a consortium of water suppliers and partnering organizations who have sought to increase the security and sustainability of our area's water supplies. As a principal member of this organization, WMWA practices a proactive watershed protection program for the watershed surrounding its Mosquito Valley reservoirs, including control and ownership of land, seeking of conservation easements on private holdings, and patrolling and monitoring for water quality. About

215 acres of private holdings, including the largest farms, are protected through no-development and agricultural land preservation easements held by the WMWA and Lycoming County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. WMWA is committed to a long-term effort to preserve the quality and quantity of their valuable water supply resource.

Another important facet to this issue is wellhead design and maintenance for private well owners. Currently there are no regulations at the state or local level for private well construction. This sometimes leads to improper well construction and a higher likelihood of contaminated well water. Common issues include insufficient above-grade casing height, lack of subgrade grout seal around casing, the use of a standard well cap, and locating the well in an area of ponding. Collectively these issues increase the potential of infiltration by non-potable surface water, rodent and insect infestation, and bacterial contamination. Additionally, failing private septic systems can significantly degrade the quality of a community's aquifer and introduce disease-causing microorganisms such as E coli, Giadaria, Cryptosporidium, and Hepatitis A into a community's groundwater supply.



The Public Education and Outreach Plan (PEOP) and Public Involvement and Participation Plan (PIPP) are opportunities under the MS4 program in which important information about sourcewater protection can be distributed to the community.

Urban Forest. According to the U.S. Forest Service, over 30 million acres of America's forests are located right in our cities and towns. Urban forests come in many different shapes and sizes. They include urban parks, street trees, landscaped boulevards, gardens, river and coastal promenades, greenways, river corridors, wetlands, nature preserves, shelter belts of trees, and working trees at former industrial sites. Urban forests, through planned connections of green spaces, form the green infrastructure on which communities depend." (Source: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests>). Trees play a crucial role in controlling the runoff of stormwater, increasing infiltration to restore groundwater supplies, reducing erosion, and improving the water quality of receiving streams. According to the U.S. EPA, trees control stormwater at the source. Trees do this through several mechanisms:

- Trees intercept water as it falls from the sky, reducing the amount that ever reaches the ground. Holding this water back from becoming stormwater runoff reduces peak flows and reduces damage to stormwater "grey" infrastructure and receiving streams.
- Trees draw water from the soil and eventually release it into the air as water vapor. This process is called transpiration.
- Trees root systems increase the soil infiltration capacity and rate, so that even more water sinks into the ground than if the tree was replaced by grass. Trees can help filter pollutants such as nutrients, sediment and salt from impervious surfaces that would otherwise run off, unfiltered, into streams.

- While trees are growing, they take up and either store or break down potentially harmful materials found in the urban soil. This is called phytoremediation, and it is the reason trees are sometimes used to remediate polluted sites where those materials otherwise may gradually seep into groundwater. (Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/stormwater2streettrees.pdf>).

Urban forests intercept stormwater and improve water quality; but there are more benefits. Trees also:

- Provide streetscape enhancement, community beautification, habitat, air purification, shade, cooling (which reduces energy costs)
- Provide a profound impact on the day-to-day mental health and physical well-being of citizens, as documented by an increasing volume of studies. (Source: study by Texas A&M University)
- Attract people. Many people consciously prefer to live on a street with trees rather than a denuded one
- Increase the value of a home. According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, a survey of realtors found that 83% believe that Mature trees have a “strong or moderate impact” on the salability of homes listed for less than \$150,000. Moreover, 98% agreed that the salability of homes listed for over \$250,000 would be improved by mature trees. (Source: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>).

Key Implications Regardless of the source of contamination, it is clear that any degradation of source water has a very real impact on our public health, quality of life, and the economy of the Greater Williamsport Planning Area. Access to clean drinking water is essential for a community to survive and prosper. Not only is water necessary to support public health, but reliable water service is also needed to foster development and economic growth.

If this issue is not addressed continuously and proactively, both public and private water systems will face the increased risk of contamination from preventable sources of pollution. As contaminants enter a system, the required treatments become more complex, and the resulting costs to provide clean and safe water will increase. As contamination escalates, water suppliers run the risk of being forced to shut down wells and identify new sources of water.

Replacement well locations are finite and limited by geography and geology. There are also significant costs and regulatory requirements associated with establishing new well fields and connecting them to the existing infrastructure.

The GWA PAT members concern about water quality is not limited exclusively to drinking water sources. It is important to note that any measures taken to protect drinking water sources will also increase water quality in our surface waters. This, in turn, decreases the chance for pollution to harm human health or the health of wildlife and ecosystems.

GWA municipalities are geographically located in the heart of Lycoming County. This county is noted for its ample and relatively clean water resources—simply stated, this is a quality of life issue. The ability to safely fish, swim, and paddle our streams, lakes, and rivers while enjoying the area’s abundant wildlife is a major reason

many people choose to live in and visit our county. In fact, in the 2016 survey conducted as part of the comprehensive planning process, 67% of comments received in regard to the County’s water resources were positive, indicating that the public recognizes and appreciates this resource.



Hagermans Reservoir

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (One of Three)**LAND CONSERVATION – THE SYLVAN DELL LAND CONSERVATION PROJECT**

For some time, Lycoming County has been known for establishing partnerships and leveraging public dollars to develop recreational assets throughout the county. This project is of local, regional, and watershed significance; therefore it will require a multitude of local, regional and state partnerships to realize and implement the full benefits of its vision and intentions.

The 265-acre Sylvan Dell Land Conservation Project site is located along the West Branch Susquehanna River in Armstrong Township, Lycoming County. The site contains approximately 50 acres of wetlands, an indigenous people's archaeology site, and the City of Williamsport's historic Goose Island swimming and boating area from the 1800s.

The site is positioned between the river and the forested foothills and ridges in the state-designated PA Wilds Conservation Landscape area and Lumber Heritage Region. It is less than one mile from the Tiadaghton State Forest, a 146,539-acre network of state-owned forestland located predominately in Lycoming County. The site includes approximately 3,790 linear feet of Susquehanna River frontage (floodplain) and is located along a DCNR-designated Water Trail.

This project aims to preserve the cultural and historic resources of the properties and offer outdoor recreation opportunities such as walking/ biking trails, and public river access. Protection and enhancement of the riparian and wetland habitat that filters storm water from a large drainage area will contribute to increased water quality within the West Branch Susquehanna River watershed. Phasing out of agricultural practices on the property will allow the increase of permanent vegetation and soil capacity for retaining and processing of stormwater through the hydrologic cycle during and after higher water events.

In Lycoming County, recreation and land conservation are two of the highest and best uses for floodplain property. The County's 2005 Comprehensive Plan and Greater Williamsport Alliance Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan recognized several goals and objectives that can lead to land conservation. The 2005 GWA Comp Plan identified preservation of natural resources, including open spaces, wetlands, and prime agricultural soils as a high priority and specifically the importance of setting aside land for conservation. The 2005 Plan also promoted the development of connectors between existing bike routes and pedestrian routes & participation in the development of the Susquehanna Greenway. Since 1996, Lycoming County has been successful in acquiring millions of state and federal dollars to conserve land through securing floodplain buyout properties.

The Sylvan Dell Land Conservation Project vision brings close to home a connection to the natural world for the residents of the Greater Williamsport Area. Given its urban setting and proximity to the region's largest population center, the project will provide a unique nature experience for the County's diverse population, providing to all ages, all abilities, and all income levels. It will also help build a strategic connection from Williamsport area's existing River Walk to Bald Eagle Ridge and the future Ridge Trail.



HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

The vision for the Sylvan Dell Land Conservation Project is to establish an ecological haven and educational center on the site that offers unique benefits to the community and visitors:

- Residents and visitors can experience healthy/active living through utilizing the site for walking, biking, paddling, and swimming while learning about the diverse heritage and natural resources of the site and region.
- The project helps address Social / Environmental Justice (land accessible to City’s low-income and minority populations)
- K-12 students taking field trips to the land will be given the opportunity to learn the many values of land conservation in an outdoor classroom environment.
- Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology students who can utilize the site for ecological and archaeological research.
- The thousands of visitors from all geographic regions of the USA and the world who visit this area each year for the Little League World Series and training camps.

The conservation project will allow for recreational asset expansion adjacent to the South Williamsport Regional Park and connection with regional trail systems, providing active/passive recreation to residents/visitors and preserving the best remaining wetland on the West Branch Susquehanna River. Protecting approximately 50 acres of wetlands fed by unnamed tributaries, originating on Bald Eagle Ridge, and phasing out 215 acres of

heavily farmed lands will contribute to source water protection, just upstream from a public water supply. Strategic habitat enhancement will provide an increased haven for wildlife and many bird species identified on the property such as: the Bald Eagle, Green Winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Scarlet Tanager and Eastern Towhee.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Lycoming County PCD

Other Partners –Armstrong Twp., South Williamsport Borough, South Williamsport High School, Pennsylvania Wilds, Lumber Heritage Region, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, and school districts within the region.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	LAND APPRAISAL & COST ESTIMATES	2017	PCD STAFF, ARMSTRONG TWP.
2	SECURE LOCAL MATCH, APPLY FOR LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS	2017-2018	PCD STAFF
3	LAND ACQUISITION & PHASING OUT ACTIVE FARMING TO COVER CROPPING	2018-2019	PCD STAFF, LYCOMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CONSERVATION DISTRICT
3	MASTER SITE PLANNING & PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	2017-2018	PCD STAFF, CONSULTANT, SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, ARMSTRONG TWP.
4	IDENTIFY & APPLY FOR GRANTS TO SUPPORT SITE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	2018-2027	PCD STAFF, CONSULTANT, SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, ARMSTRONG TWP.
5	SITE DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT RESTORATION, TRAIL & RIVER ACCESS CONSTRUCTION)	2018-2027	PCD STAFF, CONSULTANT, SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, ARMSTRONG TWP.

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources include PA DCNR, PA DEP, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the First Community Foundation Partnership (FCFP) of PA. A PA DCNR grant was submitted in April 2017 and match funding sources are being identified.

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (Two of Three)

SOURCEWATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

The GWA recommends developing a sourcewater protection program for all public and private water systems, with particular focus on the areas immediately surrounding wellheads for public water supplies.

Program components could vary greatly, but may include:

- Participate in regional groundwater studies to protect our vital groundwater resources.
- Review and update ordinances to protect critical sourcewater areas.
- Reduce any requirements for excessive impervious surface coverage; revise such standards with provisions for better stormwater management practices, promoting the interception and infiltration of storm water onsite using green infrastructure wherever possible.
- Develop a 911 Spill Response Program or System. This type of initiative could work to develop protocols to protect drinking water by shutting down intakes immediately upon notification of hazardous material spills. Tioga County has developed an innovative program that could serve as a model.
- Work at the local and State level to pursue wellhead design construction standards.
- Develop an educational program for schools, private citizens and like-minded conservation organizations to help get the message out about the importance of sourcewater protection. Look to other counties for examples. Work with the Lycoming County MS4 Coalition for leadership and opportunities for mutually-beneficial messaging.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

Source water protection directly addresses water quality by focusing on proven activities that can reduce the incidence of pollution in public and private water systems.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Public water systems (WMWA-WSA in the GWA area).

Other Partners – North Central Source Water Protection Alliance, Lycoming County Conservation District, Penn State Master Well Owners Network (MWON), Lycoming County MS4 Coalition, municipal governments, watershed organizations, large industries, and schools.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	STEPS WILL VARY BY SPECIFIC ACTIVITY	AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	WATER SYSTEMS AND LISTED PARTNERS

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Potential funding sources include various DEP and EPA grants (such as the DEP Environmental Education Grant program), municipal governments, League of Women Voters’ Water Resources Education Network (WREN) grants, and resources from the listed partners above. Growing Greener and other grants can also be used to construct demonstration BMP projects with educational signage. Another source of funding for public education could be any future stormwater fees that are implemented and collected by the MS4 permittees.



One of many “No Dumping” seals placed throughout the City as a way to promote proper drainage

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue (Three of Three)**IMPROVE THE URBAN FOREST**

The urban forest is made up deciduous street trees, evergreen species, woody shrubs, and perennial plants. Together they provide stormwater infiltration value, habitat, and beautification. Smaller plants can be used very effectively in conjunction with larger trees to create multi-story habitat in appropriate locations, such as parks and infiltration areas where they do not interfere with roadway sight lines. Smaller vegetation can also be used effectively in locations where canopy trees are impractical due to overhead wires, concerns about root intrusion, preferences of adjacent landowners, or other site constraints.

There are also potential hazards associated with tree plantings. These hazards include interference with overhead wires; root intrusion into water and sewer pipes, utility lines, and building foundations; sidewalk heaving; and the potential for hazards to human life when trees are damaged by causes such as storms, diseases, wildlife damage, drought, and poor adaptation to the planting site. This underscores the need for urban forestry to include “the right tree for the right location for the right purpose.”

The selection of tree species is vital to ensuring long-term success and decreasing the risk of any maintenance problems or damage to adjacent infrastructure and property. Tree maintenance is also vital (especially after immediately planting) to increasing survival rate and thus protecting the municipality’s investment. Careful pruning and observation to catch any developing diseases is necessary. Thus, individuals involved with selecting species and maintaining the urban forest should be receive appropriate training.

This project primarily focuses on the urban forest on public property. Yet, private landholders, especially large institutions such as schools, hospitals, cemeteries and the like, can contribute significantly to fabric of the urban forest as well. Municipalities should review and update ordinances to ensure that planting of trees and other vegetation is encouraged on private property. Weed ordinances, for example, may sometimes prohibit the use of rain gardens or other green infrastructure that a municipality actually wishes to encourage. All ordinances should consider public safety and other considerations listed above, so that private property owners are guided toward making sound decisions in their planting plans.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

As described above, the increase of urban tree canopy and vegetation in general will reduce the volume of stormwater runoff, and reduce the pollutant concentration of runoff.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency – Each municipality has primary responsibility to improve the urban forest within their jurisdiction.

Other Partners – Potential partners include the Lycoming County MS4 Planner and GIS division within the Planning Department; non-profit organizations such as Penn State Master Gardeners, local gardening clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Audubon societies, and watershed organizations; school groups; the Lycoming County Conservation District; and other community organizations. Shade Tree Commissions or similar volunteer committees can be formed and utilized to provide manpower, community involvement, and oversight.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	INVENTORY EXISTING URBAN FOREST, USING GIS WHERE AVAILABLE, TO DETERMINE GAPS AND NEW PLANTING LOCATION OPPORTUNITIES.	YEAR 1	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
2	CREATE URBAN FOREST REPLACEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN WITH AN ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION. MS4S SHOULD CROSS-REFERENCE DEP-APPROVED CBPRPs AND CBPRPs UNDER DEVELOPMENT TO INCORPORATE RECOMMENDED PROJECTS.	YEARS 1-2	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
3	APPLY FOR GRANTS TO FUND REPLACEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF URBAN FOREST	YEARS 1-10	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
4	INCORPORATE LINE ITEM BASED ON THE ABOVE PLAN IN ANNUAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET	YEARS 2-10	MUNICIPALITIES
5	IMPLEMENT URBAN FOREST REPLACEMENT & ENHANCEMENT PLAN	YEARS 2-10	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
6	UPDATE AND MAINTAIN URBAN FOREST INVENTORY CONTINUOUSLY	YEARS 2-10	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
7	SEEK TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES, SUCH AS TREE TENDERS AND ARBORIST CLASSES, FOR KEY STAFF/VOLUNTEERS, SO THAT SPECIES SELECTION AND OTHER DECISIONS ARE MADE WITH THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES	YEARS 1-10	MUNICIPALITIES AND PARTNERS LISTED ABOVE
8	CONSIDER CREATING A MUNICIPAL SHADE TREE COMMISSION AND BECOMING A TREE CITY USA WITH MEMBERSHIP TO THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION	ONGOING	MUNICIPALITIES

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

Municipal general funds are most commonly used to maintain and improve the urban forest, and can be most effectively used as match to leverage grants. Funds generated by stormwater utility fees can also be used to

implement urban forest programs where the plantings will help correct storm water issues. In some cases, tree plantings may be required through municipal ordinances so that developers or property owners are responsible for the cost. Municipalities should also consider asking property and business owners to participate in an “adopt a tree” or “adopt a spot” program to beautify their block.

A number of grant funding streams are available. Grants are more likely to be awarded when the project is part of a strategically-planned, annual improvement program as described in the steps above, because this demonstrates a long-term commitment, well-considered thought process, and local investment.

Federal grant opportunities: U.S. EPA funds, such as Urban Waters Small Grants, Environmental Justice, and 319 grants; and U.S. DOT’s TIGER grant program.

State grant opportunities: TreeVitalize and urban riparian buffer grants by the PA DCNR. PA DEP Growing Greener, Environmental Education, and other DEP grant programs may also be utilized. Finally, tree plantings may be funded in some cases through streetscaping projects funded by various sources of transportation and multi-modal funds, including PENNDOT and DCNR; community development grants such as CDBG; and downtown revitalization programs.

Corporate, non-profit, and charitable foundation grant funding sources: National Arbor Day Foundation, First Community Foundation, Degenstein Foundation, Susquehanna Greenways, and others. Non-profit and community organizations may also provide free labor; use of equipment; and trees, plants, and other planting supplies.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue

1. ON-LOT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Develop on-lot wastewater management districts for effective on-lot disposal practices.

2. LIMIT DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENTS SERVED BY ON-LOT SEPTIC AND ON-SITE WELLS

Discourage high- and medium-density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells to help ensure protection of quality and quantity of drinking water.

Priority Issue #9



Water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater infrastructure systems are not sufficient across the County to meet all needs.

Back Story Access to clean drinking water and the proper removal and treatment of wastewater and storm water are essential forms of public infrastructure for a community to survive and prosper. Not only is water necessary to support public health, but reliable water and sanitary sewer service is also needed to foster development and economic growth. Proper water management planning must also account for the safe and effective conveyance of storm water to protect life, property and the environment and provision of adequate sanitary sewage facilities.

Priority Issue Overview While the GWA planning area may have the highest rate of public water and sewer connection of all multi-municipal planning areas in the County, there remain a number of challenges:

- Managing sanitary sewage facilities & their conveyance systems
- Ensuring proper storm water conveyance and treatment
- Maintaining the high quality of clean drinking water

Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure. The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act of 1966, (ACT 537) as amended requires municipalities to adopt an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. These plans are used to address deficiencies in current septic, sanitary sewer and treatment facilities and to prevent future sewage disposal issues which may cause risks to health, safety and water quality. These plans have been adopted by all municipalities in the GWA Planning Area.



WSA West Treatment Plant Expansion

The entirety of the City of Williamsport as well as the Boroughs of South Williamsport and Duboistown have public water and sanitary sewer service. Significant portions of Old Lycoming, Loyalsock, and Armstrong townships receive both public water and sewer service, while residents in these townships who live outside the service area utilize residential on-lot sewage disposal systems and on-lot water supply wells.

GWA communities receive public water and sewer service from the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority-Williamsport Sanitary Authority (WMWA-WSA), the largest municipal water and sewer authority in Lycoming

County. This organization connects over 51,000 people to its public water and sewer system. Its facilities, particularly its wastewater treatment plants, have undergone extensive investment since the 2005 plan was completed.



WSA Central Treatment Plant Expansion

These investments were made to comply with various state and federal regulatory requirements, primarily regulations associated with nutrient treatment under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), and the reduction of CSO (Combined Sewer Overflows),

which release untreated or partially treated sewage and storm water directly into local water bodies. While these upgrades have necessitated increases in rates, the rates in the GWA are currently on par with (and in many cases, lower than) the other public water and sewer systems in the County and the region. This is likely due to the relatively higher population density and density of industry in the GWA Planning Area, which makes providing such infrastructure more cost-effective than in less densely developed areas.

While all GWA Planning Area communities convey their sanitary sewer flows to one of WSA’s wastewater treatment plants, the ownership and maintenance of the sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system within these communities varies. Communities outside the city are considered “Tributary Communities.” They meet regularly with WSA and coordinate together to provide high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective services. They also completed a joint Act 537 Plan, demonstrating the cost-savings of a regional approach to meeting such requirements.

<i>Municipality with Sanitary Sewer Collection System</i>	<i>Owned and operated by whom in 2005</i>	<i>Owned and operated by whom in 2016</i>
City of Williamsport	WSA	WSA
Borough of South Williamsport	South Williamsport	South Williamsport
Borough of Duboistown	Duboistown Sewer Dept	Duboistown Sewer Dept
Township of Loyalsock	Loyalsock Sewer Dept	WSA
Township of Old Lycoming Township	OLT Sewer Dept	OLT Sewer Dept
Township of Armstrong	LCWSA	LCWSA

Like WSA, the Tributary Communities have each made significant investments in their sanitary sewer infrastructure, including the construction of several massive SSO (sanitary sewer overflows) holding tanks. In addition to receiving services from WSA, some of the Tributary Communities also contract with the Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority (LCWSA) to assist with aspects of their municipal systems, such as billing

management and infrastructure inspection and maintenance. As the management of water, sewer, and storm water systems has become increasingly technical, complex, and regulation-driven, it has become beneficial for municipal officials to partner with highly-trained, specialized organizations such as WMWA-WSA and LCWSA to provide a menu of options for their assistance.

Water Infrastructure. There are some regions within the GWA Planning Area, particularly in those areas of Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships that lie along the Lycoming Creek Road corridor that have been identified as lacking adequate water and sewer services. The quantity of water available from private wells has been problematic in several locations in this Planning Area thus the need to extend public service has been a long-term objective. In addition to water quantity or capacity concerns, there is also the need to consider public water if or when the on-lot septic systems fail resulting in groundwater and surface water contamination.

Cost of this public infrastructure has been the major barrier to extending services to these areas. Another barrier is the land parcels, themselves. Some of these properties are located in floodplains, and the trend has been to reduce the density of development in these areas, through floodplain buyouts or natural attrition. The future viability of extending public water and sewer to this corridor may be dependent on the development of the non-floodplain areas in the corridor for residential, industrial, or other commercial uses. Industries that require high amounts of water users are the type of development that helps justify the cost of extending water and sewer lines.

In addition to infrastructure expansion considerations is the need to seriously evaluate the water capacity and pressure within the existing GWA infrastructure. There are locations throughout the GWA where deficiencies in fire hydrant capacity pose significant concerns to adequately fight fires. A hydraulic analysis of the existing infrastructure in problem areas has been done, showing that size and age of pipe is the majority of the issue. Municipalities, authorities and fire companies are working to improve these deficiencies.

A final concern related to water infrastructure is that lead service lines, from house to curb, still exist in areas of the GWA. This is not usually an infrastructure component that is publicly-fundable, however, there is community concern over this issue. These lines need to be replaced and a mechanism for identifying those suspect lines needs to be determined. It can begin with a public education campaign.

Stormwater Infrastructure. This is clearly the next significant infrastructure challenge facing the GWA communities at this time. Storm water is managed through two major regulatory programs: **Act 167 and MS4 Program**. Pennsylvania's Storm Water Management Act, or Act 167, was enacted in 1978 in response to the damaging impacts seen from accelerated stormwater runoff as land was developed around the state. Act 167 requires counties to prepare and adopt watershed-based stormwater management plans and requires municipalities to adopt and implement ordinances to regulate development consistent with these plans.

All six municipalities in the GWA Planning Area are currently in compliance with Act 167, falling under the Lycoming County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, adopted in 2010, and the companion Lycoming Creek Stormwater Plan, also adopted in 2010, which contains enhanced protections for this heavily-flooded corridor. Portions of the GWA Planning Area are also covered by the Grafius/Millers/McClures Run Plan, adopted in 1999.

The MS4 Program is a federal regulatory requirement that is passed through and administered by the PA DEP. MS4 permittees are designated following U.S. Census Bureau guidelines for urbanized areas. Within Lycoming County, there are currently ten MS4 permittees, six of which are in the GWA: City of Williamsport, Loyalsock Township, Old Lycoming Township, South Williamsport Borough, Duboistown Borough, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. All of the GWA municipalities are currently MS4s, except for Armstrong Township which has the potential to become an MS4 in the future.

Municipalities holding MS4 permits currently include five of the six GWA municipalities (with the exception of Armstrong Township), and four additional municipalities outside the GWA are part of the Williamsport Urbanized Area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Pennsylvania College of Technology, a GWA stakeholder, is also an institutional MS4 permit holder. The MS4 permittees work together as the “Lycoming County MS4 Coalition,” under a partnership contract with Lycoming County, to more cost-effectively tackle the program’s requirements.



The MS4 Program requires the permittees to reduce pollution and stormwater runoff volume and velocity by enacting six basic activities, called Minimum Control Measures (MCMs). The MS4 permittees in the GWA have held permits since the early 2000s. Together with the other permittees in the county, the GWA MS4 communities have formed the Lycoming County MS4 Coalition. The Coalition funds an MS4 Planner, housed at Lycoming County, to coordinate their efforts and work on their behalf. By working together to address many of the MCMs and permit requirements and maintaining one trained staff person focused on meeting the requirements of this program, the permittees have been able to control costs while maintaining compliance with these increasingly-challenging and complex regulations. Municipal authorities are working with GWA MS4 municipalities to explore ways in which they may assist with MS4 compliance and the overall inspection and maintenance of aging storm water systems.

Key Implications Proposed extensions of the public sanitary sewer or water systems or both may be highly desirable for certain sectors in the GWA Planning Area. Water system expansions can deal with limited capacity or flow volume issues, which often breed fire safety concerns. Sanitary sewer extensions are normally associated with failing on-lot septic systems and the severe health conditions that often attend this situation. In spite of these potential threats to health and safety, the extension of water and/or sanitary sewer infrastructure is still a business decision made by the servicing authority. Given the tremendous expense of these types of projects, the threshold for making these investments is very rigorous. One overarching factor in any infrastructure project is the consistency of that project with the current or planned growth area established by that municipality.

Given the environmental mandates embedded in the Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan (CBPRP) and as further detailed by the MS4 program, the need to better control and eventually treat storm water will pose a

significant challenge to the GWA MS4 municipalities. These challenges are unavoidable and must be addressed thoughtfully, cost-effectively, and with the highest degree of efficiency possible.

Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue

MS4 CBPRP IMPLEMENTATION

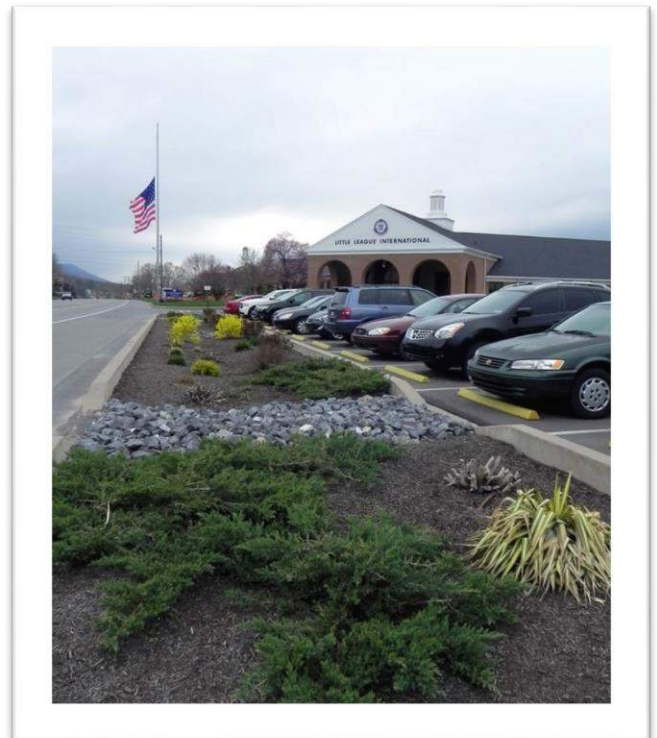
The next round of permitting in the MS4 Program will require the planning and implementation of numerous stormwater infrastructure projects called Best Management Practices, or BMPs, to reduce stormwater pollution in compliance with heightening state and federal regulations.

Each MS4 permit holder must go through a planning process to determine where and how to implement BMPs successfully to achieve a 10% reduction in sediment pollution from runoff in the urbanized area, as required in the upcoming five-year permit cycle. (The next permit cycle begins in 2018 and 2019 for Lycoming County’s MS4 permittees, who have staggered permit dates.) The name of this plan is the CBPRP.

The MS4 permit holders, with the assistance of the Lycoming County MS4 Planner and consultants, have already begun the CBPRP planning process. Once the CBPRPs are completed in 2017 and 2018, the plans will be reviewed for approval or revision by PA DEP.

The MS4 permit holders must determine how to jointly implement and fund these projects. The costs of implementing these projects to meet the permit requirements are likely to be quite significant, but are not yet known by municipal officials and the public. Options for jointly funding these projects will need to be deliberated in order to manage costs. The permittees are required to show DEP that contractual arrangements have been entered into in order to receive “credit” for their share of permit compliance.

Improving the stormwater management in the GWA urbanized areas and complying with the heightened permit requirements will necessitate some significant changes. First, municipalities and municipal authorities will need to consider incorporating green infrastructure BMPs while scoping all future transportation and redevelopment projects on municipal property. Some of the best opportunities for green infrastructure exist as part of street-scaping and parks projects, where green spaces can be used to create storm water infiltration and storage facilities. With the increased burdens of the forthcoming permit, green infrastructure can no longer be considered a nicety, but must be seriously evaluated in each location where redevelopment takes place. In addition, green infrastructure opportunities should also be explored on properties owned by non-profit organizations with large campuses, such as schools, colleges, churches, hospitals, and others. Finally, the permit requirements will also necessitate increased attention to maintenance and upgrades to existing “grey” storm water management infrastructure.



Green infrastructure improves cleaner runoff

In addition to meeting the MS4 implementation regulations, there is also a significant public outreach component that is required. Educating the public about ways to reduce stormwater runoff volume and pollution and how it will improve water quality and ultimately impact everyone's daily quality of life is an important element of the public education. The MS4 Coalition (and/or each MS4 entity) will need to hold at least one public meeting per MS4 permit year as well as regularly solicit public reporting of suspected illicit discharges.

HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE

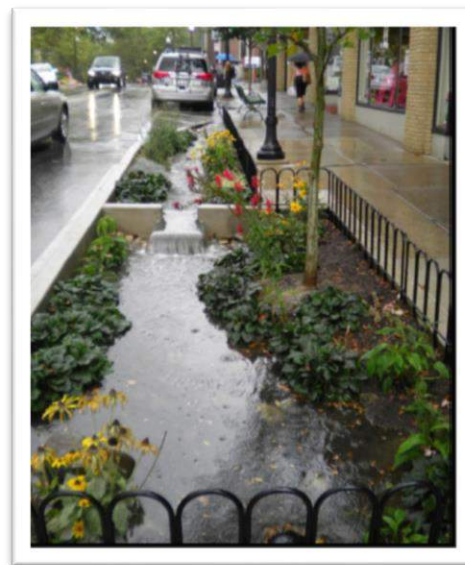
The implementation of the CBPRP and the recommended BMPs will:

- Satisfy DEP permit requirements—a primary concern
- Create additional benefits to the community such as reduced stormwater runoff
- Reduce pollution to local streams and the Susquehanna River.
- Decrease the volume of stormwater flow during rain events that overburden wastewater treatment plants—an outcome that's especially needed in areas plagued by inflow and infiltration problems, or where combined sewer systems are present
- Increase groundwater infiltration
- Replenish aquifers used to draw drinking water for public sources
- Repair or replace existing, deteriorated storm water infrastructure
- Lessen the burden on infrastructure assuming that a volume reduction may preclude the need to replace undersized pipes
- Create economic and quality of life improvements by decreasing localized flooding and damage to private property
- Increase street tree canopies and green infrastructure that contribute to community beautification and quality of life as described under the "Improve Urban Forest" discussion.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Lead Agency –Lycoming County MS4 Coalition, including ten MS4 permittees, and Lycoming County as contracted to staff/assist the Coalition.

Other Partners –Municipal authorities, consultants selected by the permittees to assist, Lycoming County Conservation District, Penn State Cooperative Extension, watershed organizations, entities that can provide technical assistance or public education tied to these BMP projects, municipal staff and elected officials, municipal authorities of various types, schools, colleges, libraries, hospitals, and other public and non-profit organizations with publicly-accessible properties where implementation of BMPs may be feasible, developers, private property owners, mobile home park owners, and landlords, and homeowners' associations.



Rain gardens decrease runoff pollution

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	<p>FOR JOINT PERMITTEES: HOLD REGULAR CBPRP PLANNING MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS</p> <p>FOR GENERAL PERMITTEES: HOLD REGULAR WORK SESSIONS AS NEEDED WITH MS4 PLANNER, CONSULTANTS</p>	<p>JOINT PERMITTEES: NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 2018</p> <p>GENERAL PERMITTEES: NOW THROUGH AUGUST 2017</p>	<p>MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES</p>
2	<p>COMPLETE CBPRP TECHNICAL COMPONENTS, INCLUDING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MAPPING OF STORM SEWER SYSTEM IN ITS ENTIRETY, WITH LAND USE. 2. FIGURE CALCULATIONS OF BASELOADS USING LAND USE MAPPING 3. SELECTION OF BMPs 4. FINALIZE PRP 5. PUBLIC NOTICE/COMMENT PERIOD/ MEETINGS 6. INCORPORATE PUBLIC COMMENTS INTO PLAN 7. SUBMIT MS4 PERMIT NOI WITH PRP 	<p>JOINT PERMITTEES: NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 2018</p> <p>GENERAL PERMITTEES: NOW THROUGH AUGUST 2017</p>	<p>MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES</p>
3	<p>RESEARCH, DISCUSS, AND DRAFT BMP COST-SHARING AND O&M METHODOLOGIES AND LEGAL AGREEMENTS</p>	<p>JOINT PERMITTEES: FALL 2017-SPRING 2018</p> <p>GENERAL PERMITTEES: NOT APPLICABLE UNLESS SELECTING BMPs ON PRIVATE PROPERTY</p>	<p>MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, COUNTY SOLICITOR, MS4 SOLICITORS</p>
4	<p>PRESENT SLATE OF SELECTED BMPs TO MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR REVIEW</p>	<p>JOINT PERMITTEES: WINTER 2017-SPRING 2018</p> <p>GENERAL PERMITTEES: SPRING 2017</p>	<p>MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES</p>
5	<p>REVISE/FINALIZE CBPRP DRAFT BASED ON MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS' INPUT</p>	<p>JOINT PERMITTEES: SPRING 2018</p> <p>GENERAL</p>	<p>MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS,</p>

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		PERMITTEES: SPRING 2017	MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
6	PUBLISH DRAFT CBPRPs FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (45 DAY REQUIRED REVIEW PERIOD); CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS	JOINT PERMITTEES: AUGUST 2018 GENERAL PERMITTEES: JUNE 2017	MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES
7	REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REVISE CBPRPs	JOINT PERMITTEES: SEPTEMBER 2018 GENERAL PERMITTEES: JULY 2017	MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
8	MS4 PERMITTEES APPROVE CBPRPs AT PUBLIC MEETINGS	JOINT PERMITTEES: SEPTEMBER 2018 GENERAL PERMITTEES: AUGUST 2017	MS4 PERMITTEES
9	COMPLETED, APPROVED CBPRPs DUE TO PA DEP	JOINT PERMITTEES: OCTOBER 2, 2018 GENERAL PERMITTEES: SEPTEMBER 15, 2017	MS4 PLANNER
10	ANY PLAN MODIFICATIONS MUST BE MADE AS A PLAN UPDATE SUBMITTED TO PA DEP; REQUIRED WHEN MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE TO THE LOCATION, TYPE, OR NUMBER OF PROPOSED BMPs OR THE STORM SEWERSHED MAP	ONGOING	MS4 PLANNER, MS4 PERMITTEES
11	GWA MUNICIPALITIES TO EVALUATE AND UPDATE STORMWATER ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDANCE AS WELL AS “PRIVATE PROPERTY BENEFITS”	ONGOING	GWA MUNICIPALITIES+

FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY

The planning process will be financed by the MS4 permittees through their existing commitment to fund the MS4 Planner position. Additional staff resources are provided by Lycoming County PCD to assist with portions of the plan, including field work, GIS mapping, and project management. Each permit-holder will also support

(either solely or as a shared commitment) the cost of engineering consultants and/or municipal authority staff who perform necessary technical analysis.

Several funding sources may be available to implement the CBPRP over the next five-year permit cycle. These include stormwater utility fees based on impervious surface of all properties; municipal general funds generated through property taxes; and grants from state, federal, or non-profit agencies. Ultimately, it is the permit-holder's responsibility to implement and maintain the practices necessary to achieve the 10% sediment reduction.

Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue

1. WATER LINE INTERCONNECTOR

Develop water line interconnector between WMWA-WSA and LCWSA systems.

2. WATER/SEWER LINE EXTENSIONS

Expand water and sewer infrastructure where appropriate and needed. Areas identified include Heshbon and Maybee Hill in Loyalsock Township, portions of Old Lycoming Township, and areas of Duboistown Borough.

3. MOSQUITO VALLEY BRIDGE

Complete Mosquito Valley Bridge project in Armstrong Township to prevent potential catastrophic damage to existing water infrastructure and water quality.

4. PRIVATE WATER WELL REGULATIONS

GWA PAT members, along with other municipal and county officials, should consider supporting state legislation that develops/generates private water well regulations to address the health and safety issues described above.

5. EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM UPDATES

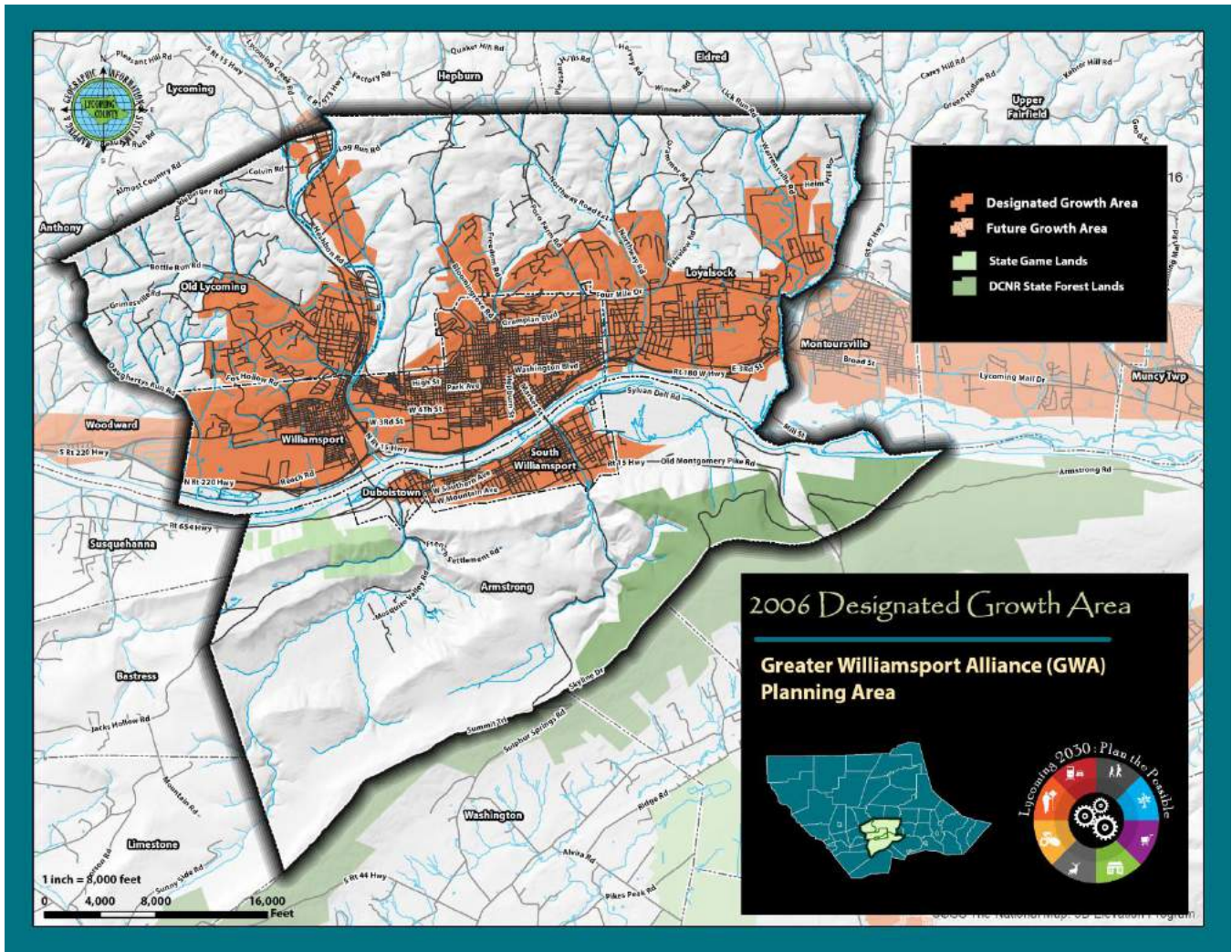
Identification, evaluation and implementation of existing system upgrades for distribution lines, collection lines and rehabilitation of damaged pipelines is needed.

6. LEAD PIPE SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS

Existing lead pipe service lines between house and curb need to be identified, mapped and systematically replaced. This is typically a property owner expense and little to no public funding exists for this purpose. However, the public health concern for lead pipes needs to be communicated to property owners so that they can begin to pursue financing for this infrastructure investment.

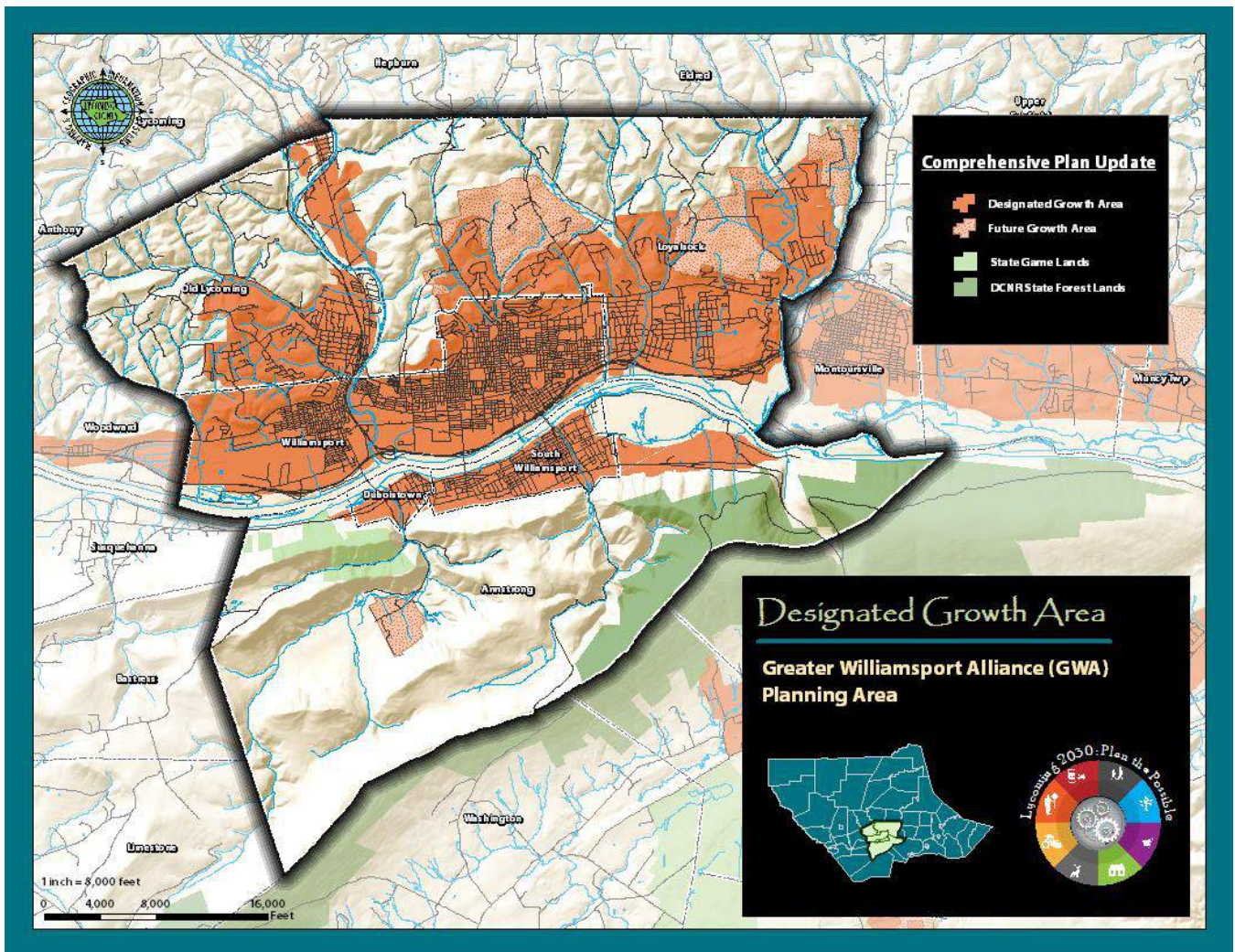
Chapter 3: Growth Area and Future Land Use Maps

Current Designated Growth Area Map



In 2005, there were some minor errors in the precision of growth area mapping in several GWA municipalities. These errors have been corrected and are now included on the above map. They include minor areas in the southwest corner of South Williamsport along W. Mountain Ave and Furey Street; a small area around Valley Street and south of Euclid in Duboistown; a small area at the end of Spring and Summer Street in Armstrong as well as an area east of Duboistown along Euclid, both to reflect the current R2 zoning in Armstrong Township. The area along US Route 15, Old Montgomery Pike and Sylvan Dell Park Road in Armstrong Township is now also considered Growth Area to reflect the mixed-use zoning district that has been adopted in this township since the 2005 plan adoption.

Current / Future Growth Area Map

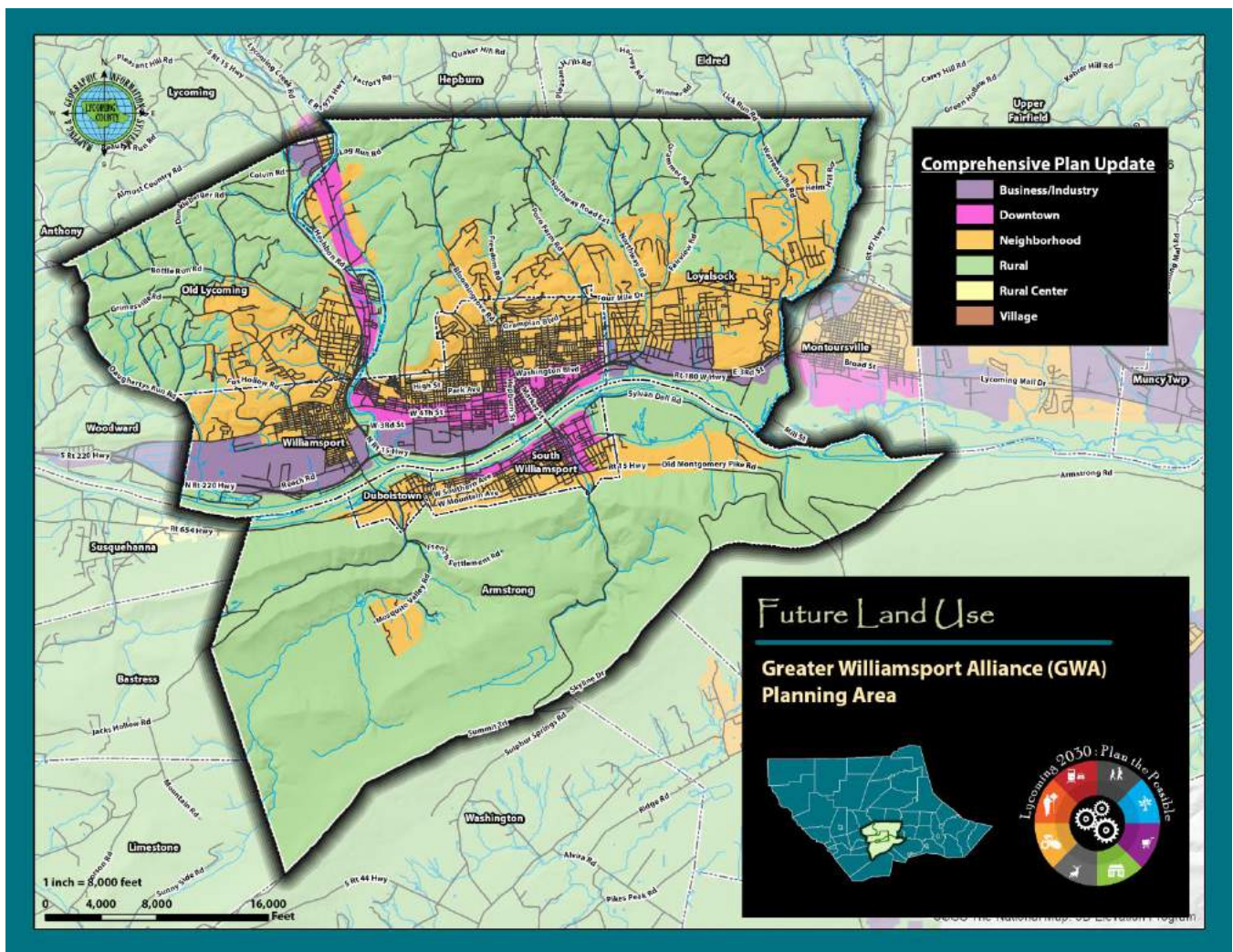


There are areas in Armstrong and Loysock Townships where the future growth area designation has been expanded since the 2005 adopted plan. This is due to the potential for these areas to receive public water service.

In Armstrong Township the area north and south of Mosquito Valley road between Huling Lane, Deer Dr. & Retreat Rd. This is near WMWA’s Lower Mosquito Valley Reservoir. Steep slopes surrounding the shaded area on the map limit this future growth area from expanding beyond these bounds.

In Loysock Township, the future growth area reflects areas where WMWA has studied the feasibility for extending water service with successful results. These include the following: sections of Becker Hill, Freedom, Willow Brook, Poco Farm roads; an area surrounding Fairview and Hepburn Hill roads, and an area surrounding Heim Hill Road.

Future Land Use Map



The only changes of Future Land Use in the GWA reflect the Future Growth Area expansions noted on the previous page, all of which are indicated in the future “Neighborhood” land use category.

< Need to replace with updated map >

ⁱ New Construction estimates

Approximately 20 miles of levee. 5280' per mile x \$1500/foot (conservative estimate)

\$158,400,000.00. This would include pump stations but not right-away acquisition & utility relocation which is a local cost.

US ACE cost share= 65/35. Local share= \$ 55,440,000.

\$ 1500/Linear feet calculated based on construction estimates of the proposed Montoursville levee.

Estimated remediation cost= \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

ⁱⁱ The Township Second Class Township Code, Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69), as enacted and amended

ⁱⁱⁱ The Borough Code, Act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L. 1656, No. 581), as enacted and amended

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Appendix B – Planning Advisory Team Meeting Summaries and Reports

Appendix C – Results of Research and Analysis

1. Quantitative Analysis of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts
2. Background data profile with population projections

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1. 2005 GWA Growth Area Map
2. 2005 GWA Future Land Use Map
3. City of Williamsport Bicycle Routes Map
4. Williamsport Pathway to Health Traffic & Streetscape Improvements
5. Williamsport CONNECT Map

Appendix E – Plan Consistency and Plan References

Appendix A

Plan Process

Although Article III of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) establishes parameters and requirements for comprehensive planning in PA, the process itself is largely left in the hands of the municipalities preparing the plan. This plan is the 10-year update to the 2005 Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Greater Williamsport Area (GWA) Planning Area.

As in the preparation of the 2005 Plan, a Planning Advisory Team (or PAT) was established to help guide the process and content related to this plan. The advisory team's purpose was to provide input, feedback, and pertinent information pertaining to the development of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as to present issues and concerns facing the future of Lycoming County. This PAT had broad representation from various sectors in the community, including: municipal government, municipal authorities and other entities, public safety agencies, education and health institutions, community organizations and other relevant institutions within this Planning Area. The full list of participants can be found in the front chapter of this document. The GWA PAT met for five meetings between September 2015 and April 2017. Meeting notes can be found in the next section of the Appendices.

Lycoming County Planning and Community Development (PCD) staff facilitated the process on behalf of the municipalities in this planning area. The beginning of the planning process was marked by four public outreach meetings around the county to inform the public about the process and also collect feedback on current issues. Meetings were held in Trout Run (Lewis Township), Jersey Shore Borough, Hughesville Borough and the City of Williamsport in September 2015.

As part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan community outreach strategy, Lycoming County conducted a series of focus group meetings in spring of 2016 with key stakeholders representing a cross-section of the County. Each meeting concentrated on a specific subject area and included participants from organizations with relevant subject matter expertise including local governments, County government, emergency service providers, utility providers, public authorities, non-profits, for-profit businesses, community leaders and others. Focus Group sessions were conducted on the following topics, Economic Development; Community Facilities and Infrastructure; Public Safety; Heritage, Culture and the Arts; Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry; Transportation; and Community Development. The findings of these meetings were incorporated into the identification of thematic local and county-wide issues and the development of priority projects and initiatives included in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and Multi-Municipal Plans.

Staff also facilitated an on-line and intercept survey to the public that took place late Summer/early Fall 2016. The results relevant to this Planning Area are conveyed in the Quantitative Research section of the Appendices.

While the collection and analysis of demographic, workforce, economic, and social data are important to identifying and validating existing, sustained, and emerging issues and trends in the planning area and its individual municipalities, this document is focused on actionable, implementable strategies to address those

issues currently seen as the greatest priorities. **This is an implementation-focused plan.** To that end, the approach and construct of this review and implementation strategy were developed with the following characteristics and principles:

- Identification and prioritization of issues
- Broad, representative stakeholder involvement and issue vetting
- Citizen participation and ready access to information
- Commitments to implementation with clear actions, timelines, identification of responsible parties and prospective partners, and the identification of prospective funding
- User-friendly for a wide range of users
- Planning consistency – Integration with and connectivity to other planning documents, such as the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan, the Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan or the County Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan

14 Thematic Issues prioritized across all PATs

These 14 Issue Statements were determined to be of importance to the six multi-municipal planning areas in Lycoming County during the 2015-2017 update process. All of these were selected by at least one PAT as a priority issue in their Comprehensive Plan.

1. The economy is changing, and our communities and workforce are not optimally positioned to realize our untapped economic potential and become resilient to economic trends.
2. Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities throughout the county.
3. Communications infrastructure (especially cell phone and broadband internet) do not meet the needs of all areas of the County.
4. Significant cultural and historical resources are not adequately documented, protected, and promoted.
5. Current land use regulations and enforcement do not consistently and adequately meet community visions and respond to changing conditions.
6. Downtown and village center areas across the County are not thriving or achieving their maximum potential.
7. Fragmentation of local government in Pennsylvania is a barrier to efficient delivery of some public services.
8. Natural gas infrastructure is not adequate in all areas of the County.
9. Outdoor recreation resources are not fully developed, protected and promoted.
10. Drugs, particularly heroin, are creating significant social, economic, public health, and safety problems across the County.
11. Our multi-modal transportation system, particularly the airport, has deficiencies in safety, physical condition, and availability of facilities in some areas of the County.
12. Volunteerism and civic engagement, particularly among young people, are insufficient to sustain community institutions and services.
13. Water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure systems are not sufficient across the County to meet all needs.
14. Water quality is vital, but is vulnerable to a multitude of threats.

Appendix B

Planning Advisory Team Meeting Summaries and Reports

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
October 28, 2015—Meeting #1
1:30-4 p.m., Walnut Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees:

Megan Lehman, Lycoming County PCD
Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
Lauren Robinson, Lycoming County PCD
James Crawford, LCPC
Jim Dunn, Armstrong Township/LCPC
Joe Girardi, City of Williamsport
John Grado, City of Williamsport
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
Gary Knarr, City of Williamsport
John Markley, City of Williamsport
Michael Caschera, Duboistown Borough
Robin Rundio, Duboistown Borough
John Bower, Loyalsock Township
Bill Burdett, Loyalsock Township
Marc Sortman, Loyalsock Township

Dr. Mehrdad Madresee, Lycoming College
Joy Walls, Lycoming County Arts Alliance
Judy Olinsky, Lycoming County Arts Alliance
John Bickhart, LCWSA
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township
Eiderson Dean, Preservation Williamsport
Casey Lowmiller, South Williamsport Borough
Michael Miller, South Williamsport Borough
Daniel Hoffman, Susquehanna Health System
Jim Slotterback, Susquehanna Health System
Scott Williams, Williamsport Bicycle Committee
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA
Doug Keith, WMWA-WSA

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Megan Lehman, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion, with assistance from Kim Wheeler and Lauren Robinson. Megan thanked the members of the PAT for their interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in. All members present introduced themselves, including their organization and role.

One binder was provided for each municipality with today's meeting materials. This binder should be retained as an archive of the PAT work and to house the municipality's final adopted copy of the completed plan. Other members were provided with meeting materials in a folder.

Note: For more detail on **Agenda Items #2 through #6** below, please see the PowerPoint slides, which were provided to PAT members in their packets. For more details on **Agenda Item #7**, see the SWOT Analysis, which was emailed to PAT members.

Agenda Item #2 – What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Megan reviewed the PowerPoint slides regarding the intent and scope of a county comprehensive plan. Three main components of a comprehensive plan:

- a. Inventory of existing conditions
- b. A vision and set of goals and policies to achieve the vision
- c. Implementation strategies for those goals and policies

She explained that the Comprehensive Plan is a general policy guide for the physical, social and economic development of the Lycoming County community. It is a vision for the County and a long-range policy to make that vision a reality. Megan also explained the differences between planning and regulation and cited examples of both. Furthermore, she explained that a Comprehensive Plan evaluates existing land use, transportation systems, housing, community facilities and services, natural and cultural resources, water supply needs, and opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation.

Agenda Item #3 – Roles, Responsibilities, & Operating Procedures of the PAT

Megan reviewed the PowerPoint slides regarding the roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures of the PAT as provided in the packet. Members were advised to remember that the plan update for the GWA will only be as good as we collectively make it. Megan also emphasized that the role of the PAT members is to convey the concerns of the municipalities or organizations they represent, and to their knowledge, the concerns of local residents and other constituents.

Agenda Item #4 – Draft Comprehensive Plan Timeline

Megan explained the expected timeline for the comprehensive plan update process as provided in the packet.

PAT member participation is greatly needed during each phase. PAT meetings will be held approximately every 2-3 months, with homework assignments in between. The next few steps include:

- A second PAT meeting in mid to late January 2016.
- Focus groups on specific topic areas in February 2016. The results of the focus group sessions will feed into the countywide plan and also the multi-municipal plans.
- A second opportunity for full public engagement in June 2016. The public will weigh in on some of the early ideas coming out of the PAT process.

The overall process is expected to conclude in Summer 2017 with adoption by applicable municipal and county governments.

PAT members asked a series of questions about how the County would include youth and young adult input and encourage participation into the process. All acknowledged that these are difficult demographics to reach via traditional approaches, such as public meetings. Several possibilities were discussed, and Megan explained that a Youth PAT including high school students was already being planned but likely would not begin meeting until mid-2016. The group discussed ways to get young adults (specifically young professionals in their 30s and 40s) involved. PCD staff recorded the ideas provided and asked for PAT members to continue to provide additional suggestions as they think of them.

Agenda Item #5 – Overview of 2006 Plan

Megan provided a short summary of the major themes and recommendations from the 2006 Plan for this PAT. The following items were noted as some of the broad themes or concerns in the plan:

- “Quality of life is first and foremost reason for choosing to live here, and an asset to be preserved for future generations”
- First multi-municipal plan completed for these municipalities

- Vibrant city recognized as keystone to health of region/county
- “Brain drain,” population loss a major concern
- Recommendations for implementation by municipalities, county, other entities—widespread responsibility
- Only PAT that continued meeting after 2006 Plan was completed

The following items were some specific, selected recommendations noted from the 2006 plan:

- Target growth and development to Designated Growth Areas
- Reuse brownfields and underutilized parcels
- Enhance housing options and preserve neighborhoods
- Revitalize, celebrate downtown/arts/historic cultural assets
- Recognize/leverage the presence of two colleges
- Preserve ridgetop/steep slopes; limit development there
- Review and update ordinances following plan adoption
- Manage floodplains to reduce hazards
- Improve traffic safety along roadways
- Increase bikeway/pedestrian pathways and connections
- Improve and rehabilitate existing water/sewer infrastructure; expand where growth is desired
- Improve community image and appearance
- Develop new recreation opportunities
- Improve stormwater management
- More proactive code enforcement to improve health and safety, community appearance

Agenda Item #6 – Highlight of Accomplishments Since 2006

Megan provided a short list of accomplishments that have taken place in this PAT area since the 2006 Plan was adopted. Members were asked to suggest other noteworthy accomplishments to include for future documentation. It was acknowledged that this list only scratched the surface of progress made.

The following accomplishments were noted by County staff as part of the presentation:

- Regional sewage infrastructure upgrades
- Recreational amenities (Susquehanna Riverwalk, Conservation Learning Trail, OLT Community Park, South Williamsport Park, Loyalsock Dog Park, Splash Cove...)
- Zoning ordinance updates (most municipalities, countywide)
- GWA as home base for gas industry headquarters
- Downtown Williamsport renaissance
- Expanded arts/cultural events (First Friday, Williamsport Welcomes the World)
- Education: Public school building upgrades; better integration of colleges into community; library expansion (children’s wing)
- MS4 regional collaboration
- Source water protection for Armstrong Township
- Investment in healthy communities: YMCA, Williamsport Hospital upgrades, Pathway to Health
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Senior/affordable housing: Memorial Homes, Grove Street
- I-180 Corridor Plan and Old City Redevelopment Plan

- Major transportation projects (All three river bridges, Rt. 15 safety improvements, Church Street, Trade & Transit Centers)
- Countywide plans completed or updated (Solid Waste, Stormwater, Recreation/Parks/Open Space, Long-Range Transportation, Hazard Mitigation...many more)

In addition, members of the PAT added the following comments to the GWA's collective accomplishments since 2006:

- Historic district designation; district further developed
- College partnerships improved; interns working in local organizations
- Improved tourism initiatives; examples included tours, Genetti, Chamber/Tourism Board efforts
- Joint Rail Authority Industrial Development; rail-sided business development and redevelopment, Newberry rail yards
- Increased public art; designation as Governor's Arts Community in 2008
- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership rivertowns designation and cultural trails (evolving)
- New and renovated hotels
- Regionalization of sewer and water infrastructure and coordination/administration
- Veterans Memorial Park
- STEP senior center

Agenda Item #7 – SWOT Analysis and Prioritization

The PCD staff team (Megan and Kim) conducted a SWOT analysis exercise in which members were asked to identify the PAT area's particular strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. After all responses were documented, members were given the opportunity to prioritize the answers by using dot stickers (two per category). The results were later tabulated and documented by PCD staff in a separate document, which was emailed to the PAT members.

Agenda Item #8 – Homework Assignment and Next Meeting

Members were asked to add a standing agenda item for Comprehensive Plan Update to their municipality's or organization's monthly meeting agendas, and to provide updates when available and solicit feedback to bring back to the PAT. Members were also asked to check back to the project website regularly for updated information and resources for future PAT meetings. All material will be housed at www.lyco.org/CompPlan, with sub-pages to be created for PAT meeting resources.

Megan explained that specific homework assignments will be sent out via email to PAT members and should be completed prior to the next meeting, which is planned for January 2016. Homework assignments will be focused around review of specific sections of the 2006 plan. Megan will follow up with reminders to all members.

The group briefly discussed scheduling of future meetings. It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for 4-6 p.m. on a weekday to see if that time works for most people. This time will help those who must take time off work for their day jobs in order to participate, but also avoids a long evening meeting. Megan will coordinate the next meeting date.

Megan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

SWOT Analysis Notes

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
 Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT, Staff Lead: Megan Lehman
 Wednesday, October 28, 2015 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
 Williamsport Hospital (Susquehanna Health), Walnut Room
 700 High Street, Williamsport



Strengths: 46 votes total

- 11 – Beautiful place; natural and scenic resources
- 5 – Water quality and capacity (supply)
- 4 – Strong local food services “scene”: culinary arts/local food; breweries/wineries; local farms/farmers markets
- 4 – Arts and cultures; performing arts
- 4 – Capacity of professional municipal managers
- 3 – Regional cooperation; Sharing services and resources
- 3 – Flood protection infrastructure
- 2 – Highly productive workforce (data sourced)
- 2 – Colleges
- 2 – Regional cooperative EMS
- 2 – Great place to raise a family
- 2 – Progressive and proactive county leadership
- 1 – Cheap energy
- 1 – Local public education; example: arts and CTE (Career and Technical Education)
- 0 – County full of local entrepreneurs and opportunities
- 0 – Good law enforcement
- 0 – Events and activities are numerous
- 0 – Historic resources
- 0 – Great medical system
- 0 – Great transportation system
- 0 – River
- 0 – Water and sanitary systems – systems upgraded, capacity available
- 0 – Implementation of drug task force
- 0 – Volunteer capacity; community mindedness

Weaknesses: 46 votes total

- 11 – Structurally deficient infrastructure

- 9 – Declining manufacturing sector; lack of upgrades to business infrastructure
- 4 – Lack of support for arts; City/County; lack of plan for arts
- 4 – Municipal fragmentation
- 4 – Fire service fragmentation
- 3 – Lack of economic development advocacy agencies in some communities
- 3 – Drug/crime issues
- 2 – Poor walkable/bikeable connections
- 2 – GWA overall losing 20-40 demographic population
- 2 – Funding sources for implement
- 1 – Loss of large employers = Transition of population (transience)
- 1 – Declining volunteerism base
- 0 – Lack of youth volunteerism

Opportunities: 46 votes total

- 16 – Capitalize on superior outdoor recreation; build on existing infrastructure
- 10 – Possibility to recruit more industries because of cheap energy
- 7 – Retention of college graduates
- 3 – Small business advocacy program or organization
- 3 – Capitalize on Pennsylvania Wilds gateway identity [*Note: This is nearly identical with #1 ranked response above*]
- 2 – Expand local supply/access to natural gas
- 2 – Development of philanthropic mechanism for the arts
- 2 – Capitalize on close proximity to major metropolitan areas
- 1 – Affordable housing opportunities
- 0 – Capitalize on historic assets

Threats: 46 votes total

- 12 – Lack of funding – government mandates
- 11 – Flood damage risk/burden
- 6 – Boom/bust cycle of NG industry; fewer jobs needed
- 5 – Flood insurance reform – Biggert-Waters Act
- 4 – Reliance of local tax base to provide services
- 3 – Ever-changing state/federal priorities
- 2 – Financial support for non-profits
- 1 – Underutilized capacity of hotels
- 1 – Declining school enrollments due to transient population
- 1 – Income pressures on middle class
- 0 – Loss of mid-sized family businesses
- 0 – Export of natural gas resources

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
February 19, 2016—Meeting #2
4-6 p.m., Walnut Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees (who signed in):

Megan Lehman, Lycoming County PCD
Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
James Crawford, LCPC
Dick Staib, Armstrong Township
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
Joe Girardi, City of Williamsport
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township

Scott Williams, Williamsport Bicycle Committee
John Bickhart, LCWSA
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA
Doug Keith, WMWA-WSA
Bill Martin, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Daniel Hoffman, Susquehanna Health System
Joy Walls, Lycoming County Arts Alliance
Judy Olinsky, Lycoming County Arts Alliance

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Megan Lehman, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion, with assistance from Kim Wheeler. Megan thanked the members of the PAT for their continued interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in. All members present introduced themselves, including their organization and role.

Note: For more detail on items below, please see the PowerPoint slides from the meeting and additional documents/handouts as noted.

Agenda Item #2 – Reviewing Data and Issues

The group reviewed and discussed the following items:

- SWOT Analysis Results from Meeting #1
- Demographic data analysis of the GWA planning area

During the data review, the following points were discussed:

- City of Williamsport has the lowest median age. This may be due to the presence of two colleges, although many college students are counted by the Census at their home (parents') addresses rather than on campus. Some believed that perhaps the brain drain effect discussed extensively in the 2006 plan has begun to reverse, as young professionals are becoming more attracted to urban living.
- Loyalsock Township's high median age and concentration of residents age 85 and older is likely due to the presence of several nursing home facilities.
- City of Williamsport has experienced no appreciable spike in violent or property crimes, according to FBI data. This was discussed as being counter to local perception.

Agenda Item #3 – Facilitated Discussion on 2006 Plan Review and Current Issues

The purpose of this exercise was to review the issues that were identified as being concerns in the 2006 GWA plan, discuss, and determine which ones to keep and how they may need to be rephrased or updated to reflect current conditions.

Prior to Meeting #2, a spreadsheet containing the issues that were identified as affecting the GWA in the 2006 plan were sent to the GWA members. Members were requested to review the spreadsheet of issues and respond with their votes on whether the issue still applies or not. The responses of those who replied were tallied and handed out at Meeting #2. Some issues that had very similar wording were grouped together, and issues were ranked for discussion based on the level of disagreement.

Megan and Kim led a discussion through the spreadsheet of 2006 issues, focusing on those that received at least 2 votes not to keep for the 2016 update. The results of this discussion are contained in the document titled “GWA Issues Scoresheet Results Meeting #2.”

Agenda Item #4 – Comprehensive Plan Update Process

Megan and Kim provided an update on the comprehensive plan update, including timeline and format. Please refer to the PowerPoint slides for more information. Note that details may be subject to change as the County is using an adaptive management process as we progress through this complex project and may continue to adjust based on feedback from PAT members and the public.

Agenda Item #5 – Next Steps

Megan requested that GWA members suggest public events in which the County may conduct Comprehensive Plan outreach during the summer.

The next meeting (meeting #3) will be scheduled for early June 2016.

Agenda Item #6 – For the Good of the Order

No further discussion.

Adjournment – Megan adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
June 9, 2016—Meeting #3.1
4-6 p.m., Walnut Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees (who signed in):

Megan Lehman, Lycoming County PCD
Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
Jacob Afton (intern), Lycoming County PCD
Jim Crawford, LCPC
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
John Grado, City of Williamsport
Marc Sortman, Loyalsock Township
Bill Burdett, Loyalsock Township
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township
Dave Dymeck, Williamsport Bureau of Fire
Spencer Sweeting, Wmspt. Area School District

Scott Williams, Williamsport Bicycle Committee
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA
John Bickhart, LCWSA
Paul McKinley, Duboistown VFC
Bob Hetner, South Williamsport Police Dept.
Daniel Hoffman, Susquehanna Health System
Jim Slotterback, Susquehanna Regional EMS
Bill Martin, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Dan Miller, Lycoming College
Jason Fink, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber/IPC
Brian Brooking, Lyco Arts
Debi Burch, Lyco Arts

Note: For more detail on items below, please see the additional documents/handouts noted.

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Megan Lehman, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion, with assistance from Kim Wheeler. Megan thanked the members of the PAT for their continued interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in. All members present introduced themselves, including their organization and role.

Agenda Item #2 – Heritage Plan Update/ Discussion of Survey

Staff gave a brief overview of the county's update to its list of historic resources and heritage plan. Members were asked to help identify additional historic resources in their community for consideration on the updated inventory list.

Kim presented information on the County's Heritage Plan update which will be integrated into the County Comprehensive Plan. The presentations covered:

- The historic inventory update process;
- what a historic resource is;
- the newly created Lycomap gallery which is currently being populated with historic sites and will provide useful information via the County's online GIS tool;
- and, requested that all group members provide additional sites for consideration through a survey handout.

Agenda Item #3 – Focus Group Update

Megan and Kim then summarized the information that was gathered through the following focus groups: Public Safety, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Forestry, Heritage/Culture & Arts, Economic Development, Community Facilities & Infrastructure, Community Development, Transportation, and Private Developers. Detailed information on the focus group meeting notes can be found in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Agenda Item #4 –Summer Public Outreach Overview

Members were asked to send the PAT leads any suggestions they had for public outreach events.

Agenda Item #5 –Next Steps

The main exercise for meeting #3 was not able to be accomplished during this meeting. A separate meeting to complete an interactive exercise to identify strategic actions for addressing the selected Priority Issues for the GWA PAT will need to be scheduled in the next month or so. Look for an email for scheduling of this meeting. Meeting details will be sent out prior to the meeting date.

Members were reminded to check the project website regularly for updated information and resources for future PAT meetings: www.lyco.org/CompPlan.

Adjournment – Megan adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
July 25, 2016—Meeting #3.2
4-6 p.m., Walnut Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees:

Megan Lehman, Lycoming County PCD
Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
Josh Schnitzlein, Lycoming County PCD
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
John Grado, City of Williamsport
Michael Caschera, Duboistown Borough
Jim Dunn, Armstrong Township/LCPC
Virginia Eaton, Loyalsock Township
John Bower, Loyalsock Township
Bill Burdett, Loyalsock Township
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township

Spencer Sweeting, Wmspt. Area School District
Gerald McLaughlin, Loyalsock School District
Doug Keith, WMWA-WSA
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA
Christine Weigle, LCWSA
Bob Hetner, South Williamsport Police Dept.
Daniel Hoffman, Susquehanna Health System
Jim Slotterback, Susquehanna Regional EMS
Mehrdad Madresehee, Lycoming College
Judy Olinsky, Lyco Arts
Eiderson Dean, Preservation Williamsport

Note: For more detail on items below, please see the additional documents/handouts noted.

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Megan Lehman, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion, with assistance from Kim Wheeler. Megan thanked the members of the PAT for their continued interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in. All members present introduced themselves, including their organization and role.

Agenda Item #2 – Exercise Overview

Megan recapped the GWA meeting #3.1, held on June 9, 2016. At the meeting, the group selected and ranked nine priority issues for the GWA planning area. The group ran out of time to complete the second half of the exercise, and voted unanimously to schedule a second meeting to continue the rest of the exercise. The purpose of meeting #3.2 was to review the strategies that were contained in the 2006 GWA Comprehensive Plan to determine if they are still relevant for the plan update; to brainstorm new strategies; and to “tag” or assign all relevant strategies to at least one of the nine priority issues. The output—a set of priority issues and associated strategies—will be documented in the 2016 plan update and used to help narrow the focus onto a set of priority projects for implementation over the next ten years.

Megan and Kim explained the format of the exercise using a “blue sticky wall” interactive tool. The nine priority issues were listed across the top of the wall. The PAT members were broken into small groups based on their professional knowledge and interest areas. Each group was given a set of strategies from the 2006 plan, and was asked to review them for relevance to today’s GWA issues. Strategies could be

retained, updated/rewritten, or discarded. Each small group could also brainstorm new strategies. Finally, the small groups were asked to place the strategies on the wall under the most relevant issue. Once the small groups were finished, the whole PAT would reconvene and review the strategies that were listed under each issue. The PAT members had an opportunity to discuss, revise and refine strategies listed; add new strategies; and review the strategies that were set aside by the small groups before they were officially discarded.

Agenda Item #3 – Exercise Part 2: Select Strategies/Tag to Priority Issues

The exercise was conducted as described above. The output is captured in the document titled “GWA #3.2 Priority Issues and Strategic Actions Summary.”

Agenda Item #4 – Next Steps/Conclusion

Kim thanked the GWA members for their thoughtful and active participation in today’s meeting. She explained that the next step will be to assemble a list of nominations for priority projects that will be reviewed by the GWA group and the County for inclusion in the final plan. **GWA members were asked to send Megan their suggestions by August 26 via email.** Priority projects can include physical infrastructure projects (such as transportation facilities, water and sewer lines, public buildings, etc.) as well as programmatic projects (such as regionalization of services, creation of new initiatives, code and ordinance updates, etc.)

Megan noted that she would type up and distribute the results of today’s exercise via email. **She asked members to also send her any additional thoughts they have regarding strategies by August 26 along with the priority project suggestions.** If members are unsure if an idea is a strategy or a project, they are asked to send it along and the staff will sort it out.

By September 1, Megan will send the GWA members a draft list of priority projects along with a rating form. The GWA members will be asked to review the list of projects and send in their ratings of the projects prior to meeting #4. A rating form for members’ use and a deadline for its return to Megan will be provided to members via email. The priority projects will be the focus of GWA meeting #4. The end goal will be for one major project of regional significance to be prioritized for each of the nine issues and documented in the multi-municipal plan.

The next meeting (GWA #4) is scheduled for September 22, 2016 from 4-6 p.m. The location will be the Williamsport Hospital. Members were reminded that for this meeting only, we will be meeting in the Elm/Cherry/Pine Rooms, rather than the Walnut Room, which was already booked. The Elm/Cherry/Pine Rooms are also on the Third Floor in the hospital’s conference center, to the left of the elevator in front of the gift shop.

Adjournment – Megan adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

GWA Planning Area Team (PAT) Summary of Priority Issues with Strategies

(Issues Listed in PAT Priority Order)



This document summarizes the output of the third GWA PAT meeting (held in two sessions between June and July 2016). The list contains the top nine prioritized issues as voted by the GWA members, and the strategies that have been assigned to them. Where noted, strategies may apply to multiple issues.

Priority Issue # 1: A changing economy requires new strategies for economic development, workforce development, and education, with emphasis on job creation and retention. (27 votes)

Strategies:

- Explore options for and incentivize the redevelopment of existing and abandoned commercial, industrial, and residential properties.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to promote a positive business climate in the downtown.
- Make regulations conducive to reuse and rehab of older structures. *(Also applies to Issues #5 and #7)*
- Continue exploration of KIZ applicability and opportunity.
- Promote the use of shared parking agreements for businesses that have different peak hours of operation. *(Also applies to Issue #7)*
- Identify areas for development of more concentrated and diverse developments where infrastructure is available or planned. *(Also applies to Issues #4 and #9)*
- Provide regional support to multi-campus services throughout region, such as Susquehanna Health System. *(Also applies to Issue #2)*
- Meet housing needs for professionals at a variety of ages and life stages in livable communities.

(Issues #2 and #3 were tied)

Priority Issue # 2: Interagency cooperation, multi-municipal partnerships, and regionalization of services should be maintained or pursued. (23 votes)

Strategies:

- Create ideal regional service delivery plans using outside expertise.

- Consider re-establishing regular GWA meetings.
- Explore beautification options and gateway opportunities in and around commercial districts. *(Also applies to Issues #1 and #7)*
- Develop zoning ordinance amendments that are compatible with land use patterns and densities that define the local character of communities.
- Consider regional, multi-municipal zoning options.
- Encourage consistency in administration and enforcement of zoning practices with other municipalities in the Planning Area. These could include better utilization of zoning tools available; training of zoning personnel; and assistance with interpretation of zoning regulations.
- Review ordinances for standards that require excessive impervious surface coverage. Revise such standards with provisions for better stormwater management practices, promoting the interception and infiltration of stormwater onsite using green infrastructure wherever possible. *(Also applies to Issue #8)*
- Work to provide flood protection to flood prone areas, when cost-effective; maintain levee certification. *(Also applies to Issues#5 and #7)*
- Work with the County and state and federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue to acquire lands that are in the floodplain.
- Work with school districts, the colleges, and the County to establish partnership initiatives.
- Collaborate and partner with religious and non-profit institutions, where appropriate, to address myriad community issues and concerns.

Priority Issue # 3: Outdoor recreation and scenic assets should be maintained and expanded. (23 votes)

Strategies:

- Explore connectivity options for bikeways, walkways, and greenways. *(Also applies to Issues2 and #4)*
- Encourage new development to include pedestrian and bike facilities. *(Also applies to Issues#2 and #4)*
- Appropriately regulate new and expanding developments within the floodplain. *(Also applies to Issues #3 and #8)*
- Continue to develop recreational areas for the benefit of residents and visitors, and continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region. *(Also applies to Issue #2)*
- Encourage greenway efforts, such as Miller’s Run Greenway, and tie them into Susquehanna Greenway Partnership efforts and expertise.
- Encourage recreational uses of floodplain areas, with appropriate regulation.

Priority Issue # 4: Transportation systems need to be maintained and improved. (18 votes)

Strategies:

- Work to complete streetscape enhancements and the Susquehanna Riverwalk expansions. *(Also applies to Issues#2 and #4)*
- Ensure that safe pedestrian mobility and transportation mode alternatives are an integral consideration in all downtown revitalization efforts and in all GWA communities; include the development of streetscape and traffic calming plans. *(Also applies to Issues#2 and #7)*
- Transportation corridor improvements, such as Pathway to Health completion, should be made to main arteries to key or critical facilities. *(Also applies to Issue #1)*
- Commerce Park Drive only has one exit, which presents economic development, public safety, and transportation concerns/issues; consider establishing a second connection through Basin Street.
- Consider establishing a connection from Reach Road to Wahoo Drive.
- Continue to explore the rehabilitation or replacement of structurally deficient bridges.

(Issues #5 and #6 were tied)

Priority Issue # 5: Significant cultural and historical resources need to be protected and enhanced. (16 votes)

Strategies:

- Recognize the arts and cultural assets as an economic driver.
- Identify and preserve the historical transportation routes in the planning area.
- To facilitate development of cultural and historical resources, evaluate existing zoning and building codes and subdivision and land development regulations, to ensure they are conducive to the promotion of a vibrant and livable community.
- Conduct an updated housing needs assessment (post-Marcellus Shale) to determine if the existing housing stock meets the needs of current and prospective residents.
- Establish a neighborhood preservation program to support property maintenance and beautification, house-by-house.
- Reestablish the historic sign program.
- Establish neighborhood associations to promote a sense of neighborhood identity, community, and pride in ownership, and to give residents a stronger voice in local government affairs.
- Develop a culture, arts and heritage trails initiative in any areas designated by municipalities as culturally and historically significant. *(Also applies to Issue #3)*
- Increase public awareness of the cultural and historical resources unique to the area.
- Promote the implementation of the Old City/East Third Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy.
- Promote the implementation of the Lower West Branch River Conservation Plan.

Priority Issue # 6: Social and financial implications of drugs and crime (specifically heroin) need to be addressed. (16 votes)

Strategies:

- Support the provision of treatment, rehabilitation, education and counseling to prevent addiction and assist recovery.
- Educate students at a young age to impress upon them the dangers before possible drug use begins.
- Continue to evaluate the need for a paid police department. *(Also applies to Issue #2)*
- Promote volunteerism among all populations and young people in particular through the use of social media and applications, such as the currently popular Pokemon Go app.

Priority Issue # 7: Downtown areas need to be improved and strengthened. (15 votes)

Strategies:

- Promote mixed-use development.
- Ensure that mixed-use zoning is provided for in the downtown business districts.
- Implement a split-rate real estate tax to promote infill development.
- Make improvements to the urban forest to provide enhanced streetscapes and increase stormwater interception.
- Work locally and cooperate with the County in the implementation of central business district revitalization and community gateway initiatives, such as Rt. 15 Gateway, and the Old City/East 3rd Street Gateway Redevelopment Strategy. *(Also applies to Issue #2)*

Priority Issue # 8: Water quality and supply need to be protected. (12 votes)

Strategies:

- Participate in regional groundwater studies to protect our vital groundwater resources.
- Discourage high- and medium-density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells. *(Also applies to Issue #9)*

Priority Issue #9: Water and sewer systems need to be maintained and interconnected, and expanded if necessary. (11 votes)

Strategies:

- Plan infrastructure improvements and expansions (such as sewer and water) that are consistent with planned growth areas. *(Also applies to Issue #1 and #2)*
- Explore the feasibility of water and sewer service to areas not currently served, but where service is needed and/or growth is planned. *(Also applies to Issue #1, #2, and #8)*
- Explore options to maintain water and sewer systems and assets while managing costs. *(Also applies to Issue #2)*

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
GWA PAT

September 22nd — Meeting #4

4 – 6:30 pm, Walnut Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees:

Megan Lehman, AICP, PCD

Kim Wheeler, AICP, PCD

Joshua Billings, PCD

Jim Crawford, LCPC

Gabe Campana, City of Williamsport

Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport

Jim Dunn, Armstrong Township

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township

Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA

Daniel Hoffman, Susquehanna Health System

Dieter Reichmann, Susquehanna Health System

Jason Fink, Industrial Properties Corp.

John Bickhart, LCWSA

Brian Brooking, Lyco Arts

Debi Burch, Lyco Arts

Dr. Mehrdad Madresee, Lycoming College

Dr. William Martin, Pennsylvania College of
Technology

Gerry McLaughlin, Loyalsock Township School
District

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome

Megan Lehman & Kim Wheeler facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. They thanked the members of the PAT for their continued interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in.

After introductions, meeting materials were distributed for the night's discussion which is to be added to the folders given out at initial meeting.

Agenda Item #2 – Online & In-person Survey Update

Megan first discussed the public opinion survey results (Attached – page 2 of survey results document)

- 936 individuals took the online survey, and 196 people took the in-person survey.
- The top five issues were consistent, and ranked exactly the same, between the online survey and the intercept survey. Please see the attached summary document for more information on the results
- More detailed information on the survey will be distributed after all of the information that we've collected has been processed. The answers to the first two open-ended survey questions are still being coded and analyzed.

Agenda Item #3 – Updated timeline

Kim discussed the project's updated timeline and anticipated timeline for adoption.

- A rough draft of the plan will be emailed to PAT members in mid-December.
- Comments or suggestions will be received via email or phone prior to the January meeting.
- That draft plan will be reviewed at meeting #5 in January.
- A final draft document, with PAT suggested edits, will be distributed to the PAT members by February 2017.
- It is our goal to have the PAT municipalities adopt these plans in April 2017.

- A more detailed breakdown of these important dates can be reviewed in the attached PowerPoint.

Agenda Item #4 – Draft Plan Format

Kim detailed the draft plan format, its contents, and how the top viable project will be detailed.

- Plan introduction will include a planning area and individual municipality profile.
- The top viable project, as decided upon in our next exercise, will be developed to include steps for implementation, possible funding sources, and mapping / demographic information as needed.
- All other projects that are not considered “the top viable project” will be given a brief description which will be expanded upon once the PAT’s priority project has been completed.
- Growth Area and Future Land Use Map changes will be detailed in the plan.
- Background data and plan process information will be located in the appendices.

Agenda Item #4 – Identification of “Top Viable Project”

Megan then summarized the information that was gathered through the development of the PAT’s selected priority issues in meeting #2, the strategies that were developed from those issues in meeting 3A & 3B, and the potential projects that were created through this process and PAT member feedback.

Megan then reviewed each potential project with the group and discussed/amended projects as deemed necessary by the group. Any changes that were made to the wording of a project are captured in red text in the attached document.

The group then voted once per issue to determine the top viable project.

Results and voting information can be found on the attached document labeled “Update and Talled Project List.”

Agenda Item #5 - Review Growth Map Boundaries

Kim then reviewed the Growth Area Map with the group. The growth boundary has been modified in Armstrong and Loyalsock Townships.

Agenda Item #6 – Review Future Land Use Map

Minor changes were recommended to the Future Land Use Map.

*The Growth Area Map and the Future Land Use Map will be e-mailed to the group for review along with the confirmation of January’s meeting date and time.

Agenda Item #7 – Next Steps

Next Meeting will be scheduled in January. A notice to PAT members will follow to determine best date for participants.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
April 10, 2017 — Meeting #5a
4-6 p.m., Pine / Cherry Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees:

Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
Fran McJunkin, Lycoming County PCD
Josh Schnitzlein, Lycoming County PCD
Jim Crawford, LCPC
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
Stephanie Young, City of Williamsport
Dave Dymeck, Wmspt Bureau of Fire
Jim Dunn, Armstrong Township/LCPC
Charles O'Brien, Wmspt Bureau of Fire, Intern

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA
John Bickhart
Bob Hetner, South Williamsport Police Dept.
Judy Olinsky, Lyco Arts
Joy Walls, Lyco Arts
Debi Burch, Lyco Arts

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Kim Wheeler, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. Kim also handed out the public survey results distilled down to the 17701 and 17702 zip codes.

Agenda Item #2 – Timeline for Adoption

Kim reviewed the timeline for adoption. The PAT member municipalities agreed that having a Joint Public Hearing was best. They suggested June 14, 2017 at the Trade and Transit Center II Community Room. The county planning office will advertise the public hearing. Following the Public Hearing, there will be a 45 day review. Any minor edits will be considered and made. Significant changes will require an additional Public Hearing. Adoption of the plan will be July-August timeframe. A quorum from each municipality must be present.

Agenda Item #3 – Review of Plan

Kim reiterated that the plan will be organized in an "implementation strategy" format. It is a shorter and more concise document that compliments the 2005 plan. We then walked through the components of the plan and focused the conversation on the Priority Issues and Projects. Many minor edits and clarifications were discussed that are not noted in detail in this summary.

Priority Issue 1: The Economy Is Changing was skipped at this time.

Priority Issue 2: Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities- This was originally under the economy but staff determined that Flooding was a more appropriate fit. Fran McJunkin briefed this. Kim said that Bill Burdett, Loyalsock Township offered notes. It was determined that the write up should include the entirety of the Levee systems. A request was made to include County Commissioner support and flesh out the cooperative work of all the municipalities.

Priority Issue 3: Fragmentation of local government in Pennsylvania is a barrier to efficient delivery of some public services- The discussion on this topic centered on the progress made since the GLESA

Report from DCED in 2012. There needs to be balance between EMS and Fire. There was a recommendation to include information on what has changed since 2006 in the GWA.

Priority Issue 4: Outdoor recreation resources are not fully developed, protected, and promoted. –No requested changes.

Priority Issue 5: Our multi-modal transportation system, particularly the airport, has deficiencies in safety, physical condition, and availability of facilities in some areas of the County- It was pointed out that the City is establishing a “Quiet Zone” in the rail area of Newberry. This is in response to requests by City residents. There was also discussion regarding the viability of additional traffic circles in the GWA area.

Priority Issue 10: Water, sanitary sewer, and storm water infrastructure systems are not sufficient across the County to meet all needs- The group requested a catch all for additional projects. WMWA-WSA commented that they are actively replacing lines. The topic of Lead in water came up and it was explained that sometimes disturbing the lines from the curb to the structure may cause lead issues. Currently lateral replacement is not publically funded.

Kim also noted that if there are any municipal-specific projects that do not rise to the level of regional significance, to let her know so they can be documented in the plan as well.

Agenda Item #4 – Growth Area Maps

The growth area maps were reviewed by Kim and the PAT members and comments/feedback were requested. There were none.

Agenda Item #5 – Next Steps

Kim explained that the final draft plan is expected to be distributed for public review two weeks before the public hearing date. It will be distributed to all municipalities, placed on the county and municipal webpages (if able) and also sent digitally to all contiguous municipalities and school districts within the planning area. All comments must be received within 45 days of the public hearing otherwise municipalities can proceed with adoption without them.

Adjournment – Follow up meeting was set for Monday, April 17, 2017 from 4:00PM-6:00 PM.

MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
Greater Williamsport Alliance PAT
April 17, 2017 — Meeting #5b
4-6 p.m., Pine / Cherry Room, Williamsport Hospital



Attendees:

Kim Wheeler, Lycoming County PCD
Fran McJunkin, Lycoming County PCD
Josh Schnitzlein, Lycoming County PCD
Jim Crawford, LCPC
Bill Burdett, Loyalsock Township
Bonnie Katz, City of Williamsport
John Grado, City of Williamsport

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Township
John Eck, Old Lycoming Township
John Bickhart
Bob Hetner, South Williamsport Police Dept.
Judy Olinsky, Lyco Arts
Joy Walls, Lyco Arts
Debi Burch, Lyco Arts

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Kim Wheeler, staff lead for the GWA PAT, facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. She noted that edits on the first half of the GWA draft plan are due to the county by 4/24. Edits on the second half of the GWA draft plan are due to the county by 5/1.

Agenda Item #2 – Timeline for Adoption & Process

Kim reviewed the timeline for adoption. Lycoming County Planning Commission will hold a Public Meeting as per the MPC on April 20, 2017 as part of their regular meeting. Joint Public Hearing scheduled for June 14, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Trade & Transit Center Community Room. Kim will follow up on the details. There will be a 45 day review, any minor edits will be considered and made. Significant changes will require an additional Public Hearing. Adoption of the plan will be July-August timeframe. A quorum from each municipality must be present.

Agenda Item #3 – Review of Plan

Kim reiterated that the plan will be organized in an “implementation strategy” format. We then walked through the Issues and Projects. Many minor edits and clarifications were discussed that are not noted in detail in this summary.

Priority Issue 6: Significant Cultural and Historical Resources are not adequately documented, protected, and promoted- The group discussed the amenities found in the greater Williamsport area and the increased vitality of the downtown since 2006 era. There was a discussion of greenspace, parking issues and the possible uses of a trolley. The question of whether the Main Street program could be recognized.

Priority Issue 7: Drugs, particularly heroin and opioids, are creating significant social, economic, public health, and safety problems across the County- The group found no significant changes. However, there was some discussion about there being several methadone clinics already located in the GWA, namely the City and Old Lycoming.

Priority Issue 8: Downtown and village center areas across the County are not thriving or achieving their maximum potential.– John Grado gave Kim a recent PowerPoint presentation packet on the Connect Williamsport: Old City/East Third Street Redevelopment Project so that the project information can be updated in the GWA plan accordingly. Several recommendations were made to include more discussion on how downtown Williamsport has become a significant destination in the last decade and especially for nightlife.

Priority Issue 9: Water quality is vital but is also vulnerable to a multitude of threats- No requested changes.

Priority Issue 1: The economy is changing and our communities and workforce are not optimally positioned to realize our untapped economic potential and become more resilient- This section will be completed in the near future. Kim Wheeler and Kurt Hausammann will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce within the next two weeks. Once the write up is finished it will be sent to the PAT members for Review.

Adjournment – A reminder that the Joint Public Hearing will be held on June 14, 2017 and each municipality will need a quorum, or they will have to hold their own hearing.

Appendix C

Results of Research and Analysis

1. Quantitative Analysis of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts
2. Background data profile with population projections

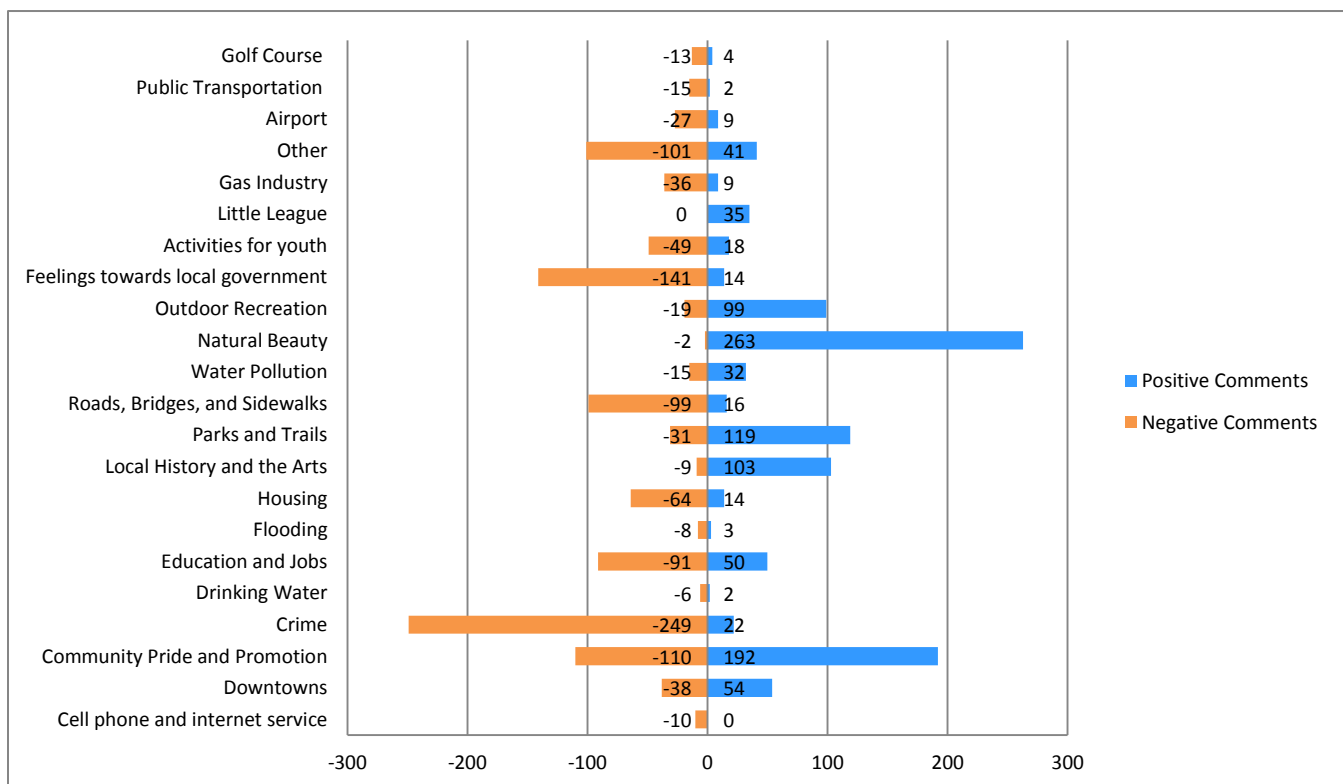
Quantitative Analysis of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts

Planning Area Specific Analysis for the Greater Williamsport Planning Area

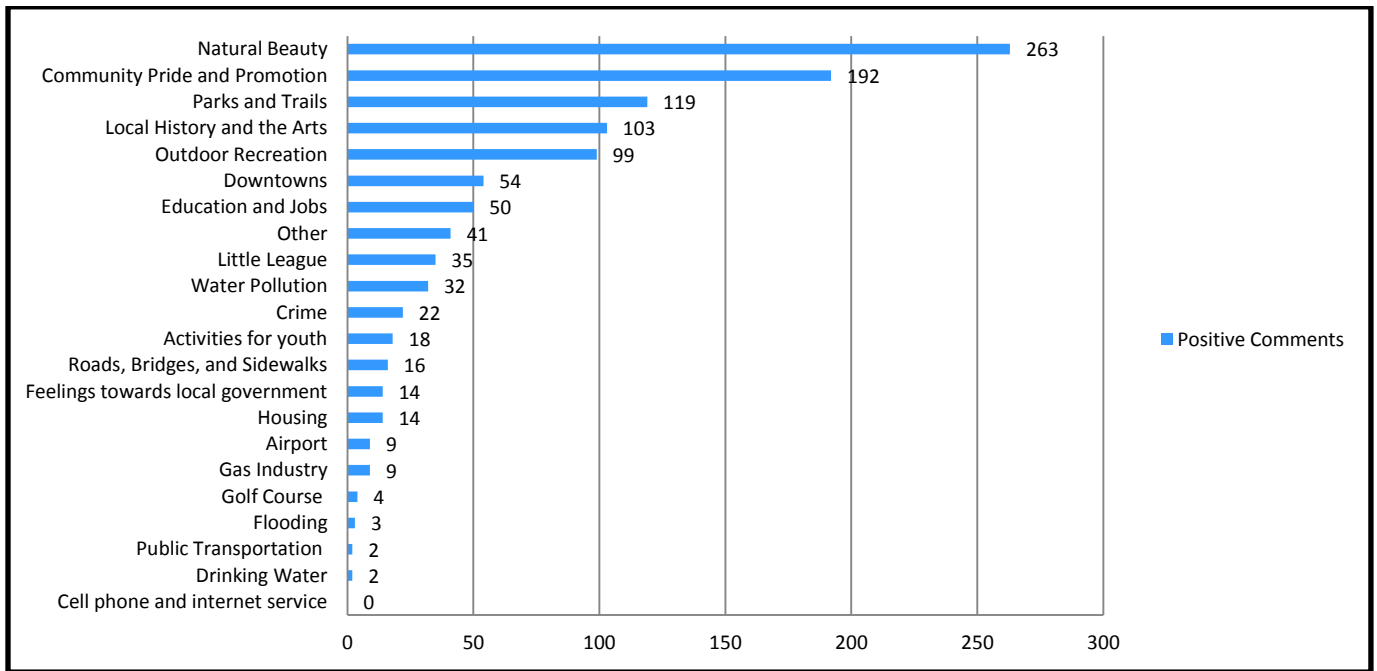
In the summer of 2016, the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD) conducted several public outreach efforts where they collected data to determine which topics were most important to members of the public and what they liked and didn't like about Lycoming County. These outreach efforts were mainly centered around two specific methods. First, from May to August, PCD staff members conducted "Intercept Surveys" where they went to public events and conducted one-on-one survey sessions. Then from August 12th through September 18th the county hosted a survey online. All survey respondents were asked to provide home zip codes. The survey results were then separated by Planning Area based on which zip codes intersected with the Planning Area. Below is the combined analysis from the two surveys gathered from the 17701, 17702, and 17754 zip codes. The 17752 zip code briefly crosses into the Planning Area but was excluded because of the small area which it intersects with. 611 people participated in the online survey and 122 participated in the intercept survey for a total of 733 survey respondents.

Qualitative Analysis for 17701, 17702, and 17754 Zip Codes

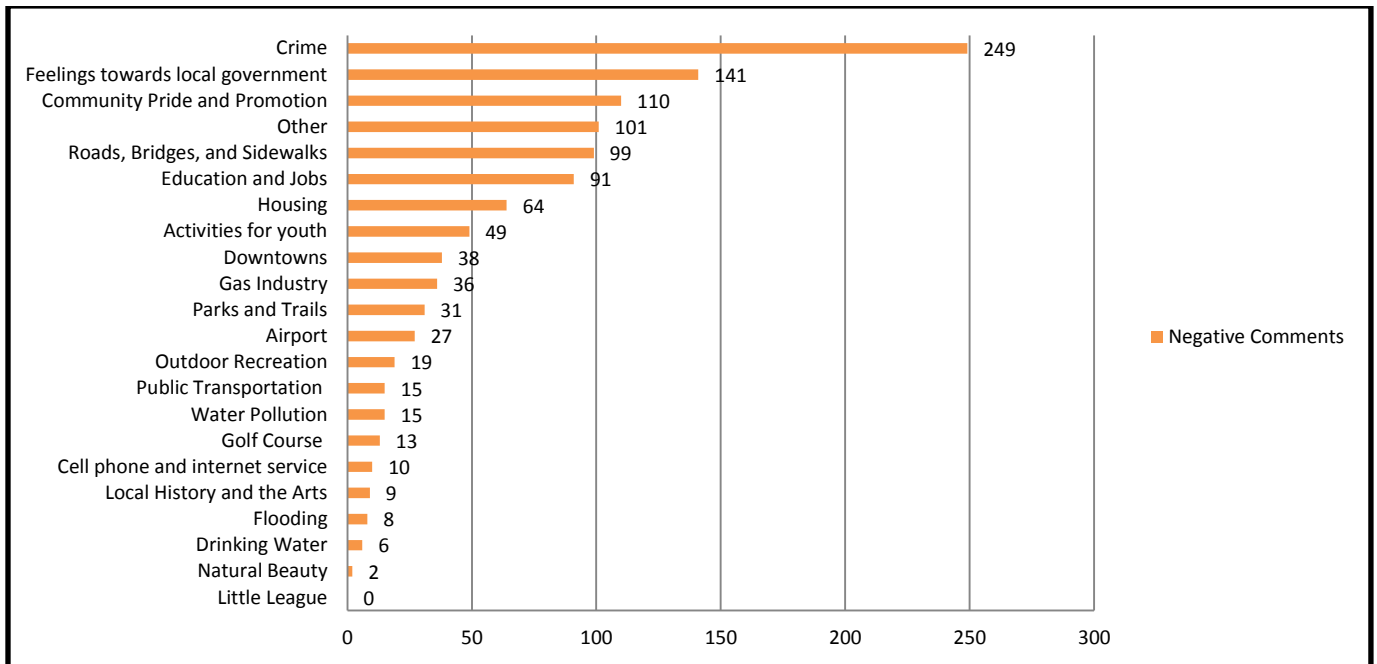
The online and intercept surveys both had open ended questions which allowed people to give their thoughts and opinions on the County. The first question asked "What do you like about Lycoming County and want to make sure lasts well into the future?" The second question was "What don't you like about Lycoming County and wish were different?" The responses from these two questions were analyzed by the department and comments were quantified into 22 separate categories (listed below). Comments which said something positive about the subject were separated from comments which said something negative about the subject. Positive numbers reflect positive comments and negative numbers reflect negative comments.



Qualitative Analysis for 17701, 17702, and 17754 Zip Codes continued



Culture, recreation, and scenic beauty were the themes of the top 6 most commented on categories by citizens of the GWA planning area. This is consistent with feedback received throughout the county. Many citizens believe these topics are important to their quality of life and do not want to see them negatively changed.

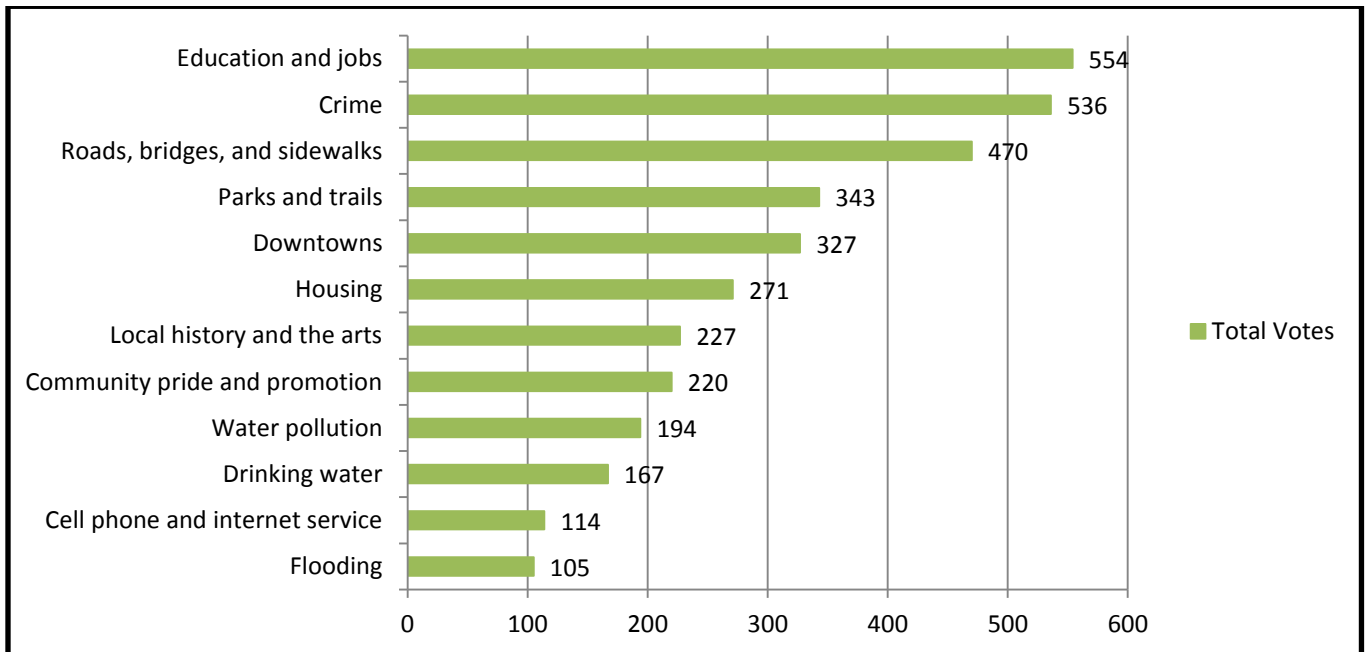


The most important topic which citizens of the GWA planning area identified as something they want to see changed was crime. Additionally, citizens are also unhappy with government, however, the reasons varied from people who believed government was doing too much to those who thought it wasn't doing enough. Citizens also identified community pride/promotion and infrastructure as important topics. The other category was a variety of responses which covered topics including the lack of new businesses, emergency services, and the lack of resources available for underprivileged families to succeed.

Lycob Bucks Exercise for 17701, 17702, and 17754 Zip Codes

This part of the survey allowed participants to take 5 theoretical dollars to allocate them towards their top priorities if they were in charge of making decisions. Participants could use all of the money towards one category or spread it out across up to five categories. Twelve separate categories were provided (listed in the graph below). Below is a graph showing how survey participants within the planning area responded to this portion of the exercise.

Survey participants identified education and jobs and crime as the two most important priorities. Next came roads, bridges, and sidewalks followed by parks and trails. The priority of least concern was flooding. Drinking water and Cell phone and internet service were viewed as less important priorities as well.

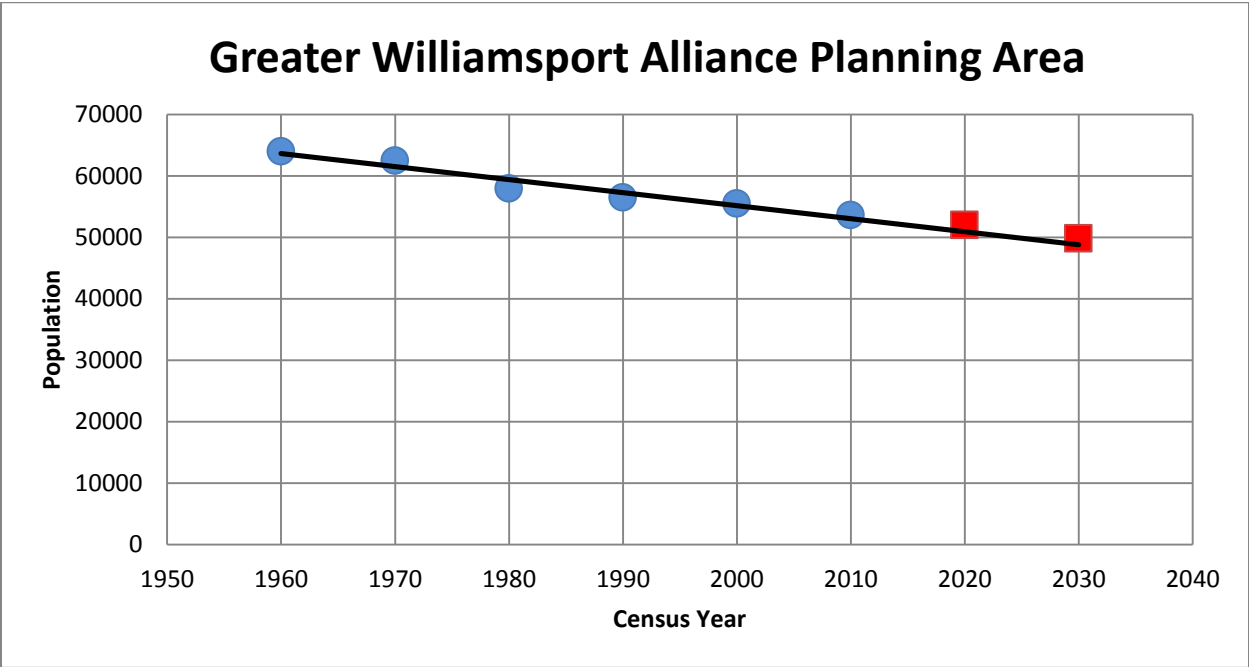




Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area Profile

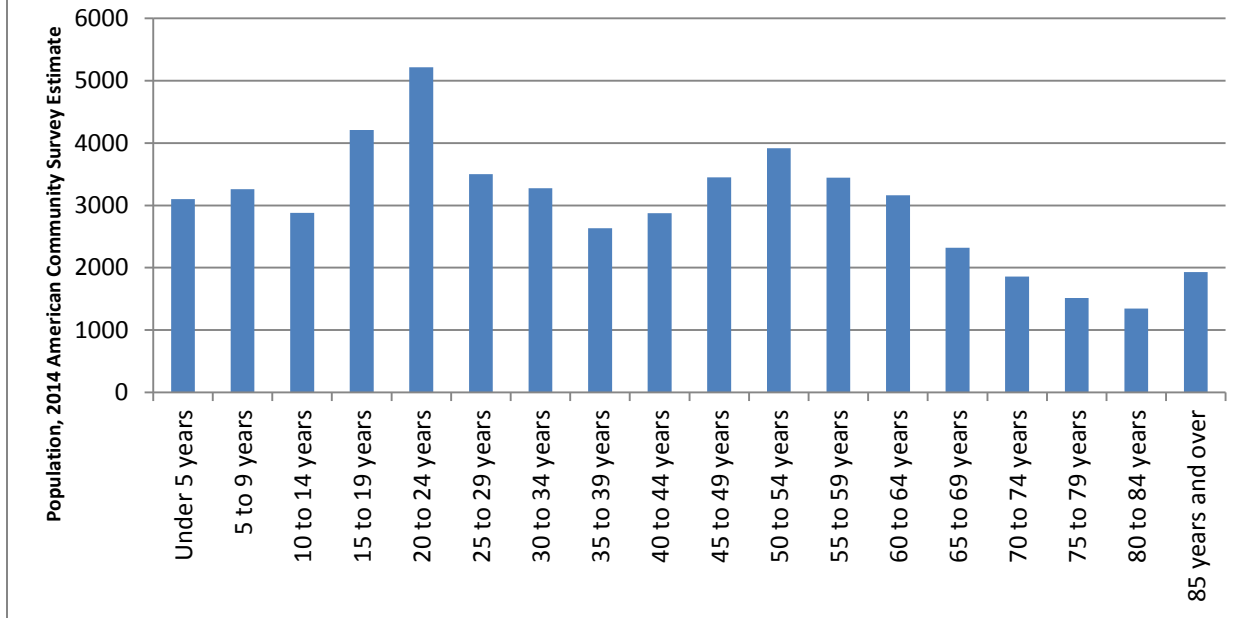
Population change and projections

- **Census Count of Population Used to Calculate Population Change Projection**
- ▲ **Census Count of Population Excluded From Calculations**
- **Projected Future Population Count**
- **Best Fit Population Change Trend Based on 30-50 Years of Census Population Counts**



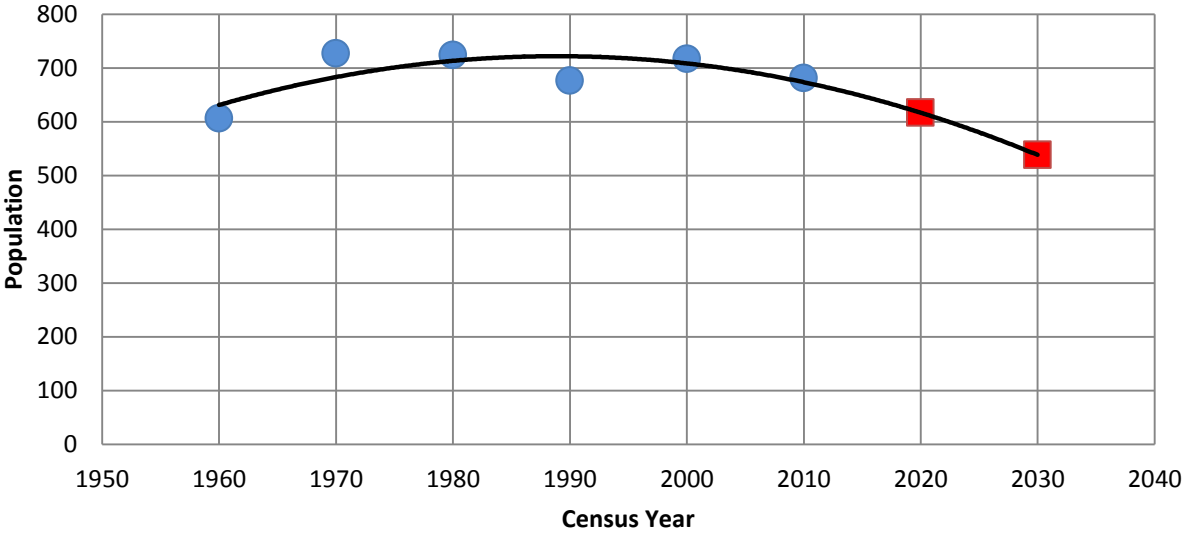
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Armstrong	606	727	724	676	717	681	617	538
Duboistown	1358	1468	1218	1201	1280	1205	1154	1115
Loyalsock	9047	10581	10763	10644	10876	11026	11556	11860
Old Lycoming	3996	4616	5220	5526	5508	4938	4330	3344
South Williamsport	6972	7153	6581	6496	6412	6379	6295	6226
Williamsport	41967	37918	33401	31933	30706	29381	28034	26705
TOTAL	63946	62463	57907	56476	55499	53610	51984	49788

Population by Age Group, 2014

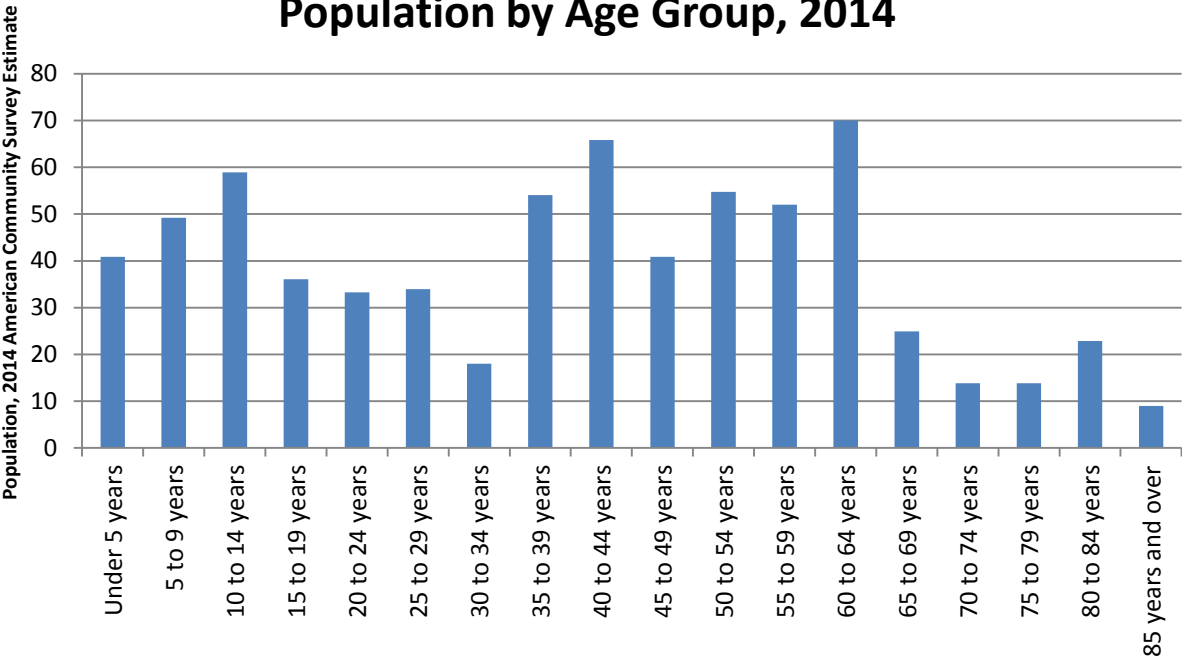


	Median age, 2014 American Community Survey Estimate
TOWNSHIP OF ARMSTRONG	42.1
BOROUGH OF DUBOISTOWN	46.5
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	51.8
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	49.7
BOROUGH OF SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT	38.3
CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT	30.3

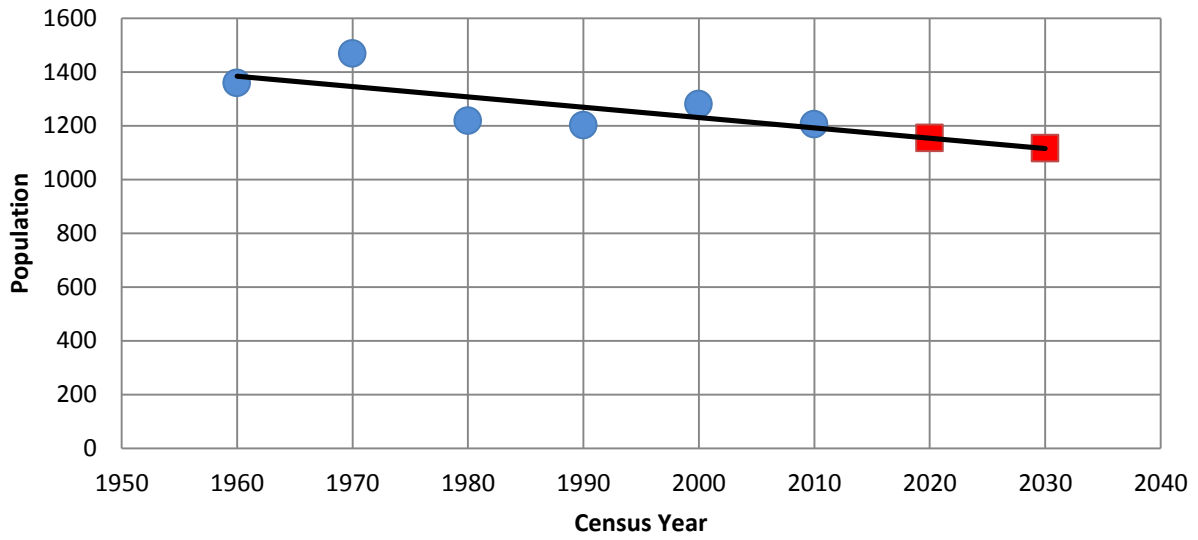
Armstrong Township



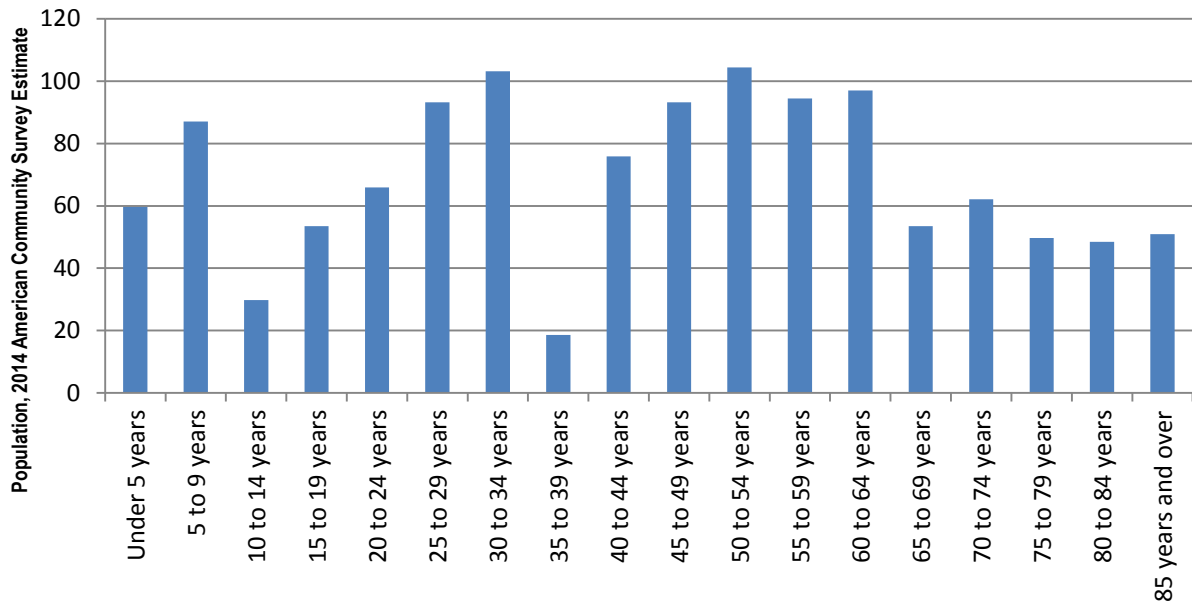
Population by Age Group, 2014

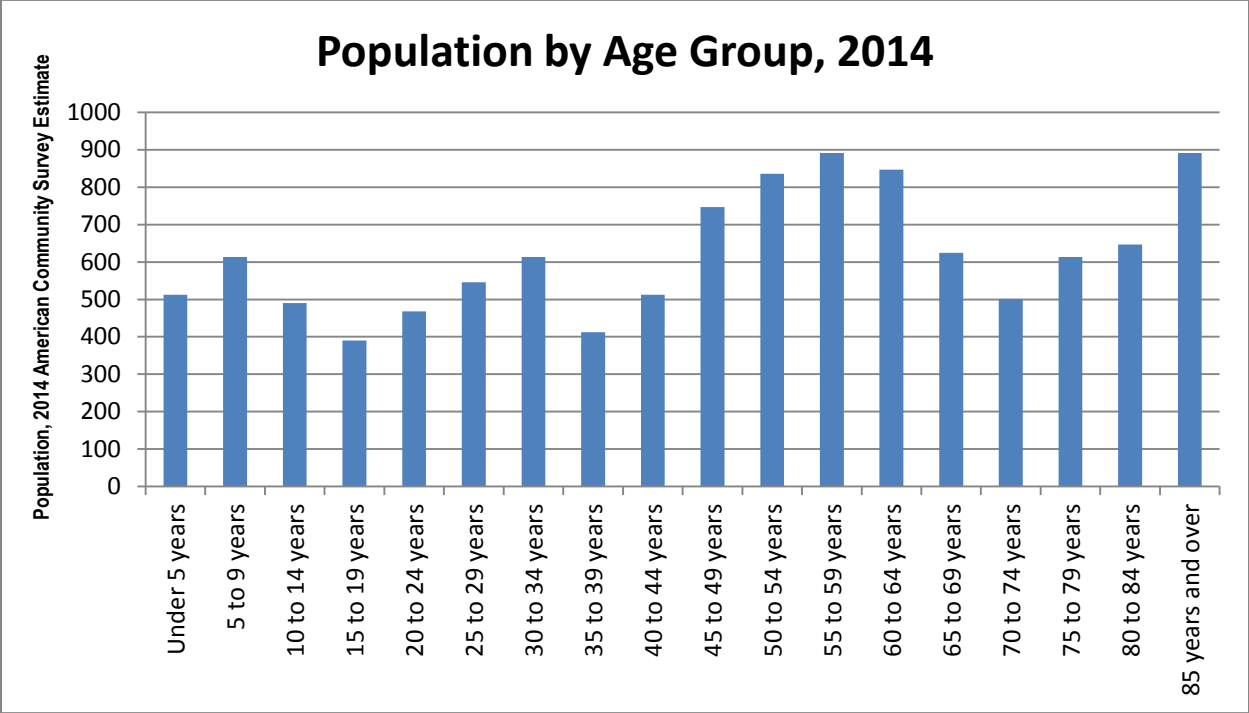
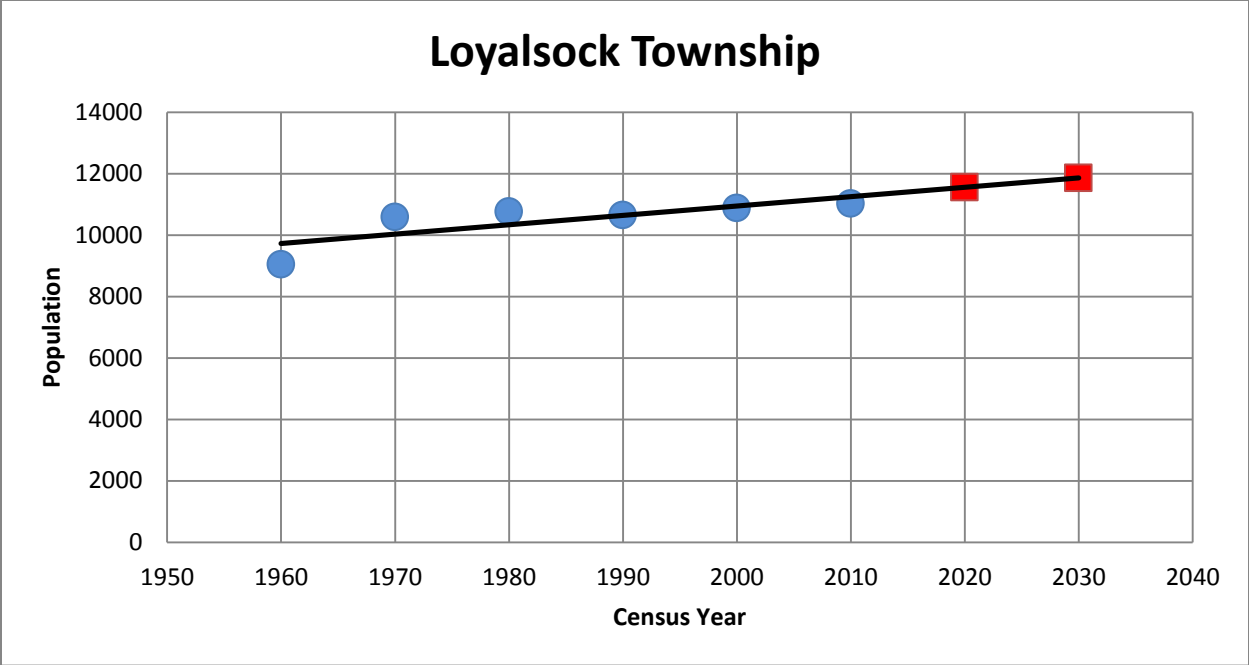


Duboistown Borough

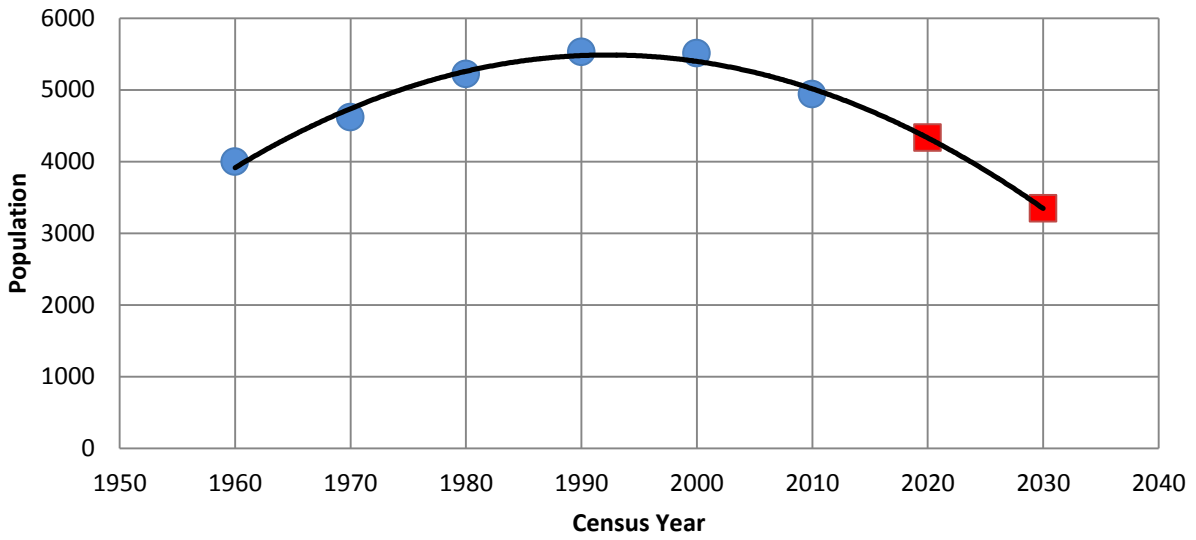


Population by Age Group, 2014

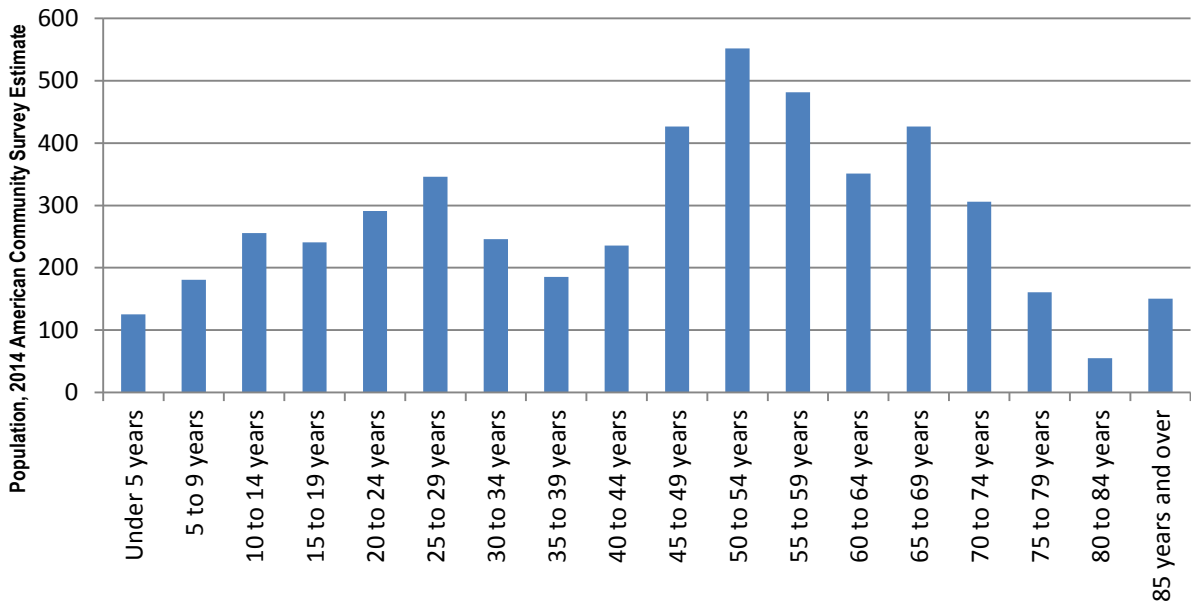




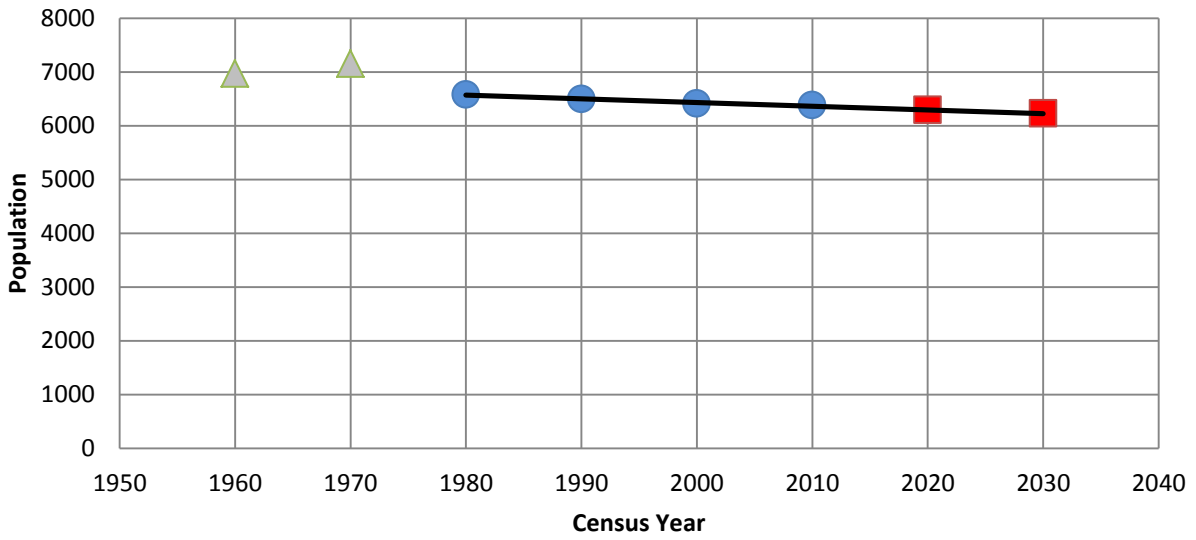
Old Lycoming Township



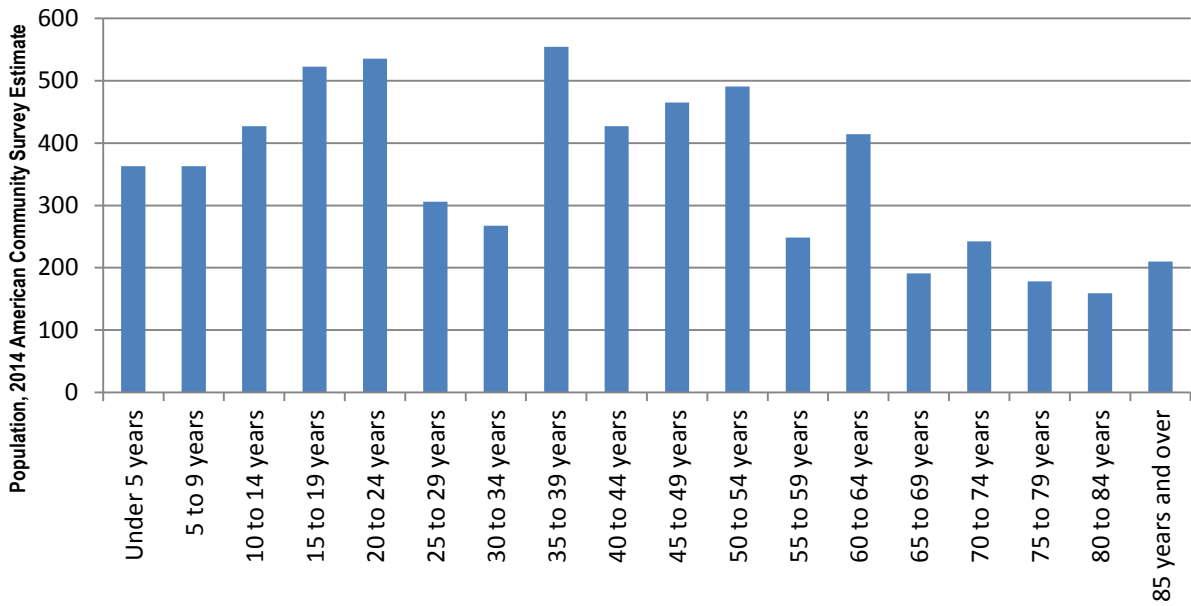
Population by Age Group, 2014



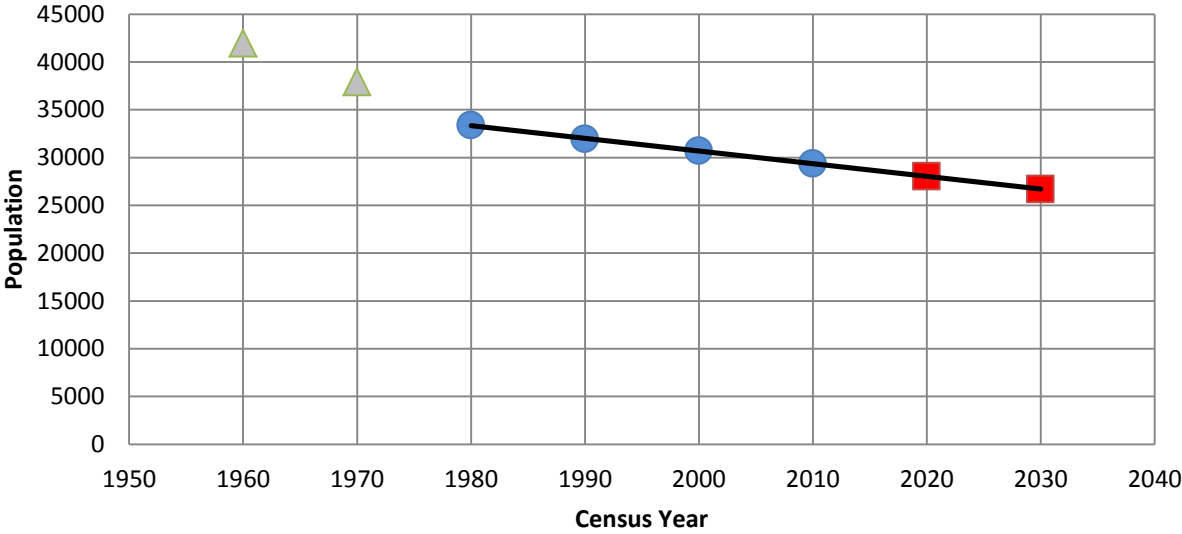
South Williamsport Borough



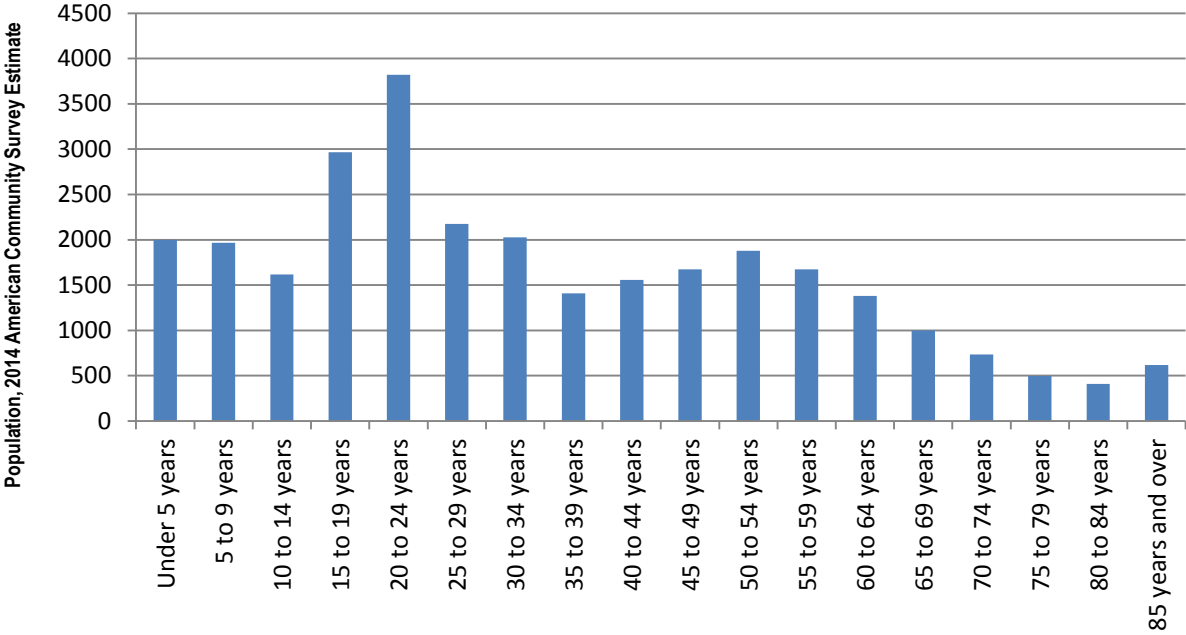
Population by Age Group, 2014



Williamsport City



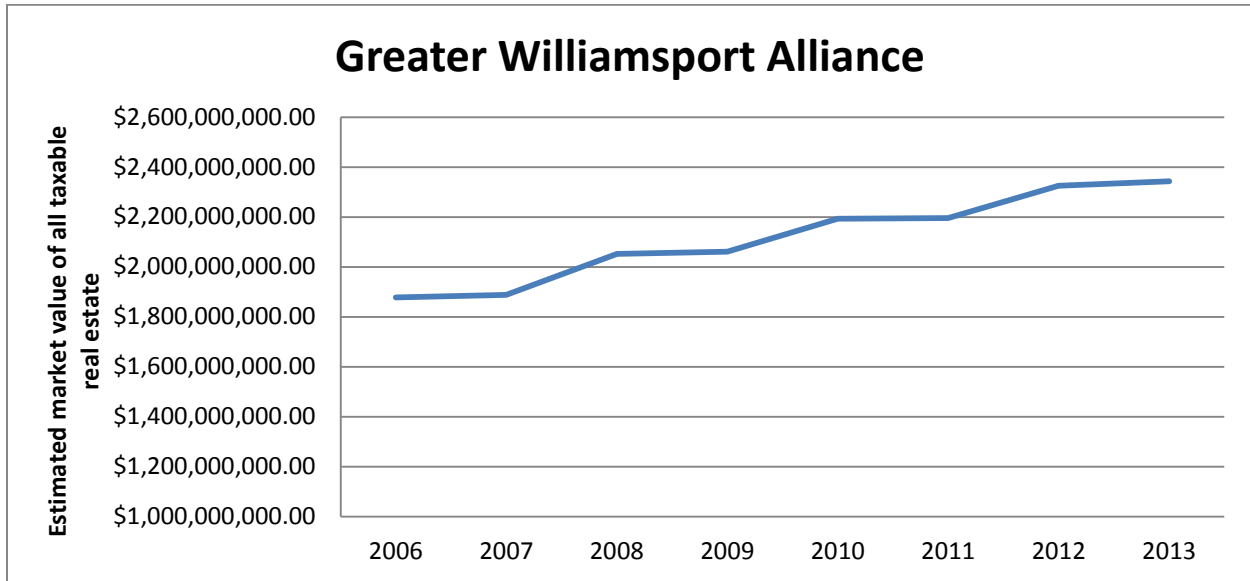
Population by Age Group, 2014



Housing

Taxable real estate market value

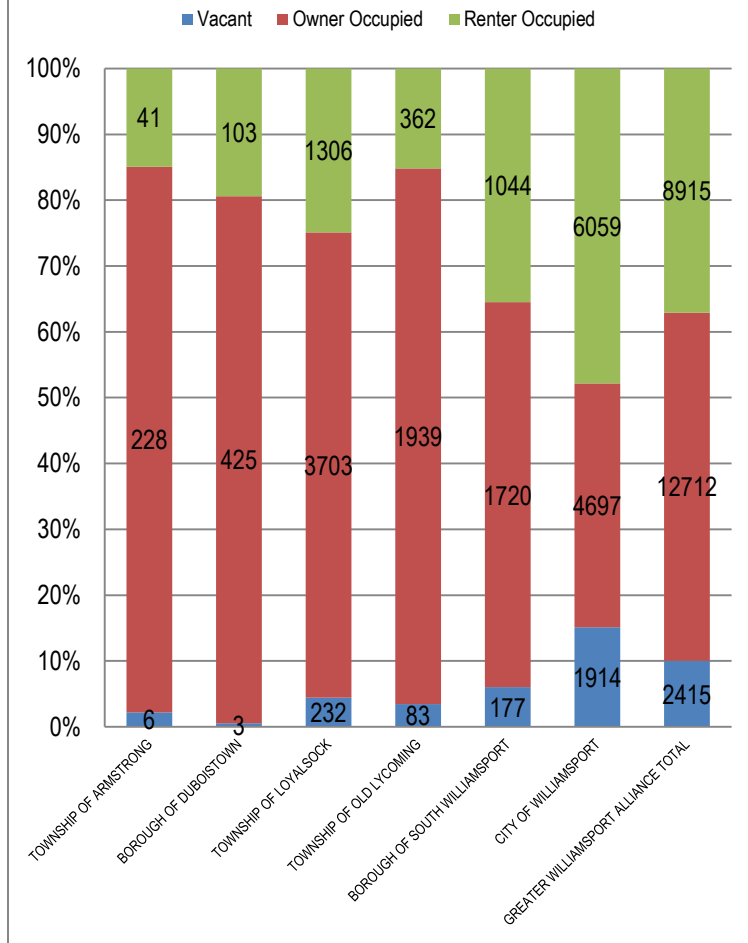
Data source: State Tax Equalization Board



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Armstrong Township	\$36,574,600.00	\$35,957,127.25	\$39,806,952.71	\$40,017,809.68	\$43,403,138.68	\$44,137,112.37	\$45,564,446.57	\$46,446,635.33
Duboisstown Borough	\$40,143,400.00	\$40,150,191.67	\$43,498,358.36	\$43,596,732.58	\$46,526,142.91	\$46,723,674.24	\$49,192,647.59	\$49,237,738.49
Loyalsock Township	\$584,844,900.00	\$593,651,944.28	\$644,093,417.94	\$651,905,282.02	\$699,536,083.00	\$700,989,115.75	\$753,717,340.70	\$762,209,161.11
Old Lycoming Township	\$206,835,800.00	\$208,923,166.18	\$225,547,489.75	\$227,467,256.94	\$238,852,807.05	\$239,012,768.00	\$251,346,710.56	\$256,488,465.00
South Williamsport Borough	\$200,594,500.00	\$201,190,703.17	\$218,115,078.31	\$219,473,319.27	\$234,578,746.29	\$234,389,065.27	\$249,958,786.90	\$251,332,459.74
Williamsport City	\$808,288,900.00	\$808,500,184.77	\$880,648,801.45	\$879,167,394.52	\$930,307,738.06	\$929,970,699.91	\$975,669,456.23	\$977,948,099.91
Greater Williamsport Alliance TOTAL	\$1,877,282,100.00	\$1,888,373,317.32	\$2,051,710,098.52	\$2,061,627,795.01	\$2,193,204,655.99	\$2,195,222,435.54	\$2,325,449,388.55	\$2,343,662,559.58

	Percent change, 2006-2013	Dollar change, 2006-2013
Armstrong Township	27%	\$9,872,035.33
Duboisstown Borough	23%	\$9,094,338.49
Loyalsock Township	30%	\$177,364,261.11
Old Lycoming Township	24%	\$49,652,665.00
South Williamsport Borough	25%	\$50,737,959.74
Williamsport City	21%	\$169,659,199.91
Greater Williamsport Alliance TOTAL	25%	\$466,380,459.58

Housing Occupancy, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates



Note: "Vacant" housing units include the following

- For rent
- Rented but not yet occupied
- For sale
- Sold but not yet occupied
- Seasonal, recreational or occasional use

	Median Household Income	Median Annual Housing Costs for Homeowner with Mortgage, 2014	Annual Housing Costs for Homeowner with Mortgage as Percentage of Median Family Income	Median Annual Housing Rental Costs, 2014	Annual Housing Rental Costs as Percentage of Median Family Income
TOWNSHIP OF ARMSTRONG	\$54,250.00	\$14,640.00	27.0%	\$11,376.00	21.0%
BOROUGH OF DUBOISTOWN	\$50,789.00	\$13,632.00	26.8%	\$10,428.00	20.5%
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	\$46,843.00	\$16,596.00	35.4%	\$9,516.00	20.3%
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	\$45,268.00	\$13,872.00	30.6%	\$7,056.00	15.6%
BOROUGH OF SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT	\$42,861.00	\$14,112.00	32.9%	\$8,472.00	19.8%
CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT	\$33,537.00	\$13,212.00	39.4%	\$8,292.00	24.7%

2014 American Community Survey Estimates

	2014 American Community Survey Estimate, Household Median Income
Lycoming County	\$45,877.00
Pennsylvania	\$53,115.00

	Median Year of Construction of Housing Units
TOWNSHIP OF ARMSTRONG	1969
BOROUGH OF DUBOISTOWN	1955
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	1965
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	1967
BOROUGH OF SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT	1949
CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT	1939 or Earlier

2014 American Community Survey Estimates

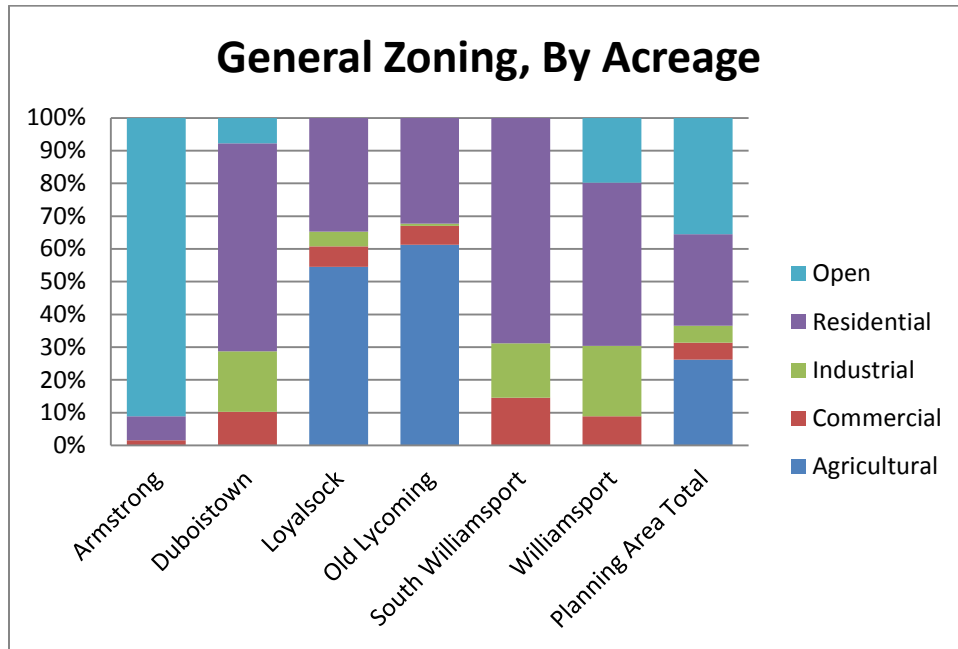
Floodplain and Flood Insurance

Data Sources: FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Policy and Claim Statistics and Lycoming County

	Policies	Insured Amount	Total Premiums	Total Claims	Total Payments	Total Number of Tax parcels	Parcels Containing Regulatory Floodplain	Percent Containing Floodplain
TOWNSHIP OF ARMSTRONG	13	\$2,336,800.00	\$21,437.00	31	\$696,782.33	412	119	28.9%
BOROUGH OF DUBOISTOWN	26	\$3,188,800.00	\$21,514.00	36	\$207,666.14	568	101	17.8%
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	110	\$17,881,600.00	\$115,018.00	295	\$3,752,904.33	4,544	327	7.2%
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	140	\$14,374,700.00	\$155,170.00	42	\$8,798,894.87	2,357	429	18.2%
BOROUGH OF SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT	59	\$8,807,000.00	\$70,708.00	6	\$392,327.21	2,601	117	4.5%
CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT	47	\$10,644,000.00	\$63,114.00	124	\$1,425,146.14	9,483	42	0.4%
TOTAL	395	\$57,232,900.00	\$446,961.00	534	\$15,273,721.02	19,965	1,135	5.7%

Current Zoning

Data Source: Lycoming County Planning Dept. Data

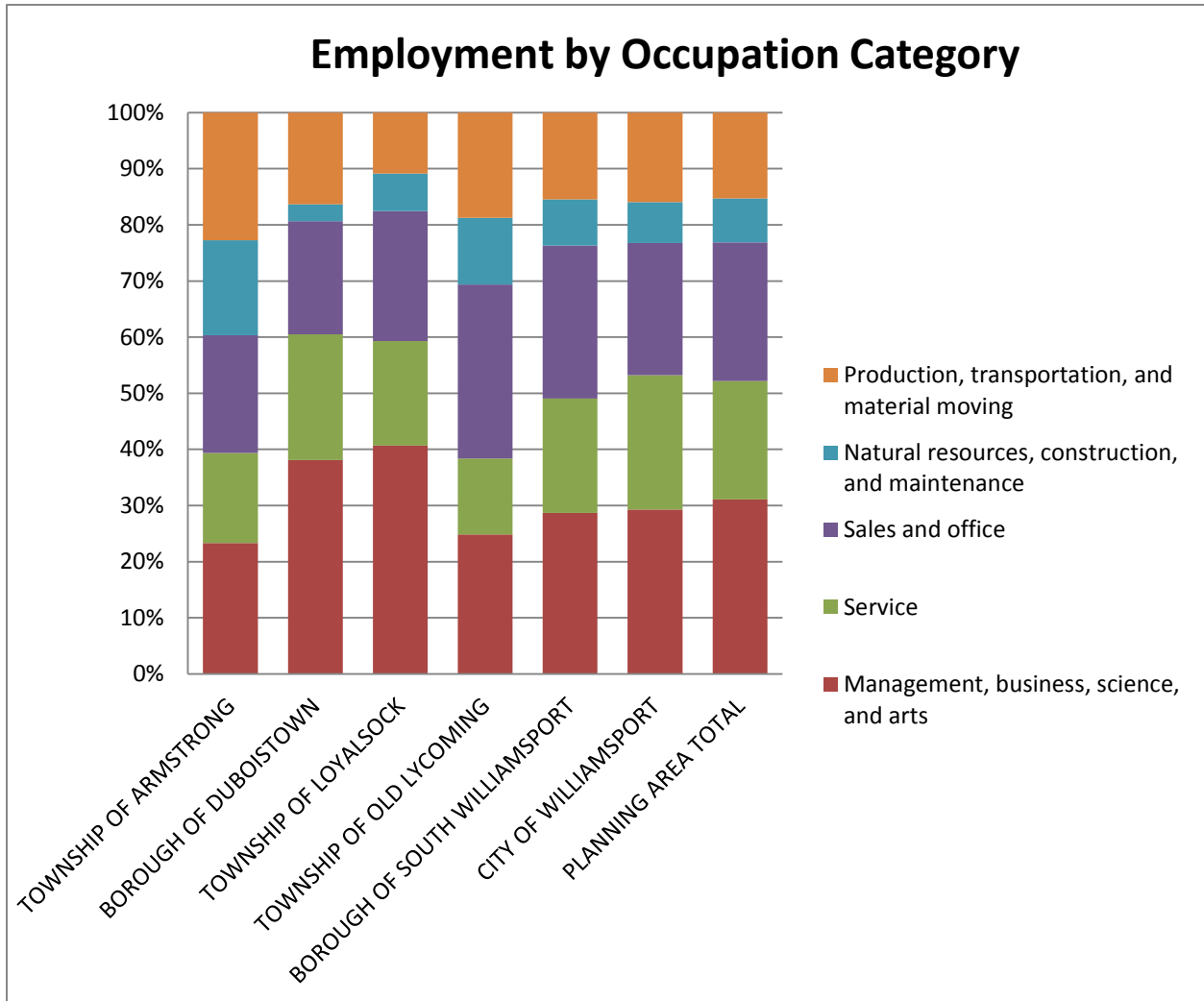


Developable Land

	Vacant Land (Acres)	
	Zoned Commercial	Zoned Industrial
Armstrong	51.31	
Duboistown	0.69	0.71
Loyalsock	47.21	237.64
Old Lycoming	11.13	5.67
South Williamsport	11.05	10.25
Williamsport	38.3	96.03
TOTAL	159.69	350.3

Employment

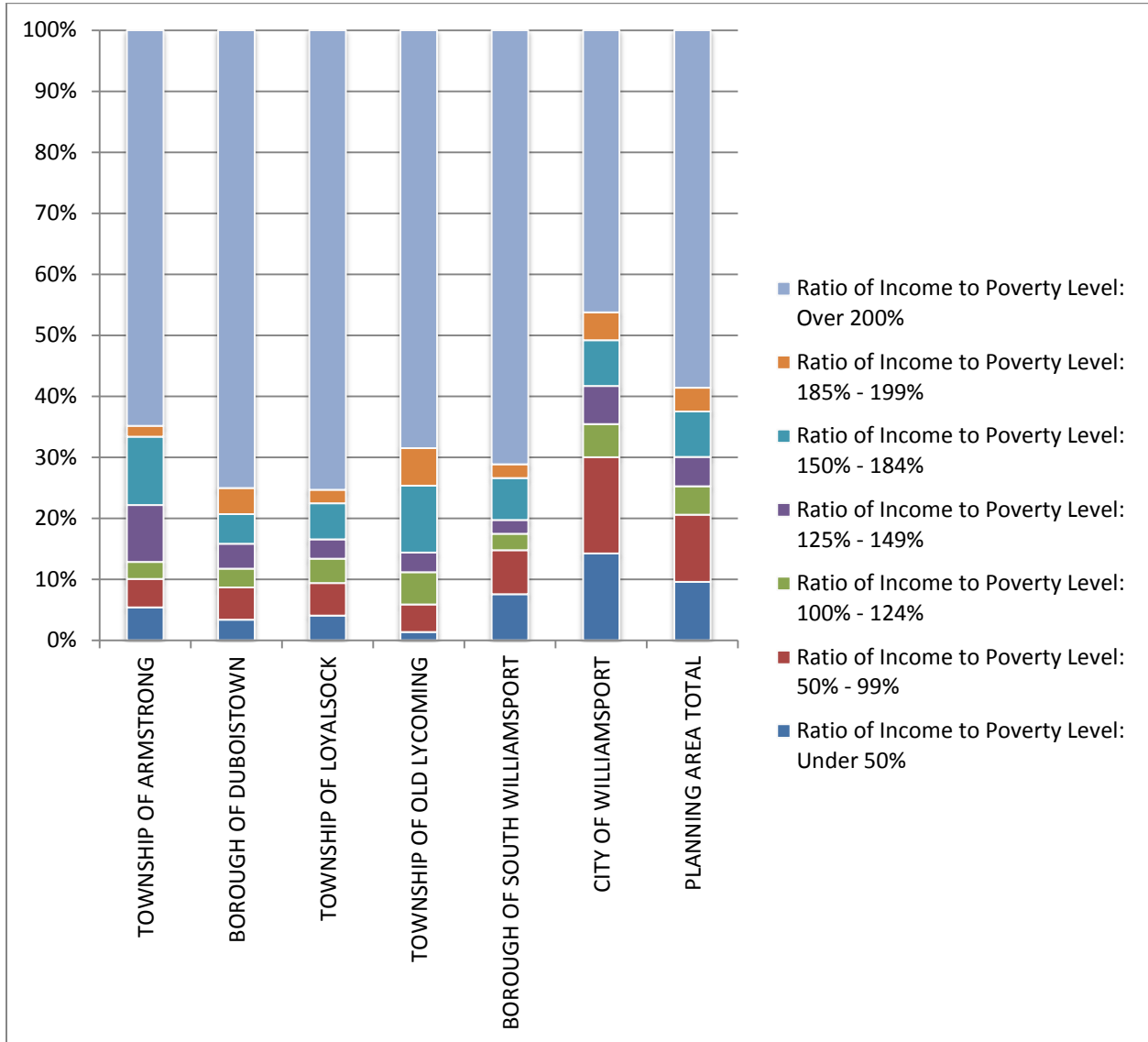
2014 American Community Survey Estimates



Poverty

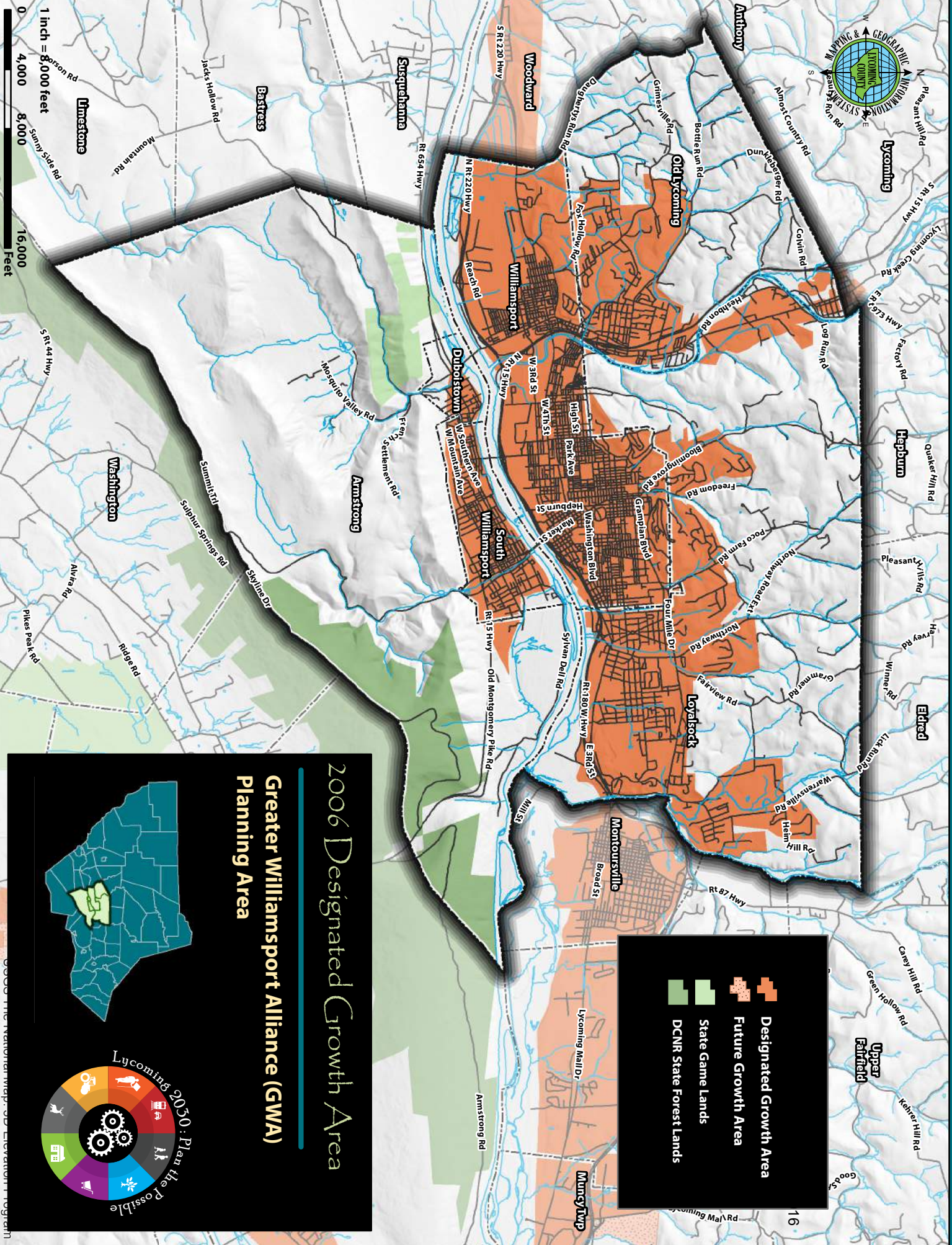
2014 American Community Survey Estimates

Federal Poverty Level for Individuals in 2014: \$11,670

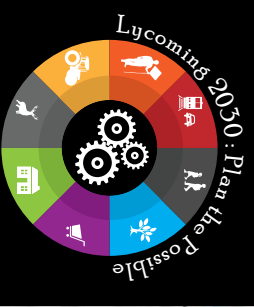


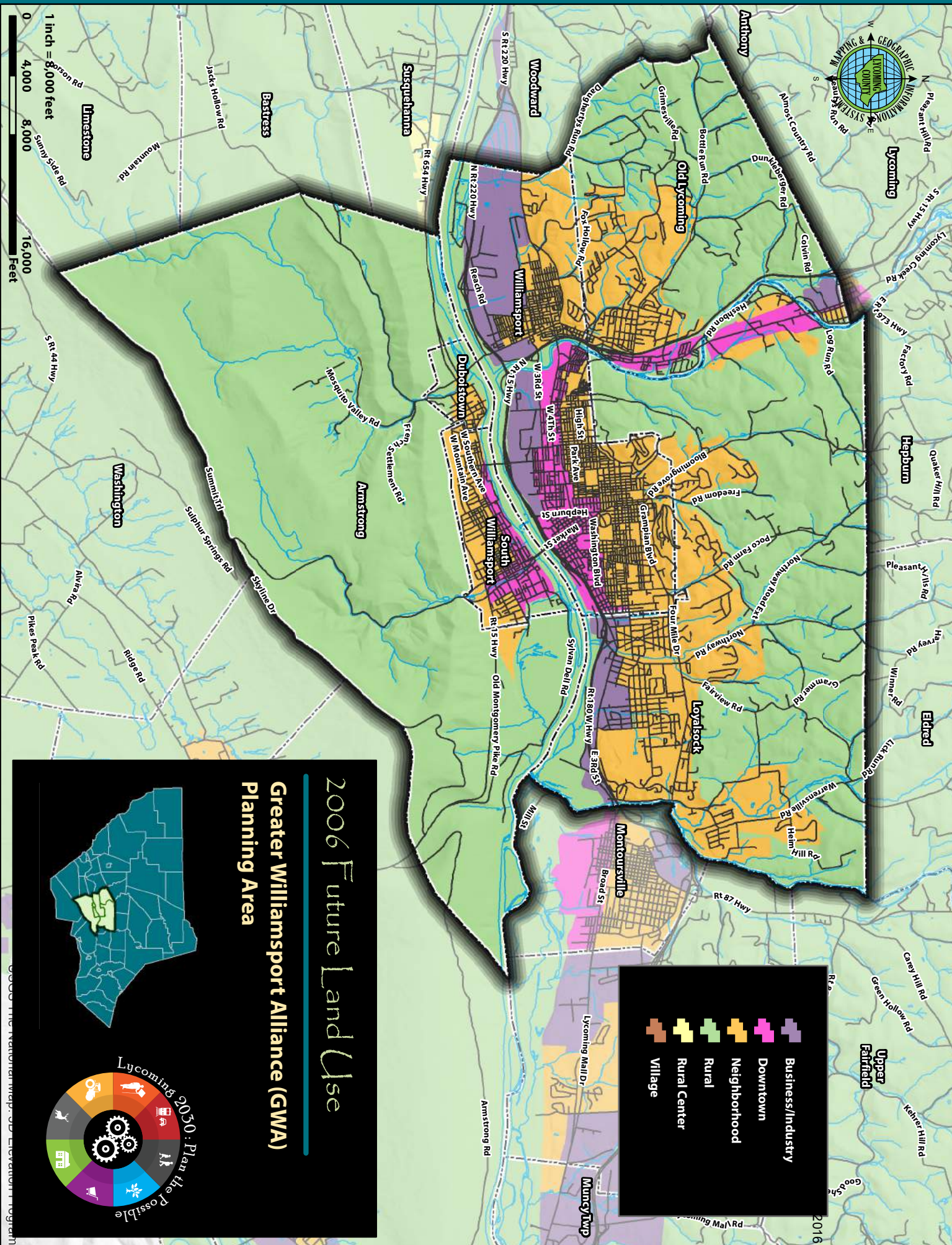
Appendix D

Reference Maps



2006 Designated Growth Area Greater Williamsport Alliance (GWA) Planning Area



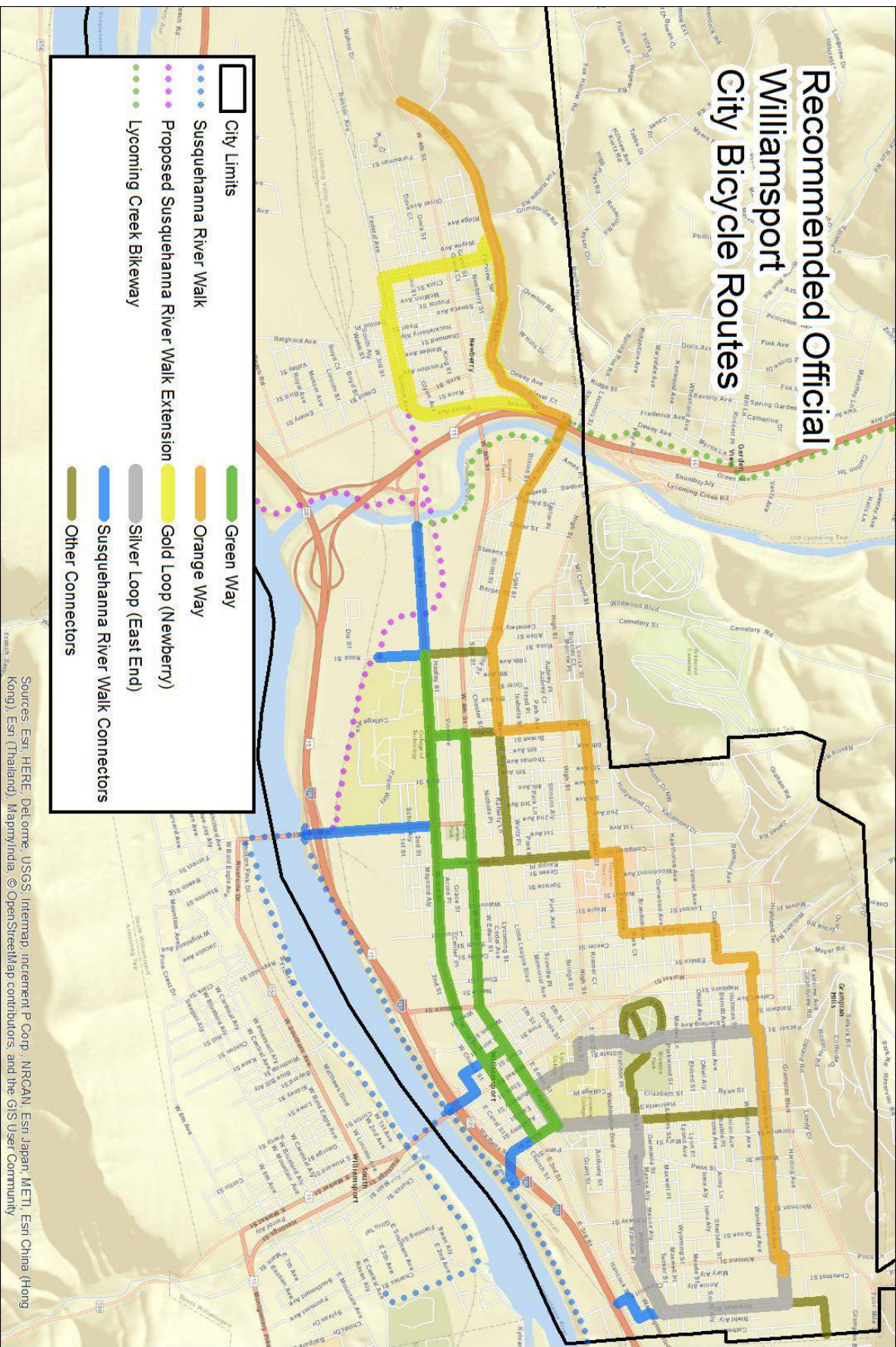


2006 Future Land Use
Greater Williamsport Alliance (GWA)
Planning Area

- Business/Industry
- Downtown
- Neighborhood
- Rural
- Rural Center
- Village



Recommended Official Williamsport City Bicycle Routes



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Williamsport Pathway To Health Traffic & Streetscape Improvements



WEST OF MARKET STREET

EAST OF MARKET STREET



Appendix E

Plan Consistency & Plan References

The 2005 GWA Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan describes the Relationship and Consistency with County Functional Plans and Consistency with Regional Planning in Chapters 7 and 8 respectively. These sections are still relevant today with the exception of the following updates:

Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2010 & 2015)

The Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2010 and a new plan was adopted in 2015. Both plans were prepared by Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. of Philadelphia. Due to suffering floods, winter storms, tornadoes, Lycoming County recognized the need for a long-term plan addressing such hazards. Public participation included written surveys, public meetings, and the opportunity to review and comment on the existing Plan. Recommendations include improvement of public awareness/ education programs, natural resource protection, and structural projects such as relocation or elevation of possible at-risk structures.

Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan for Joint MS4s (2015)

Needs description

Old City / East Third Street Gateway Plan (2015)

Needs description

Coordinated Public Transit Plan (2014)

This plan updates and amends the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan of the SEDACOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its local stakeholders with an interest in human service transportation programs. The SEDACOG MPO closely coordinates transportation planning activities with neighboring Lycoming County which is served by the Williamsport Area Transportation Study (WATS) MPO. Consequently for this update, it was determined that the SEDACOG MPO and WATS MPO would develop a joint Coordinated Plan to satisfy the requirements and use resources more efficiently. While this joint Coordinated Plan update considers all human service transportation needs, an emphasis is placed on transportation needs of low-income populations, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Lycoming County 2013-2033 Long Range Transportation Plan (2013)

The Lycoming County 2013-2033 Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted in 2013 and prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development. The Transportation Plan was created to comply with state policies and federal regulations which state that air quality attainment areas, such as Lycoming County, must update their plans every five years. The Plan identifies transportation issues and needs by evaluation of physical condition and operational assets of all modes of transportation in Lycoming County. The WATS committee conducted public meetings, trend analysis, and inventory review. Recommendations

include many bridge replacements and rehabs and road improvements such as resurfacing, reconstruction, and intersection improvement.

5-County Solid Waste Plan (2013)

The County Commissioners of the Five-County Region encompassing Columbia, Montour, Lycoming, Union and Snyder Counties underwent a comprehensive, multi-year effort to create a Regional Solid Waste Plan. Lycoming County acted as the lead agency for much of the development of the Plan. The process involved extensive stakeholder and public involvement. The Plan was to meet the collective waste capacity needs of the region for a ten year period, as required by Pennsylvania law. It achieved this objective through a “modified flow control” approach that allows waste haulers to transport to any landfill or transfer station facility that responded to a Solicitation of Interest, met the requirements of the plan, and entered into a waste capacity disposal agreement with the Region. The Regional Plan, accepted by DEP on February 26, 2013, complies with the requirements of Act 101 (the Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988), and appropriate amendments to that Act. A one-year implementation period followed the official DEP acceptance of the plan, which occurred on February 26, 2013. The five counties formed a Regional Steering Committee to carry out implementation of the plan.

The I-180 Corridor Plan (City of Williamsport) (2012)

The I-180 Corridor Plan was adopted in 2012 and prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development in conjunction with Mackin Engineering, MACTEC Engineering, Larson Design Group, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, SEDA-COG, the City of Williamsport, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Plan was created to identify possible redevelopment of sites along the corridor. A feasibility study was completed along with market analysis, public meetings, charrettes, focus groups, and Stakeholder surveys. The implementation of the Plan will result in the area being reused as a hub for Marcellus Shale Servicing Companies and the transformation of the Montgomery Mill Office Building into a historical and community center.

Marcellus Shale Water Study (2012)

The Marcellus Shale Water Study was published in 2012 and prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development in conjunction with Delta Development Group, Inc. The subject of the Study was “water, sewer, stormwater, and wastewater treatment resources needed to support industry (gas and non-gas), population growth, and related economic development”. For the study key participants were interviewed, focus groups with local stakeholders were held, data was collected and analysis was completed. Recommendations include aggressively pursue funding, expand water infrastructure, and closely monitor potential game changers and current happenings with the Marcellus Shale Industry and its use of water and sewage.

The Marcellus Shale Housing Study (2012)

The Marcellus Shale Housing Study was published in 2012 and prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development in conjunction with Delta Development Group, Inc. The study was conducted to gauge the impact of housing for the Marcellus Shale industry in a market where a shortage of housing was already occurring. The Study was completed in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 13 (Oil & Gas Act of 2012) and to fulfill the requirements of Pennsylvania Housing Funding Agency to be considered for Act 13 funding. Interviews, focus groups and statistical analysis were used to gather information for the study. Several

key findings included the lack of adequate housing for the Marcellus industry, the lack of up to date and move in ready properties in the area, and the increasing rental rates causing a strain on subsidized renters. Some recommendations include providing developer incentives, provide grants to existing housing programs and properties, develop affordable independent living apartments for seniors in downtown Williamsport.

Williamsport 2025: Today's vision... Tomorrow's Success (2012)

Needs description

Lycoming County Energy Plan (2011)

The Lycoming County Energy Plan was adopted in 2011 and prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development in conjunction with consultants Delta Development Group Inc., and Vernon Land Use, LLC. The County wide Energy Plan was created to address the growing impact of Shale gas within the county as well as address reducing energy consumption, rising fuel costs, and to meet Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Workshops and CNG Focus groups were conducted along with the installation of a CNG fueling station. Several implementation measures are to foster county-derived renewable energy generation, Install more CNG fueling stations throughout the county, and promote energy efficiency while demanding energy reduction.

Lycoming County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan (2010)

The Lycoming Creek Stormwater Plan was adopted in 2010 and prepared by K & W Engineers of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was created to recognize and address the growing concern of extensive damage caused by stormwater runoff covering all areas of Lycoming County except where watershed specific stormwater plans have been adopted: Lycoming Creek, Grafius Run, Millers Run, & McClures Run Watersheds. It was enacted in compliance with Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167) which establishes a comprehensive systematic program for counties to develop comprehensive watershed-based stormwater management plans that provide control measures for development and activities that affect stormwater runoff, including quality, quantity, and groundwater recharge. Surveys were performed to monitor runoff activity and to assess existing characteristics like significant obstructions and drainage problems. Projected and alternative land development patterns and alternative runoff control techniques were assessed as well. Ultimately, the plan seeks to prevent future problems resulting from uncontrolled runoff with each Lycoming County municipality adopting a stormwater management ordinance that is consistent with the Lycoming County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

Lycoming Creek Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan (2010)

The Lycoming Creek Stormwater Plan was adopted in 2010 and prepared by K & W Engineers of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was created to recognize and address the growing concern of extensive damage caused by stormwater runoff specifically within the Lycoming Creek Watershed. It was enacted in compliance with Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167) which establishes a comprehensive systematic program for counties to develop comprehensive watershed-based stormwater management plans that provide control measures for development and activities that affect stormwater runoff, including quality, quantity, and groundwater recharge. Surveys were performed to monitor runoff activity and to assess existing characteristics like significant obstructions and drainage problems. Projected and alternative land development patterns and alternative runoff control techniques were assessed as well. Ultimately, the plan seeks to prevent future

Lycoming 2030: Plan the Possible

problems resulting from uncontrolled runoff with each municipality within the Lycoming Creek watershed adopting a stormwater management ordinance that is consistent with the Lycoming Creek Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

Lycoming County Growth Area Land Use and Transportation Plan (2012)

The purpose of the Lycoming County Growth Area Land-Use and Transportation Plan is to first forecast future land-use within the Lycoming County growth areas given the increased demand pressures created by the Marcellus Shale industry, and secondly to assess the transportation impacts of this future land development on the roadway infrastructure of Lycoming County and identify transportation improvements to alleviate these impacts. The findings of this plan are intended to provide guidance for identifying potential future projects for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), following further study, environmental screening, project scoping, and cost estimations.

Lycoming County Small Bridge Pilot Program Executive Summary (2010)

The Lycoming County Planning Commission working in partnership with the PennDOT Small Bridge Inventory Task Force completed a comprehensive inventory of locally owned bridges in Lycoming County with span lengths between 8 feet and 20 feet for purposes of developing a systematic inspection program on these types of smaller bridge structures. This special initiative was funded by Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) supplemental planning funds provided to the Williamsport Area Metropolitan Planning Organization as part of participation in LTAP planning and outreach activities for Lycoming County.

Williamsport to Jersey Shore Feasibility Study (2009)

The Lycoming County Planning Commission hired Larson Design Group (LDG) to study the feasibility of developing a family friendly trail that connects the City of Williamsport and the Borough of Jersey Shore. The trail would be multi-functional, and would be utilized for both transportation and recreational purposes, and serve multiple users including pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, among others. Alternatives for a corridor alignment were identified based on the recommendations of the Lycoming County Planning staff and consultants, aerial mapping / photography, and field views. The field views helped to identify geographical features, area property uses, environmental issues and other factors that would affect construction. The trail was planned to utilize a combination of four types of bicycle facilities: Share the Road, Bicycle Lane, Shared-Use Path, and Rails-With-Trails. Several challenges facing construction of such a shared-use path included topography, lack of collector roadways, and right-of-ways. The Trail was divided into five segments determined by the physical terrain features and probable entrance and exit facilities. A programming cost estimate was developed to aid the county in applying for grant applications and planning.

Chesapeake Bay Phase II Study (2009)

Needs description

Susquehanna River Bikeway Feasibility Study (2007)

The Lycoming County Economic Development and Planning Services engaged the services of Larson Design Group to conduct a field assessment to evaluate potential routes for a bikeway along the Susquehanna River

connecting the South Williamsport Recreation Complex to Union County. Post-assessment, LCEDPS and Larson Design concluded the bicycle path to be a viable option, and continued development.

Multi-Modal Freight Transfer Feasibility Study (2006)

The Lycoming County Planning Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, SEDA-Council of Governments and several other cooperating agencies and interests, sponsored a study of the feasibility of developing a transfer center where freight traffic moving to or from companies within the study area could be transferred between railroad cars and trucks. The study included a market analysis that was based on a telephone survey of 111 companies involved in manufacturing and wholesale trade within a 12-county area in Northcentral Pennsylvania. It found a substantial interest in intermodal transportation service, and identified that annually more than 80,000 units (truckloads and container-loads) could comprise a market base for a transfer facility in the area.

County Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenway Plan (2006)

Adopted in 2006 and prepared by the Lycoming County Planning Commission, the Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenway Plan is a continuation of the original 1974 County Recreation Plan which aimed to incorporate recreational values into everyday life with the mission of improving the quality of life through health, individual happiness, creativity and community vigor. The Planning Commission utilized both a county wide survey as well as public meetings to help determine the primary visions and goals of the public, as well as implementation strategies for the Comprehensive Plan. Resulting from the Recreational Survey, most participants felt that the County government should be more involved with local Municipalities in developing recreational services, and were mostly interested in recreational trails, ice skating, environmental education that involves the preservation of nature, and youth-focused activities. The plan proposed the creation of the Lycoming County Recreation Council, the expansion of recreation programs throughout the municipalities, and selecting Greenway implementation projects like connecting the Susquehanna Trail and Greenway from Pine Creek to Union County and expanding the Lycoming Creek Bikeway past Trout Run.

Please visit www.lyco.org to view the full versions of these plans.