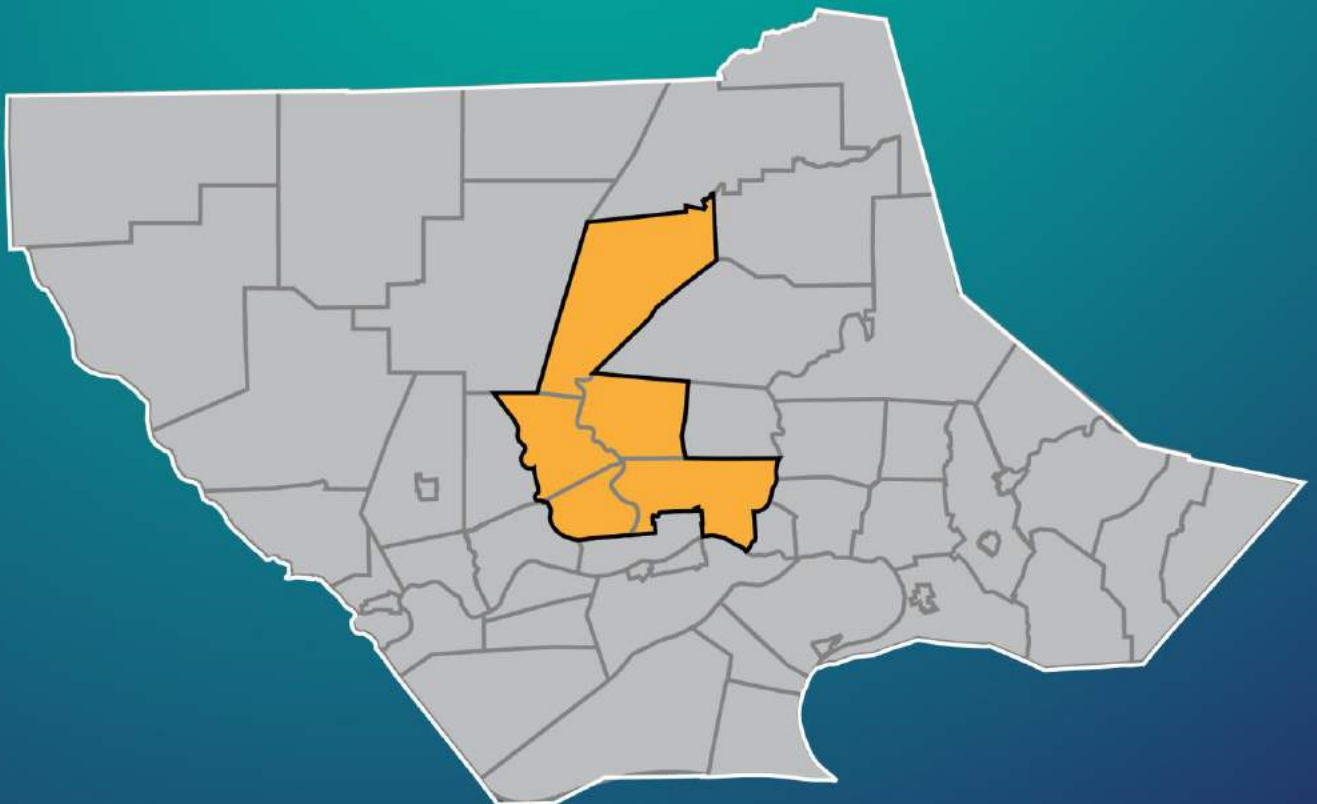




**2016 MULTI-MUNICIPAL  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW  
AND  
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**  
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area  
Lycoming County, Pennsylvania



## **Plan Adoptions**

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

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

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

**LYCOMING 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area Comprehensive Plan Review and Implementation Strategy have been shaped by the issues currently identified as priorities within this multi-municipal planning area.*

**This 2016 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 across the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area and beyond. 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.

The municipal governments in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area are:

- Hepburn Township
- Lewis Township
- Lycoming Township
- Loyalsock Township
- Old Lycoming Township

The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area is one of the most diverse planning areas in Lycoming County--from densely developed portions of suburban Williamsport to rural expanses of forest. Made up of the five municipalities listed above, the planning area's focus and commonality has been Lycoming Creek and the impacts of increasing development throughout the watershed, especially within the last 10 years, with the ebb and flow of Marcellus Shale gas extraction activities. The Planning Area offers intimate neighborhoods, rural homes sites, and sizeable woodland and agricultural homesteads. The nearby city and rich natural environment provide real-life settings for learning that supplement the high quality educational facilities of the local school districts. Small businesses provide personal services in locations along common travel corridors. Finally, the Planning Area is home to scenic view after scenic view along the Lycoming Creek corridor and from the many points looking upon the Susquehanna Valley.

An exhaustive comprehensive planning effort for the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 review process conducted in 2016, the issues, priorities and key recommendations in the 2005 document were reviewed and revalidated 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 Lower Lycoming Creek area.

The 2005 adopted comprehensive plan was successfully able to:

- provide guidance for conducting infrastructure improvements
- assist in planning for population increase.

Change is inevitable but not always completely anticipated. Perhaps, the most visual and highly publicized unexpected change within this Planning Area over the last ten years has been the development of Marcellus Shale gas extraction and the social implications associated this activity. . From a positive perspective, the area witnessed an employment bump and a building vacancy reduction due to the development of infill gas drilling support companies, new or expanded hotels and restaurant establishments, and new or expanded service industries. Yet, these economic benefits have not been realized without a cost. The area has seen scarred landscapes, higher housing rents, and an accelerated need for road infrastructure replacement.

Some of the most vexing problems identified in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan continue to challenge the Lower Lycoming Creek municipalities today, such as:

- exodus of the younger generation
- changing economy vs. labor force skills
- loss of industrial opportunities
- increasing crime rates
- stormwater issues
- unprotected cultural resources
- lack of usable land outside the floodplain
- failing septic systems
- water quality & the need for a regional water system.

More recently, there has been increasing concern with a number of additional issues, including:

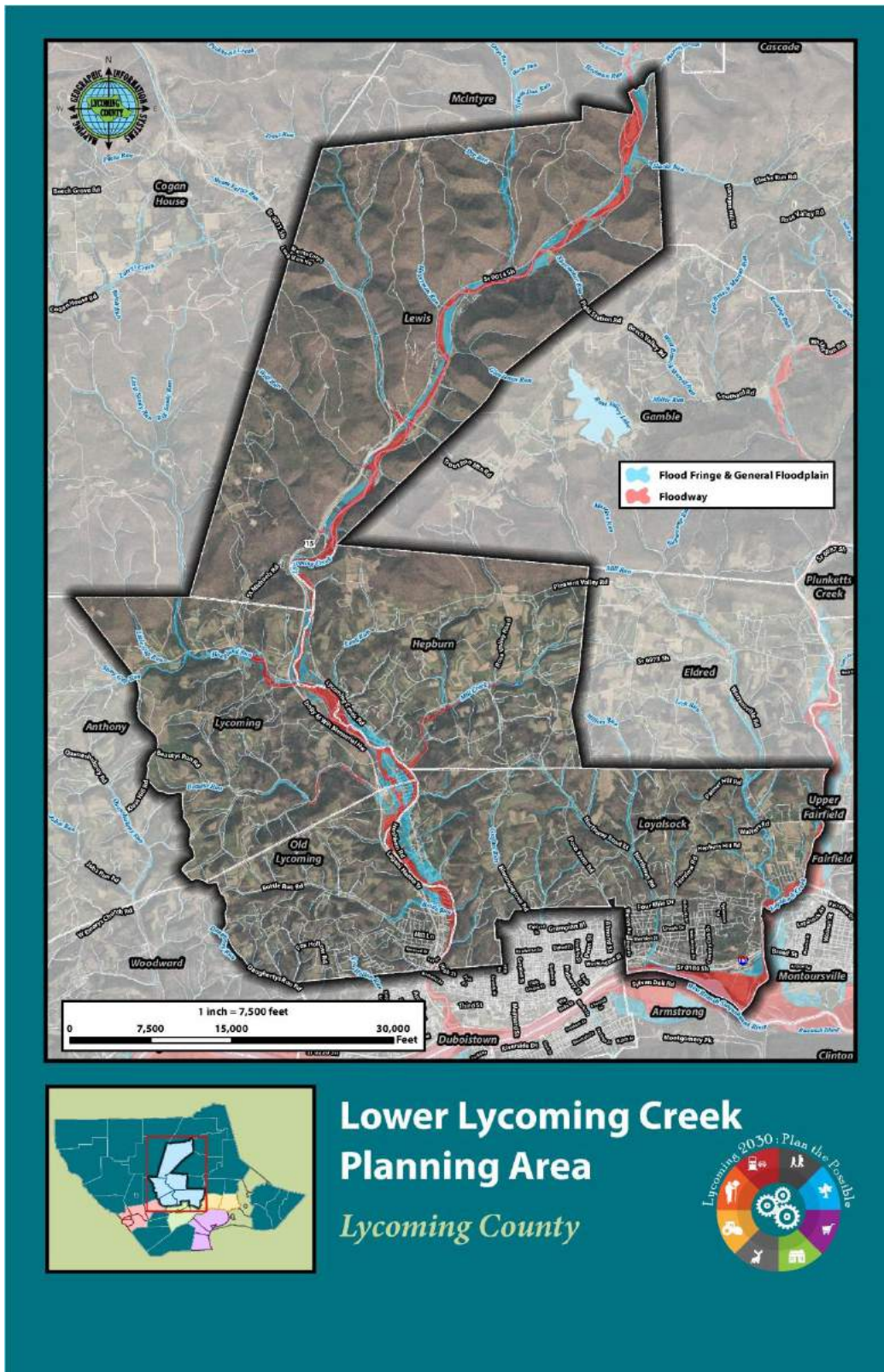
- emergency services
- sanitary sewer capacity
- natural gas to domestic and business users
- flood buyout property use limitations
- MS4 program.

The 2016 Lower Lycoming Creek Comprehensive Plan Review and Implementation Strategy considered each of the problems and concerns noted above and developed a list of seven priority issues. The 2016 document is a dynamic instrument, inasmuch as it is meant to capture the current desires of these five municipalities and provide targeted implementation strategies to achieve those goals. It satisfies the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PAMPC - 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.



Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area Map





## Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area Summary Profile

### GEOGRAPHY

**Location:** Lycoming County, Northcentral Pennsylvania, USA

**Total Area:** 100.4 square miles or 64,256 acres

**Floodplain Area:** 6.7 square miles

**Major Watersheds:** Lycoming Creek watershed

**Land Cover as Percentage of Total Area (University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory):** 67% tree canopy, 27% otherwise vegetated, 5% developed, 1% water and wetlands

### POPULATION

**Population (2010 Census):** 21,191 persons; 3.5 % decrease since 2000

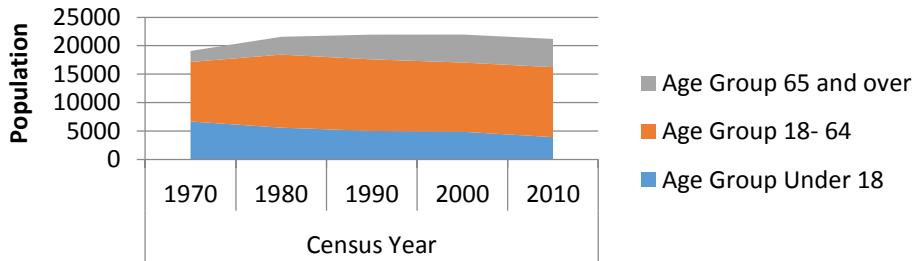
#### *Median Ages, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates*

Township Of Hepburn	48.1
Township Of Lewis	45.5
Township Of Loyalsock	51.8
Township Of Lycoming	49.2
Township Of Old Lycoming	49.7

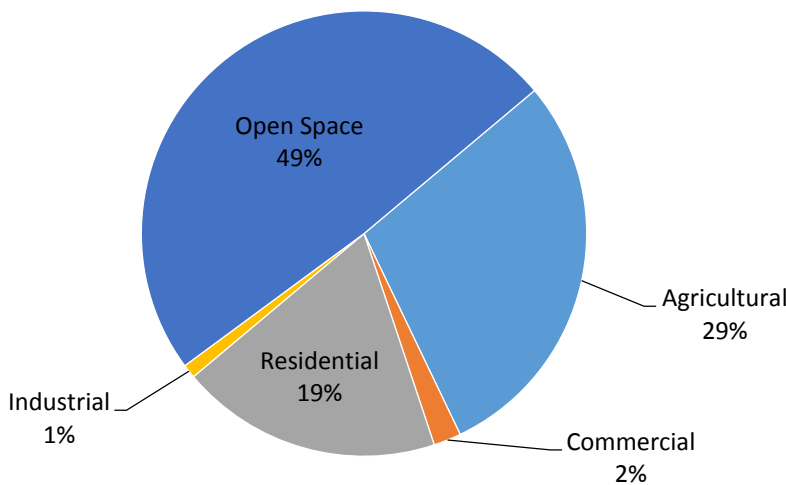
#### *Population in Each Census, 1960-2010*

Year	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Hepburn	1,315	1,623	2,534	2,834	2,836	2,762
Lewis	752	750	1,149	1,194	1,139	987
Loyalsock	9,047	10,581	10,763	10,644	10,876	11,026
Lycoming	1,196	1,507	1,902	1,748	1,606	1,478
Old Lycoming	3,996	4,616	5,220	5,526	5,508	4,938
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,306</b>	<b>19,077</b>	<b>21,568</b>	<b>21,946</b>	<b>21,965</b>	<b>21,191</b>

*Population Composition by Age, 1960-2010*



*Current zoning as percentage of total area*



**INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**

**Locally-Owned Roads (PennDOT data):** 270.1 miles

**State-Owned Roads (PennDOT data):** 146.5 miles

**Major Transportation Routes:** I-180, PA-973, PA-14, PA-15

**School Districts:** Williamsport Area, Loyalsock Township

**Water and Sewer Providers:** Williamsport Municipal Water Authority-Williamsport Sanitary Authority (WMWA-WSA); Old Lycoming Area Authority (Sanitary Sewer)

**Housing Units (2014 American Community Survey Estimate):** 10,005

**ECONOMY**

*Median Household Income, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates*

Township Of Hepburn	\$53,167.00
Township Of Lewis	\$45,000.00
Township Of Loyalsock	\$46,843.00
Township Of Lycoming	\$50,268.00
Township Of Old Lycoming	\$45,268.00

**Top county employers with presence in planning area (PA Dept. of Labor & Industry):**

- Williamsport Area School District
- Weis Markets Inc.
- Heartland Employment Services, LLC
- Loyalsock Township School District
- Lycoming Community Care, Inc.

## **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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area including highlights of its 2005 Comprehensive plan, geography, and demographics.

The Implementation Strategy section identifies seven (7) priority issues. These (7) were determined to be the most important, within the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, out of the top 14 thematic issues commonly identified across all multi-municipal planning

areas during the 2015-2017 comprehensive planning process.<sup>1</sup> Following each priority issue is the PAT's "top viable project" 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
  - 1. Quantitative Analysis of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts
  - 2. Background data profile with population projections
- D. Reference Maps
- E. Plan Consistency and Plan References

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<sup>1</sup> See Thematic Issues List at the end of Appendix A

**The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area Current Priority Issues**

	Issue Name	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	Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Stormwater Infrastructure			X	X		X		X	
2	Natural Gas Infrastructure			X	X		X	X	X	
3	Outdoor Recreation Resources			X	X	X	X	X		X
4	Changing Economy vs. Local Work Force	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
5	Fragmentation of Local Government		X	X	X	X			X	
6	Water Quality	X		X			X	X		
7	Flooding Impacts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	



## Chapter 2: Implementation Strategy

### Priority Issue #1



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

**Back Story** The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has multiple public water, sanitary sewer and stormwater infrastructure adequacy needs, similar to other parts of Lycoming County. Yet, the members of the Lower Lycoming Creek PAT are particularly concerned about stormwater management. To be clear, stormwater management is not a new issue. PA State Act 167 of 1978 had required all property owners developing their property to ensure the rate of stormwater run-off post development to be equal or less than the pre-development run-off rate.

However, there was not an effort at the state level to enforce the act. Very few developments received stormwater management facilities other than tying roof drains and gutters into the street stormwater conveyance system. In short, previous practices of stormwater management could be characterized as “out of sight, out of mind.” Thus, buildings, parking lots, roads and driveways were constructed without considering the means of handling onsite the increased stormwater run-off.

It wasn’t until the 1980’s that state and local officials started to consider requiring onsite management of stormwater run-off with centralized stormwater detention areas and other practices, including: instituting more specific stormwater management language into land use ordinances. To help address deficiencies within Lycoming County, some individual watershed stormwater management plans were developed, first in a few smaller watersheds and then later in the larger watershed of Lycoming Creek.

The lack of stormwater management for existing development within the Grafius Run/Millers Run/McClure’s Run watersheds was addressed through a watershed stormwater management plan implemented through ordinance in the areas of Hepburn Township, Loyalsock Township and the City of Williamsport. Stormwater problems were also highlighted in the 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. Issues documented in these plans set the stage for creation of the Lycoming County Stormwater Plan and the Lycoming Creek Watershed Stormwater Plan, both adopted in 2011.

The amount of development that occurred within these specific watersheds, prior to enacting stormwater ordinances, was a key factor in establishing baseline requirements for all future construction. Depending upon its location within the watershed, a new development must now implement a lower stormwater release rate to help compensate for the historical (past) creation of impervious surface lacking the stormwater management controls.

After adoption of these stormwater plans, the state required each Lycoming County municipality to adopt a comprehensive stormwater ordinance consistent with the plans. Hepburn, Lewis, Lycoming, and Old Lycoming townships adopted stormwater ordinances in 2011. Loyalsock Township had previously adopted a municipal stormwater ordinance in 2006.

**Priority Issue Overview** Throughout the development of the Lycoming County Stormwater Plan, there was a clear and discernable, documented need for improved stormwater management in the watersheds of Grafius, Millers and McClure’s Runs, as well as Lycoming Creek. One-hundred plus years of concentrated development with impervious surfaces conveying stormwater into street drains and nearby streams, localized flooding increased and poorly drained areas developed stormwater problems.

This stormwater issue is ubiquitous across the Planning Area. Stormwater management and erosion/ sedimentation control was identified in the 2005 Multi-Municipal Plan as an issue on single-lot residential development but in most municipalities, this level of development has been exempted from having to do a stormwater plan or in some cases required to do a minor plan when a threshold of run-off is met. As a result of past stormwater management practices and these exemptions, the cumulative impact of the numerous single-lot residential parcels throughout the planning area represent a large area with limited or no stormwater management controls.

Also, with the onset of Marcellus Shale natural gas development in 2007, stormwater run-off in this Planning Area became an increasing pressing issue. PA DEP has issued natural gas well drilling permits in all the Lower Lycoming Creek PAT municipalities except for Old Lycoming Township. For several years, with only having to address erosion and sedimentation control, gas development companies benefited from not having to install stormwater facilities for access roads, pipelines, gas well pads and other related developments. Below are two of the many problems contributing to stormwater related issues:

- removal of hundreds of acres of trees has eliminated a key element of the hydrologic cycle
- replacing the trees with gravel roads/pads and, at best, warm season grasses that do not have the transpiration potential or ability to process water run-off as a forest does.

Under the Oil & Gas Act of 2012, PA DEP has been able to address part of this issue:

- gas exploration related development companies are now required to install post construction stormwater management devices and facilities for new development
- these companies also are required to retroactively install these devices for gas development pads that need permit renewals

For the most part, stormwater facilities have been instituted for larger residential and other non-residential development within the planning area and the existing state regulations and municipal stormwater ordinances appear to be effectively addressing erosion and water run-off for the new larger developments.

While progress has been made in the management of stormwater, there is much more that needs to be done. There remains a need to directly retrofit historical development or systematically fix existing stormwater issues

that are perpetuated by undersized road drainage systems and non stormwater managed development across the planning area. Specifically, there is consensus among PAT members to develop a process to identify stormwater problem areas created from poor stormwater management practices and implement remediation projects.

This is being accomplished in part through the PA state MS4 program. Four of the Lower Lycoming Creek PAT's five municipalities are Municipalities with Separate Stormwater Systems, or MS4s: Hepburn, Loyalsock, Lycoming and Old Lycoming Townships. These communities are required to secure a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, NPDES, permit as well as mandated to implement their Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan with stormwater best management practices and retrofitting projects. But, the selected projects will generally be targeted to initiatives that will yield the "best bang for the buck" concerning nutrient and sediment reductions to the Bay. The net result is that other problem areas are left to be addressed in other ways such as the installation of infiltration areas or green infrastructure.

**Key Implications** With unmanaged stormwater, repeated maintenance costs associated with municipal and state road erosion as well as loss of private/ public real estate from increased flooding will continue to plague the region. Moreover, unmanaged stormwater has historically contributed to flooding levels in the water bodies in these watersheds and has had a deleterious effect on the quality of these waterways. Additionally, loss of trees through infestation and disease (hemlock loss via the emerald ash borer) also contributes to the increase of stormwater giving a reason to focus on reforestation efforts.

From a positive perspective, proper stormwater management, including the skillful planning, design, construction and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure can offer a number of benefits to the communities, such as:

- access to clean drinking water
- reduced flood risk
- increased recreation opportunities
- supports new development and economic growth
- protect life, property and the environment.

**Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

**STORMWATER PROBLEM AREA IDENTIFICATION & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

This project identifies stormwater problem areas for design & retrofitting of stormwater best management practices. Each of the municipalities within the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area have areas where stormwater management is either inadequate or non-existent, contributing to flooding, stream and private property damage and higher maintenance costs of municipal infrastructure.

**HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

Systematically identifying, categorizing and prioritizing stormwater problem areas by level of impact will allow the Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members to decide what problem areas need to be addressed first as some may cross municipal boundaries. Currently, there is no consistent mechanism for addressing existing stormwater problem areas outside the limited project scope of the PAT’s four MS4 municipalities. An assessment and consensus on the priority projects will set the stage for pursuing potential funding sources. This will allow the municipalities to be competitive for development funds with “shovel ready” projects. Some projects may even rise to the level of MS4/Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan projects to address permit obligations. Areas to be explored include roadside ditches, road intersections, ponding low lying land areas, improperly placed or absent storm drains and pipes at wrong locations and/or elevations.

**PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency – The Lower Lycoming Creek PAT municipalities could take lead to hire a consultant to be the project manager. As stormwater management is a localized issue, the consultant will gather and verify stormwater problem areas in coordination with the individual municipalities.

Other Partners – MS4 Coalition, Lycoming County Conservation District, PA DEP, US Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, private land owners, water and sanitary sewer authorities and Lycoming County Planning Dept.

**STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>ESTABLISH A PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, LLC PAT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS—VERIFY AND EXPAND UPON THE LYCOMING CREEK STORMWATER PLAN MAP PLATE #8, DRAINAGE PROBLEM AREAS MAP TO INCLUDE OUTSIDE LYCOMING CREEK WATERSHED BOUNDARY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, CONSULTANT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CATEGORIZE PROBLEM AREAS INTO BENEFIT- EROSION CONTROL, WATER QUALITY, GROUND WATER RECHARGE, ETC.</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, CONSULTANT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PRIORITIZE PROBLEM AREAS BASED UPON GREATEST BENEFIT &amp; TIMING OF FUNDS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, CONSULTANT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, MS4 COALITION, PCD STAFF,</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>SECURE FUNDING FOR ENGINEERING &amp; DESIGN</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>	<b>CONSULTANT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, MS4 COALITION, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY EXECUTES PROJECT</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS</b>

**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

Dirt & Gravel Road Program

**Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

**1. LYCOMING CREEK ROAD WATER LINE EXTENSIONS**

Explore funding for extending public water service up the Lycoming Creek Road Corridor including Heshbon Park and Maybee Hill areas.

**2. MS4 CHESAPEAKE BAY POLLUTANT REDUCTION PLAN (CBPRP) IMPLEMENTATION**

The next round of MS4 permitting (beginning in 2018-2019) will require numerous infrastructure projects called Best Management Practices, or BMPs, to reduce stormwater pollution in order to comply with state and federal regulations. Municipalities must determine where and how to best to implement these BMPs to achieve the required pollution reductions as part of the CBPR Plan. These communities will also have to determine how to fund these projects—some of which may be very costly. Opportunities for joint funding and implementation will likely need to be fully explored. The CBPRP will also likely require the incorporation of green infrastructure projects in all appropriate transportation and redevelopment project scopes as well as the maintenance and potential upgrade of “grey” stormwater management infrastructure.

**3. IDENTIFY WATER & SANITARY SEWER PROBLEM AREAS**

This project consists of design & extension of sewer lines in problem areas of these townships.

**4. UPDATE ZONING ORDINANCES TO LIMIT DENSITY FOR AREAS NOT SERVED BY PUBLIC WATER & SEWER**

Discourage medium/high density developments to be served by on-lot septic and on-site wells.

**5. ASH TREE REMOVAL AND FOREST REPLANTING DUE TO EMERALD ASH-BORER INSECT**



## Priority Issue #2



### Natural Gas infrastructure is not readily accessible in all areas of the County

**Back Story** The recent discovery of significant deposits of natural gas in Lycoming County has presented numerous opportunities to the local community, including: new development, job creation, educational opportunities, and increased revenue for local businesses, among others. However, due to a lack of natural gas infrastructure and facilities, including access lines and fueling stations, residents and businesses have not been able to fully enjoy direct access to this energy source.

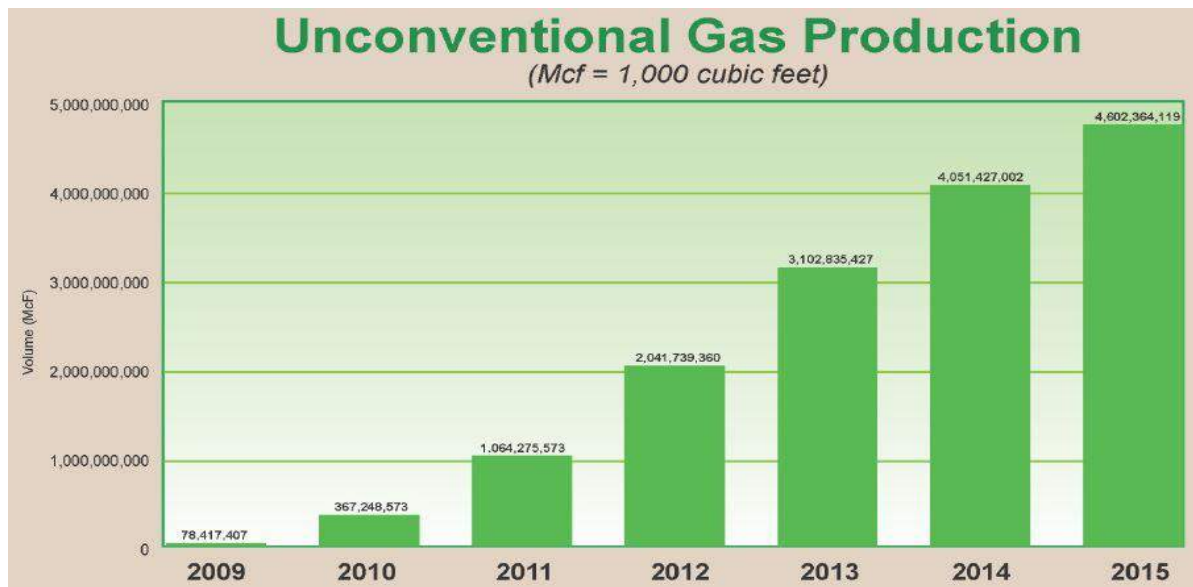
At the time the 2006 County Comprehensive Plan was developed, the presence of large deposits of natural gas in the County's shale formations was largely unknown. The Marcellus Play is one of the largest natural gas discoveries in the world. It encompasses large geographic areas of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland, including major portions of Lycoming County, primarily north of the West Branch Susquehanna River. The United States Geological Survey estimates the formation's total area to be approximately 95,000 square miles, ranging in depth from 4,000 to 8,000 feet below the earth's surface.



*Ogontz East Compressor Station*

In Lycoming County, gas exploration began in the fall of 2007 and steadily ramped up with well drilling activity peaking in 2012-2013. Drilling activity began to subside in 2014 due to a glut of natural gas in the market, reduced customer demand attributed to a general national economic slowdown and lower natural gas trading prices which made drilling less profitable. However, these factors are changing and the forecast for 2017 and beyond suggests a resurgence in gas drilling activity in the County, but perhaps not as robust as the 2012-2013 peak periods.

Marcellus Shale gas exploration activity has had a heavy impact on public infrastructure in Lycoming County, especially regarding roads and bridges. The large amount of truck traffic necessary to transport water and frac sand to assist in the drilling operations in rural areas has impacted state and local roadways including the wear and tear of pavement and traffic congestion.



Credit: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 2015 Oil and Gas Annual Report

Natural Gas has a profound impact across this planning area, Lycoming County, the state and the nation:

- The amount of natural gas produced in Pennsylvania was a record high at 4.6 trillion cubic/ft. of natural gas in 2015 (*DEP 2015 Oil and Gas Annual Report*).
- The Marcellus Play is estimated to contain more than 410 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which can supply the nation's energy needs for future generations.
- An average residential consumer in Pennsylvania uses over 86,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year (*PA Independent Oil & Gas Association*).
- 51% of Pennsylvania residents use natural gas for their heating source (*U.S. Energy Information Administration--2014*).
- The level of natural gas burning efficiency and generally lower cost has made it one of the most sought after non-renewable energy sources.
- Seven conventional and 929 unconventional natural gas wells have been drilled in Lycoming County between 3/01/2007 and 3/01/2017 (*PA DEP*).
- Of the fossil fuels used for energy creation, natural gas has proven to be one of the most clean burning and efficient modes currently available to the everyday consumer.

### Priority Issue Overview

Similar to other parts of the county, natural gas infrastructure is not readily accessible throughout this planning area. The abundance of this energy source has caused Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members and residents alike to question how the general public can gain full access to the resource. The chief obstacle is the rural nature of over half of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area—a pattern that characterizes most of Lycoming County. This obstacle has made extending natural gas pipeline infrastructure cost prohibitive in the past. However, circumstances are changing. With the addition of hundreds of miles of natural gas gathering and distribution lines now in and around Lycoming County, there may now be new

opportunities to extend natural gas infrastructure to rural areas. Through outreach, education and collaboration with natural gas providers, the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area municipal leaders and residents alike seek to expand natural gas service areas and increase residential and business owner usage of natural gas for heating or other uses.

In addition to rural areas, there are many developed areas of the County, including the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, that currently lack the necessary infrastructure to bring the natural gas service to residences, industrial, institutional and commercial businesses.

Expanding natural gas infrastructure was not discussed in any depth in either the 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek multi-municipal or the 2006 Lycoming County Comprehensive Plans. The Lower Lycoming Creek plan mentions possible plans to lease land in the Tiadaghton State Forest for the exploration of oil and natural gas. The Lycoming County comprehensive plan goes a little further: it hints that natural gas extraction may provide a significant number of jobs. The 2011 Lycoming County Energy Plan devotes several pages to resource extraction and infrastructure expansion of natural gas.

Today, the primary question is how to get natural gas to potential users who want it. As of 2015, there were 30 public natural gas providers in Pennsylvania. With the exception of any public-private partnerships with individual natural gas gathering companies, UGI Penn Natural Gas, Inc. is the public provider for natural gas to customers in the Williamsport and surrounding areas. UGI connects with two main distribution lines from Williams' interstate gas pipeline:

- a dedicated eight inch line on the west end of Williamsport
- a twelve inch line in the Muncy/ Hughesville area, east of Williamsport, that also serves many communities to the south

Extending natural gas distribution lines can present challenges that do not exist for other utilities such as water and sanitary sewer. In particular, natural gas infrastructure expansions can potentially be more expensive than other utilities. Due to the nature of natural gas distribution pressures and volumes required by existing and potential new users, the installation of lines to serve a new customer on one end of the system can directly impact the quote for service in other sections of the system, possibly requiring upgrades in pipeline sizes for long distances to meet capacity needs. As a result, natural gas providers must carefully analyze demand and potential new customer needs before investing in service expansions to ensure financial feasibility. Given these challenges, providers do not build new lines to provide natural gas service until the customer is ready to "sign on the dotted line."

Some of the identified pathways to address this issue include:

- identify locations and capacity of existing gas lines
- conduct feasibility studies for extensions
- quantify the demand for new service through outreach to potential consumers (home and businesses)
- explore alternative funding mechanisms for gas line extensions in targeted areas

- begin conversations with gas companies operating in Lycoming County to discuss avenues for meeting cost benefit ratios in either starting new gas utilities or expanding UGI services
- address possible safety and environmental concerns with natural gas development such as potential explosion risk and forest fragmentation.

## **Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

### **NATURAL GAS DEMAND ANALYSIS AND COMMUNITY COORDINATION INITIATIVE**

This project will conduct necessary analysis, coordination and outreach to assess the viability of natural gas infrastructure extensions that will improve community access to natural gas resources in areas that are currently not served or underserved. The project will accomplish two directives: education and assessment.

**Landowner education** is essential to expanding natural gas services. The project will focus on providing educational materials and forums for the public to understand the gas utility's procedures for considering an area to expand into and the available programs to help make it happen.

**Assessment** will occur of the current and future demand for expanded gas service by quantifying the number of potential homes and businesses that desire access to natural gas service. Assessment methods include:

- resident and business surveys
- growth projections
- direct outreach to stakeholder organizations

In addition, the project leadership will expand communications with natural gas providers to collaboratively determine the potential feasibility of service extensions, the obstacles to designing/constructing those extensions and viable solutions that should be pursued. Efforts may be coordinated with SEDA-COG's Regional Gas Utilization Initiative (RGUI) and SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative, Inc.

### **HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

This project aims to quantify demand for expanded natural gas services in order to assist natural gas service providers in determining the feasibility of service expansions and gain confidence in the expected return on investment. Once demand has been identified this initiative will also foster open communication with natural gas providers to identify any potential barriers to expanded services and to jointly identify and pursue solutions.

### **PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency – TBD

Other Partners – UGI Utilities, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Penn DOT, DCED, SEDA-COG



**STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>ESTABLISH A PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, LCC PAT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CONDUCT OUTREACH WITH NATURAL GAS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO BEGIN OPEN COMMUNICATIONS AND EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT.</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PDT, CHAMBER, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>DEVELOP AN ONLINE SURVEY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>ANNOUNCE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SURVEY &amp; EDUCATIONAL FORUMS TO RESIDENTS &amp; BUSINESSES THROUGH MULTIPLE MEDIA &amp; OUTREACH METHODS INCLUDING WEBSITES, RADIO, SOCIAL MEDIA, PRINT MEDIA AMONG OTHERS</b>	<b>2018-2027</b> <b>ON 5-YEAR CYCLE</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, CHAMBER</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CONDUCT OUTREACH WITH STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, BUSINESSES, AND RESIDENTS TO FURTHER IDENTIFY POTENTIAL DEMAND</b>	<b>2018-2027</b> <b>ON 5-YEAR CYCLE</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, PDT, CHAMBER</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ANALYZE RESULTS OF SURVEY &amp; OUTREACH &amp; PREPARE A SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR EXPANDED SERVICES. DEMAND SHOULD BE ASSESSED GEOGRAPHICALLY TO DETERMINE TOP VIABLE LOCATIONS FOR EXPANDED SERVICES.</b>	<b>2018-2027</b> <b>ON 5-YEAR CYCLE</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, CHAMBER</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONDUCT A MEETING WITH NATURAL GAS PROVIDERS TO PRESENT THE FINDINGS. THIS MEETING WILL IDENTIFY TOP VIABLE AREAS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>2018-2027</b> <b>ON 5-YEAR CYCLE</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>

STEP NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF STEP	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
	<b>EXTENSION, IDENTIFY ANY ADDITIONAL BARRIERS TO SERVICE EXTENSIONS, AND BRAINSTORM SOLUTIONS.</b>		
<b>8</b>	<b>IDENTIFY AND PURSUE POTENTIAL FUNDING</b>	<b>2018-2027 ON 5-YEAR CYCLE</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>2019-ONGOING</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS</b>

**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

DCED’s Pipeline Investment Program (PIPE). The search for other capable funding sources and the establishment of a financial strategy will take place during project development.

**Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

None

### **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 and pristine streams and creeks. The recreational resources of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area contain many of these same amenities and are a key reason why a number of residents choose to live, work, and play in these five municipalities. In short, these natural and recreational resources are among the greatest assets of this Planning Area.

Residents of the Lower Lycoming Creek 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

**Priority Issue Overview** The 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan flagged declining open space and the need for coordinated management of natural resources as priority issues for this Planning Area. While a variety of recommended strategic actions to improve conservation of these areas were proposed in the 2005 Plan, several of the concepts or actions listed in that Plan, as well as the overarching Lycoming County's Open Space, Recreation and Greenways Plan (Recreation Plan), have yet to be successfully implemented.

Unlike their western neighbors in the Pine Creek Valley, the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area residents enjoy recreational assets that are more private with the absence of large tracks of public lands. The challenge is to find the balance between developing and protecting these recreational assets without compromising the private nature of these communities.

There is an identified desire by Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members to create a Lower Lycoming Creek Recreation Improvement Plan that would serve as a local-sector (or regional) update to the broader Lycoming County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space/ Greenway Plan. While individual municipalities within this Planning Area have completed improvements in their own individual park facilities, there is still much more to do.

The Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members favored three initiatives to address this issue:

- Explore connectivity options for bikeways, walkways and greenways
- Develop a plan for use of floodplain buyout areas
- Create a Regional Recreational Area Improvement Plan

**Key Implications** This Lower Lycoming Creek Regional Recreation Improvement Plan will evaluate existing municipal owned property for its highest and best recreational use, including the flood buy out properties. These publically-owned sites represent a tremendous opportunity to address the need to better capitalize on outdoor recreation to improve quality of life for residents. Once completed, the Lower Lycoming Creek Regional Recreation Improvement Plan will serve as a “model” for the rest of the County.

**Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

**REGIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Create a Regional Recreation Improvement Plan strategy that will update and implement the Lycoming County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space/ Greenway Plan within the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area. The improvement strategy will inventory existing recreational assets, identify asset gaps, explore bikeway, walkway and greenway connectivity including a plan for use of floodplain buyout areas and plan/implement projects that the Regional Recreational Area Improvement Plan flags as priorities.

**HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

These efforts will help improve residents’ understanding of existing recreational assets. Through discovery:

- recreation analysis will be performed—recreational gaps will be located and identified
- changes with the recreational infrastructure will be inventoried
- an interactive map will be developed to depict noteworthy attributes and links to pictures and education concerning each recreational activity
- document the desired improvement with possible funding sources
- priorities will be determined
- timelines for project implementation will be developed

These measures will allow the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area community to be better interconnected and provide a pathway for local residents to plan how they can best market/promote their assets as a regional system and an economic development opportunity.

**PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency – Regional Recreation Improvement Steering Committee/ PDT using municipal leaders etc...

Other Partners – PA DCNR, PA DEP, Lycoming County Conservation District, Master Gardeners

**STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

<b>STEP No.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>CREATE A STEERING COMMITTEE/LEAD GROUP/PDT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, LLC PAT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>INVENTORY &amp; MAP EXISTING RECREATIONAL ASSETS WITH USES &amp; AMENITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WATER &amp; LAND TRAILS</b></li> <li>• <b>OPEN SPACE &amp; GREENWAYS</b></li> </ul>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>EXAMINE ACCESS TO SITES &amp; LEVEL OF</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>



<b>STEP No.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
	<b>DIFFICULTY BY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>ENGAGE PUBLIC TO DETERMINE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNMET NEEDS/ DESIRES</li> <li>• WHERE ARE THE NEEDS</li> </ul>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>INVENTORY &amp; MAP EXISTING &amp; FUTURE BUY-OUT PROPERTIES</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONSIDER BEST RE-USE OF BUY-OUT PROPERTIES- WHERE APPLICABLE</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>EXPLORE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN &amp; AMONG RECREATIONAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2017-2027</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DEVELOP OVERALL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REVIEW <b>2008</b> RECREATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX &amp; STATEWIDE RECREATION PLAN FOR RELEVANCE TO IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY</li> <li>• CONSIDER ESTABLISHING REGIONAL RECREATIONAL GROUP</li> <li>• CONVERT RAW MAPPING DATA TO ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAPPING APPLICATION TO DISPLAY ATTRIBUTES</li> <li>• EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS</li> </ul>	<b>2018-2023</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>

**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

DEP Growing Greener program; National Fish & Wildlife Service grants

**Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

**1. EXPLORE RECREATIONAL AREA USER BENEFIT DONATION OR FEE PROGRAM**

This program would be designed to help offset cost of maintaining recreational infrastructure.

**2. MILLERS RUN GREENWAY / TRAIL**

The Millers Run Greenway/ Trail is a Loyalsock Township specific project but will be a part of the improvement plan.

## Priority Issue #4



**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.**

**Back Story** A comprehensive strategy to support a thriving economy in Lycoming County must consider many factors including the availability of a quality workforce, family sustaining jobs, suitable locations for employment centers supported by infrastructure and economic diversification among job sectors. According to the US Census for Workforce Information and Analysis, there are 55,800 persons employed in Lycoming County with an unemployment rate of 6.3 % as of November, 2016. The County unemployment rate is higher than the current Pennsylvania average of 5.7 %. In terms of income, Lycoming County has a lower income level than the Pennsylvania average when measured by per capita personal income, median household income and median family income indicators as noted below:

Income	Lycoming County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income	\$41,171	\$49,745
Median Household Income	\$47,313	\$53, 599
Median Family Income	\$60,191	\$68,158

These statistics pose two challenges:

- how to improve a community’s economic strength or vitality
- how to buttress a community’s local economy to withstand the impacts of unexpected factors or forces.

The response to both challenges requires a shift in the traditional mindset. A better-educated workforce is crucial. Public school districts, institutions of higher learning, and workforce training centers need to be focused on providing the necessary tools to produce skilled workers better prepared to perform family-sustaining wage jobs or salaried positions. According to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, economic resiliency is described with three major elements:

- the ability to recover quickly from a major disruption (shock)
- the ability to withstand a shock
- the ability to avoid the shock altogether.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has also stated: “Establishing economic resilience in a local/regional economy requires the ability to anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact key economic assets, and build a responsive capacity.” In short, an economically-resilient community is one that is well aware

of the factors that have the potential to influence its economic base and has learned how to identify associated market trends.

**Priority Issue Overview** The challenge is to determine how to best prepare local communities for the inevitable fluxuations in the national or global economies. To build economic resilience a number of goals need to be pursued:

- strengthen weaker industry sectors
- solidify or enhance the stronger sectors
- enhance the quality of the trained workforce
- ensure every parcel of land is achieving its full potential.

To achieve this goal, Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area municipal leaders can undertake a “Regional Redevelopment Initiative.” When completed, this initiative could serve as a model for a Lycoming County-wide program.

A diverse economy where job opportunities are provided over many different sectors, avoids the economic vulnerability of relying on a single employment sector where cyclical downturns can induce a major loss of jobs and local economic stagnation. The recent Marcellus Shale gas exploration activity underscores the importance of maintaining a diversified job base. Gas development activity throughout Lycoming County soared then declined. Yet, there were other sectors of the local economy that did not experience this “boom – bust” shift when the gas drilling industry activity slowed. While future forecasts for the resurgence of gas drilling look promising, the lesson learned is to develop a more diversified/robust set of employment sectors.

The 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 2, identified eight important issues or factors that impact a community’s social and economic conditions. Each of these items directly or indirectly affects the ability of Lower Lycoming Creek communities to become resilient:

- exodus of younger generation—leaving an Increasing elderly population
- housing stock and diversity
- loss of industries and opportunities
- quality, quantity and education of the local labor force
- strength of the manufacturing base
- importance of tourism
- tax rates
- crime rate and drug use.

Another significant factor in the resiliency equation involves the optimal use of all available land. In many cases, underutilized property is an anchor serving to retard economic growth. In response, the community can take a comprehensive look, analyzing and exploring redevelopment options for all underutilized and abandoned commercial, industrial, institutional and residential properties. A small, but effective redevelopment tool is Lycoming County’s Planning & Community Development Department administration of a Brownfields

Assessment program that can assist property owners with Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. The results of these assessments can pave the way for possible environmental clean-up funding, if warranted - an integral step after properties are identified and categorized for possible redevelopment. The Brownfields program is not an environmental watchdog initiative; it's aimed at economic redevelopment.

To help realize properties reach their full potential, another tool to consider is a market study. With the upturn in internet shopping, some local retail establishments may need to be repurposed. Alternatively, the residential properties near a highway interchange may be better used as an office park with an internet café. A comprehensive market study cuts across all industry sectors and will help define what is needed and where it should be located.

Being prepared to respond to economic opportunity is prerequisite to a successful outcome. There were a number of previously vacant properties along the Lycoming Creek Road corridor that were able to take full advantage of the Marcellus Shale-driven economic upturn. Today, a number of those properties still house gas industry support companies, consumer products, or service businesses. Unfortunately, some of the warehousing and service buildings constructed to house gas support companies now sit vacant waiting for an increase in gas well development or an economic push in a new direction. Other municipalities within the planning area like Loyalsock's "Golden Strip" experienced more of the hospitality industry with the addition of new or expanding hotels and restaurants. Residential properties commercialized to support the gas industry workers like apartments, single family home rentals and hotel rooms have to be marketed once again at pre-marcellus rates.

In terms of non-floodplain land availability for future growth, Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has limited options for industrial and/or mixed use development. Thus, the reuse or repurposing of each vacant or underutilized property must be considered carefully for redevelopment to ensure maximum return on investment and positive overall economic results. Within this Planning Area the former Round Hills Elementary School has been vacated by the Williamsport Area School District and Loyalsock's Becht School is for sale. As an excellent example of adaptive reuse, the Round Hills School has been acquired by STEP to serve as a Head Start site. Similar to other communities throughout Lycoming County, both Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Township contain shopping plazas that have large quantities of commercial retail space up for lease.

Economic resiliency also requires a commitment to educate and re-train the local workforce in response to new or emerging sectors in the economic landscape. This initiative would involve active community outreach, collaboration and engagement with the public schools and institutions of higher learning such as Penn College of Technology, Lycoming College, and Lock Haven University. These institutions need to continue to evaluate and expand courses and vo-tech training programs that are designed to provide essential knowledge and skills for students that would



enable them to obtain area jobs with family sustaining wages. This strategy can lead to economic stabilization within our communities and reverse the “brain drain” pattern whereby young adults depart local areas for destinations that offer better paying jobs.

**Key Implications**

Without a clear understanding of industrial sector gaps and new market conditions, the local economy is likely to be stagnant, at best. Land limitations pose another challenge to creating jobs with family sustaining wages. Having a well-trained workforce is a third essential to achieving economic resiliency. Training the workforce includes understanding some of the hurdles for individuals getting or retaining jobs which includes: drug use; alcohol use; lack of transportation; and no high school diploma.



Unless municipal leaders embrace an economic redevelopment initiative to address all three of these key factors, the area will likely continue to see the exodus of youth, as well as the unemployment and low income issues previously described. Lack of employment opportunities and lower paying jobs directly contribute to the younger generation leaving local communities for areas that have better employment opportunities and higher wages. Employment opportunities are generally the key factor that dictates where younger adults will make their home. The combination of fewer younger workers, higher unemployment, and lower median income results in a lower tax base to support community services and unintended negative impacts upon all citizens, especially among the elderly population who rely on these services.

**Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

**LOWER LYCOMING CREEK REGIONAL REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

This project will include a multi-component initiative that:

- conducts a Job Generator loss study to determine why major manufacturers/job generators have located outside Lycoming County when they had the opportunity to locate here
- conducts a Market Study (Services & Consumables Business Gap Analysis) to determine where there are gaps in businesses that provide services and consumables within Lycoming County
- evaluates and expands courses needed to educate or train local workers for jobs in the current and future economy including a high schooling focus to reduce students not graduating and then follow-up for individuals needing GEDs
- examines redevelopment options for underutilized and abandoned commercial, industrial, institutional and residential properties in coordination with the County’s Brownfield Program
- evaluates public transportation needs for areas not currently being served or underserved from the perspective of 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift operations; consider municipal subsidy where patron numbers are low
- identifies transportation resources to help disabled/elderly workers get to jobs or to educational institutions
- identifies areas where Lycoming County is less resilient and shares information with the public to encourage investment and job creation in those areas.

**HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

The economic redevelopment initiative examines all elements of the resiliency equation—training and education of workforce, industrial sector gaps, market conditions, optimization of land use, and transportation needed to support both learners and workers.

**PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency - The Lycoming County Planning & Community Development Department would establish a Lower Lycoming Creek Steering Committee, which in turn would assume leadership. Steering Committee would have representatives from the Board of Supervisors from Old Lycoming, Loyalsock, Hepburn, Lycoming and Lewis Townships.

Other Partners - The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, UGI, PPL, Sewer & Water Authorities, Phone/Cable/Internet providers; SEDA-COG, landowners, real estate agents, schools & colleges.

**STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE/PDT AND ADOPT A CHARTER THAT MEMORIALIZES THE OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, LLC PAT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS</b>

	<b>SCHEDULE TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>DEVELOP COST ESTIMATES AND FUNDING RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORK SCOPE</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>MARKET STUDY, JOB GENERATOR LOSS STUDY, AND GAP ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRY SECTORS</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>PDT, CONSULTANT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDS TO MEET THE CHANGING ECONOMY</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>	<b>PDT, CONSULTANT, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>IDENTIFY UNDERUTILIZED, ABANDONED PROPERTIES- MAP &amp; CREATE DATA-BASE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DEVELOP SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PROPERTY ANALYSIS, BREAKING DOWN PAT BY: I.E. ZONING DISTRICTS</b></li> <li>• <b>ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY BASED UPON LOCATION, PROXIMITY TO UTILITIES, EASE OF ACCESS (TO LOCAL &amp; STATE ROADS), LAND USE, ETC...</b></li> </ul>	<b>2018-2024</b>	<b>PDT, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PCD STAFF</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>LAND OWNER &amp; DEVELOPER EDUCATION FORUM- VISIONING, REGULATORY REQUIRMENTS INCLUDING ZONING &amp; FLOODPLAIN EDUCATION OF POTENTIAL USES &amp; EXISTING USE EXPANSION FOR THEIR PROPERTY, TECHNICAL &amp; FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, CONNECTION TO OTHER PROGRAMS</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>	<b>PDT, LANDOWNERS, REAL ESTATE AGENTS, DEVELOPERS, PCD STAFF</b>

**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

To be developed by the Steering Committee in collaboration with PA DCED, Commonwealth Financing Agency, Economic Development Administration, County of Lycoming, USDA Rural Development, SBDC, SEDA-COG.



## **Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

### **1. JOB GENERATOR LOSS STUDY**

A study could be funded to determine why major manufacturers/ job generators have located out of Lycoming County when they have had the opportunity to locate here.

### **2. SERVICES & CONSUMABLES BUSINESS GAP ANALYSIS**

A study could be funded to determine where there are gaps in businesses that provide services and consumables within our county including seeing where our county falls short to be resilient and share information with the public to encourage investment and job creation in the areas where we as a community are lacking.

### **3. ESTABLISH A CENTRAL DATABASE/ EVENTS CALENDAR**

For Lycoming County events to be used by all Lycoming County Municipalities that would be used to promote cultural events—the goal would be to identify and revitalize the community. When a municipality adds an event to their individual website calendar, it automatically populates the countywide calendar.

### **4. EVALUATE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEED**

In areas that are currently not being served or underserved based upon 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift operations, especially to help disabled/ elderly to get to jobs; and/ or education about available transportation resources. –possible funding through Act 13 contributions from municipalities to help offset operation costs due to smaller volume of patrons.

### **5. LYCOMING CREEK CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION EFFORT**

Promoting uniformity in signage control, facade improvements, landscaping and street tree considerations, visual heritage and arts promotion would be beneficial.

### **6. TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Program development for possible assistance to individuals who cannot obtain a job or are facing job loss (job security) due to lack of transportation in areas where public transportation is not available.

**Priority Issue #5**



**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. The replication of services from one municipality to the next places a manpower stressor on local communities. 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 policy-making, service delivery, and taxation. In general, this form of government is viewed as being accessible, accountable and effective. However, while small 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 readily accessible 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 fire protection, 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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 that requires designated

municipalities to prepare Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plans (CBPRP's) that define how they will reduce sediment and nutrient levels, including nitrogen and phosphorous. 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 Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members acknowledged that fragmented government services have impacts in their planning area. Of particular concern was the ability to provide readily accessible and essential emergency services for Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) due to a decrease in volunteer capacity, intensive certification requirements and the lack of sustainable financial resources. While Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members were concerned about all three areas of emergency service, EMS was the focus of more intense analysis and discussion.

### **Priority Issue Overview**

The Fire and EMS Agencies, that serve this Planning Area, as well as the five municipal governments themselves were increasingly concerned with their ability to provide readily accessible levels of emergency medical services to the residents of these municipalities. Readily accessible levels are dictated by the 2009 Pennsylvania EMS System Act 37 (EMS Act) which establishes requirements for service coverage and certification standards. As in other small 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 more 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

**Increasing Certification Requirements and Decreasing Volunteer base**—The provisions of the EMS Act, which took effect on April 10, 2014, state that all EMS Agencies, including those located throughout Lycoming County, are required to provide 24 hours a day and seven days a week 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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Act 37 -- HEALTH AND SAFETY (35 PA.C.S.) and VEHICLE CODE (75 PA.C.S.) - OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS  
Act of Aug. 18, 2009, P.L. 308, No. 37

The EMS Act created 14 Regional EMS Councils. The Lycoming County Board of Commissioners is the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s contract holders 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. Lewis, Hepburn, Lycoming, Old Lycoming 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.”<sup>3</sup> In addition, Lewis, Hepburn, Lycoming, Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships are also required by the Code 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 \$1000. Currently, a Basic Life Support Ambulance must be staffed by one person trained to EMT 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 cost to equip a fire fighter is in excess of ten thousand dollars. 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 for secure increased training and needed equipment is compounded by lower volunteer recruitment numbers resulting in decreased capacity to provide Code-required services. This is a statewide issue. Since 1985 the number of volunteers in Pennsylvania has declined from 152,000 to 70,000. There are 2,462 fire companies in PA and 90% 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 plus 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:

- Lewis Township: Trout Rn & Ralston Volunteer Fire Co.
- Hepburn Township: Hepburn Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.
- Lycoming Township: Trout Run, OLT, & Hepburn Fire Co.’s.
- Old Lycoming Township: OLT Volunteer Fire Co.
- Loyalsock Township: Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Co.
- Paramedic Services to PAT – UPMC/Susquehanna Regional EMS



<sup>3</sup> The Township Second Class Township Code, Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69), as enacted and amended

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 critical in this Planning Area which has a significant amount of undeveloped designated growth area. In particular, the US15-S Planning Area is already planning for expanded water, sewer and natural gas infrastructure to the US Route 15 corridor to allow for additional development opportunities. It is important that Fire and EMS services also be considered an essential infrastructure during these planning and feasibility phases.

**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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, the number of 911 calls that resulted in emergency service providers being dispatched to this area has generally tracked the trend experienced by the County as a whole.

**Lycoming/Sullivan County 911 Center Activity 2012 - 2016 YTD**

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

The members of the Lower Lycoming PAT also expressed an interest in evaluating the current regionalization arrangements of both fire and police services.

**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 five municipalities in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area and the Fire and EMS Agencies do not find ways to more effectively work together to provide 24/7 EMS 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 and readily accessible 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 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.

The Lower Lycoming Creek PAT identified some potential strategic approaches for addressing this issue including:

- Sharing of services or joint efforts for the provision of zoning, subdivision and land development, stormwater, building codes, police, fire, EMS, and other services
- Participating in the Countywide EMS Response Plan

### **Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

#### **EXAMINE COST EFFECTIVENESS AND PERSONNEL EFFICIENCY OF FIRE AND EMS SERVICES IN THE LOWER LYCOMING CREEK PLANNING AREA AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE COUNTY EMS RESPONSE PLAN**

The five 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area will work with the municipal governments of Lewis, Hepburn, Lycoming, Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships 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**

- Service area
- Service calls (increase or decrease or missed) – trend over last 5 years?
- Response time
- What are the gaps of providing 24/7 service?
  
- Number 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 five municipalities, and the other parts of Lycoming County, if or 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 5-municipality area and the Lycoming County.

### **HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

Lewis, Hepburn, Lycoming, Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships 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, the large expanse of rural territory combined with low density population along with changing demographics and family responsibilities makes it difficult for the traditional structure of EMS service delivery to remain effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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 five 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 provisions required and critically important to EMS services.

Once funding can be 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 - Lower Lycoming Creek PAT

Other Partners – Fire Chiefs’ Board and 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**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>FORM PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM (PAT) STEERING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>JUNE 2017</b>	<b>FIRE RESPONDERS EMS UNITS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS PCD &amp; DPS STAFFS</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CONVENE STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEFINE THE SHORTCOMING AND NEEDS OF THE FIRE AND EMS SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PAT</b>	<b>JUNE 2017 – DECEMBER 2017</b>	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE PCD &amp; DPS STAFF</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>DEFINE LIST OF DATA NEEDS AND BEGIN COLLECTION OF INFORMATION  IDENTIFY FUNDING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>JUNE 2017 – DECEMBER 2017</b>	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PARTICIPATE IN THE EMS RESPONSE PLAN FOR LYCOMING COUNTY</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2018</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>FORMULATE SOLUTIONS</b>	<b>JANUARY 2018 – JUNE 2018</b>	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE PCD &amp; DPS STAFFS CONSULTANTS</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED UPON SOLUTIONS</b>	<b>ON-GOING</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE OTHERS – TBD</b>

**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. REVIEW CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRE SERVICE AND POLICE PROTECTION**

Explore the possibility for regionalization

**2. ADOPT & ENFORCE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & JUNK ORDINANCE**

Incorporate regulations to target and enforce the disposal of junk cars and other materials in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area.

**3. INITIATE LOWER LYCOMING CREEK PAT ZONING CONSISTENCY REVIEW**

Review Ordinances for consistency in administration and enforcement of zoning practices within this Planning Area. These could include improved utilization of zoning tools available; training of zoning personnel; and assistance with interpretation of zoning regulations.

**4. COORDINATED CELL SERVICE NEEDS ANALYSIS**

Work with neighboring municipalities to assess the need for and placement of cellular towers. This could be a pro-active approach to increasing cell service reliability where cell companies are not establishing towers but the need is there. The County zoning special exception criteria could be used as a model for part of the review of proposed sites.

**5. LOWER LYCOMING CREEK ZONING PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS**

Analyze benefits from creating zoning administration partnerships within the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area—i.e. the County Zoning Partnership.

**6. REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS PROMOTION INITIATIVE**

As part of a tourism strategy to attract visitors, each municipality has an opportunity to highlight special attributes that can be collectively marketed-possibly by a created job position funded by all municipalities.

**7. EXPLORE SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS**

Explore school district regionalization

**8. SUPPORT DRUG PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS**

Support Project Bald Eagle and other efforts to help residents overcome addiction through treatment, rehabilitation, education and counseling.

## Priority Issue #6



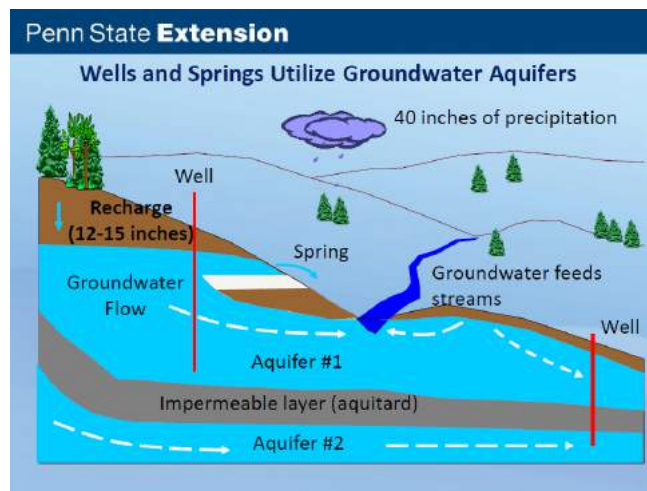
### Water quality is vital, but is vulnerable to a multitude of threats.

**Back Story** On average about 75% of the human body is water; thus, it is readily apparent that the abundance of clean water is critical to life and not something to be taken for granted. Water is used for drinking, cleaning, bathing, recreating, energy generation, manufacturing cooling and food making processes. The U.S.EPA gives some facts about water:

- 80% of the earth's surface is covered with water and is the most common substance found on the earth
- It takes 39,090 gallons of water to produce a new automobile
- The raising of a single chicken uses about 400 gallons of water
- The average residential household uses over 100,000 gallons of water indoors and outdoors per year
- A person can live without water for only a week, depending on conditions
- Only 1% of all the water on the earth is suitable to drink.

The illustration to the right depicts that, on average, Pennsylvania receives about 40 inches of rain per year and only 12-15 inches recharges our groundwater aquifers. The remainder of the rain water either runs directly into creeks and streams or returns back to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration.

The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area is made up of three major watersheds: Lycoming Creek, Loyalsock Creek and the West Branch Susquehanna River. The Lycoming Creek watershed contains the largest amount of land area with 52.3 miles of mapped streams. The Loyalsock Creek and Susquehanna River watersheds contribute much smaller areas with 6.4 and 11.3 miles respectively. In understanding how our community uses water, how it moves through the hydrologic cycle and how much water there is, the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area realizes there is a great responsibility to ensure that abundant, good quality water remains for the continued use of its residents and businesses.



Through the U.S.EPA's mandate to the states from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the PADEP Northcentral office has provided invaluable assistance to each public water system in Lycoming County to help them establish source water protection plans. Proposed source water infrastructure projects – if any – should be carefully considered by the steering committee for this priority issue. Since the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority, WMWA, provides public water to the urbanized sectors of two of the townships in the Lower Lycoming Creek

Planning Area, it may be advantageous to discuss with WMWA their source water protection plan and determine if there are any priority projects in WMWA's plan that should be supported under this Priority Issue.

While PADEP regulates the cleanliness of the water provided by public systems, there are no state requirements for construction, maintenance and treatment of private water systems. Because there is no ownership of water, the "reasonable use" of water is allowed. Also, there is little protection for existing private water sources where the deepest well and the biggest well pump often wins. House Bill 48 of 2015, which introduces private well construction and water quality standards, was favored by Lycoming County State Representatives. As of yet, that bill has not become law.

Lycoming County residents located in rural areas rely on water supplied through natural occurring springs or manmade cisterns and private wells. 85% of private water systems are drilled wells, 6% are hand-dug wells, and 9% are springs or cisterns.

In 2010-2011, USGS and PADEP conducted an assessment of baseline surface and groundwater conditions in the Lycoming Creek Watershed: 31 main stem and tributary water samples and 14 ground water samples. To continue tackling the assessment of private water well supplies, Lycoming County Planning partnered with the USGS and PADCED in 2015 to conduct a snap shot of the groundwater quality in Lycoming County through random sampling and testing of 74 private wells. Eleven of those wells were located in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning area.

In 2010, the Lycoming County Commissioners adopted the Lycoming County and Lycoming Creek Stormwater Plans. Each of these plans address the care of water through the proper use of stormwater best management practices for new development. The Grafius, Millers and McClure's Runs Stormwater plan is also applicable in areas of Loyalsock and Hepburn Townships.

**Priority Issue Overview** The PA Municipalities Planning Code, MPC §301 (b) states: "The comprehensive plan shall include a plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses and limitations, including provisions to adequately protect water supply sources."

The 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 3, expressed the need to be more diligent in locating certain land uses away from water supply areas and not developing steep slope and ridge tops to reduce the chance for erosion and soil instability. The 2005 plan suggests developing wellhead protection programs for municipal wells-municipal water authorities and pursues wellhead protection areas to protect wells from potential land use and pollutant impacts that could contaminate public water supplies. Chapter 3 also points out the surface waters of Lycoming Creek and its tributaries are very important as they provide aquifer recharge, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. And, stormwater management, soil conservation measures, and riparian buffers are key tools for maintaining surface water quality.

Today, the Lower Lycoming Creek PAT members believe that developing and implementing a comprehensive source water protection program is essential for maintaining its good water quality. With hundreds of miles of streams and thousands of water wells and natural gas wells, there are many ways for pollutants to enter our water supply.

The Lower Lycoming Creek PAT recognizes the need for a comprehensive source water protection program that will accomplish the following:

1. verify and identify all water sources for mapping of private and public water protection zones based upon sub watersheds
2. identify and verify existing or potential pollutants
3. gather existing water quality data
4. identify gaps where water quality data is needed
5. map above and below ground storage tanks
6. institute spill control and emergency control measures for storage tanks
7. insure automotive industry uses best management practices for fluid storage, spill prevention and clean-up and readily accessible fluid recycling stations
8. educate the public through social media, tv, newspaper, schools
9. promote integrated water resources management
10. adopt wellhead protection ordinances to require sanitary water well cap installations
11. review Act 537 plan recommendations
12. adopt septic tank pumping ordinances
13. investigate alternatives to salt for winter ice melt applications
14. support legislative action for private well water quality and construction standards
15. support the Lycoming County Conservation District with efforts for reduction in non-point source pollution

**Key Implications** The vast majority of the land within the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area is rural and served by on-lot water wells. Thus, it would be highly beneficial to establish standards for the construction, maintenance and treatment of private wells as well as steps for protection of the surface water and groundwater so that municipal leaders can faithfully execute their most fundamental responsibility—to provide for the health, safety and welfare of their citizens.

For the urbanized sectors of the Lower Lycoming Creek townships that are served by public water authorities or sometimes smaller private water systems, there is a need to ensure that source water protection plans are in place, reviewed regularly, updated as needed, and implemented.

The potential impact upon ground water from the ubiquitous gas drilling operations throughout this planning area needs to be carefully evaluated in the short term and over the long run.

**Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

**LOWER LYCOMING CREEK SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM**

This project will be implemented in coordination with public water suppliers, PADEP, municipalities, etc... with various options for implementation including the participation of an ongoing groundwater monitoring study.

**HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

The Lower Lycoming Creek Source Water Protection program will look comprehensively at all water sources and potential pollution sources giving direction to municipalities for suggested regulations, general public and school education, and coordination effort for reductions in pollution sources for groundwater and surface waters within the planning area.

**PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency – Lower Lycoming Creek PAT

Other Partners – Lycoming County PCD, PADEP, Water Authorities, PAT Municipalities, Sewage Enforcement Officers, land owners, business owners, private & public schools, and colleges,

**STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>APPOINT A STEERING COMMITTEE/PDT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>PCD STAFF, LCC PAT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>REVIEW EXISTING REGULATION/ORDINANCES &amp; PLANS TO DETERMINE LEGAL ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM IDEAS</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>EVALUATE EXPANSION OF EXISTING WMWA SOURCE WATER PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION STEPS OUTSIDE OF EXISTING PROTECTION ZONES PAT WIDE</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, WMWA</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PRIORITIZE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM IDEAS BASED UPON IMPORTANCE TO THE WATERSHED &amp; TIMING OF AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, DEP</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>WRITE DRAFT LOWER LYCOMING CREEK PLANNING AREA SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM &amp; BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>PDT, PCD STAFF, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, DEP</b>



**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

Applicable potential funding sources will be developed by the Steering Committee/PDT in the 2018 timeframe.

**Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

**1. CONSISTENT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Require consistent and adequate application of Stormwater Management on proposed development and encourage stormwater management retrofits for existing development.

**2. IMPLEMENT MS4 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Implement MS4 programing in accordance with the approved CBPRP.

**3. INCORPORATE APPROPRIATE LAND USE CONTROLS FOR EXTRACTION INDUSTRIES**

Lycoming County Planning has developed zoning amendments that could be used as model ordinance language.

**4. AMEND THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO LIMIT DEVELOPMENT IN DESIRED SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS**

Such as steep slope/ ridgetop using overlay districts.

**5. DEVELOP A CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM**

Encourage conservancy and land trust organizations to explore easements to preserve sensitive and scenic areas from future development.

**6. DEVELOP ON-LOT WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS**

Effective on-lot disposal should be practiced.

## Priority Issue #7



### Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities.

**Back Story** The American Society of Civil Engineers, ASCE, conducts periodic evaluations of 16 infrastructure categories, including levees. Using reports, studies, surveys and other research materials from professional societies, non-profit associations, and local, state, and federal agencies, the ASCE document their conclusions in a report entitled the: “Report Card for Pennsylvania’s Infrastructure”.

The latest 2014 ASCE Report Card grades Pennsylvania’s levee infrastructure at a grade C-, mediocre. The report states that the grades are an evaluation of the current state of the physical infrastructure itself and not a reflection on the agencies responsible for the infrastructure, who are often working with limited resources. The grade was developed based upon eight criteria: capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation. The grade C- reflects the fact that Pennsylvania operates one of the few state-level comprehensive flood protection programs in the nation that requires a high level of standards for which levees are monitored and maintained. The report also states the grade reflects:

- the consequences resulting from the advanced age of levee systems
- the numerous flood-prone watersheds in Pennsylvania
- the residual flood risk inherent in flood protection projects designed to the current flood protection standard
- the population at risk
- non-existent funds for levee system repair and maintenance
- the threat to public safety that could happen from a catastrophic levee failure or overtopping

The ASCE reports that a levee is defined as a man-made embankment, typically a linear, earthen structure, built to provide flood protection from temporary high water and may be the most important flood protection method used for flood-prone communities across Pennsylvania.

As of the 2014 report, there are 64 major levee systems in Pennsylvania, made up of 318 separate levee segments that provide a local flood protection length of about 151 miles.

Historically, levees were designed to protect property rather than people, ultimately though, the systems were built to allow enough time for people to gather their valuables and evacuate if there is eminent danger to the levee system overtopping. Within the last 100 years, there has been 4,523 deaths recorded nationally caused by failure of levees which alone supports the need for the national levee Rehabilitation and Inspection Program led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, developed a levee certification process after the flooding and levee failure on the Mississippi that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This certification

process is mandatory for all areas in the United States, including the Lower Lycoming Creek and Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Areas, if the areas protected by the levee are mapped as protected for the purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program.

A key point is that 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 Lower Lycoming Creek and Greater Williamsport Alliance planning areas.

**Priority Issue Overview** The Williamsport Flood Control System protects the City and much of the urbanized areas of Old Lycoming Township and Loyalsock Township as well as the Borough of South Williamsport. The cumulative value of real estate protected by this system exceeds \$1 billion.

Using the County's Hazard Plan as reference, out of the five municipalities in the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area, both Loyalsock and Old Lycoming townships have properties protected by the levee system: the total assessed value of parcels protected by the levee in Loyalsock Township is \$146,552,190 and in Old Lycoming Township is \$32,741,640.

The system includes a number of pump stations, valves as well as several miles of levee. Major portions of the levee were authorized in the late 1930's, with full completion achieved in 1955. The system was further expanded in 1972 after Tropical Storm Agnes to protect the Golden Strip area of Loyalsock Township with the Bull Run Flood Protection Project.

Following construction of the levee system, the sponsoring municipalities assumed responsibility for operation, recurring maintenance, and periodic recertification. It is the recertification process of these levees that has become a significant financial challenge to these municipalities, particularly if the recertification engineers discover costly problems.

The Borough of South Williamsport is the Non-Federal Sponsor for the levee on the southern side of the West Branch Susquehanna River. Williamsport is the Non-Federal Sponsor for the two levee sections which surround the city and tie back into Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships. Although the Williamsport levees provide protection in Old Lycoming Township and Loyalsock, they are not non-federal sponsors. There is a separate levee protecting the commercial area of East Third Street in Loyalsock Township and Loyalsock Township is the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Bull Run Flood Protection System.

There are two separate federal agencies involved in the recertification process. The levee system must be recertified by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and certified by the FEMA. Recently, the USACE identified deficiencies in the Northeast and Northwest Williamsport Levee System. These improvements must be made in order to provide the continued flood protection to the area.

Through FEMA's Provisional Levee Accreditation Program (PAL), a partnership can be forged of those municipalities protected by the levee. The partnering municipalities can conduct a review of the levees to ensure that they meet FEMA criteria for certifying the levee. Both agencies look to ensure the ongoing viability of levee systems.

Table 4.3.13-2 Structures in levee protected areas by generalized property type.								
Municipality	Total Structures	Agri-cultural	Com-mercial	Industrial	Resi-dential	Transport-ation/ Utilities	Un-known	Grand Total
Loyalsock Township	5,344	0	232	13	399	2	3	649
Old Lycoming Township	3,091	0	147	6	154	0	8	315
South Williamsport Borough	2,899	0	154	19	531	3	9	716
Williamsport City	12,248	1	1,744	136	4,685	14	86	6,666
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,791</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>8,346</b>

Credit: 2015 Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan

**Key Implications** Absent the levee being recertified, the properties protected by the levee may no longer enjoy a 500-year flood plain status. If those properties default to/revert back to a 100-year floodplain status, then the flood insurance premiums required could be difficult for property owners to afford.

Absent the recertification and correction of any identified problem issues, a potentially fatal failure of the levee would go undetected until it became catastrophic. This could result in catastrophic human, economic and financial losses for the communities behind the levee. It’s noteworthy to consider the type of entities that are protected by the levees:

- residential properties
- commercial buildings and businesses
- non-profit enterprises
- critical infrastructure elements
- chemical and other major industries
- colleges and school facilities
- correctional facilities and law enforcement locations
- medical services including EMS and hospitals
- wastewater treatment plants

Additionally, in the event of a levee breach or failure of a non-certified levee, the federal government would have no obligation to assist in financing recovery efforts for thousands of homeowners.

**Top Viable Project of Regional Significance for this Issue**

**LEVEE RECERTIFICATION**

The flood protection system that serves both the Lower Lycoming Creek and the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Areas 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.

Each levee was built by the USACE in partnership with the local municipality (Non-Federal Sponsor). The levees currently have two certifications which must be maintained; USACE’s and FEMA’s certifications. Each Non-Federal Sponsor agreed to maintain the levees to the standards defined by the USACE when the levees were built. These levees must be repaired and maintained by the non-federal sponsor to protect life and property. The USACE has regularly scheduled inspections.

**HOW PROJECT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE**

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.

**PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Lead Agency – This issue must be led by the non-federal sponsors – City of Williamsport, Borough of South Williamsport 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**

<b>STEP NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF STEP</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>REVIEW THE LATEST USACE REPORTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH NEED TO BE COMPLETED.</b></p> <p><b>REVIEW THE REPORT RESULTS OF THE FEMA LEVEE CERTIFICATION STUDY</b></p> <p><b>BUILD A WORKING TASK FORCE</b></p>	<b>2014-12/31/2017</b>	<p><b>CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT</b></p> <p><b>LOYALSOCK</b></p> <p><b>SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT</b></p> <p><b>OLD LYCOMING</b></p> <p><b>COUNTY OF LYCOMING (PCD)</b></p> <p><b>PA DEP</b></p> <p><b>WILLIAMSPORT SANITARY</b></p>

			<b>AUTHORITY</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>PRIORITIZE WORK AND SEEK FUNDING FOR US ACE SYSTEM REPAIRS AND UPGRADES</b>	<b>JANUARY 2017- JANUARY 2020</b>	<b>PCD, NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>DEVELOP A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MEANS OF FUNDING IT.</b>	<b>JANUARY 2017-2020</b>	<b>PCD</b>

**FUNDING/FINANCING STRATEGY**

The City of Williamsport, working with stakeholders, will continue to work with the state and community to help to fund the rehabilitation of the levee to reduce the risk to life and property should the levee breach. They 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).

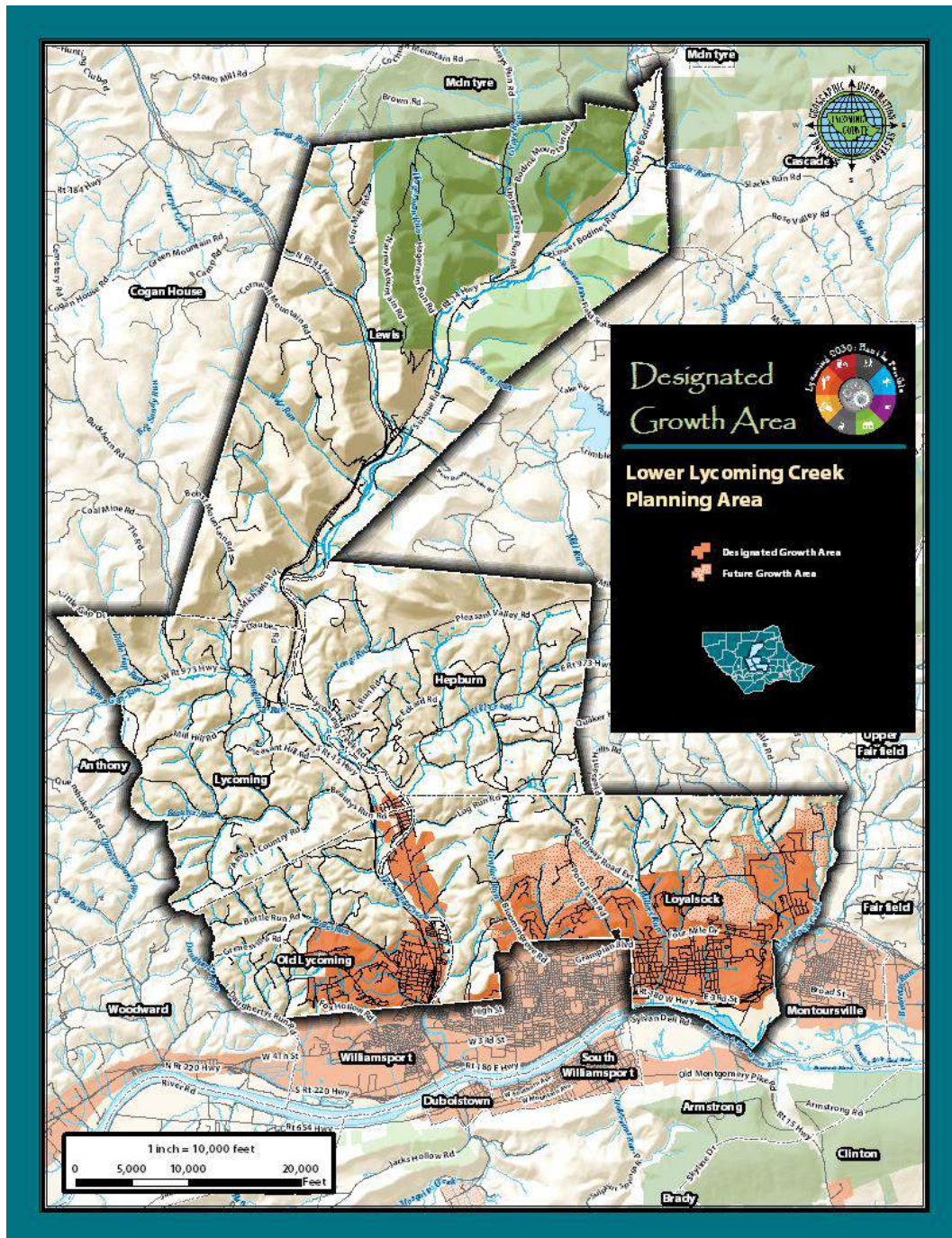
**Additional Projects, Programs and Initiatives for this Issue**

**NONE**



## Chapter 3: Growth Area and Future Land Use Maps

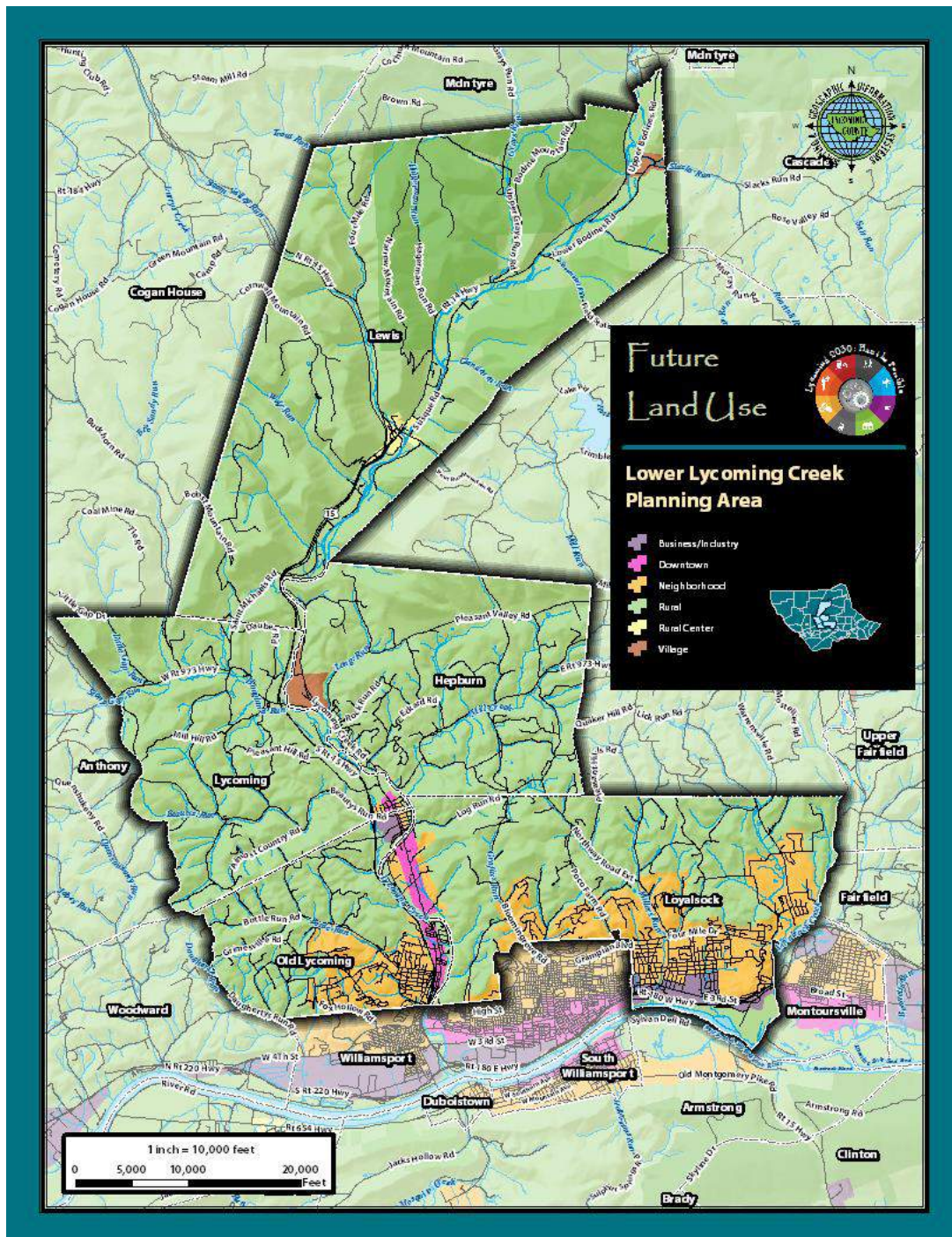
### Designated Growth Area & Future Growth Area Map



Notable Change: The designated future growth area was expanded into the northeastern portion of Loyalsock Township to encompass areas where there is potential to extend public water service in the future.



### Future Land Use Map



No changes were made to the Future Land Use Map as a result of this update. Please refer to the appendices or the 2005 Map Book for mapped future land use information.

## **Appendices**

### Table of Contents

- A. Plan Process
- B. PAT Meeting Summaries and Reports
- 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
- D. Reference Maps
- 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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 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 Lower Lycoming Creek PAT met for six 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 and/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  
Lower Lycoming Creek PAT  
October 22, 2015—Meeting #1  
6:30-9pm

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## **Attendees:**

Joshua Billings, PCD

Megan Lehman, PCD

Howard Fry, LCPC

Larry Allison, Jr., LCPC

Joseph Hamm, Hepburn Twp.

Charles Whitford, Lewis Twp.

Steven Sechrist, Lewis Twp.

Rick Wheeland, Loyalsock Twp.

Virginia Eaton, Loyalsock Twp.

Garth Womer, Loyalsock Twp.

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Twp.

John Eck, Old Lycoming Twp.

Caroline Brady, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.

Mike Ditchfield, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.

Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA

Doug Keith, WMWA-WSA

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## **Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions**

Joshua Billings facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. He 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 three-ring binder was provided for each municipality with the October 22nd 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.

## **Agenda Item #2 – What is a Comprehensive Plan?**

Joshua reviewed the PowerPoint slides regarding the intent and scope of a county comprehensive plan and answered the questions of: What? Why? and When?

Remember- a Comp plan contains:

- 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

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

Joshua reviewed the PowerPoint slides regarding the roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures of the PAT as provided in the packet. Keep in mind: Your plan update is only as good as you make it.



#### **Agenda Item #4 – Draft Comprehensive Plan Timeline**

Joshua explained the expected timeline for the comprehensive plan update process as provided in the packet. Your participation is greatly needed during each phase. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PAT mtg. will be scheduled in January 2016 with the focus groups most likely to follow in March. The overall process is expected to conclude in summer 2017.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Select Goals from 2006 Plan**

Joshua provided a short summary of the major themes and conclusions from the 2006 Plan for this PAT. The 2006 Comp plan categorized PAT-wide goals into 4 topical areas:

- a. Community & Economic Development
- b. Land Use & Resource Management
- c. Transportation
- d. Community Infrastructure

The 2016 update will be set up in a similar fashion only with 5 topical areas, unveiled during the public meetings back in September 2015.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Select Accomplishments Since 2006**

Joshua 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. The following additional accomplishments were noted during the meeting:

- Old Lyc. Twp. (OLT) – New basketball court; moved recycling facility; community garden
- Loyalsock—Dog park; recreational building
- Regional sewer upgrades; wet weather tanks; laterals; ID illegal hookups
- Hepburn – Recycling facility; growth; carnival grounds → economic development
- New efforts to map and maintain stormwater facilities
- OLT: Old factory → housing
- Creek Road economic development in Lyc. Twp. (LT); OLT
- Lewis and others – buyouts
- Watershed/stream projects: Trout Run park, Wheel Inn stream projects; Sheshequin Campground; Duke Energy money for project and maintenance; AMD projects
- OLT ordinance update
- County Farm rec. improvements
- OLT Police regional agreements

The purpose of this exercise was not only to document the accomplishments, but to demonstrate the significant amount of change that can occur in a community within a ten-year period.

## **Agenda Item #7 – SWOT Analysis and Prioritization**

The PCD staff team 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. The following were the top vote-getters under each category:

- Strengths: Spirit of cooperation, especially among municipalities, regional projects-small & large
- Weaknesses: Lack of funding for infrastructure improvements
- Opportunities: Expand infrastructure to provide growth opportunities
- Threats: Flooding; Lack of stormwater management; lack of flood control systems; floodplain buyouts shrinking tax base and require maintenance; US Army Corps levee requirements

## **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](http://www.lyco.org/CompPlan), with sub-pages to be created for PAT meeting resources.

Joshua explained specific homework assignments to 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. Joshua will follow up with reminders to all members.

**Joshua adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.**

Please be aware that our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lower Lycoming Creek PAT meeting will be held mid to late January 2016. A couple of dates will be emailed to everyone for consensus.

# SWOT Analysis Notes

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
 Lower Lycoming PAT, Staff Lead: Joshua Billings  
 Thursday, October 22, 2015 6:30 – 9:00 PM  
 Old Lycoming Township building 1951 Green Ave., Williamsport



## Strengths: 26 votes total

- 10 – Spirit of cooperation, especially among municipalities; regional projects, small and large  
Ex) Police, MS4, etc.
- 9 – Water quality and quantity: Lycoming Creek an EV river. WMWA well-head → monitoring and data, capacity for economic development and growth
- 4 – Wastewater treatment infrastructure has been updated; capacity for economic development and growth
- 2 – Scenic beauty – mountains, valleys, landscape; “Hearsay” from visitors, especially from gas industry
- 1 – Two colleges
- 0 – Good opportunities for public transportation (RVT serves most of PAT area)
- 0 – Abundant recreational opportunities and cultural pastimes  
Ex) outdoor recreation, theater, fishing
- 0 – Massive tracts of state forest land
- 0 – Wellness and health opportunities and facilities  
Ex) YMCA, SHS, Riverwalk, Lycoming Creek bikeway, etc.
- 0 – Increased job opportunities – gas industry and otherwise
- 0 – Fairly stable economy
- 0 – Little League

## Weaknesses: 26 votes total

- 9 – Lack of funding for infrastructure improvements
- 7 – Inability for many to access natural gas resources for home and business use; Produced locally but not used locally;

- 5 – Competing fuel sources make economics for extending gas lines difficult; Barrier to growth
- 5 – Lack of jobs and vulnerability to state-level decision, national and international forces beyond local control
- 3 – Aging infrastructure with bad practices, legacy of deferred maintenance
- 2 – Individuals with substance abuse or criminal backgrounds – difficulty rehabilitating, accessing services, reintegrating into society
- 0 – Public transportation system does not extend far into certain areas/does not run in evenings; Barrier to job access for some, mobility for others
- 0 – Emergency services response time long in some areas/certain times of the day; Personnel working far from station areas; Volunteer ranks diminishing
- 0 – Pipeline locations are sometimes poorly chosen; Lack of pipeline connections to external markets

## Opportunities: 26 votes total

- 9 – Expand infrastructure to provide growth opportunities
- 7 – Regionalization of fire departments; Sharing of equipment, facilities, and services; Increases chances of external funding; Cost savings; Strength in numbers
- 5 – Regionalization/consolidation of administration of public education; Realignment of school district boundaries/feeder patterns
- 3 – Sustainable energy sources – opportunity to expand  
Ex) Wind, solar, etc.

- 2 – Find new industries; Capitalize on local agriculture, food, artisans; Create new economic clusters – “home grown”
- 0 – Use land use ordinances to create more sustainable economic development opportunities
- 0 – Pursue DCNR funding for local priority projects

**Threats: 26 votes total**

- 10 – Flooding; Lack of stormwater management; Lack of flood control systems; Floodplain buyouts shrink tax base; Requires maintenance; US Army Corps levee requirements
- 7 – Federal and state regulations imposed from above; No accountability; “Unfunded mandates”; Big government
- 5 – State government does not create a business-friendly climate; Not enough incentives
- 2 – Tax proposals on drilling would hurt local economy
- 1 – National economy and global economic forces, in particular, falling oil prices stifle gas drilling
- 1 – Drugs and crime; Lack of jail space; Spread into rural areas

# MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
Lower Lycoming Creek PAT  
January 18, 2016—Meeting #2  
6:30-8:30pm



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## **Attendees:**

Joshua Billings, PCD

Megan Lehman, PCD

Howard Fry, LCPC

Joseph Hamm, Hepburn Twp.

Charles Whitford, Lewis Twp.

Steven Sechrist, Lewis Twp.

Rick Wheeland, Loyalsock Twp.

Paul Nyman, Loyalsock Twp.

Garth Womer, Loyalsock Twp.

Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Twp.

John Eck, Old Lycoming Twp.

Joe Radley, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.

Larry Waltz, Blooming Grove Historical Society

Vince Matteo, Williamsport Lycoming Chamber

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## **Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions**

Joshua Billings and Megan Lehman facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. They 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.

Meeting materials were distributed for the night's discussion which is to be added to the folders given out at the first meeting. These folders are to serve as the PAT member's record of our progress and discussions.

## **Agenda Item #2 – Reviewing Data and Issues**

Joshua reviewed the PowerPoint slides reviewing the results of the SWOT analysis and received input regarding various notable outcomes of the SWOT summary.

Joshua and Megan reviewed the demographic information that has been gathered thus far from census data. A summary document was distributed to the group that showed ***projections*** based upon population and demographic trends. A demographic ***forecast*** which combines observations & assumptions with the ***projections*** presented in this meeting will be arrived at as a result of this planning process. A key example of a forecast was brought up with

## **Agenda Item #3 – Facilitated Discussion on 2006 Plan Review**

Joshua then began to lead a discussion regarding the review of issues covered in the 2006 plan to see what is still relevant and what topics needed to be expanded. The discussion was fruitful but was ended before finishing. (Please refer to attached spread sheet for details)

## **Agenda Item #4 – Comprehensive Plan Update Process**

Megan and Joshua then summed up the remainder of the presentation by touching on our updated meeting schedule, the organization and contents of the updated planning document, prioritization of projects, PAT members role/responsibilities, data needs and focus group information. Megan and

Joshua also encouraged each municipality to keep the Comprehensive plan update as a standing item on their agendas to encourage conversation and spread an understanding about what the plan is and how it impacts the community.

**Agenda Item #5 – Next Steps**

It was unanimously decided by the PAT group that another meeting was needed to spend discussing the goals and objectives from the 2006 Comp. The PAT group was told they would be receiving an email with a suggested date to get together and complete the facilitated discussion from agenda item #3.

Meeting adjourned

# MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
Lower Lycoming Creek PAT  
February 29, 2016—Meeting #2.5  
6:30-8:30pm



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## **Attendees:**

Joshua Billings, PCD  
Megan Lehman, PCD  
Howard Fry, LCPC  
Larry Allison, LCPC  
Joseph Hamm, Hepburn Twp.  
Charles Whitford, Lewis Twp.  
Steven Sechrist, Lewis Twp.  
Rick Wheeland, Loyalsock Twp.  
Paul Nyman, Loyalsock Twp.

Garth Womer, Loyalsock Twp.  
Dennis Paulhamus, Lycoming Twp.  
John Eck, Old Lycoming Twp.  
Caroline Balliet, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.  
Joe Radley, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.  
Mike Ditchfield, Lycoming Creek Wtrshd. Assoc.  
Larry Waltz, Blooming Grove Historical Society  
Gerald McLaughlin, Loyalsock Twp. Sch. District  
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA

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## **No formal agenda for this meeting**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Joshua Billings and Megan Lehman facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. They thanked the members of the PAT for their interest and attendance, and asked that everyone sign-in. Joshua reminded the members that this Meeting #2.5 was to finish the discussion from Meeting #2. It was also stated that Focus Groups had met and planning staff received good feedback that will be compiled. All members present introduced themselves, including their organization and role.

### **Facilitated Discussion on 2006 Plan Review**

Joshua then continued the discussion regarding the review of issues covered in the 2005 plan from Meeting #2 to see what is still relevant and what topics needed to be expanded. Megan took notes concerning some new topics that had become potential issues since the adoption of the 2005 Comp. plan. (Please refer to attached spread sheet for details)

### **Next Steps**

Joshua and Megan reviewed with members to stay tuned for assignments through email and be looking for a scheduled date in April-May time –frame for Meeting #3.

**The next meeting date TBD.**

Meeting adjourned



Main Topic/Chapter in the Plan	Main Issues Identified in the <u>Lower Lycoming Creek Multi-Muni. Comp. Plan</u>	Is this still an Issue? Yes or No	PAT Comments
<b>Chapter 2 - Economic Development</b>	<p><b>Exodus of Younger Generation with Increasing Elderly Population</b> – This is a concern because as an area ages the social fabric of the community becomes less stable. Fewer younger workers, who generate a greater proportion of the tax base required to support necessary community services required by older individuals, can create the potential for budget deficits and adversely impact the provision of community services to all individuals.</p> <p><b>Fewer younger individuals and families are making Lycoming County their home</b>, our population is growing older. This may be due in part to declining income levels, relatively lower wage rates, and fewer employment opportunities. This results from a higher percentage of elderly on fixed incomes.</p>	<p>Yes – 2 No – 3</p>	<p>Decline of young workers may deter industry from coming here. Natural resources attract workers. Younger workers coming back to area to care for aging parents. Many job seekers in the marketplace and positions open now (Career Link). Seeing more mobility in workforce. Many employers reporting difficulty finding qualified workers. Many can't pass drug test. Questions rose about accuracy about job reports. Demographic shift—current generation moving into workforce is just smaller.</p> <p>Verdict—keep it, but review data and update/refine.</p>
	<p><b>Loss of Industries and Opportunities</b> – is a concern in terms of maintaining job opportunities for the younger workers.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 2</p>	<p>Gas industry leaving has had an impact on this PAT. Shop-Vac, other industries have reduced workforce; others have increased. A lot of companies bought out. Companies reducing shifts. A lot of industrial zoned land in floodplain (Loyalsock).</p> <p>Keep it—“biggest problem”</p>
	<p><b>Strong Manufacturing Base</b> – is viewed as a key component of maintaining a strong diverse economy.</p> <p><b>Lycoming County has a good labor force</b> that has served a relatively diverse economy that was anchored by the Manufacturing Sector. However, it may not be well equipped to support our nation's changing economy, where the number of manufacturing jobs is decreasing and the number of high tech service jobs is increasing.</p> <p><b>Good Labor Force</b> – was viewed as important to business development and expansion in Lycoming County.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 2 Yes – 3 No – 1</p>	<p>Keep it.</p> <p>When a manufacturer closes or its function goes out of the country due to foreign trade, eligible to apply for retraining for employees.</p> <p>Still vital but issues with labor force are very concerning due to drug/criminal background.</p> <p>Health care industries, including nursing homes, are growing in the area. Hard for</p>

	<p><b>Housing Stock and Diversity</b> – This is a concern due to the increasing elderly population needing affordable choices to go with a changing lifestyle. It is also important to younger families with limited budgets.</p> <p><b>Current housing choices</b>, particularly in terms of type and price, do not meet the changing needs of younger workers, the elderly and more non-traditional family households.</p>	<p>Yes – 6 No –</p> <p>Yes –5 No –</p>	
	<p><b>Tax Rates</b> – were noted as being a particular burden for business development as well as for low income and elderly families.</p> <p><b>Our small business community struggles to expand</b> due to a lack of programs designed to help small businesses access capital and to deal with increasing tax burdens.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p> <p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Importance of Tourism</b> – and especially outdoor recreation such as fishing is viewed as an important component of the economy.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 2</p>	<p>home health workers to get full time jobs.</p> <p>People in prison can have relevant skills, but the record hurts them.</p> <p>Drug problem especially issue to getting CDL drivers.</p> <p>We have a great workforce in the community. They really got educated through the gas industry and got a lot of training, including safety training. A great opportunity for manufacturing to come in here to capitalize on the workforce. Need to find manufacturers to come to Williamsport area.</p> <p>Keep these items.</p> <p>This Lycoming Creek corridor is not as developed for tourism as Pine Creek, but is almost as attractive. Lack of marketing/knowledge of this corridor. Also hunting opportunities. A lot of use of the outdoor resource areas. Snowmobiling, birding, other outdoor recreation opportunities. Audubon Society is investing in more birding events, and binoculars for use by new birders. Riverwalk is a big attraction and can extend up Lycoming Creek corridor. The Lycoming Creek Bikeway is heavily used.</p>

	<b>Increasing Crime and Drug Use</b> – were noted as social service concerns as well as a community image concern for business development.	Yes – 6 No –	
	<b>Concerning trends in the City of Williamsport</b> include a declining population, increasing number of non-family households, high mobility rate of city residents, low median household income levels, and lack of affordable housing. All can impact the fabric of the community leading to higher crime rates and increasing social service needs.	Yes – 5 No –	
<b>Chapter 3 - Land use policy and natural and cultural resource management</b>	<b>Steep slope development</b> – Steep slope development is a concern, since a significant proportion of the County has slope gradients equal to or in excess of 25 percent. The current zoning ordinance does not prohibit development in these locations, but does require erosion and sediment control plans and a soil stability analysis. <b>Private driveways and erosion</b> – Maximum gradients for the construction of private driveways are regulated by local subdivision/land development ordinances. However, adequate stormwater management and erosion control measures may be lacking for single lot developments. Typically, such developments have no central storm drainage system; therefore, runoff from driveways, roofs, and other improved surfaces are diverted and carried downhill along driveway edges which often causes severe erosion. <b>Uncontrolled steep slope and ridgetop development</b> is creating negative environmental impacts throughout the County. <b>Proposed highway improvements for the US 220 / US 15 / I-99 corridor</b> will increase the demand for development along the corridor and will result in significant land use changes that could be unwelcome in some communities. <b>Land use/interchange impacts from Interstate 99</b> – The future development of Interstate 99 will provide local municipalities with additional land development opportunities, particularly around both existing and new interchanges. However, such opportunities also pose challenges in terms of mitigating the potential negative impacts, as well as providing sufficient infrastructure to accommodate this growth. Current land use regulations do not specifically deal with highway interchange development activities.	Yes – 3 No – 2  Yes – 5 No – 1  Yes – 4 No –  Yes – 4 No – 2  Yes – 4 No – 1	Most of the ordinances have been updated since 2006 plan was adopted that resolves many of these issues.  Pipelines for natural gas are a new issue in this regard since the last plan.  Support expressed for following road ROWs for pipelines. Discussion of mandating companies to work together and share pipeline development. This would expedite pipeline development, getting gas to users faster and accessing available markets.  Well pad locations can be addressed through zoning ordinances.  I-99 is not likely to be built. Rt. 15 has been built out with four lanes through LL corridor to NY border.  No changes have been made to zoning ordinances at the interchanges. OLT has updated commercial zones in interchanges. "CI" commercial interchange zone. Change affects signage.  Delete these items.
	<b>The surface waters of Lycoming Creek and its tributaries</b> are very important as they provide aquifer recharge, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. Stormwater management, soil conservation measures, and riparian buffers are key tools for maintaining surface water quality.	Yes – 4 No – 1	

	<p><b>Standardized land use inventory</b> – The need for developing a standardized land use inventory system has long been recognized in the Planning Area. Such a system would greatly benefit the regional cooperation and planning initiatives of the Planning Areas’ municipalities, as well as enhance economic development initiatives. Moreover, a standardized land use system would, in part, enable local municipalities and the County to achieve consistency in their comprehensive planning policies and land use regulations. To this end, the County, in cooperation with its municipal partners, has drafted the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Consistency Manual, which contains a suggested list of zoning definitions based on the American Planning Association’s Land-Based Classification Standards (LBCS) model in their GIS-based land use inventory and classification procedures.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Many of the Planning Area’s cultural and historical resources are not protected.</b></p>	<p>Yes – 5 No –</p>	
	<p><b>Cultural Resources</b> – Cultural and historical resources are an integral part of the overall quality of life in the County. Little League Baseball, archaeological and other historic sites, historical museums, Century Farms, and community festivals are all part of the cultural heritage of the area and have value to those who live and visit here.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Residential development pressure from the City of Williamsport</b> – The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that the City of Williamsport’s population has decreased steadily since 1950. At the same time, the populations of neighboring municipalities, including those of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, have increased, suggesting that city’s losses were the neighboring municipalities’ gain. This has produced a proliferation of residential development throughout the Planning Area.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Preservation of natural resources</b>, including open spaces, wetlands, and prime agricultural soils is a high priority.</p>	<p>Yes – 5 No –</p>	
	<p><b>Ridgetop development</b> – Ridgetop development is negatively impacting the Planning Area’s invaluable scenic landscapes and there are no local regulations to deal with this trend.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Open space preservation</b> – More than 75 percent of the Planning Area is classified as open space – either woodlands or agricultural. Ensuring that the most sensitive of these areas are protected as development pressures increase is a high priority.</p> <p><b>Scenic Resources</b> – The natural beauty of the area is one of the Planning Area’s greatest assets and is very important not only to the people who live there, but also to those who visit. The 1973 study, Scenic Resources of Lycoming County, identified many of the scenic vistas in the planning area.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p>	

	<p><b>Standardization of zoning</b> – In an effort to achieve a high level of consistency, the Lower Lycoming Creek and Greater Williamsport Area Alliance member municipalities have expressed interest in developing a standardized set of zoning terminology, supported by consistent dimensional and use provisions.</p>	<p>Yes – 5 No –</p>	
	<p><b>Industrial Farm Operations</b> - The sustainability of the traditional family farm is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve as trends in the agricultural industry are shifting towards franchising and cooperatives, where independent producers enter into a production contract with animal processing corporations. In addition to the environmental impacts, research is beginning to reveal negative social impacts as well. Lycoming County is in the process of amending the County's zoning ordinance to limit concentrated animal feeding operations to areas zoned specifically for agriculture, and then only after a public hearing and proof that measures have been taken to protect public health and safety. If approved, such measures would only apply to those municipalities who come under the jurisdiction of the County Zoning Ordinance.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Supplemental agricultural businesses</b> – Local family farm operators are beginning to supplement their incomes by establishing supplemental rural-service operations, such as automotive repair and welding operations. While zoning regulations do permit certain types of businesses, there are few specific regulations controlling these operations.</p>	<p>Yes –4 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Lack of retail shopping services</b> – Although the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area includes a highly developed commercial corridor along Lycoming Creek Road, it is felt that the Planning Area has insufficient retail shopping opportunities. Furthermore, the existing commercial corridor has historically been impacted by flooding. The communities are interested in achieving flood protection and reinvigorating this commercial area.</p>	<p>Yes – 5 No – 1</p>	
	<p><b>Mobile home parks</b> – The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has several mobile home parks that are located within the floodplain. The member municipalities recognize the importance of providing for this affordable residential housing and therefore, need to ensure that their land use planning and regulations adequately provide for and protect such uses.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No –</p>	
	<p><b>Beach family property</b> – Located in Heppburn Township, this tract of land represents one of the study area's future residential development opportunities. Local officials, however, are beginning to realize the growth pressures and the need to plan for such development impacts. An increase in traffic volumes on the local rural roadway network would be one such impact from this potential development opportunity.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No –</p>	

	<p><b>Air Quality</b> – Air quality is very important to the overall quality of life and is generally good in the Planning Area. Many residents suffer from breathing problems. Identified hazards to air quality include auto emissions and open burning. Methods to minimize their impact will need to be developed.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	
	<p><b>Much of the usable land in Lycoming County is located in the floodplains</b> of the West Branch Susquehanna River and its tributaries. Minimizing flood damages, while still allowing for growth and development, is a significant challenge.</p> <p><b>Floodplain Management</b> – Because floodplains are relatively flat and have good soils, they are convenient for development. However, natural flooding cycles can cause tremendous damage to man-made structures. Accurate delineation of floodplains will help ensure that new development is sensitive to this hazard. Protection of new and existing development by means of dikes and levees is an option, but the associated costs and benefits must be weighed. Zoning ordinances, property acquisition and relocation, and stream stabilization projects are being utilized to minimize flood damages, however more needs to be done.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	
<p><b>Chapter 4 - Transportation</b></p>	<p><b>The U.S. 15 corridor</b> has long been the major north/south route through not only the planning area, but also Lycoming County as a whole. As the area has grown, development has been focused along the corridor, which has helped reduce the incidence of sprawl. The corridor has been designated as part of the new Interstate 99 system, and through all of the planning area it is now a four lane, limited access highway.</p> <p><b>The future upgrade of the U.S. 220 corridor to Interstate 99</b> - Although designated as a North-South route, U.S. 220 has long been a major east-west route through Lycoming County. While the area has grown, development has mainly been focused along the corridor, which in turn has helped reduce the incidence of sprawl. However, it has long been recognized that the west end of the roadway is no longer adequate to meet the needs of those who use it. As a result, the corridor has been designated as part of the new Interstate 99 system and is currently undergoing environmental and preliminary engineering studies to determine the final alignment.</p>	Yes – 2 No – 3  Yes – 3 No – 1	<p>Remove references to I-99 in these paragraphs.</p> <p>First item: Drop the last sentence.</p> <p>Drop the second item.</p>
	<p><b>A full interchange is needed at Route 973 and US 15</b> in Lycoming Township and has been included in the WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan - Stage 2 (2005-2012).</p>	Yes – 2 No – 1	<p>Update: Now have a 2013-2023 plan, but it is not on the long-range plan. Not a lot of developable land there; anything that is developable is probably floodplain. It's just access to that area. Could do a two-way, northbound onramp? Space an issue.</p>



			Verdict: Drop it!
	<b>Access drives</b> are found throughout the County, many of which are very steep and, in some cases, are so close together that they pose serious safety hazards.	Yes – 2 No – 1	Verdict: Drop it!
	<b>The capacity of many of the local road systems is reaching its limit</b> , particularly at various intersections. There are also safety concerns at specific sites throughout the County.	Yes –4 No – 1	
	<b>Public Transit</b> is currently available within the more urbanized areas of the County. City Bus, which is operated by the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation, has scheduled fixed routes that serve most of the area along the river corridor, but not the communities in the outlying areas to the north and south. The lack of public transit options limits opportunities for residents who may wish to find alternative ways to work and for those who don't own a car or drive at all, e.g., younger residents and senior citizens.	Yes – 5 No –	
	<b>The bridges throughout the County need major rehabilitation or replacement</b> - While some of these bridge projects are programmed for funding in the PENNDOT TIP, others have been identified in the Williamsport Area Transportation Study Long Range Plan, but funding to implement these improvements has not been secured.	Yes –5 No –	
	<b>The Williamsport Regional Airport</b> provides connecting services to Philadelphia; however, affordability is an issue for many residents. Located in the Borough of Montoursville, the Williamsport Regional Airport is classified by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation as a scheduled service facility and provides services to area businesses, residents, and companies visiting the region. The airport provides commercial airline services with direct flights via US Airways Express to major international hubs at Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Multiple daily departures connect Williamsport to over 160 cities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Central and South America. Due to the Airport Authority's Fare Watch Program, which is designed to keep the airport's fees competitive, fares are normally within 5-15 percent of competitor's prices.	Yes – 5 No –	
<b>Chapter 5 - Community Infrastructure Plan</b>	<b>Good school systems (public/private)</b> – The communities in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area have the opportunity to attend quality public and private school systems at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Additionally, there are excellent technical schools, colleges, and universities in the immediate area.	Yes – 3 No – 2	Discussion of calibrating curriculum offerings for future industry needs. Discussion of regionalization—looking beyond existing SD boundaries—presents an opportunity to maintain competitive advantage and keep costs affordable in a climate of declining enrollments. Lack of school sports opportunities may deter from certain districts. Tweak/update this statement—keep it.



	<p><b>Open Space, State Forest Land and State Game Lands</b> have existing, untapped potential for additional recreational and tourism development.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 2</p>	<p>State lands are in northern portion of the state. Open space may include reclaimed flood properties. Community gardens are growing. Boating, kayaking, and canoeing. Seasonal camps scattered around. Picnic areas, porta-potties. Potential of flood buyout properties as creek access, but there are liability issues. The creek itself has value beyond recreation and tourism. Ex: Hellbender habitat as a potential partnership for local schools. At this time it appears to be mainly utilized by locals. Enhance to maintain quality of life for residents. No consensus on ramping up tourism.</p>
	<p><b>Sports Programs</b> - The region has a wide variety of sports programs, from youth leagues through adult leagues.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 2</p>	<p>West End Babe Ruth looking to expand to flood buyout property in OLT for practice fields. Soccer is getting bigger. Item is still true. Area may lack things for younger people to do in winter, such as ice skating, skiing, etc. Ice skating potential on the overflow channels on the Trout Run stream project. Cross-country skiing potential. Desire for ice skating, ice hockey.</p>
	<p><b>Amateur &amp; Professional Sports</b> - Historic Bowman Field is the home of the Williamsport Crosscutters, which provide local professional baseball at the Single A level. Although there are amateur sports leagues in a variety of sports, this area is known for baseball. The Greater Williamsport Area has been the home of Little League Baseball since its beginning.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 2</p>	<p>Combine with the prior item. More state playoff baseball tourneys coming into Bowman Field. Loyalsock bringing more regional sports events in too. Will. HS will have more playoffs coming due to AstroTurf (soccer). Mention close proximity to Y and Liberty Arena as training facilities.</p>
	<p><b>Hospital and Medical Support</b> - High quality hospital and medical support supports continued growth of the communities and is an important factor in attracting new industry to the area.</p>	<p>Yes – 4 No – 2</p>	<p>One of the larger growth areas in Lycoming County. Clinics, specialty areas, education programs popping up. Specialization in medical offerings. Aging population. Keep this item.</p>
	<p><b>Golf Courses</b> - The region has a variety of quality golf courses, to include the White Deer Golf Complex and the Williamsport Country Club. There are numerous golf courses within an hour drive outside the county.</p>	<p>Yes – 1 No – 3</p>	

	<p><b>Sewer Expansion Capacity</b> - The existing capacity of public sewerage systems does not provide for significant growth.</p> <p><b>Public Infrastructure</b> – The existing infrastructure, including road network, utilities, and services is in place and can support continued growth.</p> <p><b>Water Quantity for Wells</b> - The quantity of water available through drilling of private wells has been problematic in several areas. Areas have been identified where there is no source of well water available, with instances of residences constructed without a public or private water source.</p> <p><b>Lack of Rural Water Service</b> - The public water supply does not provide service to the rural areas of these municipalities. In conjunction with water quality and quantity of wells in the rural areas, water supply becomes a limiting factor to growth in the rural areas.</p> <p><b>Regional Water System</b> - The lack of a regional water system throughout the area limits future growth.</p> <p><b>Regional Sewer System</b> - The lack of a regional sewer system throughout the area limits future growth.</p> <p><b>Failing Septic Systems</b> - There are failing septic systems in the rural areas, which will lead to groundwater and surface water contamination if not properly addressed.</p> <p><b>Abundant Wildlife</b> - The large number of acres of forest land, natural fields, and waterways with State Forest Lands, State Game Lands, and large tracts of land from private hunting and fishing clubs, provide an abundance and variety of habitat. This abundant habitat supports a variety of wildlife, including a variety of small birds and animals, big game animals, and many migratory birds. The area has seen a resurgence of bobcats and introduction of species such as the otter and fisher. There are several nesting eagle pairs throughout the County.</p> <p><b>Natural Beauty</b> - This area of central Pennsylvania is rich in natural beauty, with tree covered mountains and rich valleys. There are vistas and scenic overlooks throughout the Planning Area. A single trip along any one of a number of scenic corridors, such U.S. 15 and PA 14, and Lycoming Creek, will bring visitors back to our area year after year. There is seasonal beauty with snow-covered mountains in the winter, lush greenery and abundant wildlife in the spring and summer, and a fall foliage that rivals any in the world.</p>	<p>Yes – 3 No – 1</p> <p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p> <p>Yes – 4 No –</p> <p>Yes – 4 No –</p> <p>Yes – 4 No –</p> <p>Yes – 4 No –</p> <p>Yes – 4 No –</p> <p>Yes – 4 No – 1</p> <p>Yes – 4 No – 4</p>	
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	<p><b>Preserved Open Space</b> – Large acreages of forest land, natural fields, and waterways are preserved in State Forest Lands and State Game Lands. Large tracts of land owned by private hunting and fishing clubs are managed as permanent open space. There is also a high percentage of private property enrolled in the Clean and Green Program. Additionally, many farms have fields and woodlands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is very active in this region.</p>	Yes – 4 No – 1	
	<p><b>Outdoor Recreation</b> - There are many opportunities for outdoor recreation with numerous hiking and mountain biking trails in nearby State Forest Land and State Game Lands. The opportunities for outdoor recreation in the vast forestland and open fields of Lycoming County are endless. The region is also rich with quality streams and creeks, plus the Susquehanna River, offering opportunities for swimming, boating and fishing.</p>	Yes – 4 No – 1	
	<p><b>Bike Paths</b> - The area has several bikeways, including the Montoursville/Loyalsock Bikeway and the Lycoming Creek Bikeway. Construction plans are in process for completing the section of the Susquehanna Trail that will connect to the Montoursville/Loyalsock Bikeway, the Lycoming Creek Bikeway, and Susquehanna State Park.</p>	Yes – 4 No – 1	
	<p><b>Arts, Music, Museums</b> - The Greater Williamsport Area is blessed with excellent facilities and programs to address the needs of musicians, artists, and performing artists.</p>	Yes – 4 No – 1	
	<p><b>Storm Water Management Problems</b> - Development has occurred without storm water management controls required. This has led to runoff problem areas adjacent to township roads and complaints amongst residents.</p>	Yes – 5 No – 1	
	<p><b>Flood Protection</b> - Flood protection from Lycoming Creek is a primary concern of many citizens. A flood buyout program has been initiated for this Planning Area.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	
	<p><b>Maintaining a quality rail, road, public transit, and air transportation system</b> will be important to our future.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	
	<p><b>Aging public infrastructure</b>, with it's significant maintenance concerns, will be a constraint on continued residential, commercial and industrial growth.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	
	<p><b>Inter-municipal cooperation</b> is productive and beneficial.</p>	Yes – 5 No –	

## NEW ITEMS

Emergency services are really in trouble in Lycoming County, for the rural areas, but really everywhere. Fire, ambulance, EMS. Gas industry took young population away from these services (largely voluntary). Need for two wage earners to keep a household and hectic pace of family life, with children's activities, makes it harder to get volunteers. People are aging out, burning out. Many companies working together rather than merging. Ex: Big fire, call everyone. This county has been far more advanced than a lot of regions in emergency services (mutual aid). Hours of required training and expense is a big challenge. More requirements and standards always coming. Amount of time needed for fundraising is also a challenge. Opportunities exist for high school and colleges to have more tie-ins. Efforts are underway to form some sort of alliance in the greater Williamsport area, but not getting traction.

Sewer capacity up Lycoming Creek Road—cost is the main barrier. Not enough capacity needed to make the project worthwhile. Cost-benefit would be horrendous. Lack of mandatory connection ordinance is another issue. Flood buyouts also reduce the customer base and density for water/sewer service. Seeing an annual loss of a few percent reduction in water usage per year, due to water efficiency measures, etc. Most of the water supply cost is fixed cost. Ample capacity available by multiple factors. Grants are not as generous as in the past.

Infrastructure for gas lines—give people access to natural gas at their homes and businesses.

Limitations on what you can do with flood buyout properties; Lewis Twp. is renting to campers.

Insert an MSA item.



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## Lower Lycoming Planning Area Team (PAT)

PAT Meeting #3, May 16, 2016

### Summary of Priority Issues with Strategic Actions

#### Priority Issue # 1: Lack of funding for infrastructure improvements (10 votes)

##### Strategic Actions

- Plan infrastructure improvements and expansions (sewer & water) that are consistent with planned growth areas. –Lycoming & Old Lycoming Improve community access to natural gas resources in an affordable manner. (New)
- Discourage high and medium density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells. – Loyalsock
- Work to provide flood protection to flood prone areas, when cost effective.- Loyalsock
- Discourage high and medium density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells. – Loyalsock
- Explore feasibility of water service to the Heshbon area of the township. – Loyalsock
- Explore connectivity options for bikeways, walkways and greenways. – Loyalsock
- Plan infrastructure improvements and expansions to serve planned growth areas and support good development practices. – Loyalsock & Hepburn

- **Priority Issue # 2: Lack of sustainable, good-paying jobs (10 votes)**

##### Strategic Actions

- Provide housing for all ages and incomes by planning projects consistent with the needs of current and future township residents, including housing for the elderly to ensure availability of transitional living opportunities. – Old Lycoming
- Work with community groups to support neighborhood preservation programs that may exist or be established. – Old Lycoming
- Promote cultural events that will identify and revitalize the community. – Lycoming
- Better public transportation, especially to help disabled/ elderly to get to jobs; and/ or education about available transportation resources. - new

### **Priority Issue # 3: Federal & State imposed unfunded mandates (8 votes)**

#### Strategic Actions

- Develop on-lot wastewater management districts for effective on-lot disposal practices. – Lewis
- Regionalization/ coordination of efforts to tackle mandates. – new

### **Priority issue #4: Evaluation of Community Services and need for regionalization (5 votes)**

#### Strategic Actions

- Continue to partner with the County on providing County zoning assistance. – Lewis
- Providing housing for all ages and incomes by planning projects consistent with the needs of current and future township residents, including housing for the elderly to ensure availability of transitional living opportunities. – Old Lycoming
- Encourage consistency in administration and enforcement of zoning practices with other municipalities in the planning area. These could include improved utilization of zoning tools available; training of zoning personnel; and assistance with interpretation of zoning regulations. – Old Lycoming
- Incorporate regulations to target and enforce the disposal of junk cars and other materials in the township. – Lewis
- Work with neighboring municipalities to assess the need for and placement of cellular towers. – Loyalsock
- Continue to develop recreation areas for the benefit of residents, and continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region. – Loyalsock
- Continue to promote cultural events as part of a tourism strategy to attract visitors to the township. – Lewis

### **Priority Issue #5: Abundant & quality water resource needs protection (5 votes)**

#### Strategic Actions

- Regulate extraction industries through appropriate legal land use controls. – new
- Stormwater Management – new
- Plan infrastructure improvements and expansions (sewer & water) that are consistent with planned growth areas. – Lycoming

- Participate in regional groundwater study to protect our vital ground water resources.- Loyalsock
- Explore the feasibility of water service to the Heshbon are of the township – Loyalsock
- Amend the Township zoning ordinance to limit development in desired protection areas such as steep slope/ ridgetop overlay district. – Loyalsock
- Amend Township ordinances to regulate new floodplain development and to regulate the expansion of existing floodplain development. – Loyalsock
- Develop a conservation easement program to encourage conservancy and land trust organizations to explore easements to preserve sensitive and scenic areas from future development. – Lewis

## **Priority Issue # 6: Development without stormwater management & flooding concerns (4 votes)**

### Strategic Actions

- Explore redevelopment options for existing and abandoned commercial, industrial, and residential properties. – Loyalsock
- Work with the County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to continue to acquire lands that are in the floodplain. – Old Lycoming
- Work to provide flood protection to flood prone areas, when cost effective. – Loyalsock
- Plan infrastructure improvements and expansions to serve planned growth areas and support good development practices – Loyalsock
- Amend township ordinances to regulate new floodplain development and to regulate the expansion of existing floodplain development. – Loyalsock
- Revise township zoning ordinances so they are compatible with land use patterns and densities that define the local character of the township community. – Lycoming, Loyalsock & Old Lycoming
- Revise township ordinances to regulate expansion of existing floodplain development. – Old Lycoming
- Evaluate and revise existing zoning, subdivision and land development, and building codes to ensure they are conducive to the promotion of a vibrant community. – Old Lycoming & Lycoming
- Revise township ordinances to regulate new floodplain development and to regulate the expansion of existing floodplain development. – Hepburn
- Revise or institute township property maintenance codes to include flood proofing and flood mitigation for existing properties in the floodplain. – Hepburn & Lewis
- Work with the County to regulate new floodplain development and regulate the expansion of existing floodplain development. – Lewis
- Amend the township subdivision & land development ordinance to provide for adequate management of stormwater run-off. – Hepburn



## **Priority Issue # 7: Need diversity of housing stock (4 votes)**

### Strategic Actions

- Amend the township zoning ordinance to ensure compatibility of land use patterns and densities with the local character of the community. – Hepburn
- Evaluate and revise as necessary the township zoning and subdivision and land development regulations and building codes to ensure they are conducive to the promotion of a vibrant community. – Lycoming, Old Lycoming
- Provide housing for all ages and incomes by planning projects consistent with the needs of current and future township residents, including housing for the elderly to ensure availability of transitional living opportunities. – Old Lycoming
- Work with community groups to support neighborhood preservation programs that may exist or be established. – Old Lycoming
- Develop zoning ordinance amendments that ensure the compatibility of land use patterns and densities that define the local character of communities. – Lycoming, Old Lycoming & Loyalsock
- Promote cultural events that will identify and revitalize the community. – Lycoming
- Revise township ordinances to regulate expansion of existing floodplain development. – Old Lycoming
- Work with the County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to continue to acquire lands that are in the floodplain. – Old Lycoming
- Promote mixed use development – Loyalsock
- Continue to develop recreation areas for the benefit of residents, and continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region. – Loyalsock
- Discourage high and medium density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells.

# MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
Lower Lycoming Creek PAT  
October 3, 2016 —Meeting #4  
6:30 – 9:00 pm, Old Lycoming Township Building

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## **Attendees:**

Joshua Billings, Environmental Planner  
Megan Lehman, AICP, Lead Planner  
Charles (Chuck) Whitford, Lewis Twp.  
Steven Sechrist, Lewis Twp.  
Paul Nyman, Loyalsock Twp.  
Rick Wheeland, Loyalsock Twp.  
Garth Womer, Loyalsock Twp.

Howard Fry, III, LCPC Chairman  
Caroline Balliet, Lyc. Creek Watershed Assoc.  
Joe Radley, Lyc. Creek Watershed Assoc.  
Denny Paulhamus, Lycoming Twp.  
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Twp.  
John Eck, Old Lycoming Twp.  
Chuck Hauser, WMWA-WSA

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## **Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions**

Joshua Billings and Megan Lehman facilitated the meeting and began the discussion. Members were thanked for coming, asked to sign in and encouraged to take the hand-outs. Megan discussed briefly the public opinion survey results. Joshua stated the updated Comp. plan timeline.

## **Agenda Item #2 – Review of Multi-Municipal Plan Contents**

Joshua and Megan reviewed the plan contents and circulated an example plan template for members to view.

## **Agenda Item #3 – Review of Priority Issues Discussion and Draft Project List**

Joshua and Megan reviewed the draft project list with the members. Questions and comments were offered from members concerning the some of the projects. Priority issues and possible projects under each issue were placed upon the blue sticky wall. Some potential projects were combined under one project name and a few other projects were added to the wall for voting.

## **Agenda Item #4 – Identification of the “Top Viable Project” for each Issue**

Members were encouraged to vote for one project under each priority issue category using the guidelines that were given as a handout. **(see attached project list with # of votes)**

## **Agenda Item #5 – Mapping Exercise—Review of Growth Area and Future Land Use Maps**

Joshua encouraged the members to review the maps. Discussion lead to a Growth Area map change recommendation following a planned water service area expansion by WMWA-WSA. No changes were recommended to the Future Land Use map. (Further discussion concerning the Future Land Use map may be needed.)

## **Agenda Item #6 – Next Steps**

Next Meeting is January 30, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Old Lycoming Township building. Look for an email mid-January that includes the draft plan and project write-ups for your review & comment. Meeting adjourned about 8:50 pm.

# Revised Priority Issues-Strategic Actions made into Projects based Upon PAT Meeting #4



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## Lower Lycoming Planning Area Team (PAT) PAT Meeting #4, October 3, 2016

### Priority Issue # 1.1: Water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure systems are not sufficient across the County to meet all needs.

#### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- Update Zoning Ordinances to Limit density for areas not served by public water & sewer-- Discourage high and medium density developments served by on-lot septic and on-site wells.
- Identify Water & Sewage problem areas—for design & extension of water and sewer lines in problem areas of the townships
- ~~Heshbon Area Water service Feasibility Study—explore feasibility of water service to the Heshbon area.~~
- ~~Maybe Hill Area Water service Feasibility Study—explore the feasibility of water service to the Maybe Hill area~~
- **2 VOTES**-Lycoming Creek Road Extensions--explore funding for water service up the Lycoming Creek Road Corridor including the Heshbon and Maybe Hill areas. (Reworded at PAT#4)
- **9 VOTES**-Identify stormwater problem areas-- for design & retrofitting of stormwater best management practices
- **2 VOTES**-MS4 CBPRP Implementation--the next round of MS4 permitting (beginning in 2018-2019) will require numerous infrastructure projects called Best Management Practices, or BMPs, to reduce stormwater pollution in order to comply with state and federal regulations. Municipalities will have to determine where and how to best implement these BMPs to achieve the required pollution reductions as part of the Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan. They will also have to determine how to fund these projects. The costs are likely to be quite significant. Opportunities for joint funding and implementation will likely need to be sought to control costs. This will also likely require incorporation of green infrastructure projects in all appropriate transportation and redevelopment project scopes. It will also require maintenance and potential upgrades to “grey” stormwater management infrastructure.

## Priority Issue # 1.2: Natural gas infrastructure is not adequate in all areas of the County.

### Strategic Actions /Projects & Programs

- **13 VOTES**-Identify locations and capacity of existing gas lines & conduct feasibility studies for extensions-Improve community access to natural gas resources for public consumption in an affordable manner in areas that are not served or underserved based upon existing and future land use, in cooperation with public gas utility.
- Explore alternative funding mechanisms for gas line extensions in targeted areas (added at PAT#4)

## Priority Issue # 1.3: Outdoor recreation resources are not fully developed, protected and promoted.

### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- **4 VOTES**-Explore connectivity options for bikeways, walkways and greenways—to connect favorite outdoor places, parks, Lycoming Creek, Loyalsock Creek, tributaries streams and public lands.
- **4 VOTES**-Develop plan for use of floodplain buyout areas—possibilities range from public creek access, picnic areas, riparian buffer & wildlife habitat enhancements, community gardens, etc..
- **5 VOTES**-Regional Recreational Area Improvement Plan—develop a schedule for developing/ upgrading/ maintaining recreation areas for the benefit of residents, and continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region.—incorporate the plan into updating the County Recreation & Open Space and Greenways plan.
- Explore recreational area user benefit donation or fee program—to help offset cost of maintaining recreational infrastructure
- Millers Run Greenway / Trail
- ~~Loyalsock pool / wading pool / water park~~
- ~~Short Park Softball field lighting~~
- Loyalsock Recreation Upgrades--incudes Short Park lighting and pools (reworded at PAT#4)

**Priority Issue # 2: 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.**

Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- **2 VOTES**-Lycoming Creek Corridor Beautification Effort
- **10 VOTES**-Lower Lycoming Creek PAT Regional Redevelopment Initiative--explore redevelopment options for existing and abandoned commercial, industrial, and residential properties including abandoned schools such as Becht and Round Hills and coordinate efforts with the County Brownfield Program. (additional language added at PAT#4)
- Becht School redevelopment
- Evaluate public transportation need--in areas that are currently not being served or underserved based upon 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift operations, especially to help disabled/ elderly to get to jobs; and/ or education about available transportation resources. --possible funding through Act 13 contributions from municipalities to help offset operation costs due to smaller volume of patrons.
- Faxon Circle improvements—explore as historical marker
- Explore area for Institutional Use zone in the Township--Old Lycoming
- \*Conduct housing market needs analysis—planning projects consistent with the needs of current and future township residents, including housing for the elderly to ensure availability of transitional living opportunities. This could be done on a biennial basis and provided to a developer's coalition in an effort to make sure there is housing available for all ages and incomes.
- \*Services & Consumables Business Gap Analysis--fund study to determine where there are gaps in businesses that provide services and consumables within our county including seeing where our county falls short to be resilient and share information with the public to encourage investment and job creation in the areas where we as a community are lacking.
- **1 VOTE**-\*Establish a central database/ events calendar--for Lycoming County events to be used by all Lycoming County Municipalities that would be used to promote cultural events— the goal would be to identify and revitalize the community. When a municipality adds an event to their individual website calendar, it automatically populates the countywide calendar.
- \*Job Generator loss study--fund study to determine why major manufactures/ job generators have located out of Lycoming County when they have had the opportunity to locate here.

**\* Potential Countywide project but could be localized if strongly supported**

### Priority Issue #3: State and federal mandates present complex compliance and financial challenges to local communities.

#### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- **13 VOTES**-Emergency Services Assessment--conduct a third party assessment of the current and future status of Emergency Services in Lycoming County, to result in recommendations for future models for delivery of emergency services. This should be looked at as a whole county and as East, Central, and Western Regions and consider regionalization where feasible. This study should include police, fire, rescue, and emergency medical.

### Priority issue #4: Fragmentation of local government in Pennsylvania is a barrier to efficient delivery of some public services.

#### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- Initiate Lower Lycoming Creek PAT Zoning consistency review—review Ordinances for consistency in administration and enforcement of zoning practices with other municipalities in the planning area. These could include improved utilization of zoning tools available; training of zoning personnel; and assistance with interpretation of zoning regulations.
- **1 VOTE**-Adopt & enforce property maintenance & junk ordinance--incorporate regulations to target and enforce the disposal of junk cars and other materials in the townships.
- Coordinated cell service needs analysis--work with neighboring municipalities to assess the need for and placement of cellular towers. This could be a pro-active approach to increasing cell service reliability where cell companies are not establishing towers but the need is there. The County zoning special exception criteria could be used as a model for part of the review of proposed sites.
- ~~Regional Recreational Area Improvement Plan—develop a schedule for developing/ upgrading/ maintaining recreation areas for the benefit of residents, and continue to develop regional recreation areas for the benefit of the region. —incorporate the plan into updating the County Recreation & Open Space and Greenways plan. (better under Issue #1.3: PAT #4)~~
- Regional cultural events promotion initiative--as part of a tourism strategy to attract visitors to our area.—each municipality has an opportunity to highlight special attributes that can be collectively marketed-possibly by a created job position funded by all municipalities
- **7 VOTES**-Police and Fire Regionalization where possible
- **1 VOTE**-Support Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs--support Project Bald Eagle and other efforts to help residents overcome addiction through treatment, rehabilitation, education and counseling.
- Lower Lycoming Creek Zoning Partnership Options—analyze benefits to create zoning administration partnerships within the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area—i.e. the County Zoning Partnership.
- **4 VOTES**-Explore school district regionalization (added at PAT#4)

## Priority Issue #5: Water quality is vital, but is vulnerable to a multitude of threats.

### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- Incorporate appropriate land use controls for extraction industries—Lycoming County Planning has developed zoning amendments that could be used as model ordinance language.
- **3 VOTES**-Consistent Stormwater management practices--require consistent, adequate application of Stormwater Management on proposed development and encourage stormwater management retrofits for existing development.
- **4 VOTES**-Participate in regional ongoing groundwater monitoring study--to protect our vital ground water resources
- Amend the Township zoning ordinance to limit development in desired special protection areas--such as steep slope/ ridgetop using overlay districts.
- ~~**1 VOTE** Regulate new development and expansion of existing development in the floodplain—with an emphasis on water quality, amend Township ordinances to regulate new floodplain development and to regulate the expansion of existing floodplain development—how, where and what type of development that occurs is critical when considering maintaining our good water quality. (note: Hepburn Twp’s absentee vote was here but group eliminated project but still valid under 2006 Comp. Plan)~~
- Develop a conservation easement program-- to encourage conservancy and land trust organizations to explore easements to preserve sensitive and scenic areas from future development.
- Develop on-lot wastewater management districts-- for effective on-lot disposal practices.
- **1 VOTE**-Implement MS4 Public Education and enforcement
- **4 VOTES**-Create a Source Water Protection Program—to be coordinated with public water suppliers, DEP, municipalities with various options for implementing. (added at PAT#4)

## Priority Issue # 6: Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities throughout the county.

### Strategic Actions/Projects & Programs

- Create strategic plan for acquiring lands in the floodplain--work with the County, PEMA/FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- **7 VOTES**-Maintain Levee Certification--the levee system must be recertified, and repaired/maintained to protect life and property, remain compliant with federal regulations, and prevent the unnecessary and burdensome cost of flood insurance. The levee system protects key county, city, and borough government operations, including critical public safety facilities; transportation facilities; and the commercial core of the county. Affects Williamsport, Loyalsock, and Old Lycoming. This project is estimated at \$10 million or more. Create a municipal coalition or authority to help maintain or coordinate improvements to the system as a whole.



- Search for cost effective flood protection options—work with the County to continue looking for flood protection avenues in order to expand Commercial Area in developed floodplain and protect our residents.
- **4 VOTES**-Take a comprehensive approach to stormwater control and urban flooding issues by:
  1. Maintaining/Improving/Right Sizing stormwater infrastructure to meet current needs.
  2. Consider green infrastructure improvements where possible.
  3. Enforce stormwater regulations to reduce impact of new developments by ensuring that existing public infrastructure does not get overwhelmed by preventable issues.
  4. Require consistent, adequate application of Stormwater Management on proposed development and encourage stormwater management retrofits for existing development.
- **2 VOTES**-Stabilize eroding streambanks (added at PAT#4)

# MEETING SUMMARY

Lycoming County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
Lower Lycoming Creek (LLC) PAT  
April 3, 2017 — Meeting #5  
6:30 – 8:30 pm, Old Lycoming Township Building

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## **Attendees:**

Joshua Billings, Environmental Planner  
Megan Lehman, AICP, Lead Planner  
Joe Hamm, Hepburn Twp.  
Steven Sechrist, Lewis Twp.  
Garth Womer, Loyalsock Twp.

Howard Fry, III, LCPC Chairman  
Larry Allison, LCPC  
Caroline Balliet, Lyc. Creek Watershed Assoc.  
Denny Paulhamus, Lycoming Twp.  
Linda Mazzullo, Old Lycoming Twp.

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## **Agenda Item #1 – Welcome**

Joshua Billings and 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 – Timeline**

Kim discussed the following:

- **Plan Edits and Comments**
  - It was announced at our last meeting that PAT comments would be due to PCD by 4/17.
- **Public Meeting** – June 1st, 6:30pm at Old Lycoming Township Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall
  - Public meeting for all PAT plans hosted by the LCPC
  - PAT members are encouraged, but not required to attend
  - PAT leads will brief LCPC board members on priority issues and projects selected by each PAT
  - This public meeting will fulfill Section 302 (a.1) of the MPC which requires at least 1 public meeting and a 45 day comment period (read below) before forwarding the draft Comp Plan to governing bodies to consider adoption.
- **45 Day Public Review Period**
  - Draft plans will be distributed to contiguous municipalities, school districts and the general public
  - Minor edits will be considered during the review period; any significant changes to document will require an additional public hearing
- **Joint Public Hearing** – June 1, 2017
  - PCD to cover advertising costs
  - **Quorum of elected municipal officials MUST be present or separate municipal meeting will be needed**

- This public hearing will fulfill Section 302 (b) of the MPC which requires at least 1 public hearing prior to adoption. Minor revisions can be made if the PAT deems necessary without having to hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing.
- **July/August Adoption**
  - For each Lower Lycoming Creek planning area municipality at a regularly scheduled mtg.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Plan Review**

Joshua and Kim summarized each section of the draft plan including each top viable project with all PAT members. The group then discussed/amended text as deemed necessary. There were some minor spelling & grammar edits that were incorporated in the draft plan including the suggested text additions.

- Of note:
  - Some members pointed out that the 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek Comp. plan was written with geography emphasis surrounding the Lycoming Creek corridor and were assuming that the update would carry the same theme.
  - Joshua pointed out that current planning staff never had the intent for the 2017 Comp. plan update to be focused on the Lycoming Creek corridor. The priority issues brought to light affect all the citizens of each LLC PAT municipality so that was the way the Lower Lycoming Creek Comp. plan was written with no specific geography excluded.
  - Ash tree removal and forest replanting was suggested as an additional project to list under Priority Issue #1 as a stormwater management technique.
  - It was suggested under Priority Issue #2, to recognize the potential for natural gas development concerns with safety (explosions) and environment (forest fragmentation).
  - Discussion surrounded Priority Issue #4 pointing out perspectives from Career Link:
    1. Many reasons why people can't get jobs including: drugs; alcohol; no transportation; and no high school diploma.
    2. What can the high schools be doing to retain kids through graduation? Could there be follow-up with GED programs as there are many drop outs?

### **Agenda Item #4 – Next Steps**

- As covered above in Item #2, the LCPC will be holding a public meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Commissioners Boardroom located at 330 Pine Street, Williamsport. This meeting is optional for PAT members.
- Members had originally picked May 30th for the PAT municipalities to hold a joint public hearing on but the date was moved to June 1<sup>st</sup> based upon meeting location restraints. June 1<sup>st</sup> will kick off the 45 day review period as required by the MPC.

**Meeting adjourned**

## **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

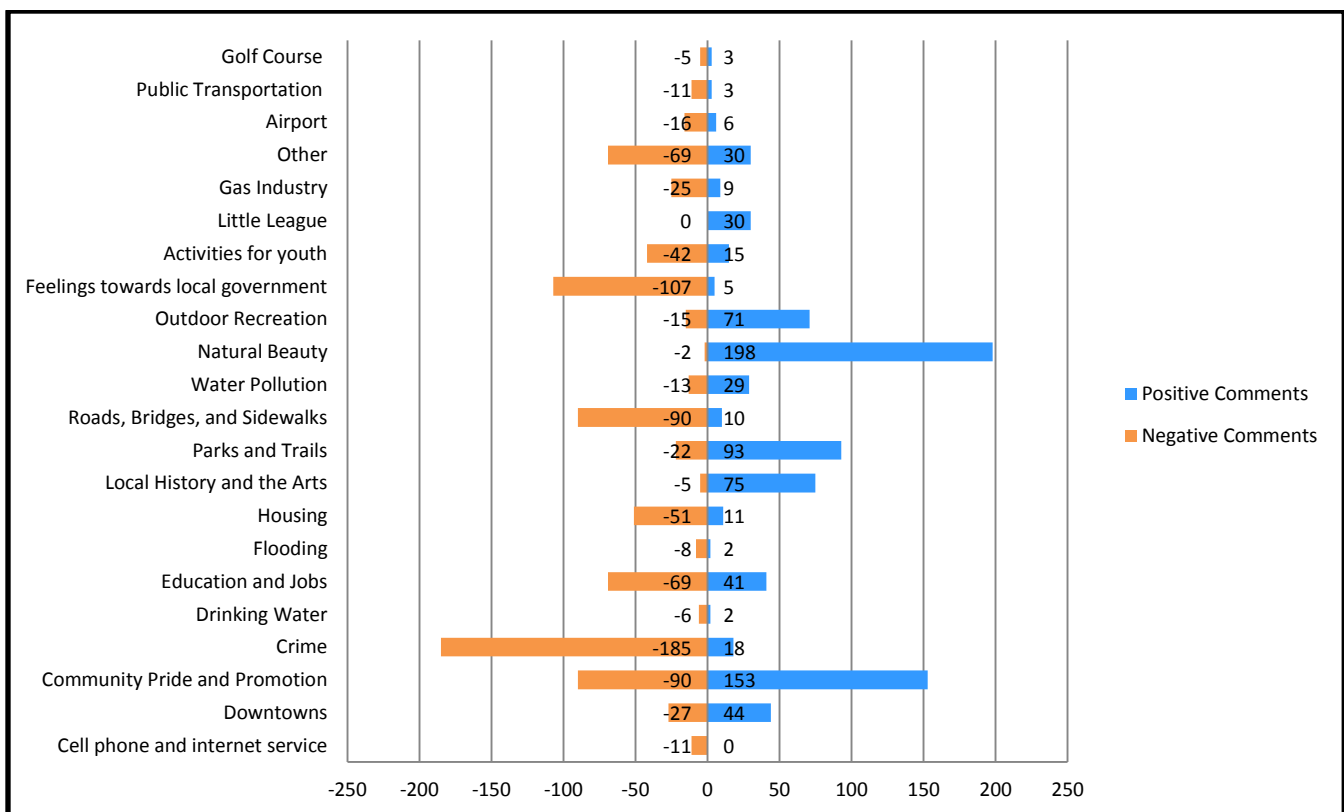
# Quantitative Analysis of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach Efforts

## Planning Area Specific Analysis for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area

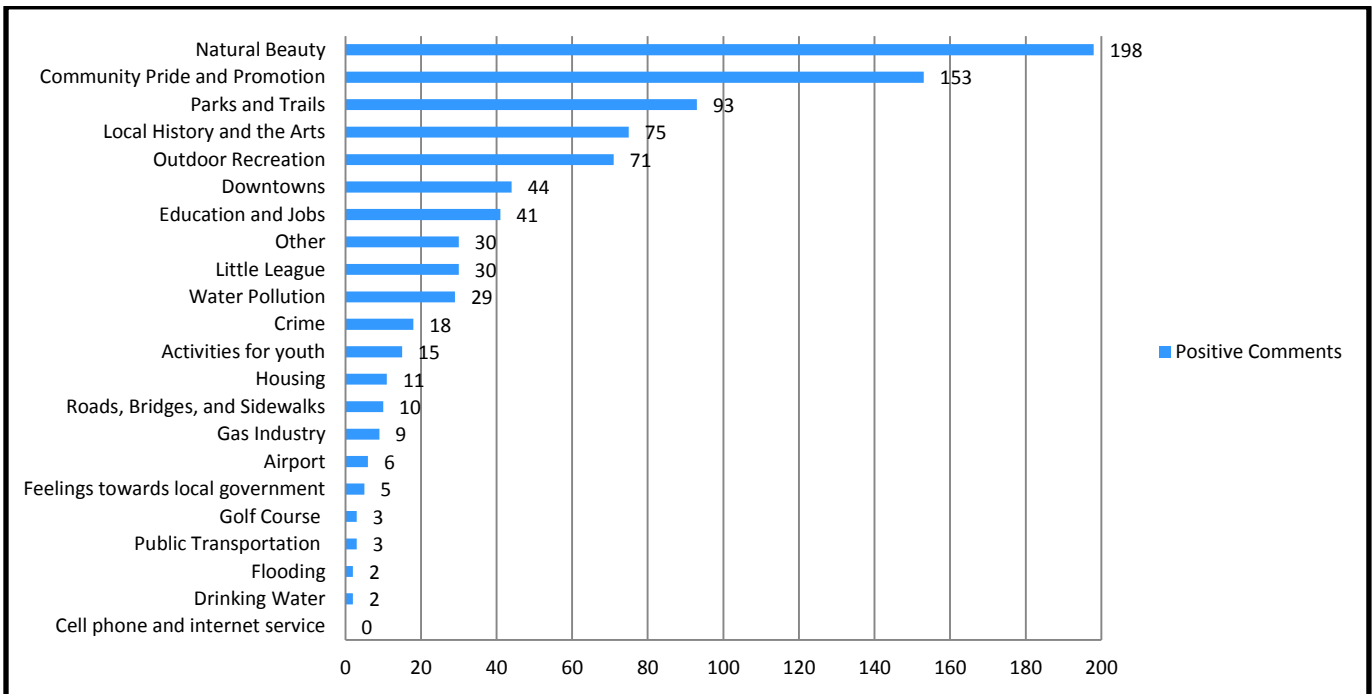
In the summer of 2016, the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD) conducted several public outreach efforts where they collected data to determine which topics were most important to members of the public and what they liked and didn't like about Lycoming County. These 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, 17728, and 17771 zip codes. The 17744 and 17754 zip codes briefly crosses into the Planning Area but was excluded because of the small area which it intersects with. 447 people participated in the online survey and 95 participated in the intercept survey for a total of 542 survey respondents.

## Qualitative Analysis for 17701, 17728, and 17771 Zip Codes

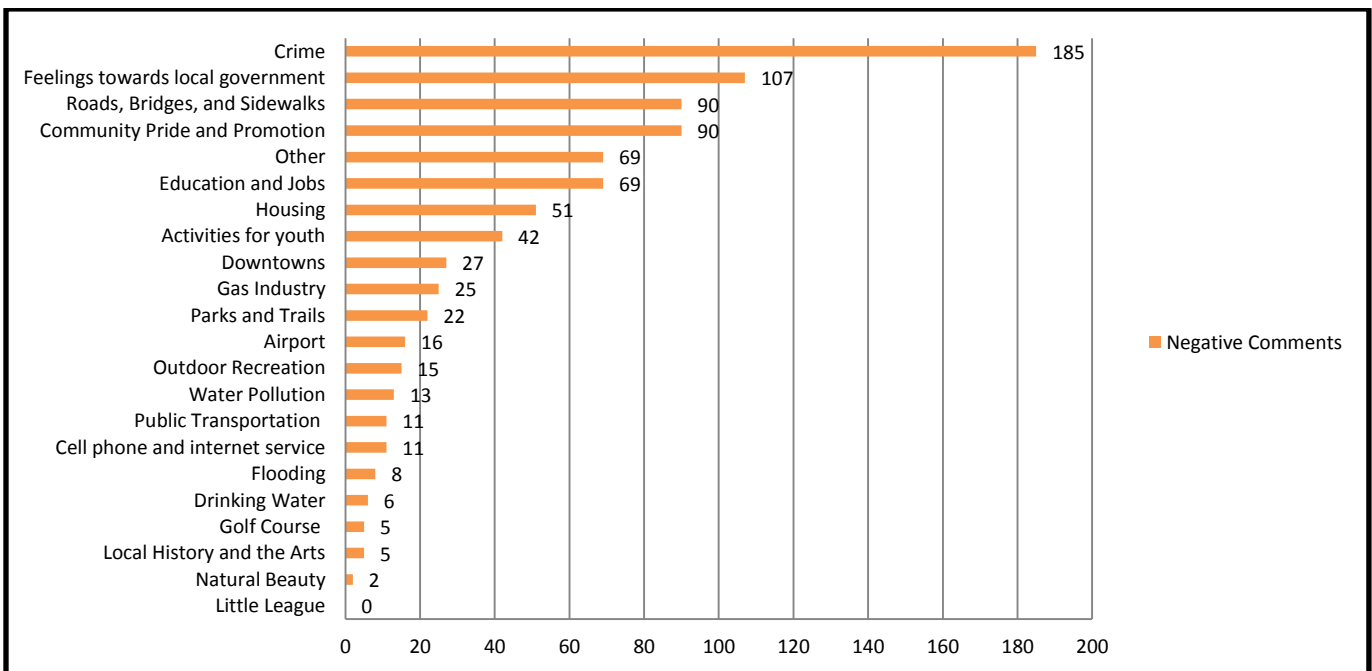
The online and intercept surveys both had open ended questions which allowed people to give their thoughts and opinions on the County. The first question asked "What do you like about Lycoming County and want to make sure lasts well into the future?" The second question was "What don't you like about 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, 17728, and 17771 Zip Codes continued



Culture, recreation, and scenic beauty were the themes of the top 5 most commented on categories by citizens of the Lower Lycoming Creek 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.

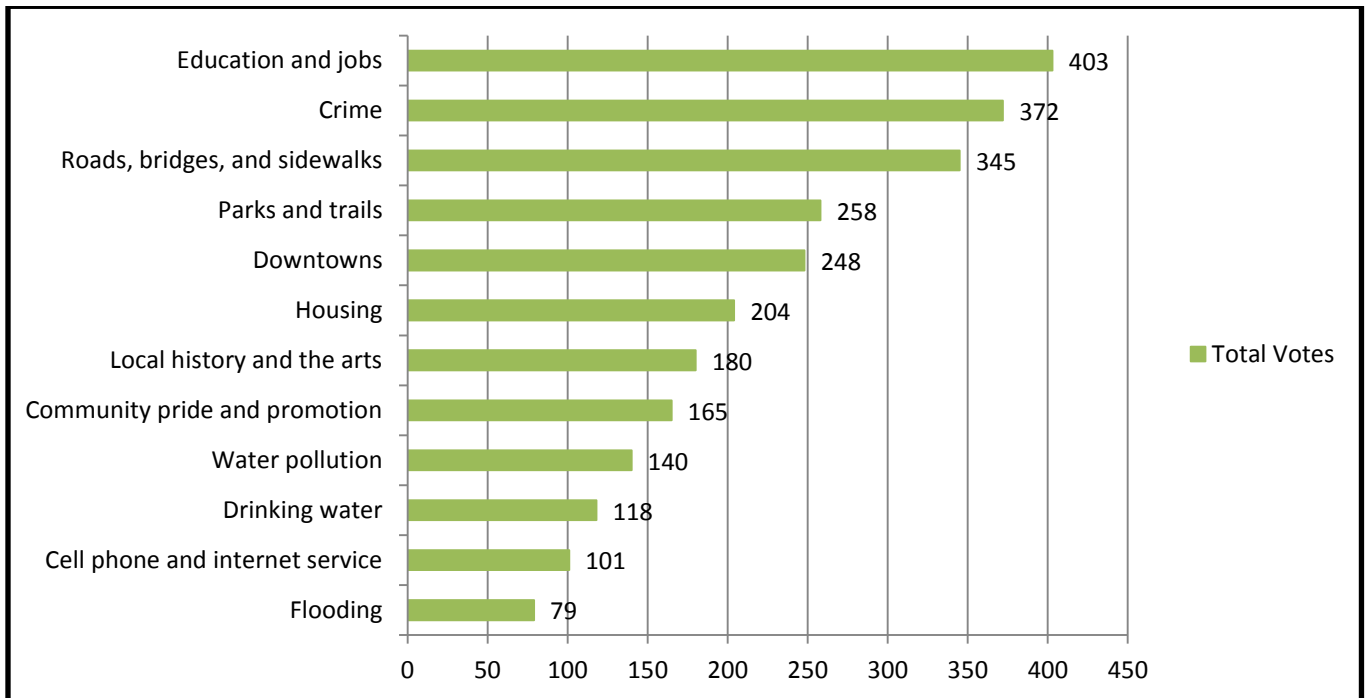


The most important topic which citizens of the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area identified as something they want to see changed was crime. Additionally, citizens are also unhappy with government, however, the reasons varied from people who believed government was doing too much to those who thought it wasn't doing enough. Citizens also identified infrastructure and community pride/promotion as important topics. The other category was a variety of responses which covered topics including the landfill, emergency services, diversity, and the closure of public swimming pools.

## Lycob Bucks Exercise for 17701, 17728, and 17771 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. Cell phone and internet service and drinking water were viewed as less important priorities as well.



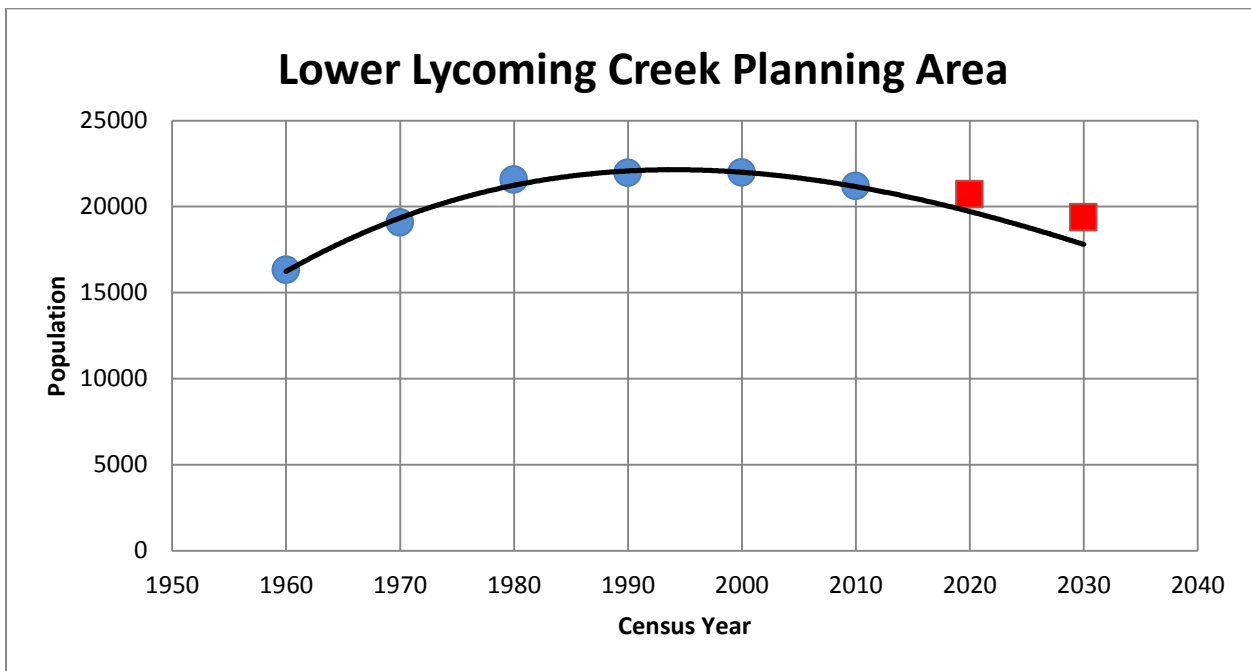




Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area Profile

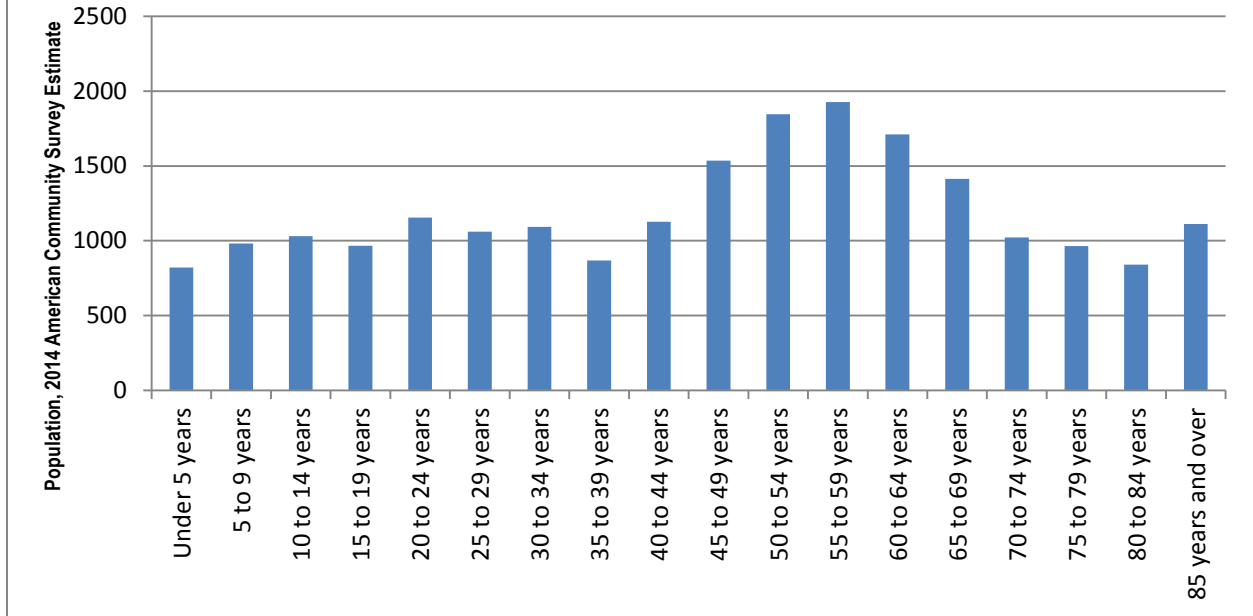
# Population change and projections

- 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



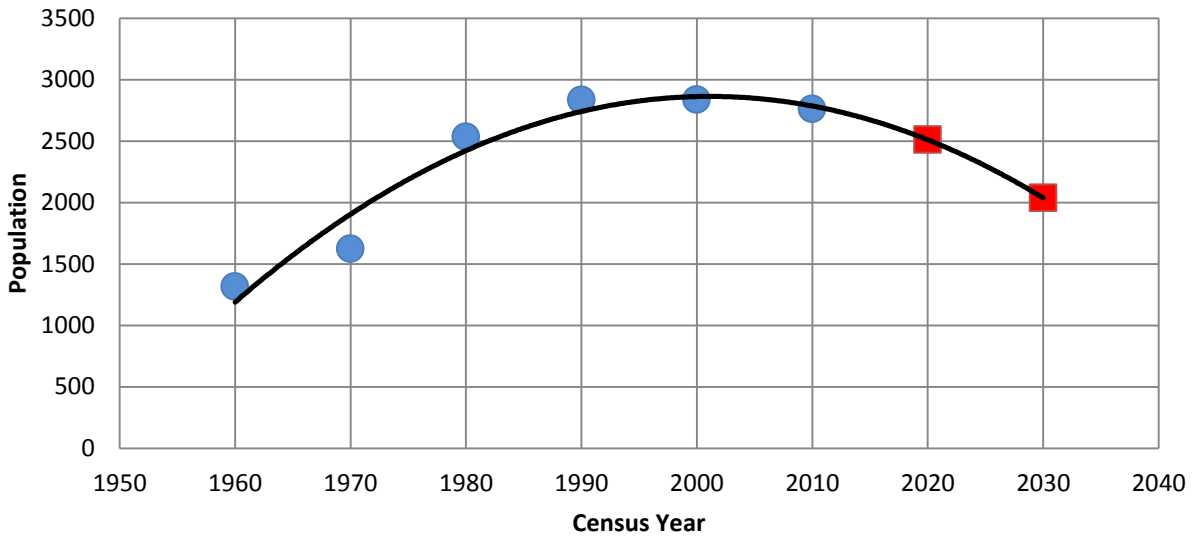
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Hepburn	1315	1623	2534	2834	2836	2762	2510	2037
Lewis	752	750	1149	1194	1139	987	982	928
Loyalsock	9047	10581	10763	10644	10876	11026	11556	11860
Lycoming	1196	1507	1902	1748	1606	1478	1330	1189
Old Lycoming	3996	4616	5220	5526	5508	4938	4330	3344
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16306</b>	<b>19077</b>	<b>21568</b>	<b>21946</b>	<b>21965</b>	<b>21191</b>	<b>20708</b>	<b>19358</b>

## Population by Age Group, 2014

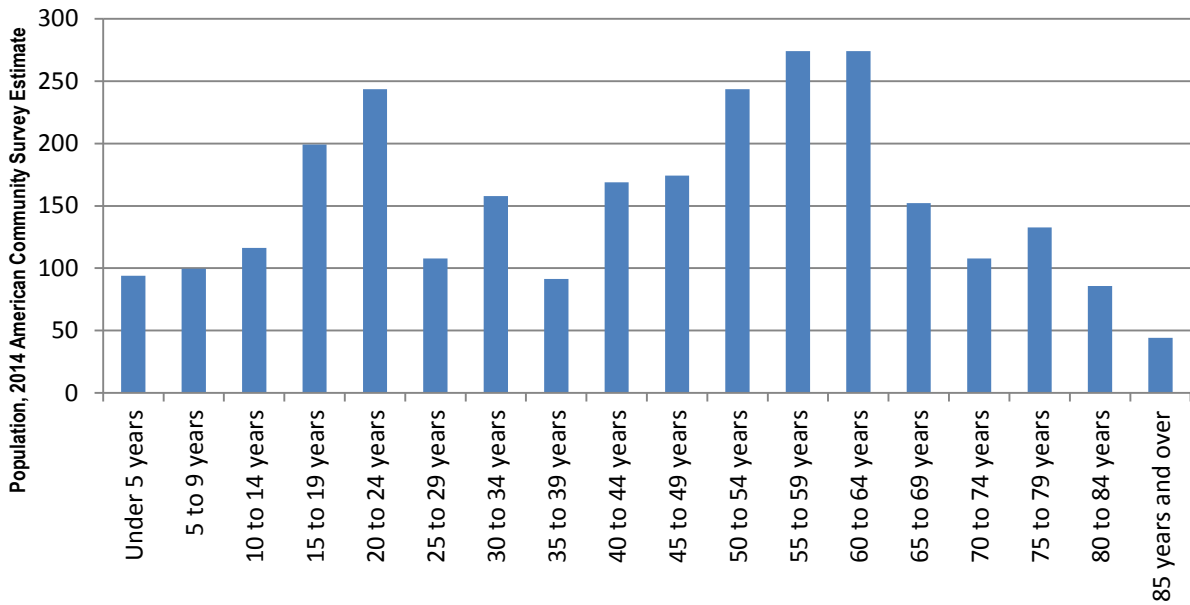


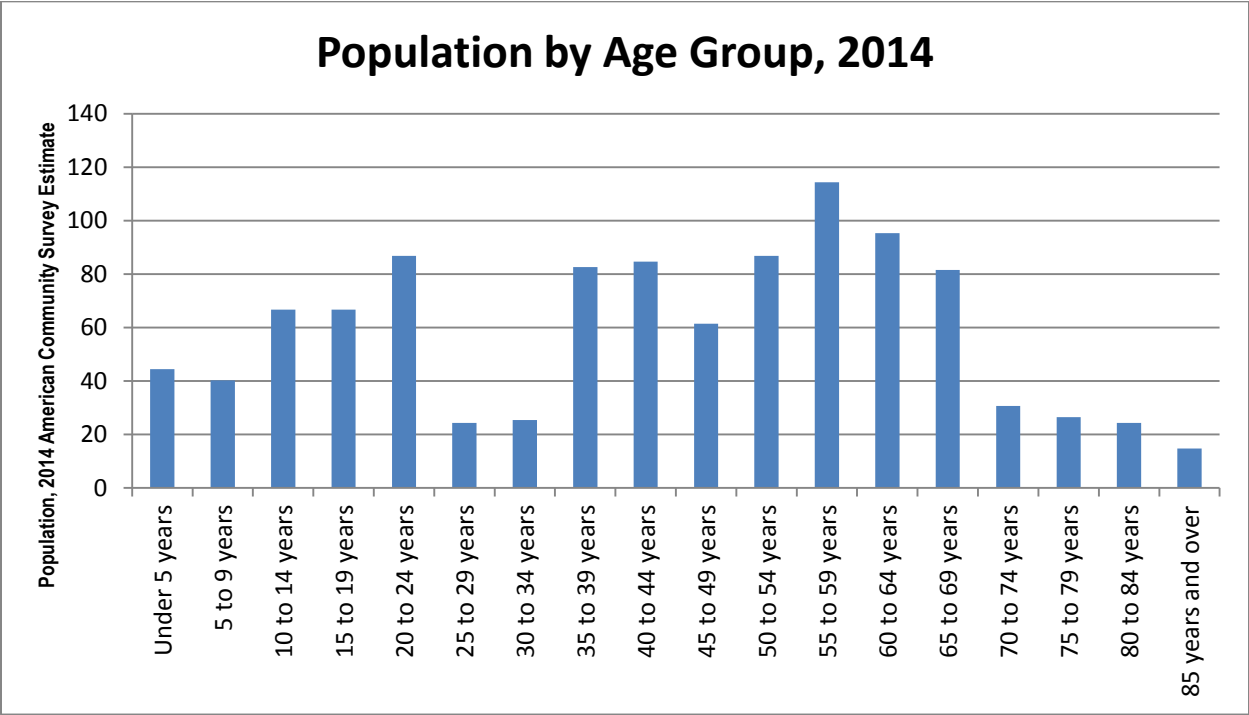
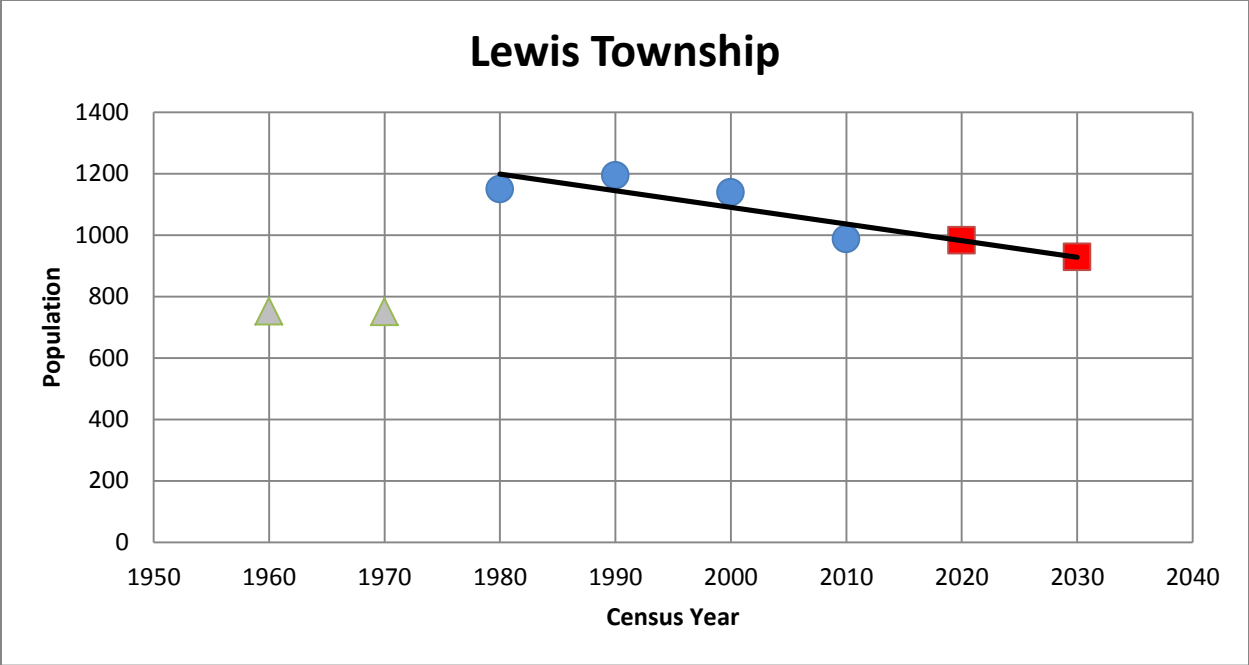
	Median age
TOWNSHIP OF HEPBURN	48.1
TOWNSHIP OF LEWIS	45.5
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	51.8
TOWNSHIP OF LYCOMING	49.2
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	49.7

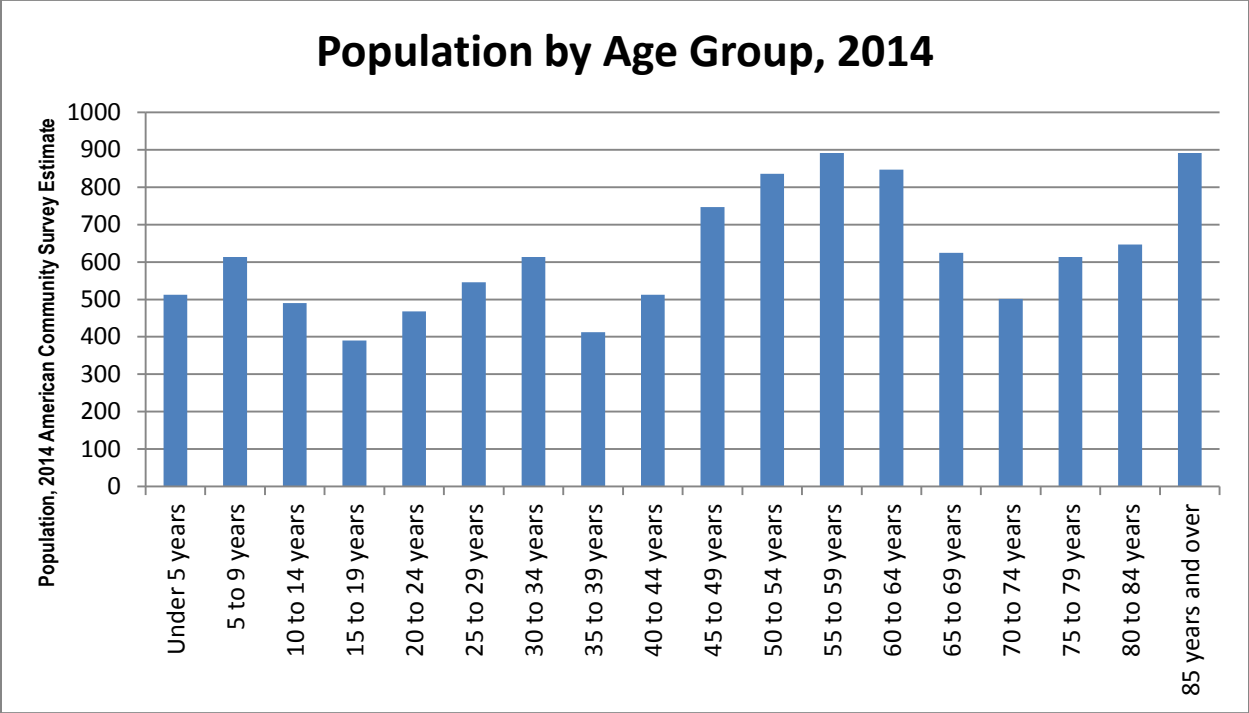
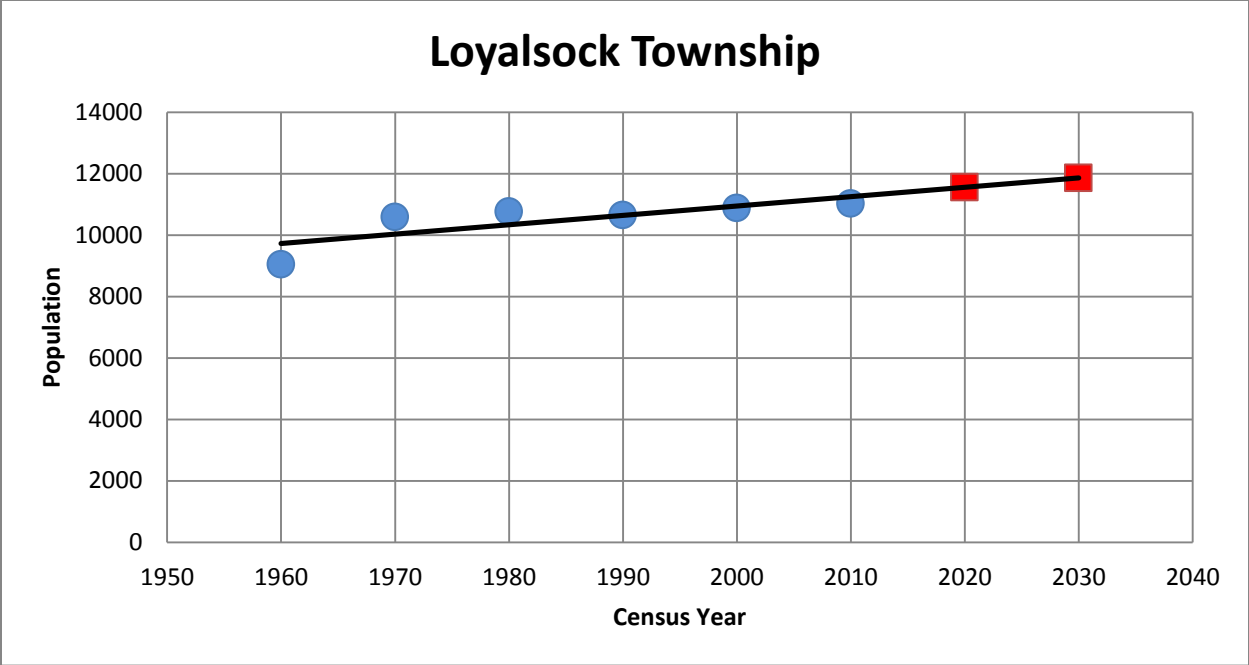
## Hepburn Township



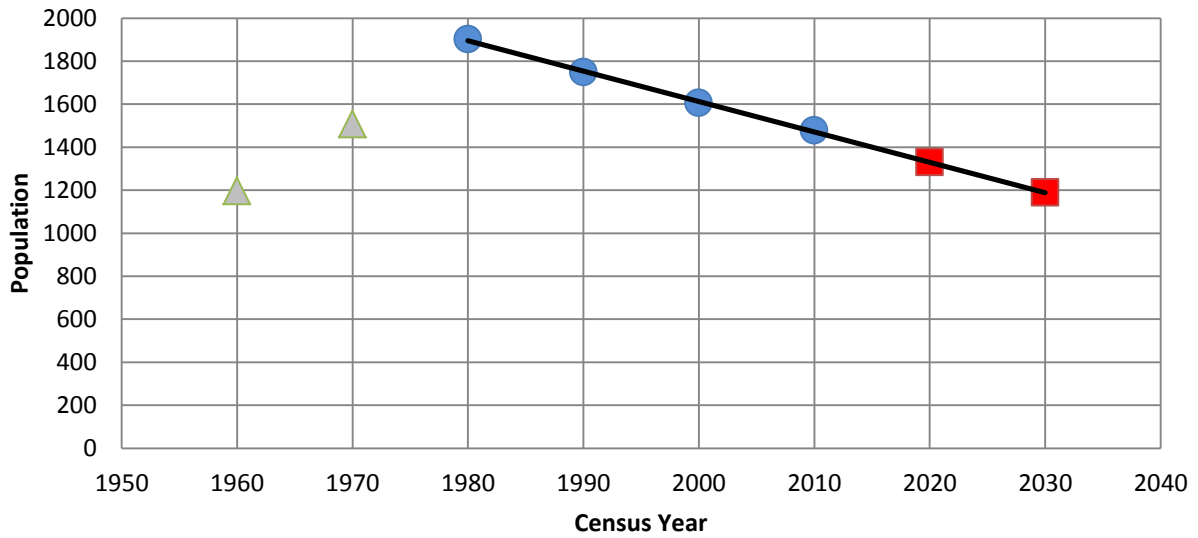
## Population by Age Group, 2014



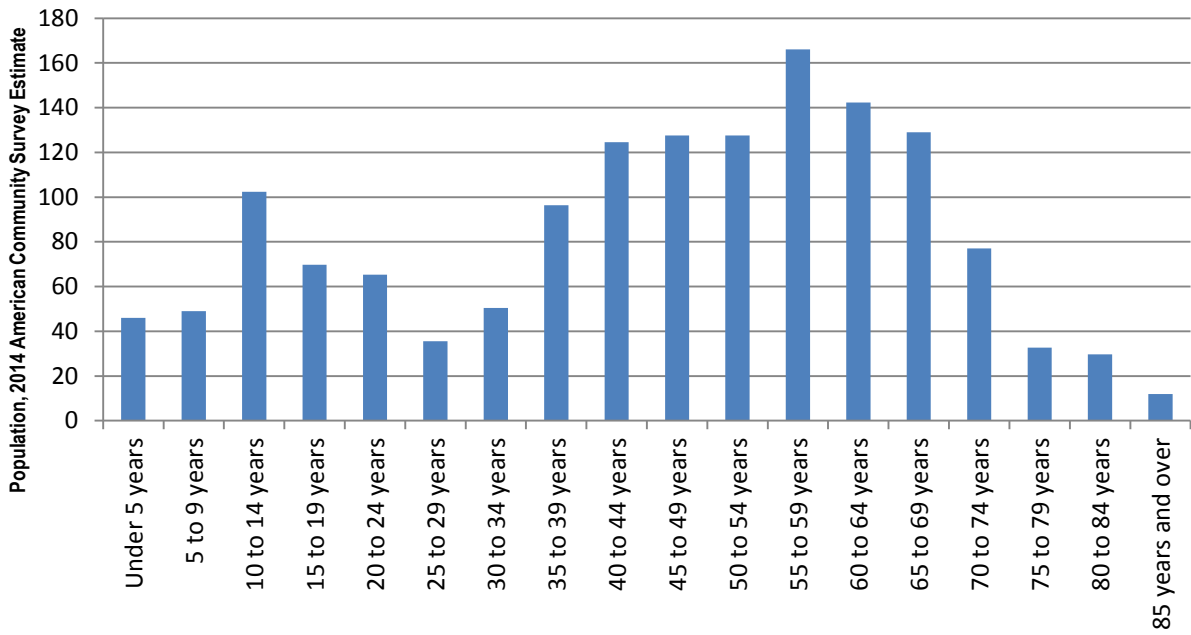




## Lycoming Township

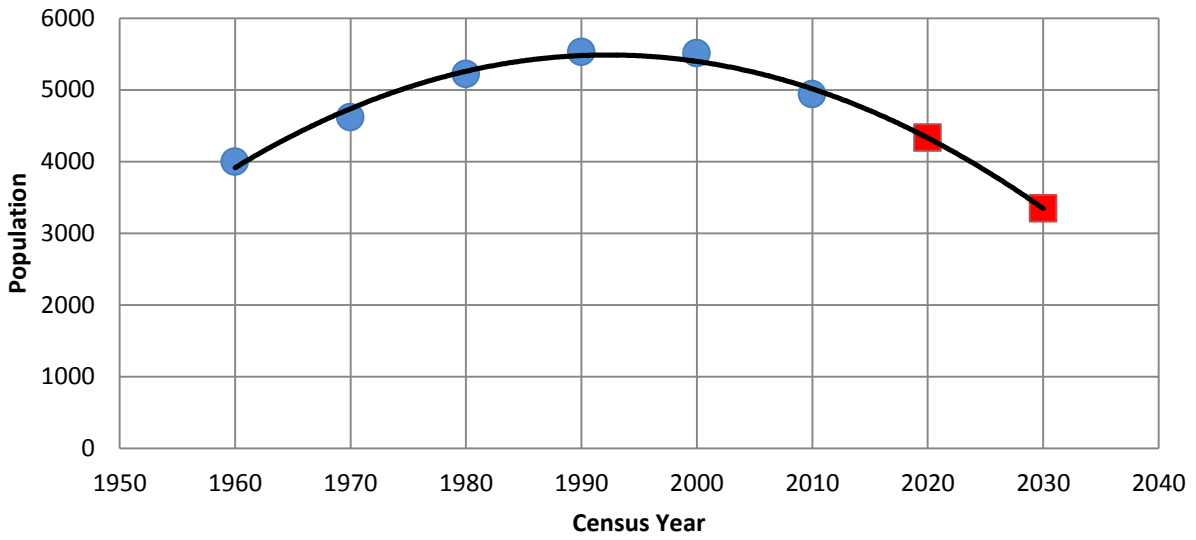


## Population by Age Group, 2014

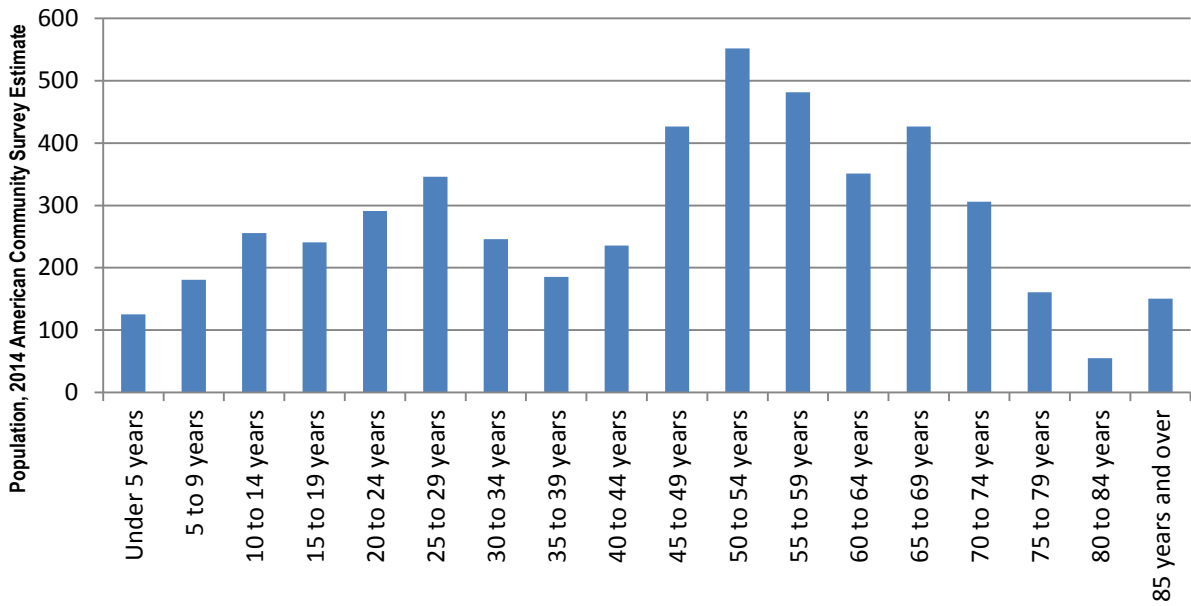




## Old Lycoming Township



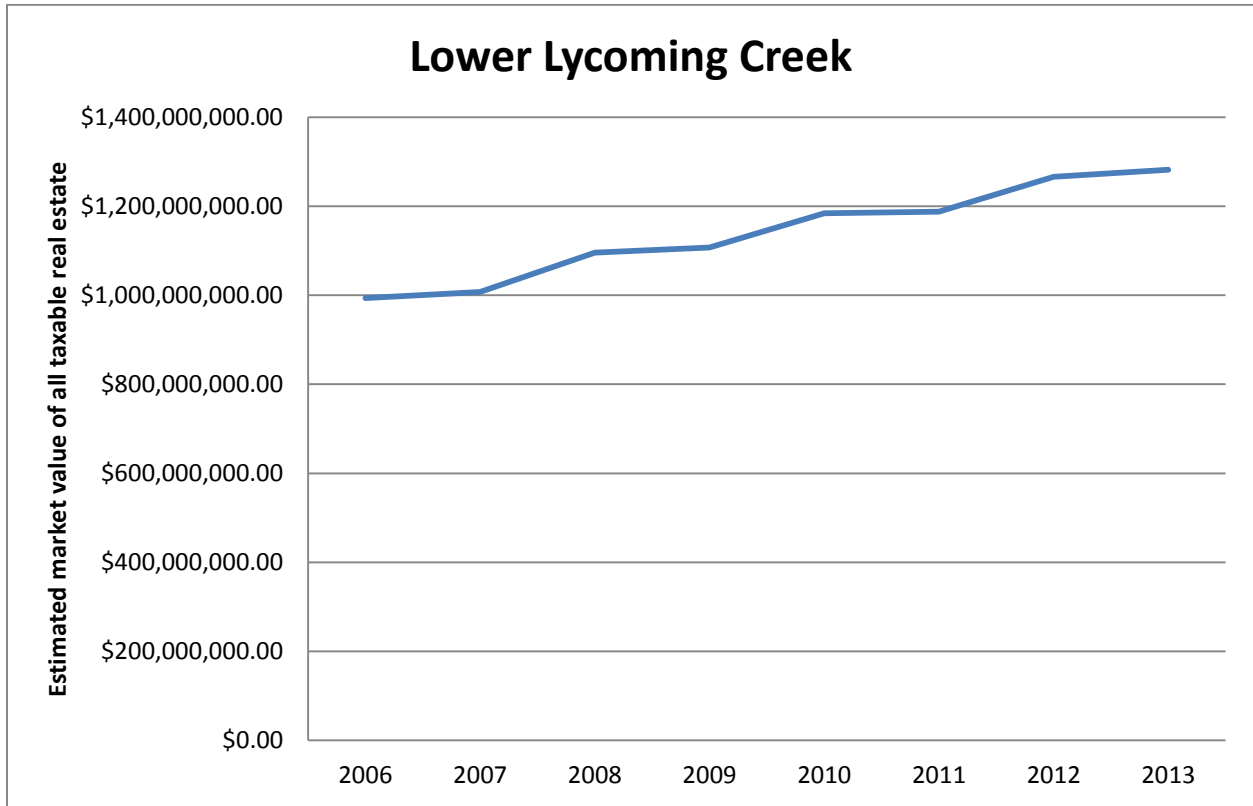
## Population by Age Group, 2014



# Housing

## Taxable real estate market value

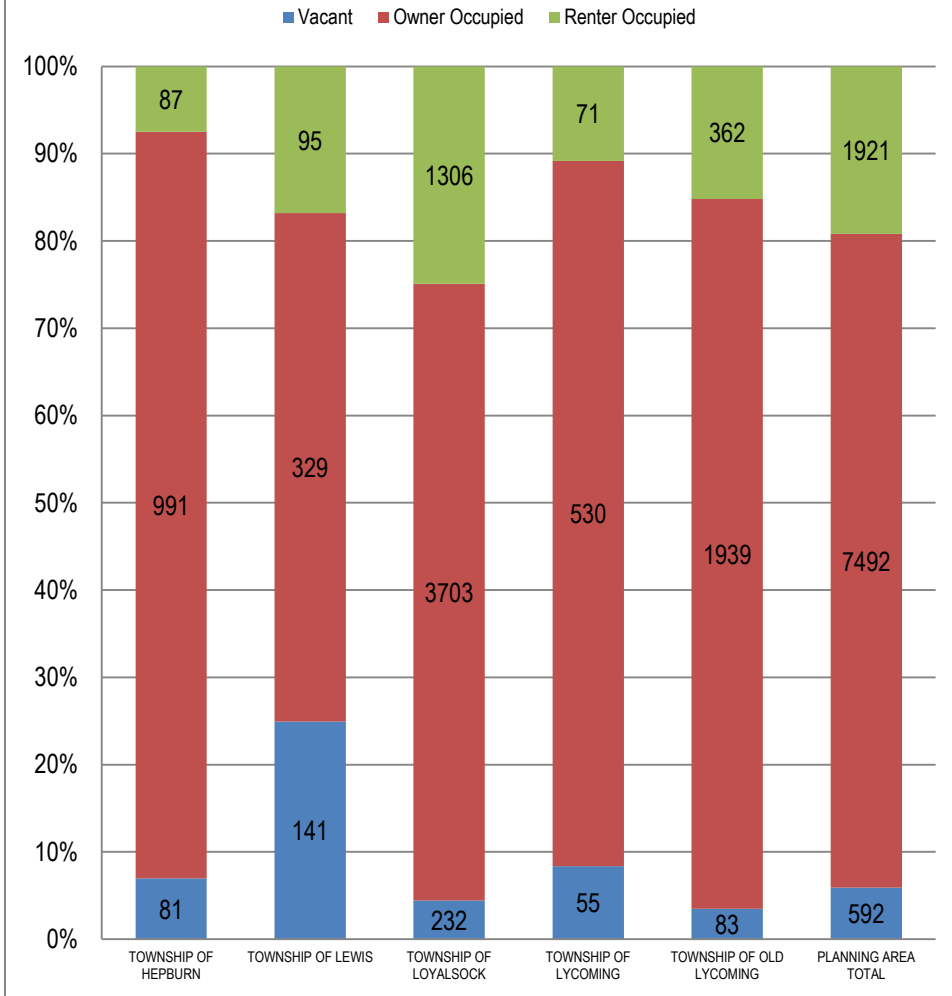
Data source: State Tax Equalization Board



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Hepburn Township	\$114,356,300.00	\$116,056,695.86	\$124,625,215.16	\$125,561,038.93	\$133,796,672.03	\$134,689,412.16	\$140,966,738.40	\$141,803,929.70
Lewis Township	\$31,919,700.00	\$31,888,547.43	\$38,833,156.05	\$38,647,884.81	\$43,673,368.35	\$43,953,343.24	\$48,562,008.58	\$48,695,335.71
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
Lycoming Township	\$55,420,400.00	\$56,504,894.47	\$62,278,109.15	\$63,326,197.71	\$67,983,510.73	\$68,727,421.31	\$71,704,815.68	\$72,365,260.88
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
<b>Lower Lycoming Creek TOTAL</b>	<b>\$993,377,100.00</b>	<b>\$1,007,025,248.22</b>	<b>\$1,095,377,388.05</b>	<b>\$1,106,907,660.41</b>	<b>\$1,183,842,441.16</b>	<b>\$1,187,372,060.46</b>	<b>\$1,266,297,613.92</b>	<b>\$1,281,562,152.40</b>

	Percent change, 2006-2013	Dollar change, 2006-2013
Hepburn Township	24%	\$27,447,629.70
Lewis Township	53%	\$16,775,635.71
Loyalsock Township	30%	\$177,364,261.11
Lycoming Township	31%	\$16,944,860.88
Old Lycoming Township	24%	\$49,652,665.00
<b>Lower Lycoming Creek TOTAL</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>\$288,185,052.40</b>

## 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 HEPBURN	\$53,167.00	\$14,268.00	26.8%	\$8,700.00	16.4%
TOWNSHIP OF LEWIS	\$45,000.00	\$14,196.00	31.5%	\$9,084.00	20.2%
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	\$46,843.00	\$16,596.00	35.4%	\$9,516.00	20.3%
TOWNSHIP OF LYCOMING	\$50,268.00	\$13,500.00	26.9%	\$7,656.00	15.2%
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	\$45,268.00	\$13,872.00	30.6%	\$7,056.00	15.6%

2014 American Community Survey Estimates

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

2014 American Community Survey Estimates

	Median Year of Construction of Housing Units
TOWNSHIP OF HEPBURN	1976
TOWNSHIP OF LEWIS	1968
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	1965
TOWNSHIP OF LYCOMING	1969
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	1967

2014 American Community Survey Estimates

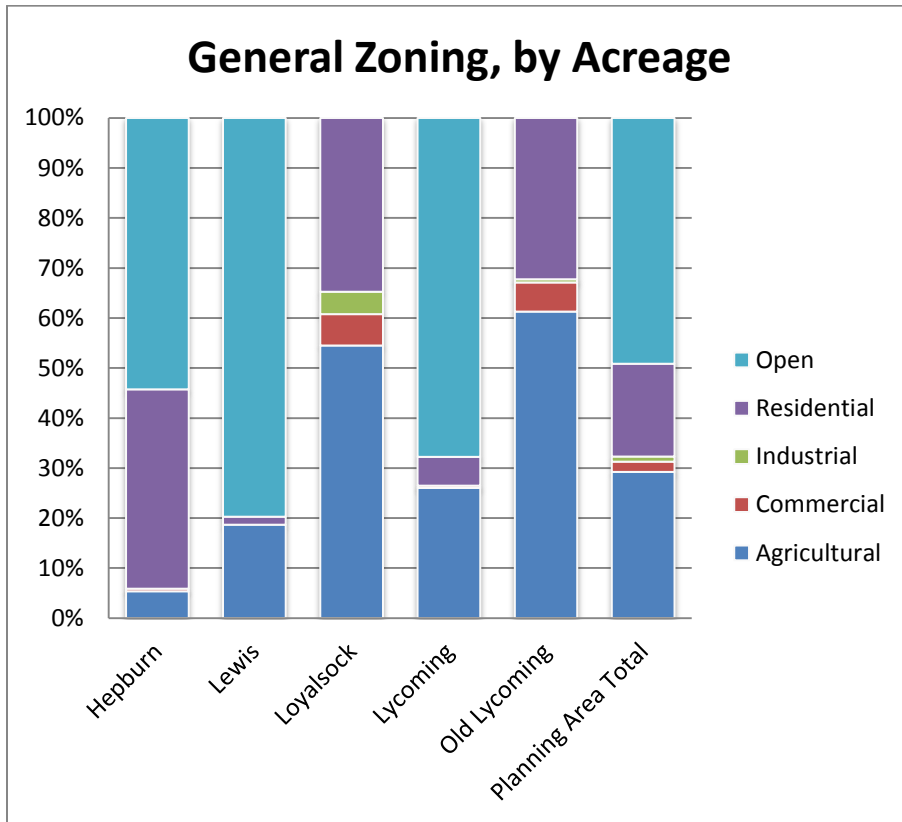
## Floodplain and Flood Insurance

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

	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Insured Amount</b>	<b>Total Premiums</b>	<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>Total Number of Tax parcels</b>	<b>Parcels Containing Regulatory Floodplain</b>	<b>Percent Containing Floodplain</b>
TOWNSHIP OF HEPBURN	47	\$4,184,500.00	\$44,444.00	237	\$3,165,659.46	1,203	197	16.4%
TOWNSHIP OF LEWIS	54	\$7,164,500.00	\$65,755.00	203	\$3,455,037.09	590	330	55.9%
TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK	110	\$17,881,600.00	\$115,018.00	295	\$3,752,904.33	4,544	327	7.2%
TOWNSHIP OF LYCOMING	84	\$9,632,900.00	\$85,533.00	254	\$3,615,371.50	755	282	37.4%
TOWNSHIP OF OLD LYCOMING	140	\$14,374,700.00	\$155,170.00	42	\$8,798,894.87	2,357	429	18.2%
<b>PLANNING AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>\$53,238,200.00</b>	<b>\$465,920.00</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>\$22,787,867.25</b>	<b>9,449</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>16.6%</b>

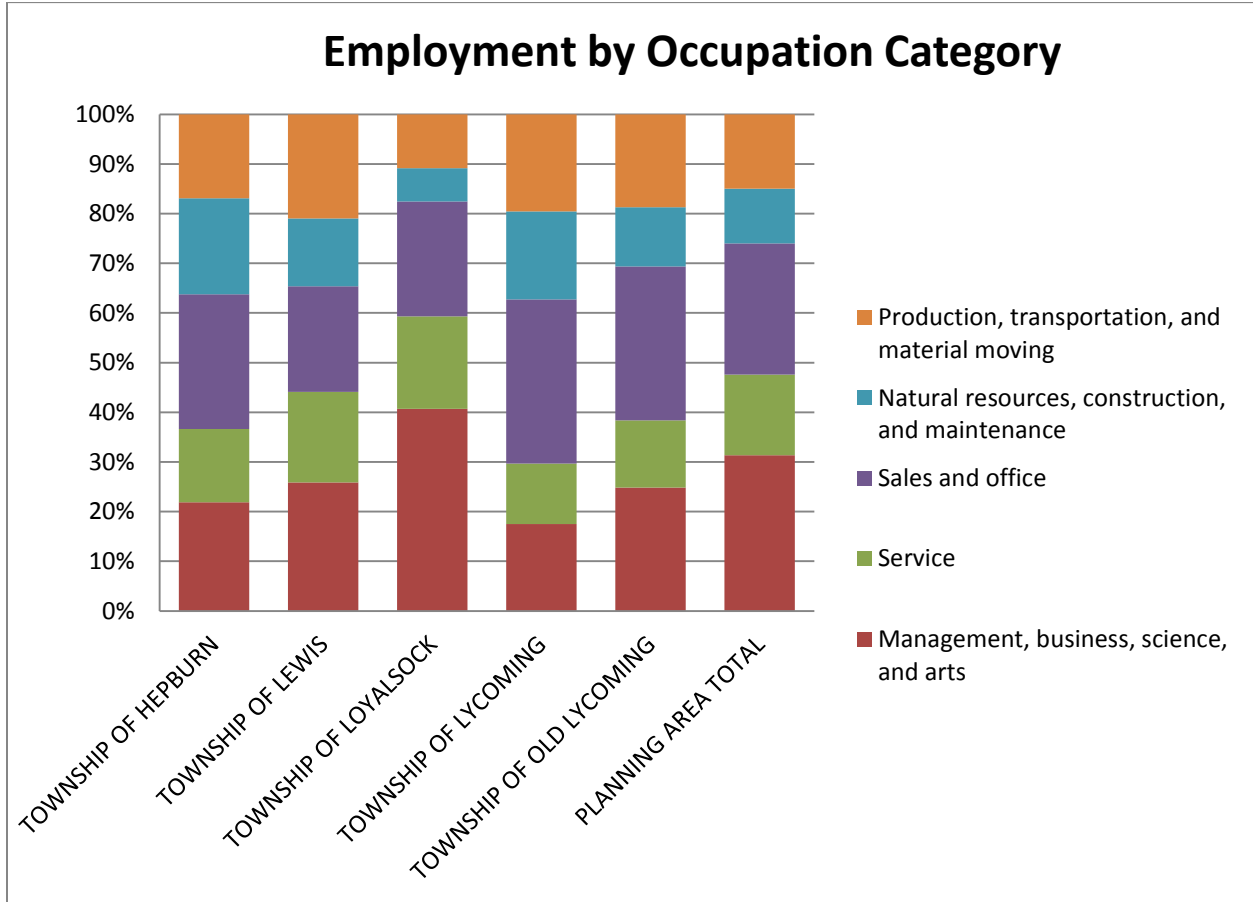
# Current Zoning

Data Source: Lycoming County Planning Department



	Vacant Land (Acres)	
	Zoned Commercial	Zoned Industrial
Loyalsock	47.21	237.64
Lycoming	28.44	
Old Lycoming	11.13	5.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86.78</b>	<b>243.31</b>

# Employment

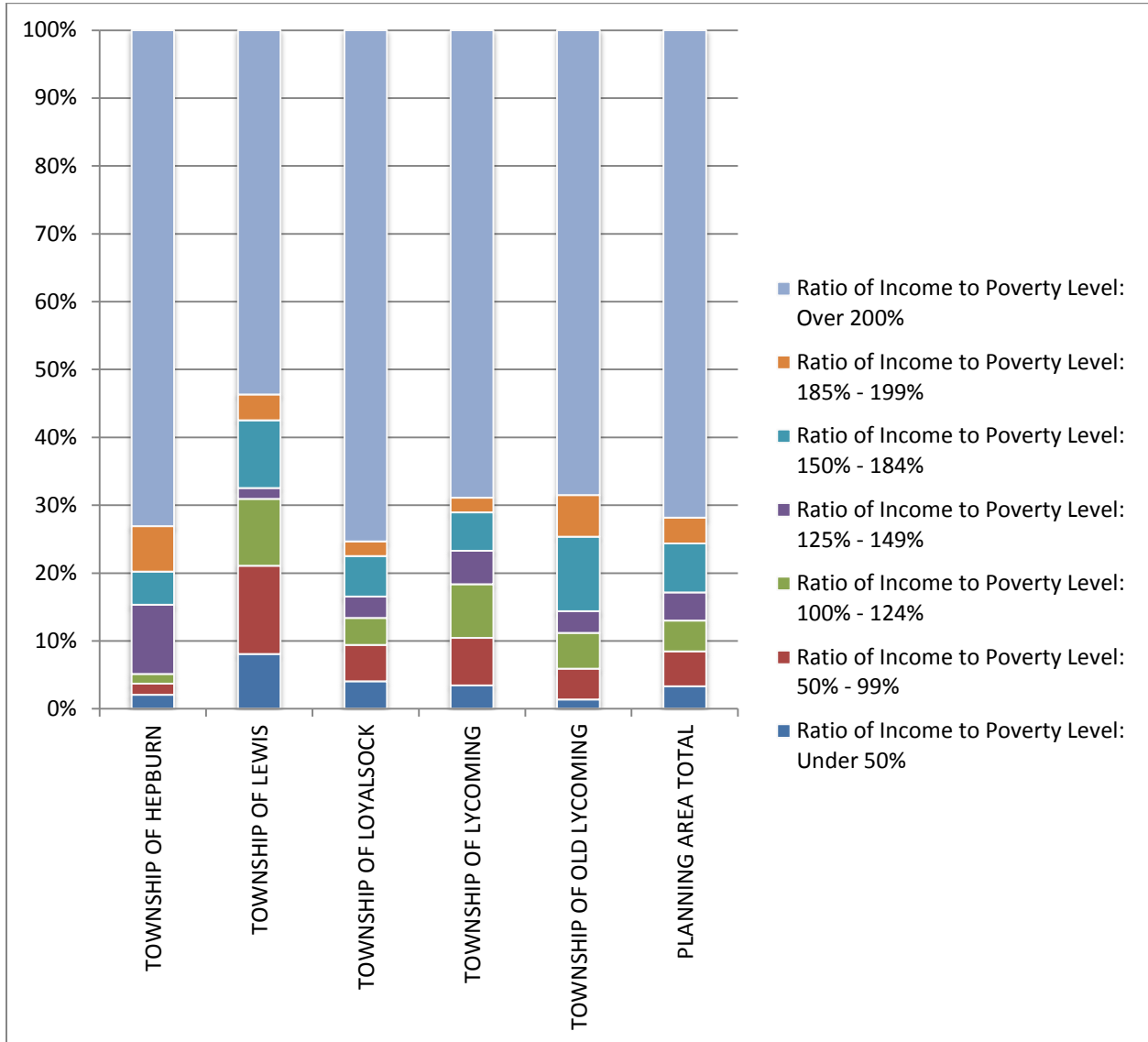




# Poverty

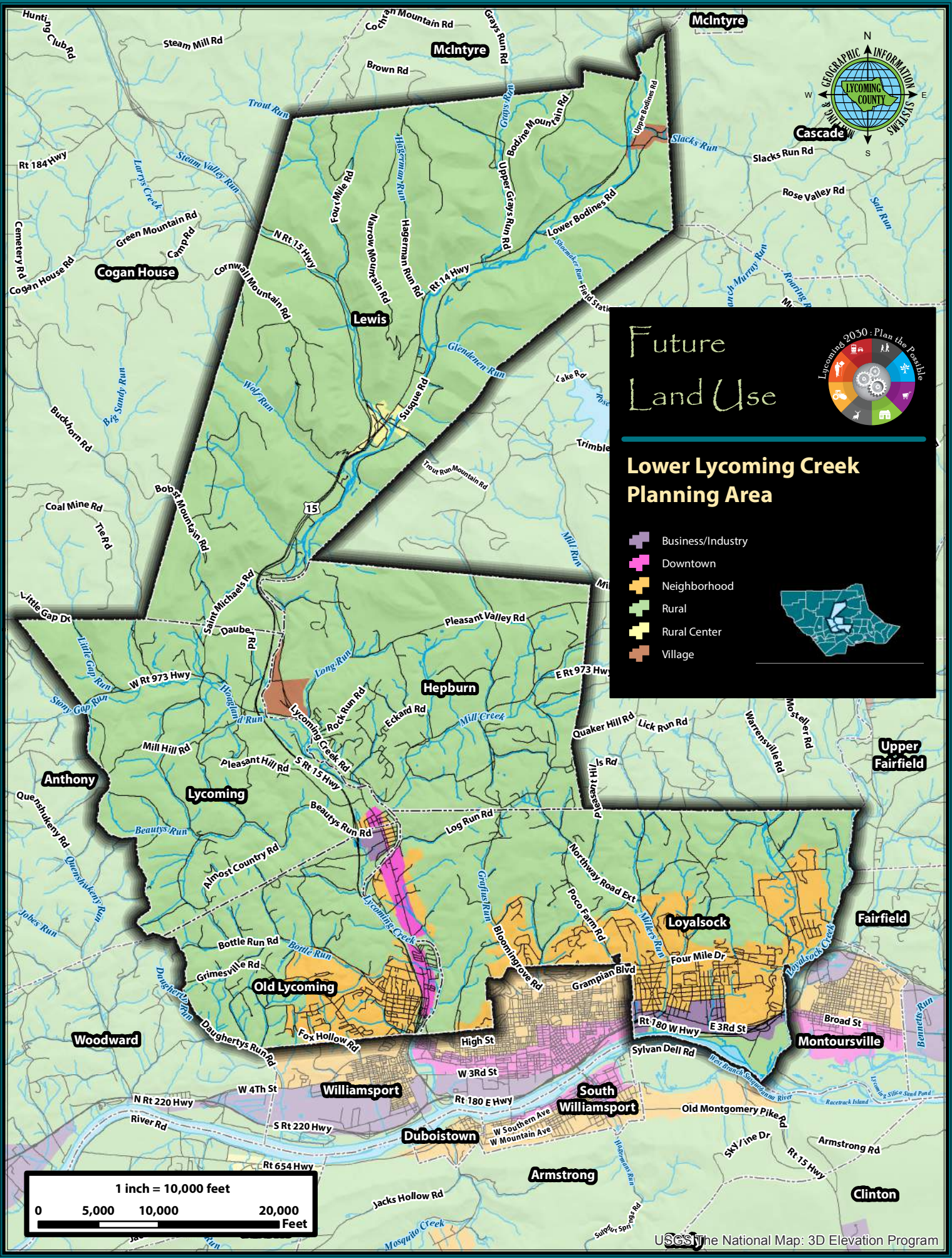
2014 American Community Survey Estimates

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



## **Appendix D**

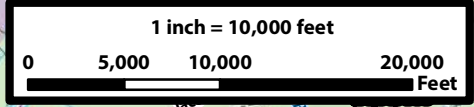
### **Reference Maps**



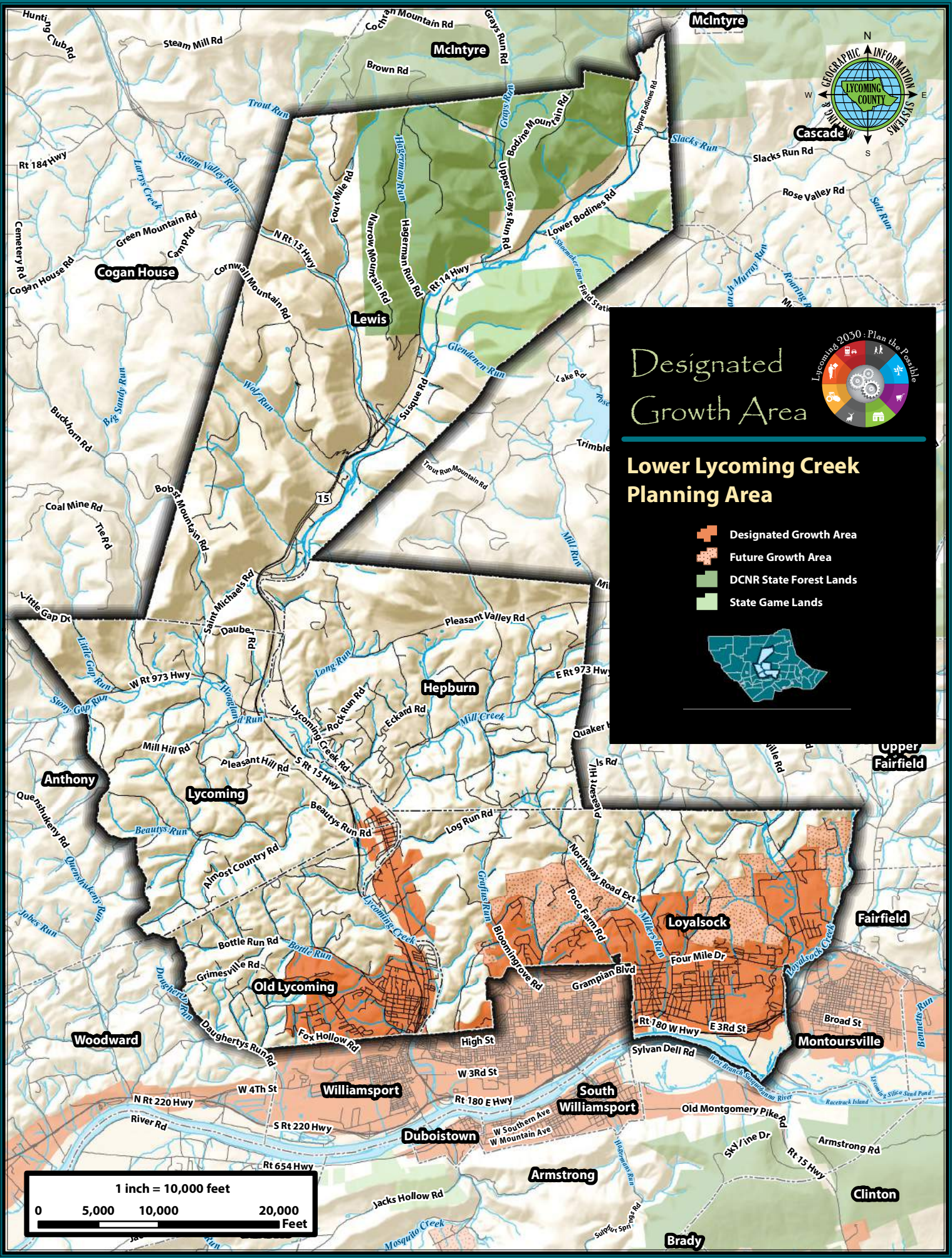
# Future Land Use

## Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area

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









## **Appendix E**

### **Plan Consistency & Plan References**

The 2005 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 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.

#### **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 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 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.

#### **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.

#### **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 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.

**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.

**Other related plans to the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area:**

Susquehanna River Bikeway Feasibility Study (2007)

Chesapeake Bay Phase II Study (2009)

Coordinated Public Transit Plan (2014)

Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan for Joint MS4s (2015)

Please visit [www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org) to view the full versions of these plans.