



**The Comprehensive Plan  
Background Studies  
for the  
Greater Williamsport Alliance  
Planning Area**

**Armstrong Township, Duboistown Borough, Loyalsock  
Township, Old Lycoming Township, South Williamsport  
Borough, Williamsport City**

**Lycoming County, PA**

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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### Introduction

The development of an effective comprehensive plan requires an understanding of the issues and trends that impact a community's ability to sustain a "good quality of life" for its residents. During the early stages of plan development, coordination has been undertaken with many individuals and organizations in order to develop an understanding of what are perceived to be **important issues** that will impact the community and its development and growth in the future. This Community Development Profile summarizes where the community has been, where it is today, and where it may be going in the future based on known data sources. It includes past trend information (historic), current trend information (today), and projections (future), where appropriate and available from existing data sources.

### Key Community Development Issues

Through consultation with the Planning Advisory Team (PAT) and interviews with key persons within the planning area and throughout the county, the important issues that could potentially impact the community in terms of social and economic conditions were identified. While many of the issues of importance relate to the county or region as shown in the adjacent highlight box, there were numerous issues noted by the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Advisory Team as being of particular importance within the City of Williamsport and the surrounding townships. The number of important issues specifically noted by this Team clearly represents the complexity of socio-economic issues in an urban area and its surrounding suburbs. Out of the 32 issues noted of concern throughout the county, 19 of those issues were specifically noted as being of particular concern within the Greater Williamsport Area. No other planning area throughout Lycoming County noted so many issues as being of particular importance to this. The following highlights those issues.

- ☑ **Exodus of Younger Generation with Increasing Elderly Population** – This is a concern because as an area ages the social fabric of the community becomes less stable. Less and less 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.
- ☑ **Low Wages and Income** – can adversely impact on the stability of the younger worker population and generation of tax revenues to support community service needs.
- ☑ **Lack of Employment Opportunities and Lower Paying Jobs** – This is a concern because employment is generally the key factor that dictates where younger workers will make their home.
- ☑ **Decrease in the Traditional Family** – which is perceived as having an impact on human service needs.

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- ☑ **Good Diversity of Ethnic Cultures and Low Migration Rates** – were viewed as an important aspects of a stable, close knit community.
- ☑ **Affordable Housing** – was viewed as positive aspect of the area for maintaining a stable community.
- ☑ **Decreasing Housing Stock and Diversity** – 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.
- ☑ **Diverse Economy** – was viewed as a real asset to the future of Lycoming County.
- ☑ **Good Access to Capital** – is viewed as a positive aspect of Lycoming County in terms of new business start-ups and existing business expansions.
- ☑ **Good Labor Force** – was viewed as important to business development and expansion in the Williamsport Area.
- ☑ **The Influence of KOZs, Little League Baseball, and the Airport** – were noted as key contributors to economic conditions in the Williamsport Area.
- ☑ **Lack of Good Retail Centers** – This is a concern because it reduces both employments opportunities and community retail and service opportunities and choices necessary to maintain a stable community.
- ☑ **Tax Rates** – were noted as being a particular burden for business development as well as for low income and elderly families.
- ☑ **Increasing Crime and Drug Use** – were noted as social service concerns as well as community image concern for business development.

### Evaluation Approach

Existing data sources were accessed as fully as possible to identify trends as they relate to the important issues. Where available and appropriate, comparisons were made for the time periods from 1980 to the present (circa 2000) as well as for projections into the future (2020). Key data sources include but are not limited to:

- U.S. Census
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- The Pathfinders, The Williamsport / Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Area Workforce Report (July 2002)
- The Center for Rural Pennsylvania
- Industrial Properties Corporation
- Williamsport / Lycoming Chamber of Commerce
- Department of Community and Economic Development
- Department of Health
- Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan (1997)

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Comparisons are drawn between national, state, regional and local trends where available and appropriate. During the evaluation process, the planning team attempted to address the following:

- Does the trend information support the local perceptions about key important issues?
- If it does not support the perception why not and what are the implications to planning?
- Is there data and information available to evaluate the key important issues?
- If the data is not available what are the implications to planning?
- Are there any important trends that do not relate to those issues perceived as being important by local stakeholders (i.e. PAT, key person interviews)?
- If so, are there any indications of why they may not have been recognized as important?

The evaluation of background data for this Community Development Profile is divided into four sections:

- Demographic Characteristics
  - Population Change
  - Age issues
  - Family issues
  - Cultural issues
  - Income issues
- Housing Characteristics
  - Units
  - Values
  - Affordability
  - Diversity
- Economic Characteristics
  - Economic diversity
  - Work force issues
  - Financing issues
  - Wages
  - Employment
  - Important Economic Generators
  - Retail & Services diversity issues Taxes
  - Taxes
- Human Services Characteristics
  - Elderly
  - Students
  - Public Safety
  - Health and Human Services
  - Educational Attainment

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### Demographic Characteristics

#### Overview of Demographics

The population trends of the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area (GWA) municipalities over the 1970 to 2000 Census periods are indicative of county and statewide trends where population shifted outward from the cities and boroughs into the suburban and rural townships.

As presented in Table 1-1, Williamsport City, Duboistown Borough and South Williamsport Borough experienced significant decreases in their populations over this period, with calculated losses of 19 percent (7,212 persons), 12.8 percent (188 persons) and 10.4 percent (741 persons), respectively. In contrast, population gains were experienced by each township, save Armstrong, with Old Lycoming increasing by 19.3 percent (892 persons) and Loyalsock by 2.8 percent (295 persons). These population trends may be partially attributed to the increase in out-migration patterns from the city and boroughs to the rural and suburban townships.

The most notable population trend that occurred during the 1970 to 2000 Census period is the “urban flight” phenomena experienced by the City of Williamsport. During this period, the city lost over 7,000 people with the largest reduction of 4,517 persons (-11.9 percent) occurring between 1970 and 1980. This loss can be attributed to a number of factors including relocation caused by the construction of the beltway, urban renewal and the 1972 Flood caused by Hurricane Agnes. Since 1980, the city’s population losses have slowed considerably, but the continued decrease remains a critical issue.

Change, however, is imminent given that the population losses experienced by Williamsport City and South Williamsport Borough are stabilizing and that population gains are evident in the suburban townships of Armstrong and Loyalsock Townships, as well as in Duboistown Borough. In fact, the population growth rates enumerated for Duboistown Borough (6.6 percent) and Armstrong Township (6.1 percent) during the 1990 to 2000 Census period exceeded the state’s growth rate of 3.4 percent. These trends may be indicative of the flood hazard mitigation efforts of the county and GWA municipalities, as well as the downtown revitalization efforts being undertaken by the City of Williamsport. These efforts are, in part, supporting these repopulation trends through housing and economic development opportunities.

**Table 1-1  
Population Change 1970-2000**

Municipality	Total Population				Population Change			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000		1970-2000	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	11,800,766	11,863,895	11,881,643	12,281,054	399,411	3.4%	480,288	4.1%
Lycoming County	113,296	118,416	118,710	120,044	1,334	1.1%	6,748	6.0%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance	62,463	57,831	56,476	55,499	-977	-1.7%	-6,964	-11.1%

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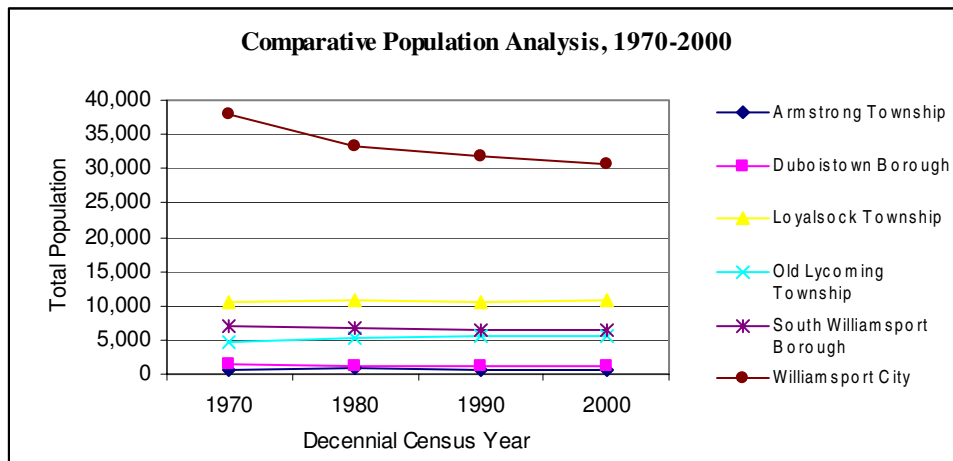
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**Table 1-1  
Population Change 1970-2000**

Armstrong Township	727	732	676	717	41	6.1%	-10	-1.4%
Dubois town Borough	1,468	1,218	1,201	1,280	79	6.6%	-188	-12.8%
Loyalsock Township	10,581	10,763	10,644	10,876	232	2.2%	295	2.8%
Old Lycoming Township	4,616	5,136	5,526	5,508	-18	-0.3%	892	19.3%
South Williamsport Borough	7,153	6,581	6,496	6,412	-84	-1.3%	-741	-10.4%
Williamsport City	37,918	33,401	31,933	30,706	-1,227	-3.8%	-7,212	-19.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Figure 1 - 1**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

What follows is a presentation of data defining demographic trends as related to key issues identified by the Planning Advisory Teams.

### ***Issue- Exodus of Younger Generation with Increasing Elderly Population***

An analysis of the GWA's population by its various age groups provides insight to the perceptions that the planning area municipalities are experiencing a decrease in the number of young adults and that their populations are aging. Table 1-2 presents the age group enumerations of the GWA and its municipalities, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania for the 1990 and 2000 Censuses.

The distribution of the population according to the age of its residents is a primary factor that may affect population growth and determine the type of services required in the region. Different age groups have diverse needs that must be specifically addressed in the comprehensive plan. For example, population shifts within the school age group (i.e., 0-19 years) will produce a direct impact on the services and facilities provided by the local school

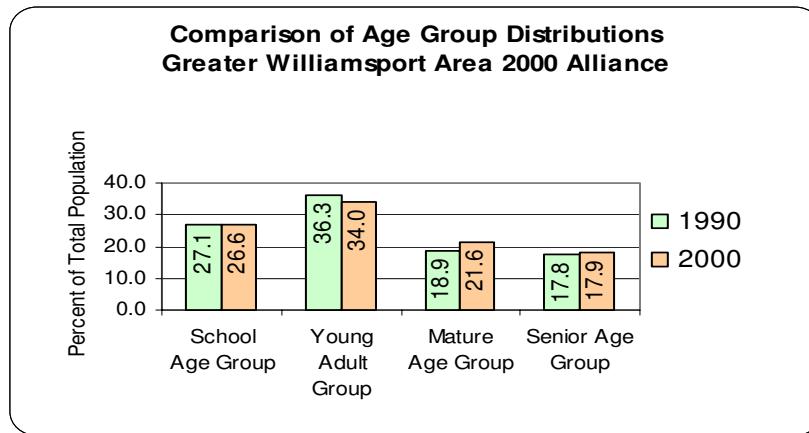
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system, as well as any public or private pre-school/ daycare facilities and programs. Likewise, population shifts in the senior age group (i.e., 65 years and over) will directly impact the service needs of the elderly such as adult daycare, medical, and social, just to name a few.

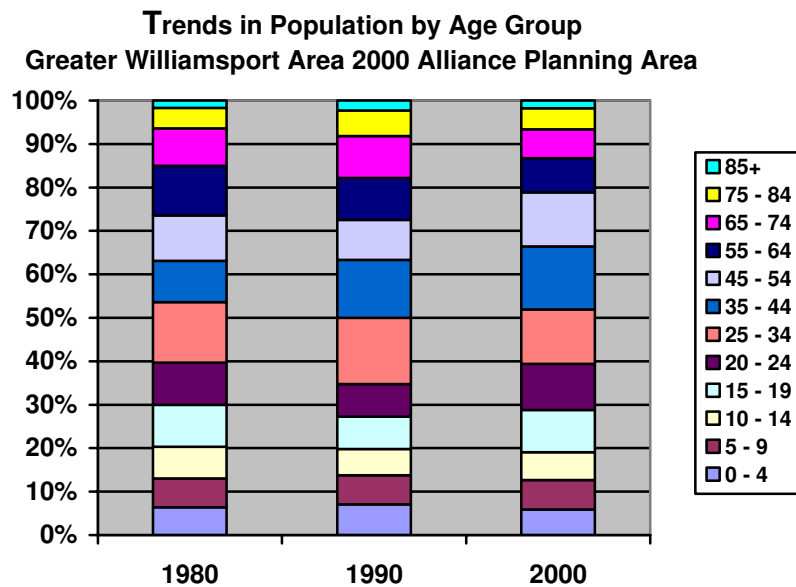
A review of Table 1-2, Table 1-3 and Figure 1-2 reveals that the GWA municipalities are indeed experiencing a decrease in their young adult populations and that their populations are aging.

Figure 1 - 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1-2a



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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These trends are supported by the following statements:

### “Exodus of Young Adults”

- According to the 1990 and 2000 Censuses, the young adult age group comprised the largest share of the GWA’s total population. During this period, however, the total population share of 36.3 percent in 1990 decreased to 34 percent in 2000. Likewise, the school age group’s share of the total population decreased from 27.1 percent in 1990 to 26.6 percent in 2000.
- From 1990 to 2000, all GWA municipalities experienced decreases in their respective young adult populations. Moreover, the percentage losses of several municipalities--including the GWA as a whole--exceeded the rates enumerated for Lycoming County (-2.7 percent) and Pennsylvania (-2.2 percent).

### “Aging Population”

- From 1990 to 2000, the GWA’s mature and senior age groups have increased their shares of the planning area’s total population; from 18.9 percent to 21.6 percent and from 17.8 percent to 17.9 percent, respectively.
- The GWA’s mature age group population increased by 1,308 persons or by 2.3 percent over the 1990 to 2000 Census periods.
- Relative to the county and state, the GWA’s senior age group comprised a greater share of the planning area’s total 1990 (17.8 percent) and 2000 (17.9 percent) Census populations. As a result, the GWA represents one of the state’s highest concentrations of persons 65 years and over.
- The median ages of all GWA municipalities increased over the 1990 to 2000 Census periods.

**Table 1-2**  
**Age Group Distribution 1990-2000**

Age Groups	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Change (1990-2000)	
					# Increase	% Increase
<b>School Age Group (0-19)</b>						
Armstrong Township	168	24.9%	178	24.8%	10	1.5%
Duboistown Borough	274	22.8%	317	24.8%	43	3.6%
Loyalsock Township	2308	21.7%	2,426	22.3%	118	1.1%
Old Lycoming Township	1389	25.1%	1,328	24.1%	-61	-1.1%
South Williamsport Borough	1706	26.3%	1,662	25.9%	-44	-0.7%
Williamsport City	9452	29.6%	8,847	28.8%	-605	-1.9%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	15297	27.1%	14,758	26.6%	-539	-1.0%
Lycoming County	33292	28.0%	31,895	26.6%	-1,397	-1.2%
Pennsylvania	3,158,578	26.6%	3,270,584	26.6%	112,006	0.9%



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**Table 1-2**  
**Age Group Distribution 1990-2000**

Age Groups	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Change (1990-2000)	
					# Increase	% Increase
<b>Young Adult Group (20-44)</b>						
Armstrong Township	255	37.7%	228	31.8%	-27	-4.0%
Duboistown Borough	409	34.1%	403	31.5%	-6	-0.5%
Loyalsock Township	3027	28.4%	2,612	24.0%	-415	-3.9%
Old Lycoming Township	2000	36.2%	1,694	30.8%	-306	-5.5%
South Williamsport Borough	2325	35.8%	2,142	33.4%	-183	-2.8%
Williamsport City	12,469	39.0%	11,783	38.4%	-686	-2.1%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	20,485	36.3%	18,862	34.0%	-1,623	-2.9%
Lycoming County	43,954	37.0%	40,795	34.0%	-3,159	-2.7%
Pennsylvania	4,520,330	38.0%	4,254,648	34.6%	-265,682	-2.2%
<b>Mature Age Group (45-64)</b>						
Armstrong Township	174	25.7%	206	28.7%	32	4.7%
Duboistown Borough	294	24.5%	292	22.8%	-2	-0.2%
Loyalsock Township	2,363	22.2%	2,639	24.3%	276	2.6%
Old Lycoming Township	1,263	22.9%	1,468	26.7%	205	3.7%
South Williamsport Borough	1,340	20.6%	1,417	22.1%	77	1.2%
Williamsport City	5,223	16.4%	5,943	19.4%	720	2.3%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	10,657	18.9%	11,965	21.6%	1,308	2.3%
Lycoming County	23,524	19.8%	28,103	23.4%	4,579	3.9%
Pennsylvania	2,373,629	20.0%	2,836,657	23.1%	463,028	3.9%
<b>Senior Age Group (65+)</b>						
Armstrong Township	79	11.7%	105	14.6%	26	3.8%
Duboistown Borough	224	18.7%	268	20.9%	44	3.7%
Loyalsock Township	2,946	27.7%	3,199	29.4%	253	2.4%
Old Lycoming Township	874	15.8%	1,018	18.5%	144	2.6%
South Williamsport Borough	1,125	17.3%	1,191	18.6%	66	1.0%
Williamsport City	4,789	15.0%	4,133	13.5%	-656	-2.1%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	10,037	17.8%	9,914	17.9%	-123	-0.2%
Lycoming County	17,940	15.1%	19,251	16.0%	1,311	1.1%
Pennsylvania	1,829,106	15.4%	1,919,165	15.6%	90,059	0.8%
<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>56,476</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>55,499</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-977</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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<b>Table 1-3 Median Age: 1990 - 2000</b>		
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Pennsylvania	38.0	38.0
Lycoming County	34.8	38.4
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	37.7	40.6
Armstrong Township	37.2	41.6
Duboistown Borough	39.2	40.7
Loyalsock Township	37.5	42.4
Old Lycoming Township	44.9	47.4
South Williamsport Borough	36.1	39.0
Williamsport City	31.5	32.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Population Forecasts

Given that the GWA's existing population is growing older and that its young adult population is shrinking, future population growth in the planning area will be largely dependent on net migration rather than upon natural increases. To this end, future migration rates will depend largely on future economic growth in the county and region. Public and private efforts are underway, however, to revitalize downtown Williamsport and support economic stability and growth throughout the region. The success of these efforts will serve as a catalyst for population growth.

Population forecasts developed by BonData—a professional data-consulting firm based in Middletown, PA—were used to calculate the planning area's growth levels. The population forecasts are calculated at five-year increments from 2005 to 2020—each year independent of the previous—and are based on a statistical model that uses the average of four mathematical calculations. All forecasts use base populations enumerated by the 1990 and 2000 Censuses and do not address other factors that may impact population growth such as housing and employment opportunities. A more in-depth description of the employed methodology is provided in Appendix A.

It is important to realize that no projection can accurately forecast all of the factors that might cause a particular rate of growth. However, a projection becomes a building block that can be used to forecast future land use and infrastructure service needs.

Table 1-4 presents the population forecasts for the GWA planning area municipalities and Lycoming County. As shown, the populations of the planning area municipalities, save Old Lycoming Township and South Williamsport Borough, are expected to increase through the year 2020. Moreover, these growth rates are expected to exceed the rate enumerated for the County (1.8 percent).

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**Table 1-4**  
**Population Forecasts, 2005-2020**

Municipality	Census Counts		Population Forecasts				Change (2005-2020)	
	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	#	%
Lycoming County	118,779	120,044	120,708	121,397	122,112	122,859	2,151	1.8
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	56,510	55,499	54,966	54,416	53,742	53,107	-1,859	-3.4
Armstrong Township	676	717	738	759	778	799	61	8.3
Duboistown Borough	1,202	1,280	1,320	1,359	1,397	1,436	117	8.8
Loyalsock Township	10,652	10,876	10,985	11,093	11,177	11,271	286	2.6
Old Lycoming Township	5,529	5,508	5,495	5,480	5,453	5,430	-65	-1.2
South Williamsport Borough	6,500	6,412	6,364	6,315	6,250	6,191	-174	-2.7
Williamsport City	31,951	30,706	30,064	29,410	28,686	27,981	-2,083	-6.9

Source: Bon Data, 2002

In contrast to a statistical-based population-forecasting model, the planning profession also employs a physical model that forecasts population growth using a land use build-out methodology. The build-out methodology considers existing land use/ land cover and infrastructure conditions to develop a theoretical build-out of a municipality's developable land areas under existing zoning conditions. The results can then be used to calculate potential population growth, infrastructure needs and impacts.

The existing conditions data collected under the Phase I planning process will be used to develop the GIS-based build-out model, which will then be implemented during the Phase II planning process. Population forecasts developed under the build-out model can then be compared against the statistical forecasts presented above. When one looks at past housing trends (see Table 1-11) a different picture evolves in terms of potential growth areas.

### ***Issue – Diverse Culture***

The diversity of the local culture is viewed as a positive aspect of the GWA Planning Area municipalities. Communities that boast a diverse cultural heritage cultivate an open social environment and support a high quality of life.

### **Racial Composition**

Racial and ethnic data from the U.S. Census Bureau was used to determine the degree to which the GWA Planning municipalities are culturally diverse. As shown in Table 1-5, the municipal populations are predominantly white. However, the local populations are becoming more diverse as the percentage of non-white populations increased in each municipality, save Armstrong Township, over the 1990 to 2000 Census periods.

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**Table 1-5**  
**Racial Composition 1990-2000**

Municipality	Race (Total Population)					
	1990			2000		
	White	Non-white	% Non-white	White	Non-white	% Non-white
Pennsylvania	10,520,201	1,361,442	13%	10,484,203	1,796,851	17.1%
Lycoming County	115,040	3,670	3.2%	112,737	7,307	6.5%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	53,666	2,810	5.2%	49,809	5,690	11.4%
Armstrong Township	671	5	0.7%	712	5	0.7%
Duboistown Borough	1,197	4	0.3%	1,263	17	1.3%
Loyalsock Township	10,392	252	2.4%	10,312	564	5.2%
Old Lycoming Township	5,488	38	0.7%	5,364	144	2.6%
South Williamsport Borough	6,431	65	1.0%	6,331	81	1.3%
Williamsport City	29,487	2,446	7.7%	25,827	4,879	15.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Cultural Diversity

Ethnicity is also a key indicator of cultural diversity. Table 1-6 presents the ancestral heritage composition for the GWA municipalities as reported by the 2000 Census. Similar to the county and state populations, the majority of the planning area's population is of European decent; primarily, comprised of German (31.7 percent), Irish (11.2 percent) and English (7.9 percent) lineages. The remaining population is, however, distributed across a number of non-European ancestral countries that are located within Mediterranean, Arab, Asian, and African continents. Although comprising a small proportion of the total population, these remaining ancestral types do infuse a degree of diversity into the primarily European cultural environment.

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<b>Table 1-6 Ethnic Diversity</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area Total</b>	<b>Lycoming County Total</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Total</b>
Arab	0.12%	0.10%	0.36%
Czech	0.33%	0.26%	0.52%
Danish	0.14%	0.09%	0.12%
Dutch	3.30%	3.93%	1.88%
English	7.91%	8.47%	7.12%
French (except Basque)	2.56%	2.53%	1.56%
French Canadian	0.33%	0.32%	0.23%
German	31.72%	35.64%	22.95%
Greek	0.30%	0.21%	0.42%
Hungarian	0.25%	0.33%	0.97%
Irish	11.24%	11.31%	14.61%
Italian	8.21%	6.59%	10.45%
Lithuanian	0.38%	0.25%	0.58%
Norwegian	0.27%	0.29%	0.29%
Polish	4.37%	3.66%	6.07%
Portuguese	0.02%	0.06%	0.10%
Russian	0.46%	0.37%	1.32%
Scotch-Irish	1.48%	1.51%	1.61%
Scottish	1.30%	1.45%	1.36%
Slovak	0.51%	0.44%	1.79%
Subsaharan African	0.44%	0.22%	0.43%
Swedish	0.83%	1.01%	0.78%
Swiss	0.30%	0.33%	0.44%
Ukrainian	0.20%	0.18%	0.90%
United States or American	7.27%	8.60%	4.66%
Welsh	1.40%	1.47%	1.34%
West Indian (excluding Hispanic groups)	0.08%	0.05%	0.27%
Other ancestries	14.26%	10.30%	16.86%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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### ***Issue – Perception of a Close Knit Community with Low Migration***

Close-knit communities are perceived to be a positive aspect of the GWA planning area because it exudes a feeling that its residents have roots in the area and are mindful of their neighbors' well being.

Resident mobility enumerations from the 2000 Census can be used as an indicator for defining how close-knit, or interdependent, a particular community is. Specifically, mobility in terms of migration provides insight to how transient a community's citizens are. Higher rates of mobility are indicative of a transient community and therefore, infer that the citizens of a particular community are not as socially tied to their neighborhood, as long-term or permanent residents would be.

Tables 1-7 and 1-8 provide a comparative analysis of the resident mobility enumerations for the planning areas, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and GWA municipalities. As shown, the GWA's mobility rate of 45.8 percent exceeds the rates enumerated for all surveyed jurisdictions, except the U.S. Route 15 South Planning Area. Here, however, the mobility rate is elevated because of the institutionalized populations housed at the Allenwood Federal Correctional Institute.

Rental housing occupancy rates can also be used as an indicator for defining how close-knit a particular community is. Typically, a high rental occupancy rate is indicative of a transient community.

Correlations between resident mobility and rental occupancy rates are illustrated in Figure 1-3 and 1-4. As shown, there is a high correlation between the resident mobility and rental occupancy rates for each jurisdiction surveyed, save the U.S. 220/ Future I-99 Planning Area. This suggests

These analyses suggest that the GWA Planning Area is not a close-knit community relative to the other planning areas, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania as a whole. The real issue, therefore, appears to be focused on the transient populations and their impacts to the GWA Planning Area communities.

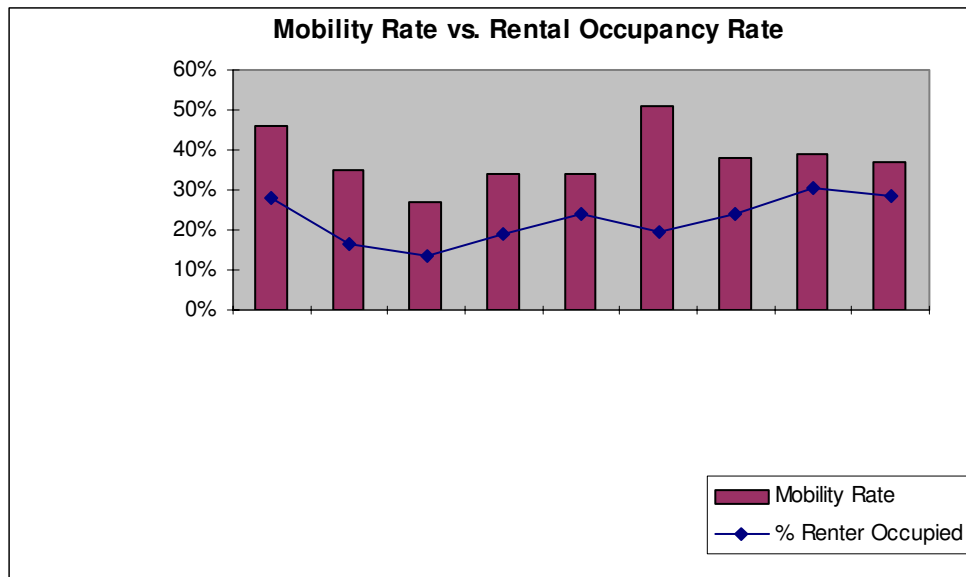
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Table 1-7 Resident Mobility								
	Population 5 years and over	Same house in 1995	Movers	Mobility Rate	Origin of New Residents			
					Elsewhere in Lycoming County	Elsewhere in PA	Other State	Abroad
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	52,437	28,550	23,887	45.6%	65.5%	22.7%	10.4%	1.5%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	20,888	13,520	7,368	35.3%	77.2%	11.7%	10.3%	0.7%
Lycoming County Planning Area	19,629	14,241	5,388	27.4%	70.7%	19.8%	8.9%	0.6%
Montoursville/Muncy Growth Corridor	8,057	5,314	2,743	34.0%	79.0%	12.1%	8.6%	0.2%
Muncy Creek Area Joint Planning Area	11,514	7,565	3,949	34.3%	70.1%	17.9%	10.8%	1.3%
U.S. 15 South Joint Planning Area	11,981	5,930	6,051	50.5%	23.5%	54.7%	11.2%	10.6%
U.S. 220 / Future I-99 Joint Planning Area	9,179	5,655	3,524	38.4%	69.4%	19.6%	8.8%	2.2%
Lycoming County	113,461	69,217	44,244	39.0%	66.8%	21.7%	9.6%	1.9%
Pennsylvania	11,555,538	7,333,591	4,221,947	36.5%	59.5%	20.7%	15.8%	3.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Figure 1-3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

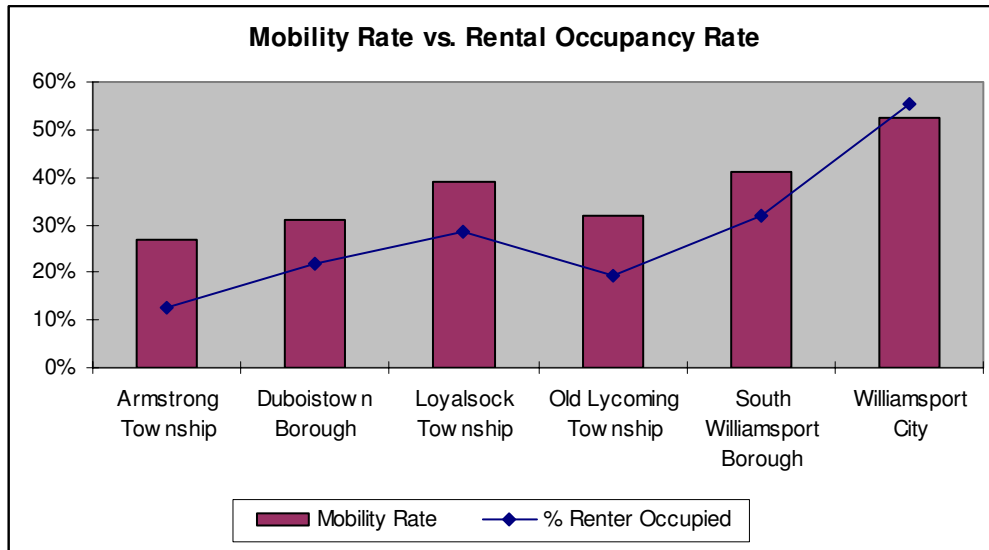
# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-8 Resident Mobility								
	Population 5 years and over	Same house in 1995	New Residents since 1995	Mobility Rate	Origin of New Residents			
					Elsewhere in Lycoming County	Elsewhere in PA	Other State	Abroad
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	52,437	28,550	23,887	45.6%	65.5%	22.7%	10.4%	1.5%
Armstrong Township	687	503	184	26.8%	82.6%	6.0%	11.4%	0.0%
Duboistown Borough	1,220	840	380	31.1%	84.7%	13.7%	1.6%	0.0%
Loyalsock Township	10,335	6,306	4,029	39.0%	73.5%	14.3%	11.5%	0.8%
Old Lycoming Township	5,257	3,587	1,670	31.8%	81.6%	8.7%	9.2%	0.5%
South Williamsport Borough	6,091	3,575	2,516	41.3%	79.1%	13.8%	6.4%	0.7%
Williamsport City	28,847	13,739	15,108	52.4%	58.6%	28.3%	11.1%	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1 - 4



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Issue - Decrease in the Traditional Family

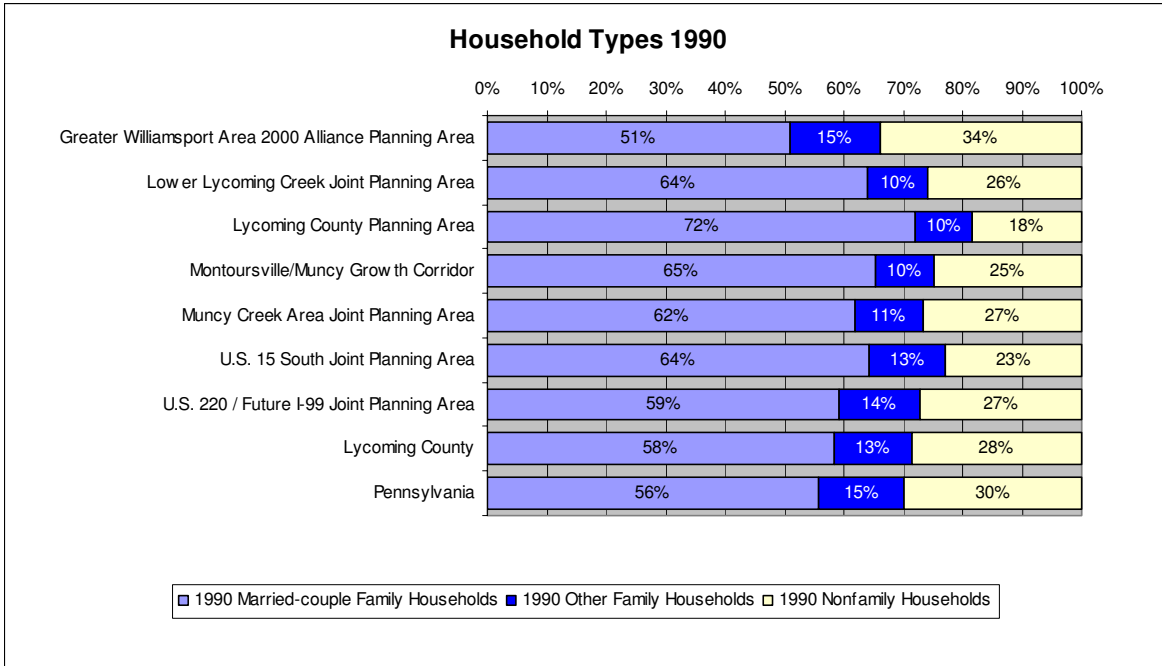
The decrease in the traditional family is a concern due to the additional human service needs associated with such trends. A review of census data does validate the perception of a decrease in the traditional family (See Figures 1-5 and 1-6).



# Technical Background Studies

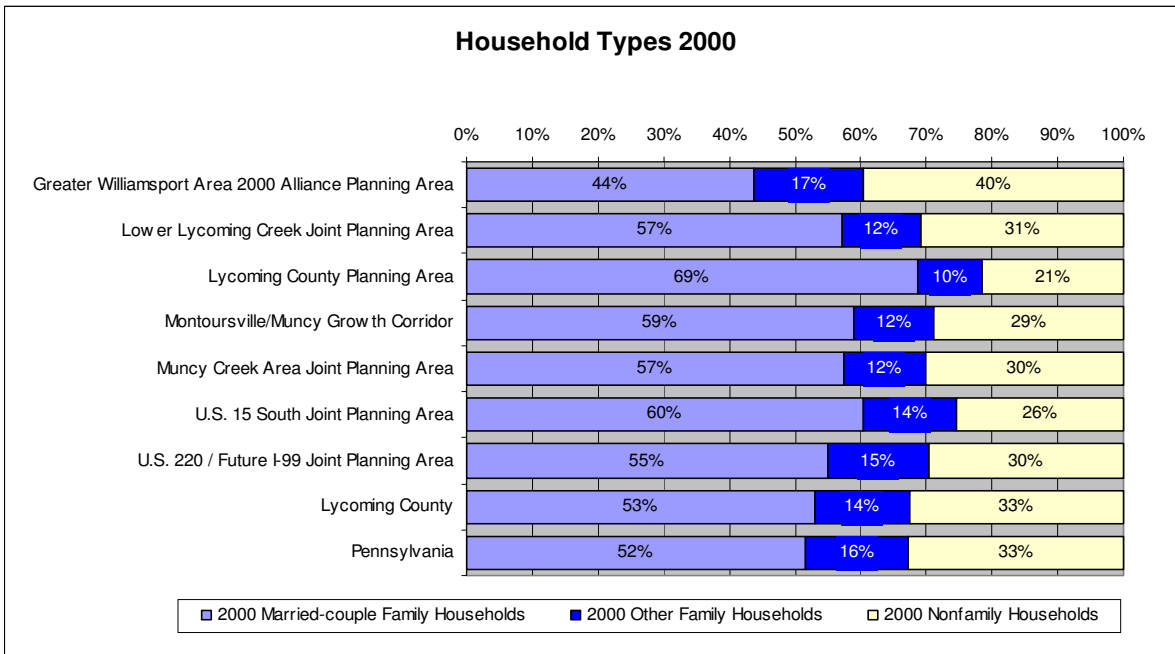
## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 5



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2 - 6



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 1 – Community Development Profile**

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The types of households in the Greater Williamsport area are of key interest to the development of the Comprehensive Plan and warrant careful analysis. According to the Census Bureau, a household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as partners or roomers, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters. There are two main categories of households, “family” and “nonfamily”. A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. A nonfamily household consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/ she is not related.

The household characteristics of the Greater Williamsport area are presented in Table 1-9. Between 1990 to 2000, the number of nonfamily households increased, while family households decreased in three of the six municipalities of the planning area. This change was most dramatic in the City of Williamsport. The number of family households decreased by 1005 and the number of nonfamily households increased by 636. This trend was also true for Lycoming County where the number of family households decreased, while the number of nonfamily households grew significantly between 1990 and 2000. Overall, the total number of households in the planning area increased by only 0.8 percent from 22,393 to 22,569. During this same period, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania also experienced household increases of 4.5 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively.

In Figures 1-7 and 1-8 family households are further broken down into “married-couple family households” and “other family households.” Married-couple family households include a husband and a wife as members of the same household and they may or may not have children living with them. Other family households are all other “family” households where a married couple is not present and can include, but does not exclusively include single parent families. For the study area, married-couple family households have declined from 51 percent of the total households in 1990 to only 44 percent in 2000, while other family households grew from 15 percent to 17 percent. Of significance, the City of Williamsport’s married-couple family households declined from 43 percent in 1990 to 35 percent in 2000, and its nonfamily households grew from 39 percent to 45 percent during the same time period. The county also experienced a decline in married-couple family households as a percent of the total households in the past decade, from 58 percent to 53 percent. Conversely, other family households and nonfamily households grew slightly in the 1990’s for both the planning area and the county. The state mirrored these trends with a decline in the percent of married-couple family households as part of the total households and an increase in the percent of other family households and nonfamily households.

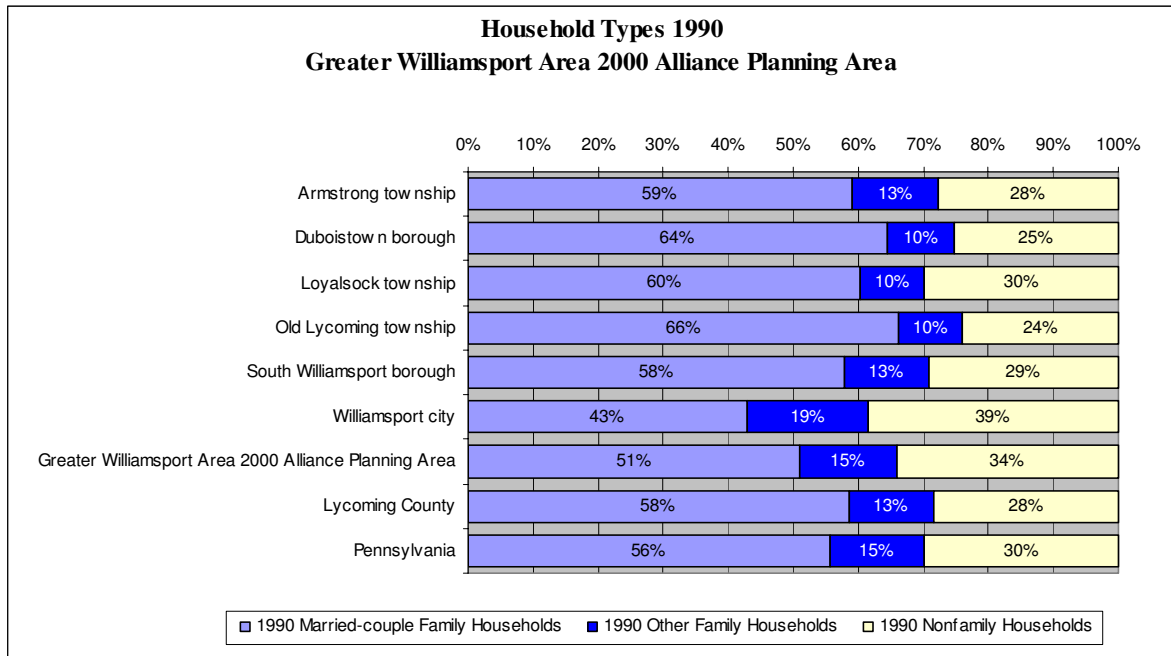
# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-9 Household Characteristics 1990-2000								
Municipality	1990 Household Types		2000 Household Types		Change in Household Types 1990 - 2000		Persons per Household	
	Family	Non-family	Family	Non-family	Family	Non-family	1990	2000
Pennsylvania	3,155,989	1,339,977	3,208,388	1,568,615	52,399	228,638	2.57	2.48
Lycoming County	32,165	12,784	31,703	15,300	-462	2,516	2.56	2.44
Greater Williamsport Planning Area	14783	7610	13638	8931	-1145	1321	2.45	2.35
Armstrong Township	196	75	204	90	8	15	2.49	2.44
Duboistown Borough	369	125	372	168	3	43	2.43	2.36
Loyalsock Township	2960	1263	2968	1533	8	270	2.34	2.25
Old Lycoming Township	1648	521	1590	690	-58	169	2.54	2.40
South Williamsport Borough	1877	771	1776	959	-101	188	2.45	2.33
Williamsport City	7733	4855	6728	5491	-1005	636	2.42	2.30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1 - 7

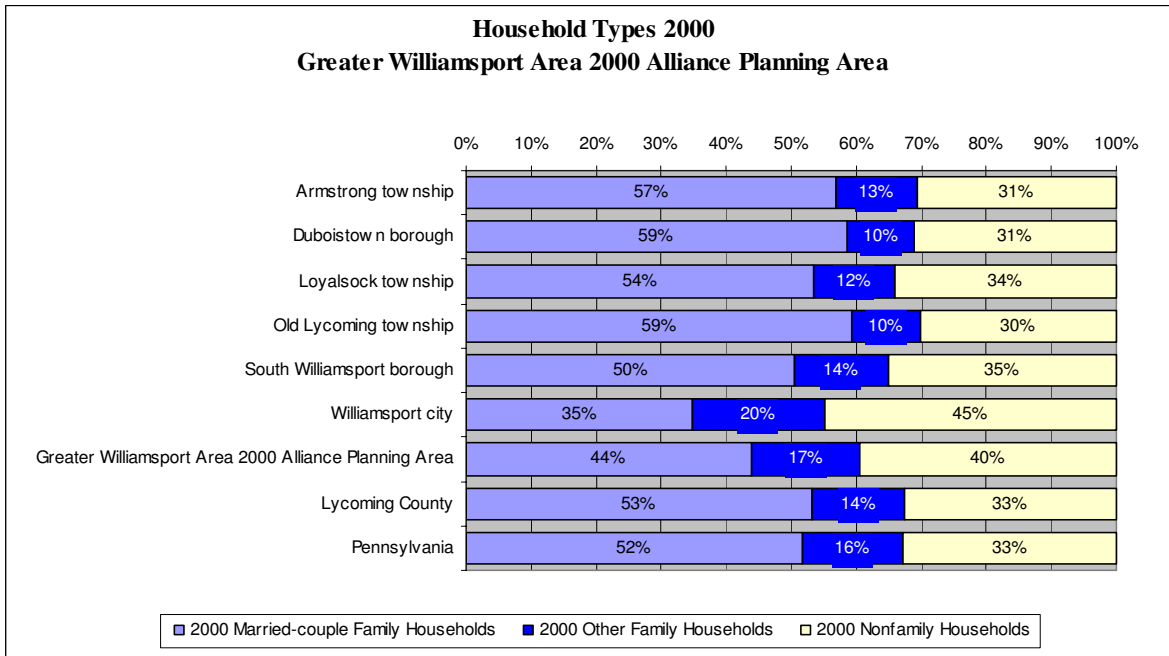


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 8



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### ***Issue – Perception of Low Wages and Income***

#### **Median Income**

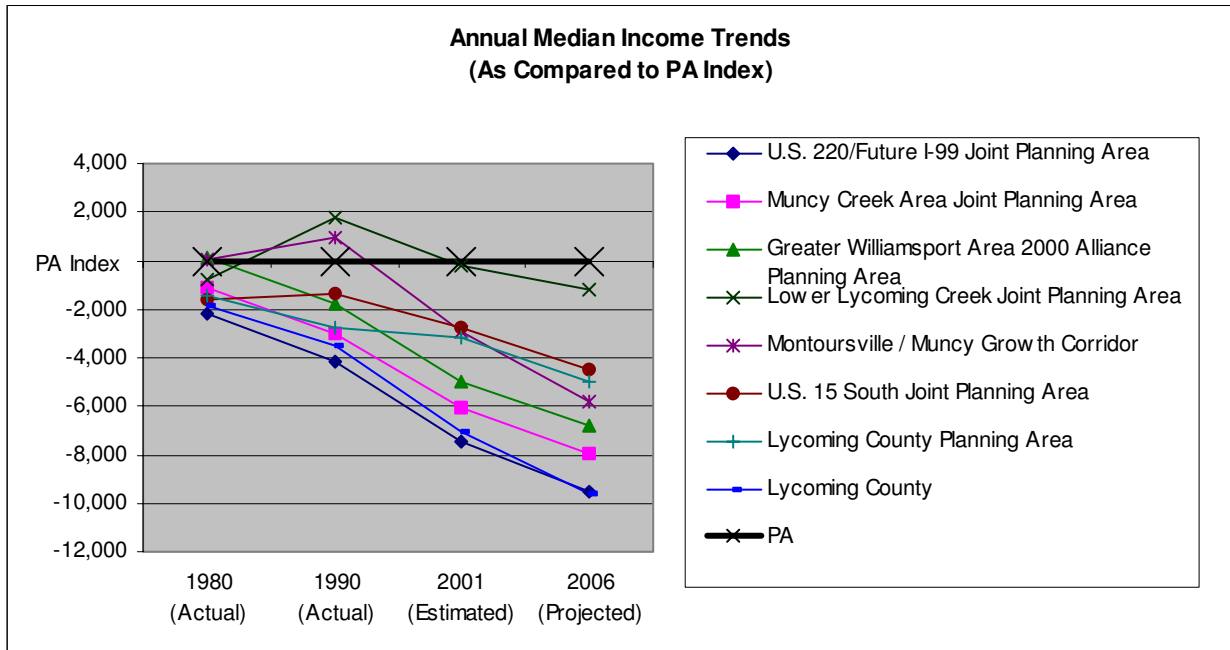
This is an important issue for maintaining a stable community with a balanced proportion of younger and older individuals. Lower wages and incomes can cause younger generations to search out more favorable places to take up residence.

It is difficult to measure the increase or decrease in income in a given geographic area over time due to inflation; however, one way to measure income is to compare the income trend in a smaller geographic area to the trend in a larger geographic area. Compared to income trends in Pennsylvania, the median income in Lycoming County decreased between 1980 and 1990, and is expected to continue to decrease through 2006 (See Figure 1-9). The issue of low wages and less job opportunities is covered under the section on the economy.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 9



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational attainment levels are closely related to a population's median household income level (see Table 1-23). Median household income also reflects the relative affluence of a population and its ability to support local public facilities and services.

The Greater Williamsport Planning Area suffered the greatest decline in median household income from 1989 to 1999 among the planning areas in this study. Table 1-10 displays the data collected for each of the municipalities in this planning area. The table compares the median household income reported in 1989 with that of 1999. For purposes of comparison, the 1989 median household income values must be adjusted for inflation (i.e., purchasing power) to accurately compare them with 1999 dollars. This adjustment was made using the US Census Bureau Labor Statistic's Consumer Price Index.

All but one of the municipalities lagged behind the county (2.6%) and state (6.3%). Loyalsock Township, Duboistown Borough, and Williamsport City experienced an actual reduction in income (9.0 percent, -5.5 percent, and -1.5 percent, respectively). Only Armstrong Township (3.9%) had an increase in real income that exceeded the county increase of 2.6%.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Table 1-10**  
**Median Household Income Analysis 1989-1999**

Municipality	Census Reported 1989 Median Household Income	Inflated 1989 Median Household Income to 1999 Dollars (1)	Census Reported 1999 Median Household Income	Real Growth in Median Household Income (% Change)
Pennsylvania	\$29,069	\$37,728	\$40,106	6.3%
Lycoming County	\$25,552	\$33,163	\$34,016	2.6%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	\$27,016	\$35,063	\$34,433	-1.8%
Armstrong Township	\$25,833	\$33,528	\$34,844	3.9%
Duboistown Borough	\$28,641	\$37,172	\$35,132	-5.5%
Loyalsock Township	\$31,181	\$40,468	\$36,806	-9.0%
Old Lycoming Township	\$30,403	\$39,459	\$39,852	1.0%
South Williamsport Borough	\$25,749	\$33,419	\$34,018	1.8%
Williamsport City	\$20,290	\$26,334	\$25,946	-1.5%

(1) Consumer Price Index (CPI) conversion factor to convert 1989 dollars to 1999 dollars equals 1.297861.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Poverty

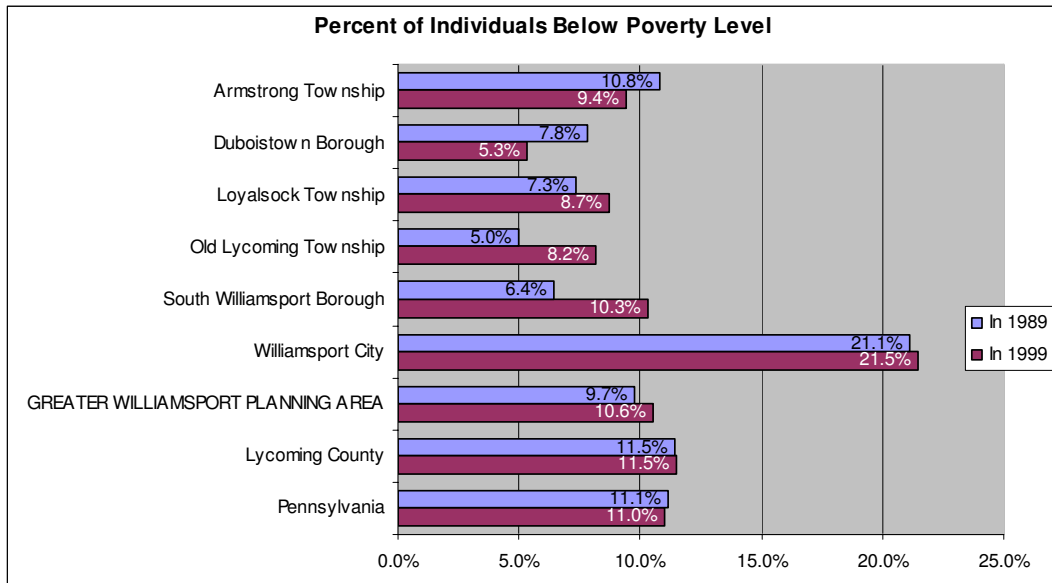
Poverty is one of the key statistical tools used to characterize a population. The U. S. Census Bureau uses the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14 to define and measure poverty in the United States. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family's total income is less than a family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered to be poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

Among the municipalities in the Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area, the city of Williamsport had the greatest percentage of individuals below the poverty level in 1999. Approximately 21.5 percent of the city's population was below the poverty level. This is a slight increase from 21.1 percent in 1989. The percentage of the city's population falling below the poverty level is significantly greater than throughout the county, 11.5 percent in 1999, and the state, 11.0 percent in 1999. In the planning area, Loyalsock Township, Old Lycoming Township and South Williamsport Borough experienced over 3 percent increases in the number of residents falling below the poverty level between 1989 and 1999. Only Armstrong Township and Duboistown Borough saw a decline in their poverty levels. On average the planning area's poverty level increased slightly from 9.7 percent in 1989 to 10.6 percent in 1999, but was still less than the county's poverty level of 11.5 percent in 1999.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 10



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Housing Characteristics

### Housing Overview

Housing data inventoried from the U.S. Census provides insight to the level of residential construction activity that has occurred over the last 20 years within the GWA Planning Area, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. As presented in Table 1-11, the greatest number of housing units in the GWA Planning Area was constructed between 1990 and 2000. During this period, 1,790 units were constructed as opposed to 1,663 units during the previous decade. This trend was also true at the county and state levels, which is indicative of the healthy housing market conditions that existed during the 1990s.

Table 1-11 also reveals that the greatest number of housing units was constructed in Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships over the 1980 to 2000 Census period. Relative to their respective total housing unit counts, the share of the housing units built during the two decades far exceeds the percentage shares enumerated for the remaining planning area municipalities, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. Based on these statistics, it is clear that Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships are the planning area's fastest growing municipalities.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Table 1-11**  
**Recent Housing Construction**

Municipality	Total Housing Units (2000 Census)	1980 - 1989		1990 - 2000	
		Units Built	Percent of Total	Units Built	Percent of Total
Pennsylvania	5,249,750	531,986	10.1	546,277	10.4
Lycoming County	52,464	4,676	8.9	5,547	10.6
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	10,835	1,157	10.7	1,071	9.9
Armstrong Township	337	28	8.3	45	13.4
Duboistown Borough	558	43	7.7	39	7.0
Loyalsock Township	4,687	563	12.0	526	11.2
Old Lycoming Township	2,369	398	16.8	313	13.2
South Williamsport Borough	2,884	125	4.3	148	5.1
Williamsport City	13,524	506	3.7	719	5.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### ***Issue – Perception: Area has Affordable Housing***

Housing affordability in the Greater Williamsport planning area varies with each municipality. Residents in two of the six municipalities in the planning area are spending a greater percentage of their monthly household income on selected owner costs than county residents. Residents of Williamsport City and Loyalsock Township are spending 36.4 percent and 32 percent of their median monthly household income on selected owner costs. County residents devote 29.9 percent of their income to selected owner costs. The other four municipalities in the planning area are dedicating between 25.9 percent and 27.7 percent of their income to selected owner costs. Pennsylvanians, on average, spend 30.2 percent of their median monthly household income on selected monthly owner costs.

Median home values in 2000 varied widely in the planning area. The median home value in 2000 was \$105,900 in Loyalsock Township and \$67,500 in Williamsport City. The remaining home values of the municipalities in the planning area fell between these two. Housing would appear to be more affordable in Williamsport City, but residents lost purchasing power when their median household income declined by 11.1 percent in the past decade, explaining the greater percentage of their monthly income that is devoted to owner costs. Median home values in 2000 were \$86,200 in the county and \$97,000 in the state.

Renters in this planning area generally devoted a greater percentage of their median monthly household income to rent when compared to the county (15.8 percent). Renters in Williamsport City, Loyalsock Township, South Williamsport Borough and Duboistown Borough dedicated more than 15.8 percent (percent of renter income for the county) of their median monthly income to gross rent. The proportion was 19.6 percent for Williamsport City residents. Renters in Old Lycoming Township spent only 13.7 percent of their monthly income for rent. On average, renters throughout the state dedicate 15.9 percent of their median monthly household income to gross rent.



# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Table 1-12**  
**Housing Affordability**

Municipality	2000 Median Home Value	1999 Median Household Income	Median Monthly Household Income	Median Monthly Owner Costs, with a Mortgage	% of Owner Income	Median Monthly Gross Rent	% of Renter Income
Pennsylvania	\$97,000	\$40,106	\$3,342	\$1,010	30.2%	\$531	15.9%
Lycoming County	\$86,200	\$34,016	\$2,835	\$848	29.9%	\$449	15.8%
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	\$84,983	\$34,433	\$2,869	\$828	28.8%	\$476	16.6%
Armstrong Township	\$87,900	\$34,844	\$2,904	\$805	27.7%	\$456	15.7%
Duboistown Borough	\$78,700	\$35,132	\$2,928	\$786	26.8%	\$493	16.8%
Loyalsock Township	\$105,900	\$36,806	\$3,067	\$981	32.0%	\$538	17.5%
Old Lycoming Township	\$94,300	\$39,852	\$3,321	\$861	25.9%	\$455	13.7%
South Williamsport Borough	\$75,600	\$34,018	\$2,835	\$746	26.3%	\$488	17.2%
Williamsport City	\$67,500	\$25,946	\$2,162	\$786	36.4%	\$424	19.6%

Note: Most lenders employ a monthly housing ratio of 28%. This number is the maximum percentage of monthly gross income that the lender allows for housing expenses. The U.S. Census “monthly owner costs” include the same housing expenses plus the costs of utilities and fuels.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### ***Issue – Perception: Lack of Housing Stock and Diversity***

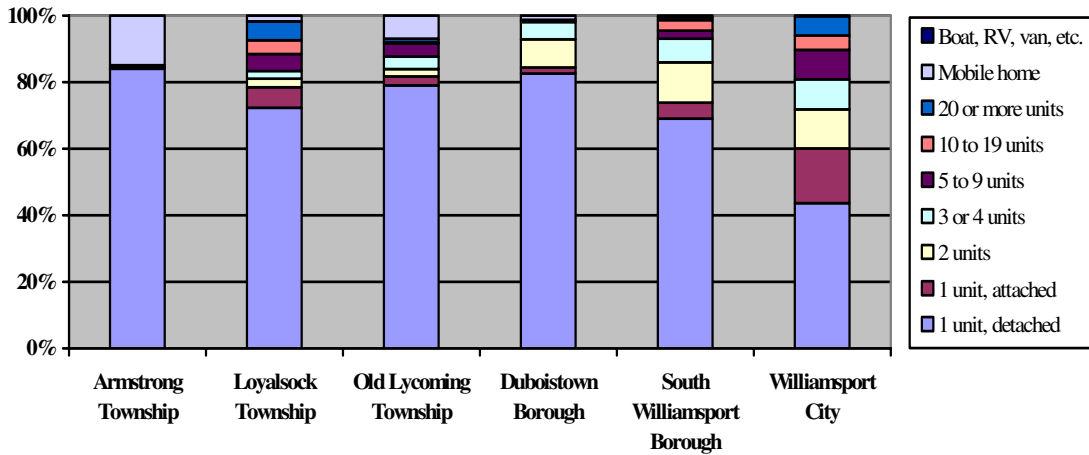
The limited diversity of housing stock in terms of type, age and value can adversely impact the ability of families to live in a particular area. This is of particular concern in regard to the elderly living on fixed incomes and their changing mobility needs, as well as the younger working population looking for a community in which to live.

An inventory of the planning area’s housing diversity is presented in Figures 1-11 and 1-12. As shown, the majority of the planning area’s housing stock consists of single-family dwelling units. However, a greater diversity of housing units exists within the City of Williamsport and South Williamsport Borough. In regard to age, the majority of the housing units in the city and boroughs were built prior to 1960, which is an indication that these housing units are in need of revitalization and may pose health risks due to the likely presence of lead based paints and asbestos. The recent housing unit growth in the outlying townships—particularly in Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships—has produced a greater supply of modern housing.

# Technical Background Studies

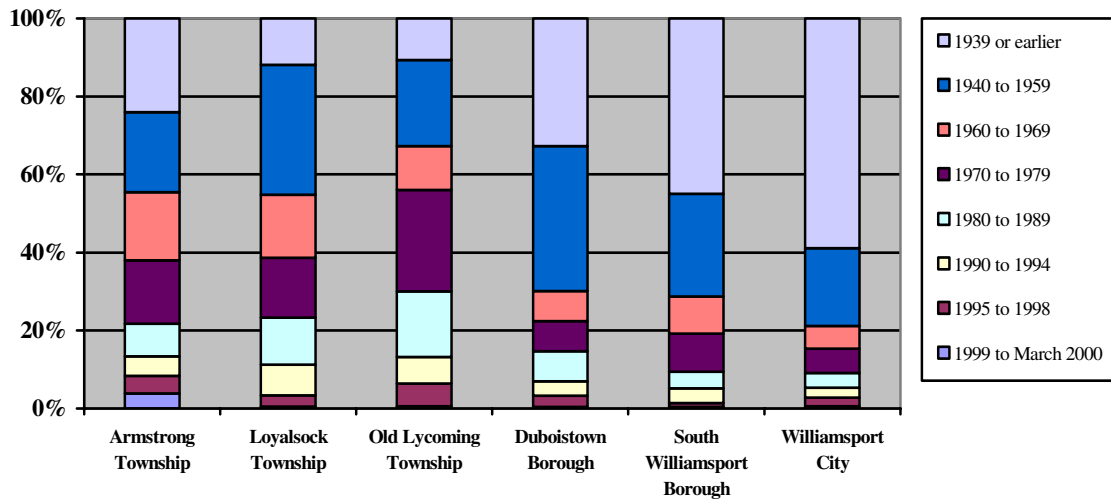
## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Figure 1 - 11**  
**Housing Diversity - Units in Structure**  
**Greater Williamsport Area Alliance Planning Area**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Figure 1 - 12**  
**Age of Housing Stock**  
**Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Technical Background Studies

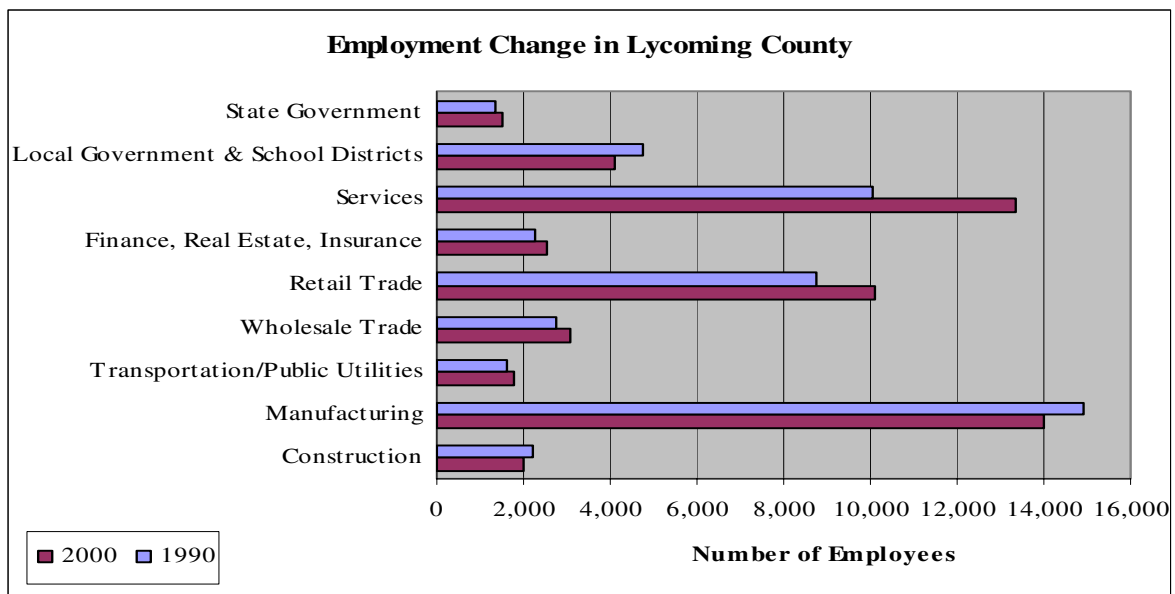
## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

### Economic Characteristics

#### Economic Overview

From 1990-2000, the State of Pennsylvania gained 57,697 jobs, for a decadal growth rate of 22.6 percent. Exhibiting a slightly higher unemployment rate (Ten-Year Average: 7 percent), Lycoming County produced an overall growth rate of 15 percent. The service industry led job growth in the County, followed by the retail sector. While manufacturing remains the County's top employer, its share of total employment has diminished over the last decade. In 1990, manufacturing employment constituted 30 percent of total County employment. By 2000, it represented 26 percent of total employment. A percentage of these job losses may be attributable to outsourcing, a practice utilized by some manufacturers to focus upon their core competencies. However, the industries most affected by job losses (i.e. apparel and textiles, transportation equipment) are being negatively impacted by foreign imports, as well. See Figure 1 -13 and Table 1 -13.

Figure 1 - 13



Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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<b>Table 1-13 Employment Change</b>			
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Construction	2,234	2,012	-9.9%
Manufacturing	14,921	13,997	-6.2%
Transportation/Public Utilities	1,642	1,802	9.7%
Wholesale Trade	2,767	3,078	11.2%
Retail Trade	8,740	10,103	15.6%
Finance, Real Estate, Insurance	2,293	2,524	10.1%
Services	10,056	13,367	32.9%
Local Government & School Districts	4,760	4,134	-13.2%
State Government	1,362	1,527	12.1%

Source: PA Department of Labor and Industry

### ***Issue – Diverse Economy with Strong Manufacturing Base***

Communities that tie their economic fortunes to a particular industry may experience tremendous financial gain, but such a strategy leaves them vulnerable to cyclical downturns in the economy. Throughout Pennsylvania, we can find examples of communities that are struggling to rebound from a decline of their primary industry. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the City of Altoona bustled with the sound of locomotives. The Pennsylvania Railroad founded the town in 1849 to service its locomotives. At its height, the Altoona Works machine shops employed over 17,000 people who serviced, designed, and built locomotives for the nation’s largest railroad company. The advent of interstate highways, trucking, and air transport led to the decline of American railroads, which continue to lose competitive advantage. Pittsburgh’s steel heritage is evident in numerous patch towns – small communities built by coal mining companies for the sole purpose of attracting cheap labor. The decline of Pennsylvania’s steel industry affected the economic viability of entire communities.

### **Methodology**

History has taught us that diversification is the key to long-term economic growth. It promotes a healthy level of business competition, which spurs process innovation and an upward trend in wages. It also helps to insulate communities from swings in the national economy. Lycoming County boasts an economy rich in industrial heritage. The County’s early growth was spurred by the lumber industry, which took off in the mid-1800s. As mills began to increase in size and supply foreign markets, Williamsport earned the title: “Lumber Capital of the World.” Today, the County retains a strong industrial base. However, it is more diversified than in years past. Manufacturing remains its largest employer and is estimated to represent 30 percent of the County’s economy. The County has also witnessed tremendous growth in its service sector, which presently employs one quarter of the County’s workforce. To document the level of

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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diversification in Lycoming County, this section analyzes the County’s economic base using three (3) primary methods:

1. **Employment Growth.** Unemployment Compensation (US) data was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I). This database represents nearly 95 percent of all employers in the Commonwealth and is considered the most comprehensive source of employment data available for individual counties. By examining employment growth and decline over the last decade (1990-2000), industries that contributed to job growth are identified.
2. **Location Quotient Analysis.** This technique utilizes employment data as an indicator of industry *concentration* and *performance*. It compares local industry employment to state industry employment to identify sectors where employment is highly concentrated. The formula utilized for location quotient analysis is as follows:

$$\text{Location Quotient (LQ)} = \frac{e^j/e^t}{E^j/E^t}$$

$e^j$  = employment by industry in Lycoming County

$e^t$  = total employment in Lycoming County

$E^j$  = employment by industry in Pennsylvania

$E^t$  = total employment in Pennsylvania

Location quotient analysis divides industries into two categories: (1) *Basic* industries deliver a location quotient greater than 1.0 (LQ>1.0) and (2) *Nonbasic* industries deliver a location quotient less than 1.0 (LQ<1.0). Export industries are considered *basic* to the local economy because they generate external demand, which fuels local business activity. Industries that lack a ‘critical mass’ of employees to qualify as basic sectors are classified as non-basic. A strong business climate exhibits a diversified economic base – with employment equitably balanced between basic and non-basic industries.

3. **Shift-Share Analysis.** Once location quotient ratios have been calculated, shift-share analysis helps to determine what factors – external or internal – are contributing to the strength or weakness of each industry sector. The approach considers three components of regional growth: (1) state share, (2) industry mix, and (3) competitive advantage. *State share* compares local employment growth to the statewide growth rate to determine if all industries are receiving their proportionate share of job creation. *Industry mix* determines the jobs created (or not created) as a result of industrial structure. And *competitive advantage* highlights local industries that outpace their statewide counterparts due to local factors.

Shift-share analysis does not uncover *specific* conditions that led to the growth or decline of given industries. However, by identifying industries that are strong local performers, shift-share analysis sets the stage for more in-depth analysis.

# Technical Background Studies

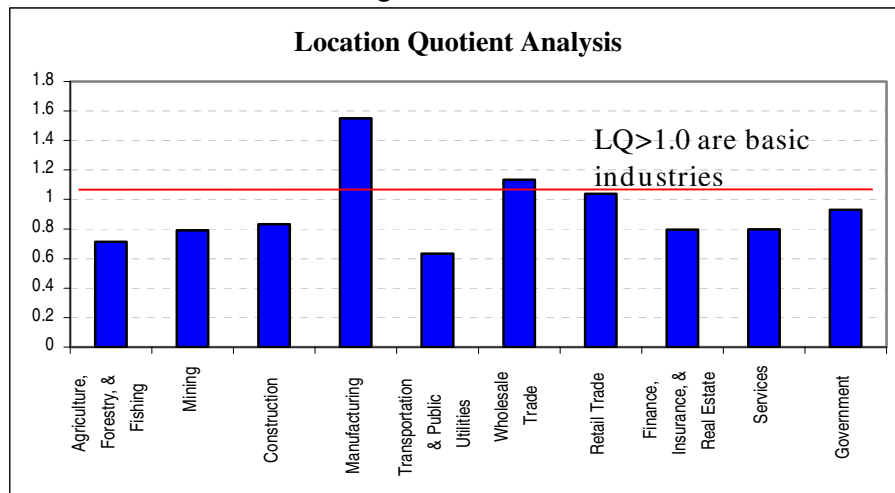
## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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### Location Quotient Analysis

The results of the location quotient analysis are depicted in Figure 1-14 and Appendix B. The graphic shows an economy that is dominated by manufacturing. However, other industries are beginning to emerge as players in the export market. Chief among them is the wholesale sector, which is comprised of business establishments distributing nondurable goods, including paper products, farm products, chemicals, and distilled beverages. Despite employment losses, the manufacturing sector remains the County's strongest sector, producing several *basic* industries that have witnessed an increase in their specialization ratios over the last decade (Table 1-14).

Figure 1 - 14



# Technical Background Studies

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Table 1-14 Manufacturing Sector Basic Industries that Increased Competitive Share					
	Primary Basic Industries	Employment		Location Quotient	
		1990	2000 (# new jobs)	1999	2000
SIC 24 <sup>3</sup>	Lumber & Wood Products	767	1,239 (472)	2.4377	3.2655
SIC 25 <sup>1</sup>	Furniture & Fixtures	1,524	1,582 (58)	7.5349	9.0378
SIC 34	Fabricated Metal Products	1,393	1,949 (556)	1.5689	2.2248
SIC 35	Industrial Machinery & Equipment	1,614	1,750 (136)	1.4949	1.8011
	<b>Total Manufacturing</b>	<b>14,921</b>	<b>13,997</b>	1.4565	1.5511

Although the service sector is not a basic industry (LQ=.7961), it is the County's largest growth sector. From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of Lycoming County's resident workforce employed in this sector increased from 20 to 25 percent. A handful of industry groups are responsible for the job growth experienced in this sector:

- Business Services (SIC 73)
- Health Services (SIC 80)
- Educational Services (SIC 82)
- Social Services (SIC 83)

Expansion within the County's service industry may be indirectly related to job losses in the manufacturing sector. As a growing number of companies seek out sub-contractor arrangements to perform critical functions, including accounting, advertising and personnel supply, the service sector has responded to this restructuring. Unfortunately, many service sector jobs are concentrated in lower-wage occupations that do not provide the level of compensation found in the manufacturing sector. As demonstrated in Table 1-15, people working retail earn less than half of the wages earned in the manufacturing sector.

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<sup>3</sup> These sectors were also identified as strong basic industries throughout the Central Pennsylvania Region by RFA Industry Services, which prepared a report entitled "Pennsylvania Regional Economic Indicators" for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in 1998.

# Technical Background Studies

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Table 1-15 Industry Wage Comparisons Lycoming County	
Industry Sector	Average Annual Wage
Manufacturing	\$30,604
Retail	\$14,173
Service	\$25,207

Source: Pennsylvania UC Covered Employment, Calendar Year 2000

Service-sector jobs earn about 82 cents on the dollar, while retail jobs earn 46 cents on the dollar. This reality underscores the importance of workforce development strategies to raise the capacity of the region to attract knowledge-based industries.

### Shift-Share Analysis

Shift-share analysis utilizes employment data to determine the competitive position of various industries. To determine the competitiveness of Lycoming County's manufacturing base, *state share*, *industry mix*, and *competitive advantage* were calculated for each industry sector. The results are depicted in Table 1-16 and Appendix C. As indicated by the negative industry mix values, several of Lycoming County's basic sectors are slow-growth industries that are not keeping pace with the state economy. In other instances, job losses are consistent with national trends. Lycoming County's textile industry, for instance, has not witnessed any significant job growth over the last decade. It remains a *basic* sector, but struggles to maintain its competitive edge. Nationwide, the apparel and textile industry has been losing employment. Changing demographics and rising imports are placing increased pressure on U.S. apparel manufacturers to remain competitive in an increasingly fragmented market. Growing competition from foreign imports has forced many U.S. manufacturers – both large and small – to close plants, announce layoffs, and outsource assembly operations. Today, the industry is characterized by restructuring, which often includes acquisition as a means to expand product lines and to broaden market share. Global competitors dominate the marketplace, leaving room for local businesses only if they manage to fill a unique niche or enter into an exclusive retailer contract.

Table 1-16 Lycoming County's Manufacturing Sector Shift-Share Analysis				
Industry Sector	State Share (A)	Industry Mix (B)	Local Competitive Advantage (C)	Total Change (A+B+C)
Food & Kindred Products	132	-199	39	-29
Textile Mill Products	46	-183	139	0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	173	-1027	363	-492
<b>Lumber &amp; Wood Products</b>	84	101	<b>286</b>	<b>472</b>
Furniture & Fixtures	167	-332	224	58
Paper & Allied Products	77	-174	-146	-243



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**Table 1-16**  
**Lycoming County's Manufacturing Sector**  
**Shift-Share Analysis**

Industry Sector	State Share (A)	Industry Mix (B)	Local Competitive Advantage (C)	Total Change (A+B+C)
Printing & Publishing	64	-97	58	24
Chemical & Allied Products	24	10	-18	16
Rubber & Misc. Plastics Products	97	54	-46	105
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	32	-75	-116	-159
Primary Metal Industries	65	-219	-22	-176
<b>Fabricated Metal Products</b>	153	-130	<b>533</b>	<b>556</b>
<b>Industrial Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	177	-294	<b>254</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Electronic &amp; Other Electric Equipment</b>	81	-99	<b>121</b>	<b>102</b>
Transportation Equipment	200	-284	-974	-1059
Misc. Manufacturing Industries	16	-28	-79	-91

\*Industries highlighted in **gray** represent sectors that are witnessing substantive job growth due to favorable local conditions.

Source: Unemployment Compensation Statistics, PA Dept. of Labor & Industry (2000)

In contrast, Lycoming County's fabricated metal industry has increased its competitive position throughout the decade *and* witnessed job growth that far outpaces its statewide counterpart. A quick glance at the companies that have located or expanded in Lycoming County over the last two years is a testament to the strength of this sector (Table 1-17), which exhibits strong linkages with wholesale trade and business services. Because this sector derives considerable benefits from the existing pool of labor and support services, it is well positioned for future growth.

The County's service sector should also witness job growth over the next decade, particularly within the area of business services. Throughout the late 1990s, the central region experienced double-digit growth in business services, outpacing statewide annual growth rates. According to a report prepared by RFA Industry Services "robust expansions in services, financial services, and trade are driving the region's healthy economic growth" (p.4)<sup>2</sup>. The presence of leading educational institutions, namely the Penn College of Technology, bodes well for future growth within the County's service sector. The future of the health sector is less certain. While the sector gained employment over the decade, it lost employment share (LQ dropped from .9762 to .9551). Restructuring in the health services industry is a response by service providers to cut costs in the face of declining profits and lower-than-expected insurance reimbursements. Whether growth in outpatient care and in-home care can offset losses to this industry (i.e. rising cost of insurance premiums, mergers, and consolidations) remains to be seen.

<sup>2</sup> RFA Industry Services (2000). *Pennsylvania Regional Economic Indicators*. A report prepared for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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Company Name	Product/Service	New Facility/Expansion	Jobs Created (Retained)	Capital Investment (US dollars)
Federal Express	Delivery Services	New Facility	80	\$2,500,000
Tura L.P.	Eyeglass Distribution	New Facility	40 (30)	\$3,000,000
Leclerc Foods	Pretzel, snack food	Expansion	0 (10)	\$6,000,000
Universal Reel Recycling	Re-manufactured cable spools	Expansion	30	NA
Truck Lite	Auto Parts Distributor	Expansion	30	NA
G & W Bandsaw Co.	Saw Blade Manufacturer	Expansion	0 (5)	NA
Keystone Friction Hinge	Fabricated Metal Products	New Facility	101	NA
Wenger's Feeds	Feed Mill	New Facility	9	NA
Gander Mountain	Retailer of outdoor & hunting supplies	New Facility	48	NA
Grizzly Industrial	Manufactures and distributes woodworking machinery	New Facility	100	NA
PMF Industries	Stainless steel hollow cones and cylinders	Expansion	60	NA
Primus Technologies Corp.	Circuit Assembly	Expansion	370	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>868</b>	<b>\$8,503,000</b>

\*this table represents data from 2000-July 31, 2002

Source: Industrial Properties Corporation, a division of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

### Conclusion

The relatively tight labor market – and current recession - may further constrain economic expansion in Lycoming County, particularly within sectors that are highly dependent upon consumer spending, such as residential construction, home furnishings, and personal apparel. Indeed, as Table 2-18 indicates, some of the companies that have issued layoffs or closed within the last year have been manufactures of durable consumer goods.

Company	Specialization	Layoff Date	Closure Date	Total Jobs Lost
American Lumber	Kiln-dried hardwood	-	7/01	85
HON Industries	Wooden office furniture	-	7/01	186
Wundies	Children and ladies	10/01 (45) 5/02 (13)	8/01 (20)	78

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Table 1-18 Company Layoffs/Closings Lycoming County				
Company	Specialization	Layoff Date	Closure Date	Total Jobs Lost
	underwear & sleepwear			
General Cable	Cord sets and appliance cords	-	9/01	341
Strick Corporation	Industrial Trailers	10/01	-	25
Grumman Olson Industries, Inc.	Truck bodies	2/02	-	170
AT & T	Voice, video, and data communications	3/02	-	25
HDM	Life-saving puncture proof fabric	5/02	-	4
Total Jobs Lost				926

Source: Focus Central Pennsylvania (2002). This database was compiled from direct and indirect (e.g. newspaper) sources. It may not represent a complete listing of companies within Lycoming County that have closed or laid off employees within the last year.

Despite its market dominance, restructuring has come to characterize the manufacturing sector, which has experienced its share of job losses throughout the decade. Although many manufacturing sectors exhibit *local* competitive advantage, these industries are *basic* in orientation, which makes them more susceptible to outside influences (i.e. demand for exports, value of U.S. dollar overseas) and large-scale economic fluctuations. As this analysis has demonstrated, multiple factors can influence industry performance. And many of these factors are outside a community's direct control. The restructuring that has characterized the manufacturing and service industries underscores the need for policies that support local business development and entrepreneurial activity. Indeed, the 2000-2001 Annual Report for the TEAM PA Business Calling Program acknowledges that nearly 75 percent of all business within the Central Region employ less than 10 people<sup>3</sup>. The program is beginning to extend its outreach services to this community, clearly a dominant player in the employment market.

### ***Issue – Local perception of a good labor force/work ethic***

A good, well-trained labor force is important to attracting and maintaining a good business climate. Based on information presented in a Workforce Study prepared for the Industrial Properties Corporation (IPC) of the Williamsport/ Lycoming Chamber of Commerce by The Pathfinders, the Williamsport/ Lycoming area maintains a labor force with a good work ethic. The workforce study is dated July 2002. Key findings of this study are as follows:

- The study area or “labor shed” included Lycoming, Union and portions of Montour, Snyder, Clinton and Northumberland counties.

<sup>3</sup> SEDA-COG. June 2001. “Understanding the Needs of Our Central Pennsylvania Customers.” Annual Report for the TEAM Pennsylvania Business Calling Program.

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- According to the study a total of 38,600 workers are available within the labor shed. Based on a survey conducted in conjunction with the study.
  - 26,500 of these workers are underemployed (now working but desire better jobs and possess the skills, education, and experience to qualify for better jobs).
  - 8,000 individuals are seeking work (unemployed).
  - 4,100 people are not working but contemplating re-entering the workforce.
- The following tables summarize employers’ views of the area workforce relative to productivity, reliability and attitudes, competencies, and availability. The tables also include comparison of the Williamsport area employers who rated their workers “Excellent”, “Good”, “Fair”, or “Poor” on each factor with the “Highest” and “Median” ratings of each factor in over 100 areas surveyed in the last eighteen months by the study consultant. The Williamsport area is compared to large, small and similar sized communities and counties from around the nation.
  - Williamsport Area Civilian Workforce 126,950
  - Largest Workforce Surveyed by Study Consultant 3,452,000
  - Median Workforce Surveyed by Study Consultant 130,650
  - Smallest Workforce Surveyed by Study Consultant 3,350
  - Number of Locations Surveyed by Study Consultant 233

Hazleton and Scranton are two additional Pennsylvania locations surveyed by the study consultant.

- Overall, 80% of employers surveyed rated workers in the labor shed “Excellent” and “Good” relative to productivity. A total of 60% of employers surveyed rated workers in the labor shed “Excellent” and “Good” relative to reliability and attitude. Overall, the employers rated the availability of workers in the Williamsport area as “Good”. According to the study, “The Williamsport area workforce received good marks for productivity. Many of the companies interviewed stated that their local operations compared favorably with operations in other locations in terms of profitability and production.”<sup>4</sup> The results of this report tend to substantiate the local view that Lycoming County has a good labor force and work ethic.

Table 1-19 Comparisons of Employers Ratings (Total Workforce) Williamsport Area Labor Shed/Locations Previously Surveyed							
Worker Productivity							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	20%	Williamsport	0%
Median	19%	Median	59%	Median	20%	Median	5%

<sup>4</sup> The Pathfinders, The Williamsport/Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Area Workforce Report (July 2000), p.12.

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<b>Table 1-19</b> <b>Comparisons of Employers Ratings (Total Workforce)</b> <b>Williamsport Area Labor Shed/Locations Previously Surveyed</b>							
<b>Worker Reliability and Attitudes</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	0%
Median	17%	Median	56%	Median	26%	Median	6%
<b>Reading/Writing Competency</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	10%
Median	9%	Median	54%	Median	27%	Median	8%
<b>Calculations Competency</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	20%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	30%
Median	8%	Median	50%	Median	39%	Median	9%
<b>Availability of Skilled Workers</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	0%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	20%
Median	7%	Median	41%	Median	37%	Median	19%
<b>Availability of Unskilled Workers</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	10%
Median	19%	Median	48%	Median	24%	Median	8%
<b>Availability of Technical Workers</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	0%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	10%
Median	7%	Median	30%	Median	46%	Median	22%
<b>Availability of Professional Workers</b>							
<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>	
Williamsport	0%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	0%
Median	9%	Median	34%	Median	38%	Median	22%

Source: The Pathfinder, The Williamsport/Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Area Workforce Report (July 2000).

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### ***Issue – Local perception that area has lower paying jobs available***

As noted earlier, good paying jobs are important to keeping a good proportion of younger workers in the area.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates occupational employment and wage estimates at the national, state, and metropolitan statistical area levels annually. The estimates are calculated from data collected in a national survey of employers. Data on occupational employment and wages are collected from employers across the country.

The following table lists employment and median hourly wage estimates calculated in 2000 by occupation. Pennsylvania’s median hourly rate is also listed. Employment is the estimated total occupational employment in the Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). In order to make a comparison between the median hourly wage in Williamsport and Pennsylvania, it was necessary to standardize the Williamsport Median Hourly Wage based on cost of living differences. Lycoming County’s cost of living index is 100.1; Pennsylvania’s cost of living index is 105.5.<sup>5</sup> A ratio of 0.054 was applied to the Williamsport Median Hourly Wage (5.4 percent difference between Pennsylvania’s cost of living index and Lycoming County’s cost of living index) to determine the “Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)”.

**Table 1-20  
Employment and Median Hourly Wage Estimates by Occupation  
Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area (2000)**

<b>Occupation Title</b>	<b>Employment (Williamsport MSA)</b>	<b>Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)</b>	<b>Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)</b>	<b>Median Hourly Rate (Pennsylvania)</b>	<b>Percent Difference</b>
Management	2,590	\$23.87	\$25.08	\$28.08	-10.6%
Business and Financial Operations	1,160	\$14.95	\$15.76	\$19.79	-20.3%
Computer & Mathematical	300	\$20.61	\$21.72	\$24.58	-11.6%
Architectural & Engineering	650	\$18.80	\$19.82	\$23.26	-14.7%
Life, Physical & Social Science	190	\$19.89	\$20.96	\$18.84	+10.1%
Community & Social Services	640	\$13.09	\$13.80	\$12.96	+6.0%
Legal	230	\$17.71	\$18.67	\$23.99	-22.1%
Education, Training, & Library	2,970	\$18.63	\$19.64	\$18.31	+6.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	300	\$9.01	\$9.50	\$15.12	-37.1%

<sup>5</sup> The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Differences in the Cost of Living Across Pennsylvania’s 67 Counties. July 2000. pp. 39, 40.

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Occupation Title	Employment (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Rate (Pennsylvania)	Percent Difference
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	2,910	\$18.27	\$19.26	\$19.09	+0.8%
Healthcare Support	1,290	\$8.19	\$8.63	\$9.61	-10.1%
Protective Service	850	\$15.28	\$16.11	\$13.19	+18.1%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	3,990	\$6.41	\$6.76	\$6.72	+0.5%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1,520	\$6.97	\$7.35	\$8.39	-12.3%
Personal Care & Service	700	\$6.74	\$7.10	\$7.79	-8.8%
Sales & Related	5,540	\$8.47	\$8.93	\$8.54	+4.3%
Office & Administrative Support	8,110	\$9.93	\$10.47	\$11.23	-6.7%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	70	\$7.58	\$7.99	\$9.24	-13.5%
Construction & Extraction	2,240	\$13.32	\$14.04	\$16.47	-14.7%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2,220	\$12.76	\$13.45	\$15.06	-10.6%
Production	6,830	\$10.70	\$11.28	\$12.02	-6.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	3,990	\$9.97	\$10.51	\$11.06	-4.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000 Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimate, Williamsport, PA MSA.

Based on review of the preceding table, adjusted median hourly wages in the Williamsport MSA and median hourly wages statewide, the comparison results in the following findings:

- Only seven of the 20 Occupation Classifications show pay rates to be higher in the Williamsport Area when compared to the statewide median. (See Table 1-20)
- Generally, the wage rates in the Williamsport Area do appear to be lower than the rates statewide.
- Some of the higher wage rate classifications associated with Community and Social Services, Education, Healthcare, and Protective Services are of interest because input from the Planning Advisory Teams indicated that locally the area is perceived as having a good education, health and community services infrastructure.
- 

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational employment and wage data suggests that the majority (43.5%) of the jobs within the Williamsport MSA earn employees between \$9.00 and \$12.99 per hour. Statewide this percentage is lower at 39.7. Approximately 26% of occupational wages were less than \$8.99 per hour, wages which some might consider “low”. Statewide this percentage is lower at 22.8. The following table demonstrates that a

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greater percentage of employees in the Williamsport MSA earn lower wages compared to the state. Similarly, a greater percentage of Pennsylvania earn higher wages compared to the Williamsport MSA.

**Table 1-21**  
**Median Hourly Wage Ranges by Employment and Percentage**  
**Pennsylvania and Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area (2000)**

Median Hourly Wage Range	Employment (Williamsport MSA)	% Total Employment (Williamsport MSA)	Employment (Pennsylvania)	% Total Employment (Pennsylvania)
> \$18.00 per hour	9,610	19.5%	1,457,740	26.0%
\$13.00 – 17.99 per hour	5,120	10.4%	648,410	11.6%
\$9.00 – 12.99 per hour	21,450	43.5%	2,226,140	39.7%
< \$8.99 per hour	13,110	26.6%	1,279,110	22.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000 Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, Pennsylvania and Williamsport, PA MSA.

Actual wage rates of employees in the Lycoming County area were identified for a Workforce Study prepared for the Industrial Properties Corporation of the Williamsport/ Lycoming Chamber of Commerce by The Pathfinders (July 2002).

The study area or “labor shed” included Lycoming, Union and portions of Montour, Snyder, Clinton and Northumberland counties. Based on a survey conducted in conjunction with the study a total of 26,500 underemployed workers (now working but desire better jobs and possess the skills, education, and experience to qualify for better jobs) were identified within the labor shed.

Actual wages as reported by the underemployed workers, are as follows:

- > \$18.00 per hour            6,000    22.6%
- \$13.00 – 17.99 per hour    6,800    25.7%
- \$9.00 – 12.99 per hour     8,800    33.2%
- < \$8.99 per hour            4,900    18.5%
- 

This data suggests that forty-eight percent of the employees within the labor shed earn more than \$13.00 per hour. Approximately 18% of the underemployed workers surveyed earned less \$8.99 per hour. The federal minimum wage is currently \$5.15 per hour.

Based on adjusted wage rate information in conjunction with the results of the countywide workforce study, Lycoming County has a comparative disadvantage in terms of a higher number of lower paying jobs compared to Pennsylvania. However, the workforce study prepared for the IPC indicates that a smaller percentage of survey respondents reported receiving wages at \$8.99 or lower compared to the state.



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### *Issue – Local perception that area has lack of employment opportunities*

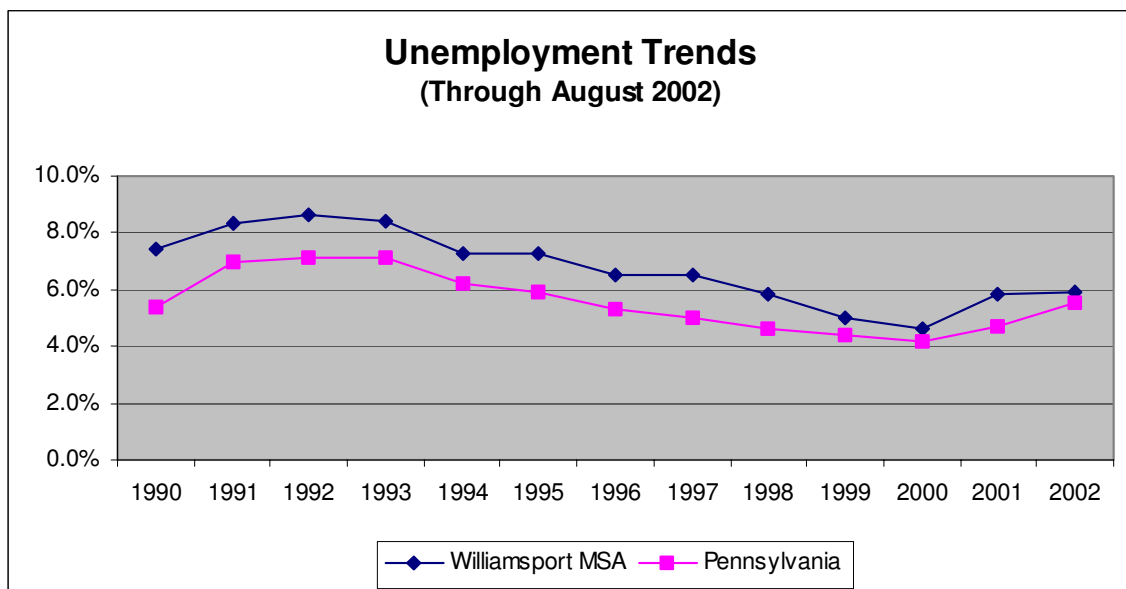
#### Unemployment Trends

Several companies in the region experienced layoffs or plants closures during the past twelve months. Therefore, the perception that there is a lack of employment opportunities in the Williamsport area is not unfounded. The following table provides civilian labor force data comparing Lycoming County and Pennsylvania in April 2001 and 2002. The county unemployment rate has increased at relatively the same rate as the state. Lycoming County's civilian labor force increased by 400; while its unemployment increased by 800.

Table 1-22 Civilian Labor Force Data Lycoming County and Pennsylvania				
	Lycoming County		Pennsylvania	
	April 2001	April 2002	April 2001	April 2002
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	6.3%	4.2%	5.0%
Civilian Labor Force	57,500	57,900	6,000,000	6,042,000
Employment	54,600	54,300	5,478,000	5,741,000
Unemployment	2,900	3,700	252,000	302,000

Source: Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

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Although there may be a perceived lack of employment opportunities, Lycoming County is aggressive in its business recruitment strategies. According to the Industrial Properties Corporation of the Williamsport/ Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the number of business prospects looking at Lycoming County to site facilities has increased during 2001-2002. During 2001 a total of 39 business prospects toured Lycoming County sites. Between January and July 2002, 50 business prospects toured Lycoming County sites. The Industrial Properties Corporation attributes a great deal of the interest in Lycoming County over the past year to a revised marketing approach.

In order to address the concern that there is a lack of employment opportunities in the county, the IPC will be reporting its efforts at recruiting new and retaining existing county businesses to the public on a regular basis.

### Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is of primary importance to the general welfare and economic vitality of the GWA Planning Area. Skills and abilities required to compete in the labor market are acquired through the educational process. These skills, in turn, provide a degree of economic security for the individual and improve the overall economic and employment conditions of the planning area municipalities.

Data collected from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses were used to provide a comparative analysis of the educational attainment levels of persons 25 years and older residing in the GWA Planning Area municipalities, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania.

The educational attainment trends presented in the Table 1-23 show that the GWA Planning Area boasts a highly educated population relative to the county as a whole. From 1990 to 2000, the share of the planning area's population that attained a post high school level education increased from 37.5 percent to 42.1 percent, respectively. These trends are a result of the post high school educational attainment level increases posted by Loyalsock Township, South Williamsport Borough and the City of Williamsport.

Relative to Lycoming County and Pennsylvania, the GWA planning area's post high school educational attainment level (42.1 percent) exceeds the county's (38.7 percent), but remains below the state's level (43.8 percent).

<b>Table 1-23</b>						
<b>Educational Attainment 1990-2000</b>						
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Percent of Persons 25 Years Old and Over by Highest Educational Attainment Level (1)</b>					
	<b>1990</b>			<b>2000</b>		
	<b>Less than 12 Years</b>	<b>High School Graduate</b>	<b>Post High School</b>	<b>Less than 12 Years</b>	<b>High School Graduate</b>	<b>Post High School</b>
Pennsylvania	25.3	38.6	36.1	18.1	38.1	43.8
Lycoming County	25.5	41.1	33.4	19.4	41.9	38.7
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	24.8	37.7	37.5	19.5	38.5	42.1

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**Table 1-23**  
**Educational Attainment 1990-2000**

Municipality	Percent of Persons 25 Years Old and Over by Highest Educational Attainment Level (1)					
	1990			2000		
	Less than 12 Years	High School Graduate	Post High School	Less than 12 Years	High School Graduate	Post High School
Armstrong Township	32.2	41.5	26.3	18.2	45.1	36.7
Duboistown Borough	24.1	40.7	35.2	13.5	49.9	36.7
Loyalsock Township	21.9	32.9	45.2	14.3	36.8	48.9
Old Lycoming Township	19.8	46.9	33.3	16.1	44.9	39.0
South Williamsport Borough	20.9	41.1	38.0	19.4	38.4	42.2
Williamsport City	27.7	36.9	35.4	22.8	37.1	40.1

Notes: (1) Less than 12 Years is equivalent to not obtaining a high school diploma or equivalency. High school graduate is equivalent to completing 12 years of school and includes obtaining a high school diploma or equivalency. Post high school includes obtaining more than 12 years years of education and includes two and four year college programs, and graduate programs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 SF3

### ***Issue - Importance of Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZs)***

Pennsylvania initiated the (KOZ) program in July 1999. Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZs) are defined, parcel-specific areas with reduced or no tax burden for property owners, residents and businesses. Over 37,000 acres of land are included in KOZ sites statewide. Over 10,000 new jobs have been created since the initial KOZ program began in 1999.<sup>6</sup>

A total of 460 acres of Lycoming County land are included within three KOZ sites. According to the Industrial Properties Corporation of the Williamsport/ Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the number of remaining acres of KOZ land is 70. The KOZ program is a valuable business attraction tool used by the Industrial Properties Corporation. Currently, 280 jobs have been created at Lycoming County KOZ sites.<sup>7</sup>

Based on this limited data one may deduce that Lycoming County's KOZ sites are producing more jobs per acre compared to the state. The ratio between the number of jobs created per acre in KOZs statewide is 0.27 compared to 0.60 in Lycoming County. This data may suggest that KOZ sites are an important economic development tool in Lycoming County.

<sup>6</sup> DCED, KOZ website (<http://koz.inventpa.com/what.html>).

<sup>7</sup> Industrial Properties Corporation of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

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#### ***Issue – Importance of Airport and High Costs of Air Transport***

The Williamsport Regional Airport is located along the Susquehanna River in the Borough of Montoursville. Two runways serve the airport. Runway 9/ 27 is 6,474 feet long and 150 feet wide and is considered the primary runway with a precision instrument landing approach. Runway 12/ 30 is 4,280 feet long and 150 feet wide and is the secondary runway with a non-precision landing approach.

The airport has regularly scheduled commercial service through USAir with seven flights daily that leave for Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. The Philadelphia flights utilize Beech 1900's having a capacity of 19 passengers while the Pittsburgh flights utilize SAAB 340s with a capacity of 33 passengers.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation completed an economic impact analysis for the Williamsport Regional Airport. In 1999, the airport had 15 aviation-related tenants on the airport that supported 182 employees. These tenants generated approximately \$19.8 million annually in direct output (sales and expenditures) at the airport. The direct and indirect impact of the airport was over 800 employees and \$50.3 million of output. There are approximately 40,000 commercial service enplanements on a regular basis. In addition to the commercial service facilities, the airport provides many services for general aviation users. These include Jet A and 100LL fuel, aircraft maintenance, hangars and tiedowns, charter flights, and avionics service.

The Lycoming County community has commercial airline service opportunities 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 United States, Canada, Europe, Central and South America. Because of the excellent connectivity of these hubs, Williamsport travelers, more often than not, enjoy one-stop service from Williamsport to the passenger's desired destination. Due to the airport administration's pro-active position on keeping ticket costs competitive, the airfares from Williamsport Regional Airport are normally within 5-15 % of competitors airport's prices.

Since August of 2002, Williamsport's airfare structure has been essentially parallel with those prices charged passengers at Harrisburg International Airport by US Airways. Since August, business traveler usage of Williamsport Regional Airport has increased. With competitive prices and the convenience of location, Lycoming County and Northcentral Pennsylvania business travelers' use of the airport will grow as "leakage" of these customers to other airports will be reduced.

Commercial air service has changed forever due to the events of September 11, 2001. Major commercial airlines experienced severe service and financial losses in 2001. In August 2002, USAir filed for bankruptcy protection, placing the future of the airline and its service areas in jeopardy. Under this protection, USAir will look for ways to cut costs and operations in an attempt to reorganize itself. Smaller commuter airports like Williamsport Regional are very vulnerable to the possibility of reduced airline service. US Airways has indicated to airport administration that their yields at Williamsport have continually been "strong." This is viewed by airport management as a plus for continued airline service, even in the current industry

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turmoil. Even so, the Williamsport Regional Airport and Lycoming County should remain cognizant of flight and service changes.

The other major issue facing Williamsport Regional Airport is its primary runway length limitations. The airport authority has been planning a runway extension to over 7,000 feet over the last several years. A major issue facing the airport is the lack of critical aircraft operations (those operations requiring additional runway length). For the purposes of this runway extension, 500 or more operations of “a family of aircraft whose gross operating weight is in excess of 20,000 pounds.” This is a change from the previous criteria of the runway extension plan at Williamsport, which originally used the Boeing 727 as the “critical operations aircraft” for the project. When evaluating critical operations, the FAA evaluates the aircraft type and runway length needed for safe operation of that aircraft when empty weight, payload, fuel requirements, humidity, temperature and wind are considered. It is from compilation of this data that the justification for the runway extension is developed. Study by Kimball Engineers on this project is continuing. In addition, while some travelers are leery of commuter aircraft (a diminishing phenomena), the airlines are moving to smaller jets for most non-hub markets. The phase out of the Beech 1900 will help to defuse the worry that some passengers have for small airlines. US Airways and other carriers are working to replace turboprop aircraft with regional jet service.

#### ***Issue – Municipal Competition hurts regional cooperation***

Local competition and regional cooperation often are seen as involving trade-offs or compromises of important objectives affecting the level of available resources. Communities competing with each other for resources often define the benefits and liabilities of resources for much smaller geographic areas than communities involved in area-wide cooperation. This can result in incomplete consideration of all of the benefits and liabilities, which may flow from the resources for which they are competing. When that happens resources that may be advantageous for one community, may turn out to involve liabilities for nearby communities.

An example of local competition that could reduce area-wide cooperation is the contest that often occurs among municipalities when an opportunity to attract a big box retail facility or a major visitor attraction occurs. In order to make facilities with area-wide attraction as successful as possible, they should locate in or near the population center and the center of the area-wide transportation network. Such transportation network and population centers usually feature highways with the greatest traffic carrying capacity of the area, in addition to at least some mass transit service in many areas. Superior transportation access in a population center location would make these facilities more accessible to a larger number of shoppers or patrons.

This also helps to reduce or eliminate the problem of financial benefit for a single municipality in terms of tax base gains, at the expense of other municipalities in which residents must drive greater distances to patronize these facilities. Agreement to seek strategic rather than opportunistic locations of such facilities also helps to ensure that all relevant decision-making factors are carefully considered, rather than allowing local competing interests in tax ratables to dominate development decision-making processes.

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Inter-municipal cooperation in development can have a favorable impact on infrastructure costs, and it can save infrastructure capacity, making it more cost effective than less appropriate locations. Such positive impacts are more likely to occur when the established inter-municipal or countywide process that provides for review and evaluation for all effective parties is followed. When this process is followed, it provides an opportunity for everyone to understand and evaluate the principal impacts during the land development approval process. Adoption of a countywide zoning ordinance is way to ensure that the same criteria are used to assess the merit of competing locations for area-wide facilities.

#### **Issue - Loss of Farms:**

Locally, farming is considered an important part of the economy, as well as important for aesthetics, open space, and habitat management. According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, compiled by the US Department of Agriculture and the PA Agricultural Statistics Service, between 1992 and 1997 yields the following results for Lycoming County with an important caveat given after the comparison:<sup>8</sup>

- Land in farms *increased* 2 percent from 132,999 acres to 135,561 acres. On the other hand, a comparison of 1987 and 1997 land in farms reveals a 2.7 percent *decrease* of farmland or 3,773 acres (139,334 acres to 135,561 acres).
- Number of full time farms *decreased* 6 percent from 469 farms to 440 farms. (The total number of all types of farms was 841 in 1997.)
- Average size of farms *decreased* 3 percent from 166 acres to 161 acres.

A comparison of these statistics to the overall picture for Pennsylvania reveals:

- Land in farms *slightly decreased* by .3 percent from 7,189,541 acres in 1992 to 7,167,906 acres in 1997. A more substantial comparison is that of 1987 land in farms to 1997. Land in farms *substantially decreased* by 8.9 percent from 7,866,289 acres in 1987 to the 7,167,906 acres in 1997.
- Number of full time farms in Pennsylvania *decreased* 5 percent in the five-year period from 1992 to 1997, from 26,959 farms to 25,635 farms, respectively.
- Average size of farms for all of Pennsylvania *decreased* 1 percent from 160 acres in 1992 to 158 acres in 1997. This average size is slightly smaller than Lycoming County's average size of 161 acres in 1997.
- 

The Census of Agriculture is a mandatory census taken every five years covering the years ending in "2;" and "7." It is a complete accounting of United States agricultural production. The census defines a farm as every place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year.<sup>9</sup> (Caveat: It is known that the Census of Agriculture changed its definition of a "farm" for the 1997 Census to be more inclusive than for previous census. While the Census of Agriculture maintains that a direct comparison can be made between the 1992 Census and the 1997 Census, it is believed that

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<sup>8</sup> US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, "Highlights of Agriculture: 1997 and 1992 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

<sup>9</sup> Website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/pub\\_bro1.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/pub_bro1.htm), "What is the Census of Agriculture?"

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1997 Census includes acreage not previously counted for Christmas tree farms and other crops or produce not previously counted.)

### **Issue - Influence of Little League Baseball:**

The local perception is that the presence of the Little League World Series plays a very significant economic role in Lycoming County and needs to be accounted for during the planning process.

For the year 2000, it was reported that domestic travelers spent approximately \$175 million in Lycoming County. The Williamsport/ Lycoming Chamber of Commerce estimated the Little League World Series, a 10-day event, accounts for \$11 million of this total. Additionally, the *total* economic impact of travel and tourism in Lycoming County was calculated to be approximately \$395 million.<sup>10</sup> A total economic impact calculation includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts of both spending and employment compensation. Little League World Series' total economic impact is thus assessed to be about \$25 million. Little League Baseball's year round economic impact is believed to be somewhat in excess this \$25 million, since it draws travelers to the county throughout the year for summer camp, ancillary events, and the Little League Museum.

### **Issue – Affordable Taxes:**

Locally, many perceive that lower taxes in Lycoming County are attractive to businesses and potential employees who may want to live in the area.

Lycoming County property taxes are affordable when compared to property taxes in other counties in Pennsylvania. The following table shows Lycoming County property taxes on a hypothetical home valued at \$150,000 as compared to four other selected counties.

	<b>Common Level Ratio <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>County Mills</b>	<b>Municipal Mills</b>	<b>School District Mills</b>	<b>Total Mills</b>	<b>Estimated Tax on \$150,000 (Market Value) Home</b>
Lycoming County (Average)	69.7	4.9	1.821148	15.61308	22.33423	\$2,335.04
Allegheny County (Average)	81.2	4.69	5.144548	19.3503	29.18485	\$3,554.71
Cumberland County (Average)	93.7	2.149	0.788218	24.78471	27.72192	\$3,896.32
Luzerne County (Average)	7.7	90.8	20.12013	202.4605	313.3807	\$3,619.55
Lycoming High - Williamsport City	69.7	4.9	9.88	17.35	32.13	\$3,359.19
Lycoming Low - Pine Twp.	69.7	4.9	0.55	8.52	13.97	\$1,460.56

Source: Pennsylvania's Governors Center for Local Government Services: Municipal Statistics Online Database

(1) The Common Level Ratio is an empirical ratio which measures how a county's assessments compare with current real estate market valuations. Each year the [Pennsylvania State Tax Equalization Board](#) (STEB) certifies each county's common level ratio. It is developed by comparing the recent actual arm's length selling prices of real property in the county with the assessments of each sold property. Thus, if a property with an assessment of \$20,000 sells at arm's length for \$100,000, its individual empirical assessment ratio is 20 percent. The average of all such assessment ratios of county properties which sold at arm's length over the past year is certified as the common level ratio or STEB ratio.

<sup>10</sup> D.K. Shifflet & Associates, *The Economic Impact of Travel in Pennsylvania: 1999-2000*, page B-25.

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### ***Issue – Access to Capital and Small Business Opportunities:***

Locally, there is the perception that the local business community does have access to capital for financing business development.

All businesses need adequate access to capital for success. In particular, small businesses need financing in order to remain competitive with larger companies in the marketplace. Moreover, small businesses with limited equity capital, fewer assets to pledge as collateral, uncertain earnings, and high failure rates have a more difficult time than larger businesses securing necessary capital. Small businesses often fail because they lack sufficient access to capital at start-up or during key growth phases.

In addition to competitive bank financing, public sector loan programs can be used with private sector financing to provide attractive financing packages to businesses throughout Pennsylvania. In Lycoming County, the following public sector loan programs are available to businesses:

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan Guarantee or 7(a) Loan Programs. This is SBA's largest loan program. Since 1992, the program has provided almost \$76 billion in capital to America's small entrepreneurs. 7(a) loans make-up nearly 30 percent of all long-term loans made to U.S. small businesses.
- The Certified Development Company or "504" Loan Program. This program generally provides financing that includes 50% banking participation, 40 % SBA participation, and 10% owner's equity injection.
- The Small Business Investment Company Program. The SBIC program is the most successful equity investment program in our nation's history. The SBIC program provides funding to all types of manufacturing and service businesses.

Pennsylvania state loan programs that are available for businesses in Lycoming County include:

- Opportunity Grant Program
- PA Economic Development Financing Authority Tax Exempt Financing
- PA Economic Development Financing Authority Taxable Financing
- PA Capital Finance Program
- Small Business First

### **Bond Financing**

- PA Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) Tax-Exempt
- PA Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) Taxable
- Industrial Sites Reuse Program
- Infrastructure Development Program

### **Infrastructure**

- Infrastructure Development Program
- Opportunity Grant Program
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority



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- Rail Freight Assistance
- Enterprise Zone Program
- Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority
- Pennsylvania Smart Lease
- Small Business First

### Loan Guarantee

- Capital Access Program
- Machinery & Equipment
- Enterprise Zone Program
- Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund
- Opportunity Grant Program
- Pollution Prevention Assistance Account
- Pennsylvania Smart Lease
- Small Business First

### Retail and Commercial

- Community Economic Development Loan Program
- Pennsylvania Community Development Bank Grant Program
- Pennsylvania Community Development Bank Loan Program
- Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority
- PA Capital Access Program

### Working Capital

- Opportunity Grant Program
- Small Business First

## Human Services Characteristics

### Overview of Human Services Needs

Identifying the human service needs of the GWA's population is one of the most fundamental components of a comprehensive plan. A determination of the most immediate needs can be attained, in part, by analyzing the trends and issues of the planning area's school age and senior populations.

Data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau was used to identify the growth changes occurring within each age group. As presented in Table 1-25, the planning area's population ages 0 to 4 has decreased dramatically over the 1990 to 2000 Census period. This trend, coupled with a shrinking young adult population, suggests that future school enrollments will continue to decline. This trend is also supported by the fact that local school enrollments are projected to decrease over the next 20 years. In addition, a continued decrease in the number of persons ages 0 to 4 suggests that there will not be an overwhelming demand for daycare or pre-school service opportunities. Similar trends are also occurring at the county and state levels.

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Similar to statewide trends, the GWA Planning Area is experiencing an increase in its elderly population or persons 65 years of age and older. As presented in Table 1-25, the planning area as a whole experienced a 9.7 percent increase in its elderly population over the 1990 to 2000 Census period. This growth rate exceeded the rates enumerated for both the county (7.3 percent) and state (4.9 percent). Moreover, the senior population growth rates of Armstrong Township (29.6 percent), Duboistown Borough (17.5 percent) and Old Lycoming Township (17.3 percent) far exceeded the county and state growth rates, which demonstrate an immediate need to further explore the service need impacts of this population segment. Such services may include, but are not limited to, adult daycare, assisted living and medical services, specialized housing opportunities, recreational and social programs, and transportation services.

**Table 1-25**  
**Trends in Special Populations (Young & Elderly)**

Municipality	Age 0-4			Age 5 - 19			Age 65+		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Pennsylvania	797,058	727,804	-8.7	2,361,520	2,542,780	7.7	1,829,106	1,919,165	4.9
Lycoming County	8,165	6,601	-19.2	25,127	25,294	0.7	17,940	19,251	7.3
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	1,504	1,232	-18.1	4,336	4,679	7.9	5,270	5,781	9.7
Armstrong Township	39	30	-23.1	129	148	14.7	81	105	29.6
Duboistown Borough	81	60	-25.9	194	257	32.5	228	268	17.5
Loyalsock Township	570	536	-6.0	1,733	1,890	9.1	2,972	3,199	7.6
Old Lycoming Township	356	266	-25.3	1,033	1,062	2.8	868	1,018	17.3
South Williamsport Borough	458	340	-25.8	1,247	1,322	6.0	1,121	1,191	6.2
Williamsport City	2474	1832	-25.9	7,066	7,015	-0.7	4,811	4,133	-14.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### ***Issue – Considered safe place to live but there is concern for perceived increase in crime and drug use rates***

For the year 2000, Lycoming County ranked 49<sup>th</sup> among the 67 counties for violent and property crimes (Part 1 offenses). Its crime rate per 100,000 people was 1,497. This compares to Philadelphia County with a crime rate of 6,905 (per 100,000) and Union County with a crime rate of 773 (per 100,000). For the year 2000, no murders were reported in Lycoming County.<sup>11</sup>

When looking at metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the City of Williamsport and Suburban Williamsport-Lycoming were among the *bottom five* MSAs for violent and property crimes (Part 1 offenses). For the year 2000, Suburban Williamsport-Lycoming's rate of violent and property crime offenses was slightly better than the City of Williamsport at 1,475.5 and 1,560 offenses per 100,000 people, respectively.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Pennsylvania State Police, *2000 Crime in Pennsylvania Annual Uniform Crime Report*, "Table 2: Part 1 Offenses Reported by County."

<sup>12</sup> Pennsylvania State Police, "Table 4: Offenses by Metropolitan Statistical Area."

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Pennsylvania has conducted biannual surveys of school students (6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders) to assess their attitudes and behaviors involving alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The 2001 survey, known as the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, presents findings at the state and regional level, but not at a county or local level. For the North Central Region of Pennsylvania (includes the counties of Lycoming, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Clinton, Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Sullivan) the following was reported:<sup>13</sup>

- Lifetime use of alcohol was 57.7%; lifetime use of cigarettes was 28.2%; and lifetime use of marijuana was 15.6%. The next two most frequently used drugs were stimulants, lifetime use of 8.4%, and depressants, lifetime use of 6.5%.
- When compared to the other regions of the state—Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, South Central, and Southeast—the North Central Region had the *lowest* lifetime use of all the drugs/ behaviors mentioned above: alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, stimulants and depressants.

The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition, Inc. has reported some of the following findings from local surveys conducted in 1995 and 2000:<sup>14</sup>

- The number of students who have drunk alcohol one or more times in the last 12 months has decreased across all grade levels.
- Tobacco use among teenagers in Lycoming County has decreased from 1995 to 2000.
- Marijuana use has decreased among 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and increased among 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Experimental cocaine use has increased among 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### ***Issue – Perception that residents of Lycoming County have good access to health and human services***

The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition Inc. was organized in 1994 and consists of a voluntary collaboration of 37 board members and over 50 Task Force Team volunteers representing various sectors of the community, including religious organizations, schools and higher education, minority groups, municipal and county government, public health, health care, civic and community organizations. The coalition's mission is to improve the health status of the Lycoming County community by identifying and facilitating response to priority health and wellness issues through a collaborative community-driven process.

This coalition currently lists approximately 250 different community service organizations and programs in its directory ([See www.lchic.org](http://www.lchic.org)).

A selected look at PA Department of Health Family Health Statistics can provide an indicator snapshot of how Lycoming County compares to the state and other counties in terms of health and morbidity rates (See [www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats)).

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<sup>13</sup> Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency, *Communities that Care: Pennsylvania Youth Survey 2001*, “Table 63: Lifetime Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs, Statewide and Regional Estimates

<sup>14</sup> Website: [http://www.lchic.org/Priority\\_Issues/priority\\_issues.html](http://www.lchic.org/Priority_Issues/priority_issues.html), “Priority Issues.”

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Clearly Lycoming County is making a conscious effort to provide information on and access to important human services.

<b>Table 1-26 Select Family Health Statistics 2000</b>		
<b>Data Category</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Lycoming County</b>
Low Birth Weight (Percent)	7.7	5.8
No Pre-natal care in 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester (Percent)	14.6	18.1
Mothers under 18 (Percent)	3.5	4.6
Infant Death Rate (Per 1000)	7.0	6.0
Hospital Beds (Per 1000)	2.9	2.6
Nursing Home Beds (Per 1000)	49.5	60.7

<b>Table 1-27 Select Health Statistics from Healthy People 2010 (1996-2000)</b>			
<b>Data Category</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Lycoming County</b>	<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>
Pregnancy Rate Among Females 15-17	31.3	27.8	43
Maltreatment of Children Under 18	8.0	7.7	10.3
Fetal Death Rate (20+ weeks gestation)	7.0	6.1	4.1
Perinatal Death Rate (28+ weeks gestation – 6 days of age)	7.5	7.6	4.5
Infant Death Rate (Under 1 year)	7.3	8.1	4.5
Neo-natal Death Rate (0-27 days)	5.1	5.4	2.9
Postneonatal Death Rate (28 – 364 Days of Age)	2.2	2.7	1.2
Child Death Rate 1 to 4 (Per 100,000)	31.1	54.4	18.6
Adolescent Death Rate 10-14 (Per 100,000)	18.8	24.4	16.8
Adolescent Death Rate 15-19 (Per 100,000)	63.6	57.2	39.8
Young Adult Death Rate 20-24 (Per 100,000)	91.2	62.7	49.0
Percent of Births to Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in First Trimester	85.1	81.9	90.0
Percent of Live Births to Mothers Who Received Early and Adequate Prenatal Care	71.8	56.6	90.0
Percent of Low-Risk First-Time Mothers Giving Birth by Cesarean	19.0	23.7	15
Percent of Infants Born at Low Birth Rate	7.8	6.1	5.0
Percent of Infants Born at Very Low Birth Weight	1.6	0.9	0.9
Percent of Preterm Live Births	9.4	7.8	7.6
Percent of Live Births to Women Who Did Not Smoke During Pregnancy	83.1	75.9	99.0

Green indicates rate is equal to or better than both the statewide rate and the target rate.

Yellow indicates rate is equal to or better than the statewide rate but worse than the target rate.

Orange indicates rate is worse than both the statewide rate and the target rate.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

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### *Issue – Increasing elderly population requiring elder care options*

As shown in the following table, the elderly population in Lycoming County is increasing.

**Table 1-28**  
**Elderly Population**

	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980 - 1990	% Change 1990 - 2000
<b>Age 65 – 74</b>					
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	5,003	5,459	4,598	9.1%	-15.8%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	1,667	2,343	2,239	40.6%	-4.4%
Lycoming County Planning Area	1,050	1,376	1,767	31.0%	28.4%
Montoursville/Muncy Growth Corridor	647	841	930	30.0%	10.6%
Muncy Creek Area Joint Planning Area	839	1,073	1,026	27.9%	-4.4%
U.S. 15 South Joint Planning Area	437	496	464	13.5%	-6.5%
U.S. 220 / Future I-99 Joint Planning Area	733	765	753	4.4%	-1.6%
Grand Total	10,376	12,353	11,777	19.1%	-4.7%
<b>Age 75 – 84</b>					
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	2,761	3,351	3,834	21.4%	14.4%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	961	1,341	1,898	39.5%	41.5%
Lycoming County Planning Area	493	647	862	31.2%	33.2%
Montoursville/Muncy Growth Corridor	305	418	564	37.0%	34.9%
Muncy Creek Area Joint Planning Area	434	599	748	38.0%	24.9%
U.S. 15 South Joint Planning Area	205	267	249	30.2%	-6.7%
U.S. 220 / Future I-99 Joint Planning Area	436	404	542	-7.3%	34.2%
Grand Total	5,595	7,027	8,697	25.6%	23.8%
<b>Age 85+</b>					
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	985	1,271	1,482	29.0%	16.6%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	486	685	786	40.9%	14.7%
Lycoming County Planning Area	108	149	198	38.0%	32.9%
Montoursville/Muncy Growth Corridor	69	107	130	55.1%	21.5%
Muncy Creek Area Joint Planning Area	117	186	275	59.0%	47.8%
U.S. 15 South Joint Planning Area	43	71	76	65.1%	7.0%
U.S. 220 / Future I-99 Joint Planning Area	132	122	192	-7.6%	57.4%
Grand Total	1,940	2,591	3,139	33.6%	21.2%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Health utilizes a population based methodology to estimate future nursing home bed need by County and the number of Medicare/ Medicaid certified nursing beds allowable per County is based on these calculations. (Title 55 - § 1187.21a (28 Pa.B. 138, January 9, 1998). The estimated bed need in Lycoming County is 928. There are currently 1,162 nursing beds in the County, which indicates a surplus of 234 nursing beds.

There are fifteen (15) licensed assisted living facilities in Lycoming County with 15 or more beds each, with a total of 739 beds. Since assisted living is not reimbursable under Medicare or Medicaid, elderly residents must have either the income or assets to pay privately for assisted living care. It is estimated that there are approximately 4,738 residents in the County age 75+ with incomes or assets sufficient to pay for assisted living care. Based on 1990 Census numbers,

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approximately 30 percent of elderly residents live alone, and approximately 35% have either mobility limitations or self-care limitations. Assuming that residents with mobility or self-care limitations who live alone are the prime candidates for assisted living, we can estimate that the approximate need among 75+ residents who could afford to pay privately for assisted living care is 497 beds, which indicates a surplus of 242 assisted living beds. In addition, there are approximately 190 independent living units in the County.

#### ***Issue – Quality Educational System***

In the late 1990s, the State Board of Education adopted curriculum regulations, replacing student learning outcomes with statewide academic standards. This policy shift reflected the administration's desire to institute a higher level of accountability, for both students and schools, within the state's educational system. These new academic standards assess student performance in three areas – math, reading, and writing. Each year, every Pennsylvania student in grades 5, 8 and 11 are assessed in reading and math, while students in grades 6,9, and 11 are assessed in writing. Based upon student scores, various performance levels can be achieved<sup>15</sup>:

**Advanced:** Superior academic performance indicating an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills included in Pennsylvania's Academic Standards;

**Proficient:** Satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. The Board of Education has established this performance level as the expected level of student achievement;

**Basic:** Marginal academic performance. Indicates a partial understanding and limited display of the skills included in the Academic Standards; and

**Below Basic:** Inadequate academic performance. Indicates little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the Academic Standards.

Under this system, schools are able to benchmark each student's performance against their peers. Parents utilize the PSSA results to track their children's progress and to determine if assistance (e.g. tutoring) is needed to support their child's educational goals. The PSSA is also a useful measure of school performance. In this section, PSSA results are utilized to determine if Lycoming County's schools are competitive with other counties in the Commonwealth. As a secondary measure of school performance, combined Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) results are compared to determine if achievement gaps exist between Lycoming County and other school districts in the Commonwealth. Finally, dropout rates are examined to determine if Lycoming schools are effectively retaining their student population. Every dropout event reflects a student who has left school without transferring to another academic institution. Because higher dropout rates are indicative of lower work-life earnings and a higher propensity toward risky behaviors, a high dropout rate is cause for concern.

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<sup>15</sup> A description of the PSSA performance levels was obtained from the PA Department of Education web site at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us>

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The indicators of school performance – dropout rates, PSSA scores, and SAT scores – are presented in Table 1-29. Some preliminary observations can be made from this data:

- Dropout rates in Lycoming County are consistent with dropout rates experienced Statewide.
- Compared to Statewide PSSA score distribution, a higher percentage of Lycoming County students exceeded the State proficiency requirement.
- In the 2000-2001 school year, the Williamsport Area School District showed the highest percentage of students (43% of all grade 11) achieving *below basic* PSSA math scores. The district's reading scores were also lower than other districts in the County. As the County's only urban school district, the lower performance scores may reflect a higher percentage of low-income households, and English as Second Language (ESL) students. Further research would be needed to determine how demographic and social conditions impact the district's comparatively weaker performance.
- While the Montgomery Area School District did not deliver the highest SAT scores in the 2000-2001 school year, a majority of its student population met either the *proficient* and/ or *advanced* levels of PSSA performance in both reading and math.
- Students in the Loyalsock Township School District scored the highest overall SAT scores in the last academic year. Twenty-four percent (24%) of students taking the exam scored in the top quartile – a higher ranking than other Commonwealth school districts (22%).

**Table 1-29**  
**Indicators of School District Performance**  
**2000-2001 School Year**

School District	Dropout Rate Grades 7-12	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Math (Reading) Scores Percent of Grade 11 Students Achieving Scores in the Following Score Groups				SAT Scores Overall Averages (Math & Verbal)  (Percent scoring in Top Quartile)
		Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	
East Lycoming	1.7	18 (12)	30 (46)	24 (18)	28 (24)	985 (17%)
Jersey Shore Area	2.6	15 (14)	29 (46)	26 (21)	29 (19)	966 (9%)
Loyalsock Township	2.2	* (17)	* (54)	* (11)	* (18)	1057 (24%)
Montgomery Area	2.2	34 (16)	30 (43)	18 (21)	17 (21)	984 (15%)
Montoursville Area	3.4	19 (14)	29 (47)	26 (24)	26 (15)	987 (16%)
Muncy	1.7	19 (17)	38 (56)	24 (19)	19 (8)	1011 (14%)
South Williamsport	1.3	12 (12)	34 (42)	26 (24)	28 (22)	1063 (20%)
Williamsport Area	2.7	16 (13)	21 (33)	21 (18)	43 (36)	974 (18%)
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	2.4	25 (26)	26 (25)	23 (25)	25 (24)	999 (22%)

\*An asterisk indicates data that has been suppressed to protect student privacy.

Source: Pennsylvania School Profiles & Public Secondary School Dropouts, Pennsylvania Department of Education (2002)

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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### School Enrollment

Lycoming County is experiencing an overall decline in its school enrollment and this trend is expected to continue over the next ten years as demonstrated in Table 1 - 30. This trend is not surprising given the decline in numbers of children under five years of age.

Table 1-30 Enrollment Projections Lycoming County School Districts								
	East Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area	Loyalsock Township	Montgomery Area	Montoursville Area	Muncy	South Williamsport Area	Williamsport Area
2002-2003	1,844	3,118	1,416	1,030	2,165	1,138	1,530	6,055
2003-2004	1,814	3,068	1,372	1,003	2,034	1,133	1,490	5,865
2004-2005	1,772	2,984	1,372	977	1,963	1,129	1,480	5,695
2005-2006	1,722	2,921	1,413	934	1,864	1,127	1,467	5,959
2006-2007	1,682	2,869	1,462	890	1,762	1,121	1,451	5,416
2007-2008	1,640	2,821	1,520	827	1,673	1,109	1,418	5,271
2008-2009	1,597	2,764	1,579	791	1,588	1,079	1,386	5,105
2009-2010	1,574	2,716	1,642	755	1,509	1,054	1,348	4,941
2010-2011	1,542	2,687	1,709	721	1,428	1,016	1,323	4,795
2011-2012	1,511	2,653	1,805	689	1,392	983	1,278	4,660
<b>Ten-Year Projected Growth</b>	<b>-18.0%</b>	<b>-15.0%</b>	<b>+27.0%</b>	<b>-33.0%</b>	<b>-36.0%</b>	<b>-14.0%</b>	<b>-16.0%</b>	<b>-23.0%</b>

Source: Enrollment Projections prepared by the PA Department of Education (based on 2001 enrollments)

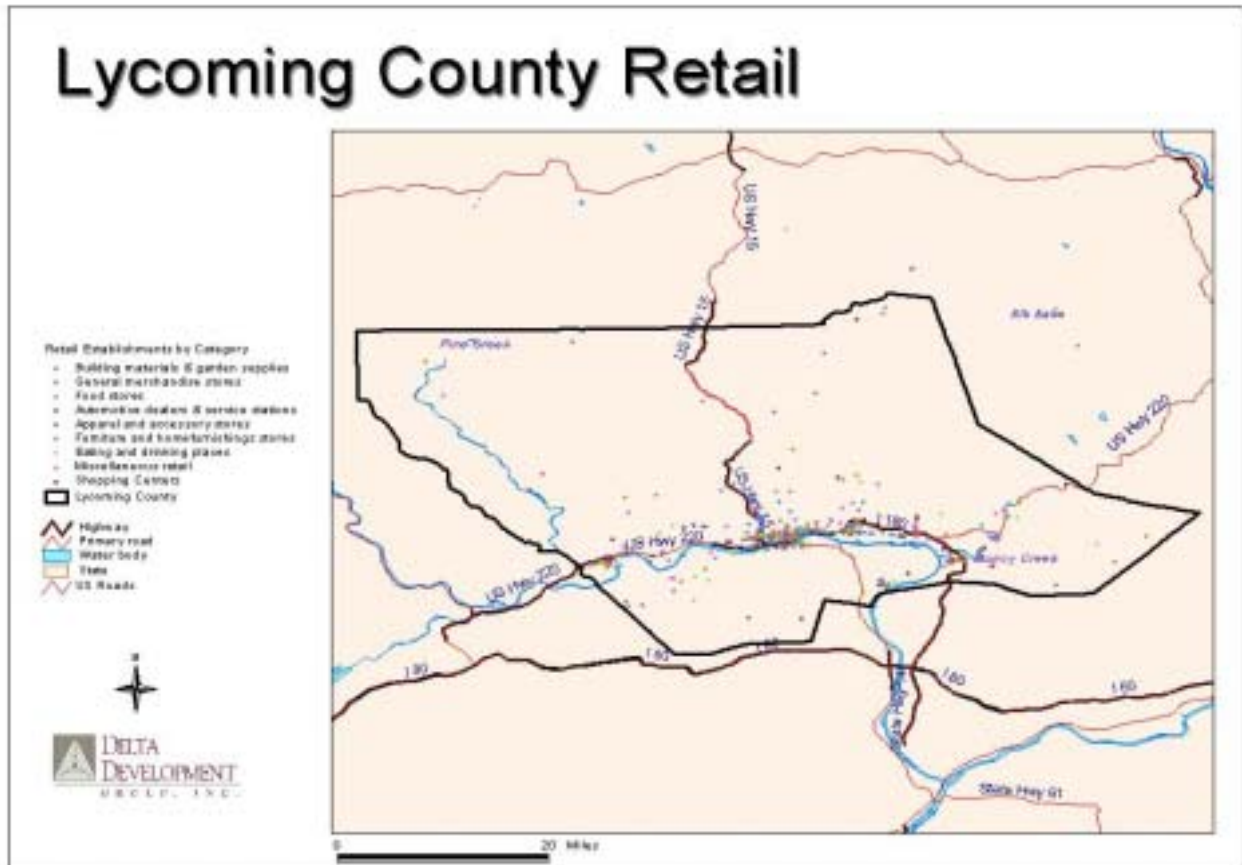
### ***Issue: Lack of retail centers and increasing storefront vacancies***

The majority of retail establishments in Lycoming County are located in the immediate area surrounding Williamsport. While it is true that other areas of the county don't have significant retail opportunities, they are within driving distance of a wide range of retail in Williamsport and adjacent municipalities including major discount stores and restaurants, in Loyalsock Township to the east. The Lycoming Mall, located in Muncy Township, has 105 shops and is anchored by The Bon-Ton, J.C. Penney's, Sears, and Kauffmans.

At this time, there are no known sources of data available to track the trends in storefront vacancies. This is a data gap that may need to be addressed in the future. Such data may be helpful in establishing any relationship between vacancies and economic growth in the business districts.



Technical Background Studies  
No. 1 – Community Development Profile



# Technical Background Studies

## No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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### APPENDIX A

#### Population Forecasts Methodology

BonData provides population projections on an as is basis with no guarantee expressed or implied. As with all projection they are a guess into the future and cannot be verified. Calculations are based on mathematical formulas only. All areas are treated the same and no “special” knowledge of a locality enters into the calculations. BonData uses accepted methodology for these calculations.

The Population projections are calculated at 5-year increments from 2005 to 2020, each year independent of the previous. They are based on model that uses average of four mathematical calculations. All projections use base census populations from the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

#### **Procedure:**

Smaller geographic areas are always adjusted so that they can be summed to the larger hierarchical area. For example, the sum of the municipalities (MCD’s) in a county will add up to that county’s total and the sum of the counties will equal the state total. The procedure works downward from highest (state) to lowest (MCD).

Projections for the State are obtained from the US Bureau of the Census and used as the controlled Base population. Using this official projection, the population for each county is calculated and adjusted to an accepted State total. The procedure is the same for each level. Statewide projection for counties are completed first and used as the adjustment base for the municipalities.

*Linear* – assumes a constant rate of growth

*Share* – assumes changes in population are based on a municipality’s share of county growth

*Exponential* – assumes an increasing rate of growth

*Shift (modified exponential)* – assumes growth increases at a declining pace

If any one method produces a zero or negative total population, the results for that method are discarded from further calculations. Results are also manually scanned for any one results that are obviously off the scale, for example; if a population goes from 1000 to 3 and this differs greatly from the results of the other methods, it would not be included in the average.

Averages are then adjusted to count totals, i.e., adjustments are made based on a municipality’s share of the sum so that the sum of the municipalities equals the county total.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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### Introduction

Modern decision-making is indeed a multi-faceted process, particularly when decisions affect large geographic areas and the populations, economics, and environments within these areas, as regional planning does. Land use data is only one aspect of the inventory phase of the planning process; however, it is an extremely important one as modern society continues to develop land while trying to minimize the potential negative impacts of such development.

### Key Land Use Issues

Through consultation with the Planning Advisory Team (PAT) and interviews with key persons within the Planning Area and throughout the County, important issues that could potentially impact the community in terms of existing land use conditions were identified. The key land use issues that were noted for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area are as follows:

- ☑ **Ridgetop development** – One of the most important issues that surfaced during this comprehensive planning process is the need to preserve the area’s scenic resources. Ridgetop development is negatively impacting the scenic landscape and at present, there are no local regulations to address this trend.
- ☑ **Steep slope development** – Steep slope development is a concern, considering that a significant proportion of the Planning Area has slope gradients equal to or in excess of 25 percent. The Planning Area’s municipal zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances do not adequately address steep slope development.
- ☑ **Neo-traditional Neighborhood Development** – Neo-traditional neighborhood development strives to incorporate into housing designs such long-neglected features as small setbacks and front porches that invite interaction with neighbors and passers-by. Such developments rely on a broad variety of house designs, but all have a central focus, and the houses are turned toward the street in a way to encourage occupants to participate in the community activities. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code now authorizes the use of neo-traditional development concepts through the Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) provisions as detailed under Article VII-A. Neo-traditional development is particularly appropriate for infill residential development or redevelopment. Current municipal regulations prescribe suburban-type development and do not allow for neo-traditional designs.
- ☑ **Land use/interchange impacts from Interstate 99** – The future development of I-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 potential negative impacts, as well as providing sufficient infrastructure to accommodate potential growth. Current municipal land use regulations do not specifically deal with highway interchange development activities.

## Technical Background Studies

### No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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- ☑ **Junk/Salvage Yards** – Unregulated junk/ salvage yards are posing a serious threat to the Planning Area’s scenic beauty and rural quality of life. There are no specific local ordinances that regulate this condition.
- ☑ **Lack of retail shopping services** – Although the Planning Area is considered the County’s core commercial area, many feel there is a lack of retail shopping opportunities, particularly in Downtown Williamsport.
- ☑ **Gateway to the City of Williamsport on US 15 North** – Gateways, or entrance points, to the City provide first impressions to visitors and initially define its community image. Image is important because the success of the community is highly dependent on residents’ perceptions. Such perceptions are often referred to as civic pride, which is perceived to be very strong in the Planning Area. The image of the City to outsiders is just as important, because it influences the decisions of individuals or companies contemplating a return visit or move to the Greater Williamsport area.
- ☑ **Reach Road Industrial Park** – Situated between Reach Road and U.S. 220, the Reach Road Industrial Park has limited room for expansion, which will ultimately impact the growth and vitality of the local economy.
- ☑ **Susquehanna Campground Flooding** – Located along the Susquehanna River, the Susquehanna Campground is a recreational amenity that attracts hundreds of visitors annually and supports the local tourism industry. However, this amenity is regularly subject to flooding.
- ☑ **Telecommunication towers** – The proliferation of the nation’s telecommunications industry has left many Pennsylvania municipalities ill-prepared for the impacts caused by wireless telecommunication towers and associated infrastructure. Due to the urban nature of the Planning Area, the wireless telecommunication facilities are well-established and do not pose a significant impact.
- ☑ **Standardized land use inventory** – The need for developing a standardized land use inventory system has long been recognized. Such a system would greatly benefit regional cooperation and planning initiatives, as well as enhance economic development initiatives. Moreover, a standardized land use system would help 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.
- ☑ **Standardization of zoning** – In an effort to achieve a high level of consistency, the Lower Lycoming Creek and Greater Williamsport Area Alliance Planning Area municipalities have expressed interest in developing a standardized set of zoning terminology, supported by consistent dimensional and use provisions.

## Technical Background Studies

### No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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- ☑ **Opportunities for growth** – The Planning Area is considered the economic core of Lycoming County. Defining opportunities for growth and development/ redevelopment is a high priority of both the member municipalities and the County. The City of Williamsport’s Central Business District Revitalization Plan is one part of this process.
  
- ☑ **Uniform Construction Code** - The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC; Act 45 of 1999) will establish consistent construction standards in every municipality in the Commonwealth. The goal of the law is to prevent substandard construction, both for residential and commercial purposes.

### Existing Land Use Patterns

The Lycoming County Planning Commission (LCPC) developed a Countywide inventory of each municipality’s land uses using the American Planning Association’s Land-Based Classification Standards (LBCS) model. The LBCS provides a *consistent* model for classifying land uses based on their characteristics and updates the 1965 *Standard Land Use Coding Manual* (SLUCM), a standard that was widely adopted for land-use classifications.

The standards employed under the LBCS methodology are based on a multi-dimensional land-use classification model. For local planning purposes, LBCS calls for classifying land uses in the following dimensions: Activity, Function, Structure Type, Site Development Character, and Ownership. APA provides the following descriptions for these five dimensions.

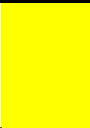









- Activity refers to the actual use of land based on its observable characteristics. It describes what actually takes place in physical or observable terms, for example, farming, shopping, or manufacturing.
  
- Function refers to the economic function or type of establishment using the land, for example, agricultural, commercial, or industrial.
  
- Structure refers to the type of structure or building on the land, such as single-family house, office building, warehouse, hospital building, or highway.
  
- Site development character refers to the overall physical development character of the land. For most land uses, it is simply expressed in terms of whether the site is developed or not.
  
- Ownership refers to the relationship between the use and its land rights, and is usually either public or private.

The LCPC prepared an initial land use inventory by photo-interpreting the County’s low level digital aerial photography, which was recently updated in 2000. The identified land uses were primarily classified using the LBCS’s Activity and Structure dimensions. Table 1-1 presents a descriptive overview of each classification used by the LCPC.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

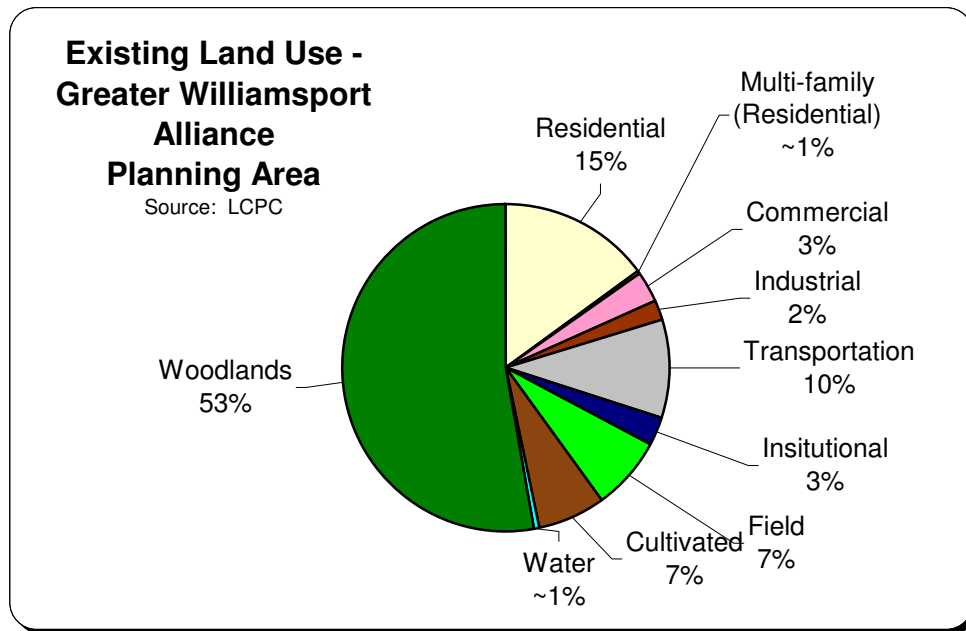
Table 1 - Land Use Classifications Summary

Dimension	Code	Land Use Classification	Description	Color (RGB)	Color Fill
Activity	1000	Residential	Includes activities that occur in all types of residential uses (except multi-family), structures, ownership characteristics, or the character of the development.	Yellow (251, 248, 60)	
Structure	1200	Multi-family (Residential)	A subset of the Residential Activity, the Multi-family Structure dimension is defined by the number of units and not by the number of floors or stories in the structure.	Orange (255, 102, 0)	
Activity	2000	Commercial	This category captures all uses that are business related. Use it as a catch-all category for all retail, office, commercial, and industrial activities when the subcategories are either too specific or otherwise unknown (as in comprehensive plan designation).	Red (233, 51, 51)	
Activity	3000	Industrial	Includes land accommodating manufacturing, assembly, warehouse, and waste management activities. Use this as a catch-all category for anything not specified in subcategories below.	Purple (172, 89, 202)	
Activity	5000	Transportation	This category encompasses activities associated with all modes of transportation. It includes rights-of-way and such linear features associated with transportation.	Gray (210, 210, 210)	
Activity	6000	Institutional	The Activity dimension includes land that is currently used for schools, government, hospitals, public recreational facilities, nursing homes, and treatment facilities.	Dark Blue (0, 0, 128)	
Activity	8300	Field	This LCPC classification includes uses associated with non-cultivated land areas that are typically used for pasturing, grazing and grass harvesting activities.	Chocolate (139, 69, 19)	
Activity	8100	Cultivated	This LCPC classification Agricultural activities, such as farming, plowing, tilling, cropping, seeding, cultivating, and harvesting for the production of food and fiber products. Also includes sod production, nurseries, orchards, and Christmas tree plantations.	Light Green (204, 255, 204)	
--	9000	Water	Identifies the county's surface water features, which include lakes, major streams, and the Susquehanna River.	Aqua (0, 255, 255)	
--	9000	Woodlands	Identifies the county's forested areas and includes activities associated with forestry and outdoor recreational activities. It also includes private hunting club lands.	Dark Green (0, 139, 0)	

## Technical Background Studies No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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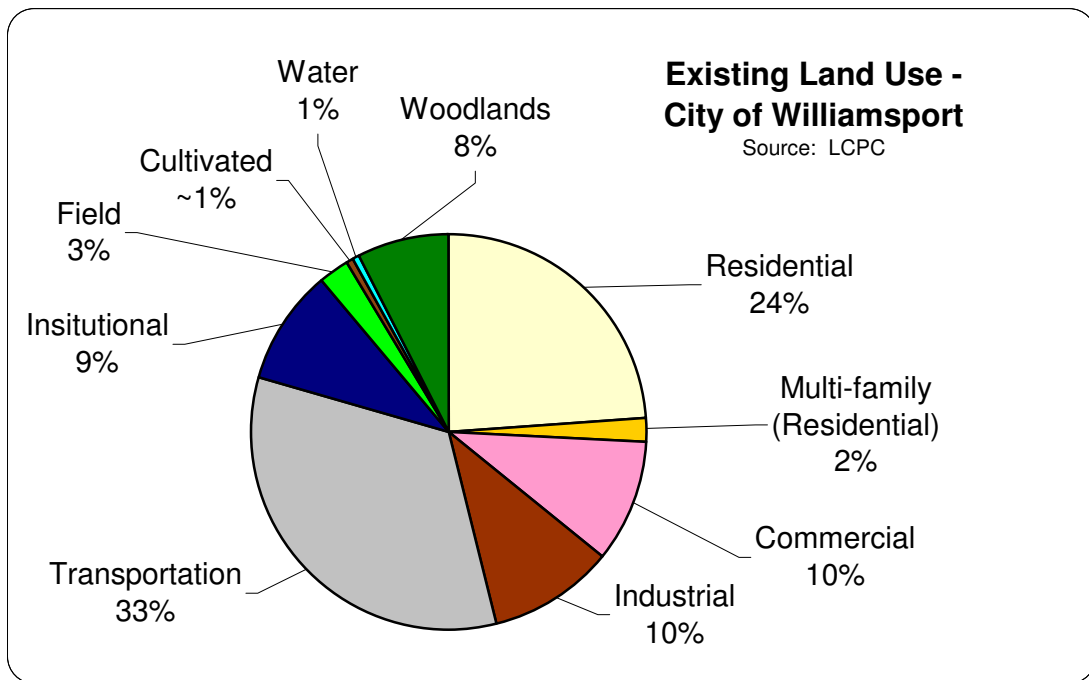
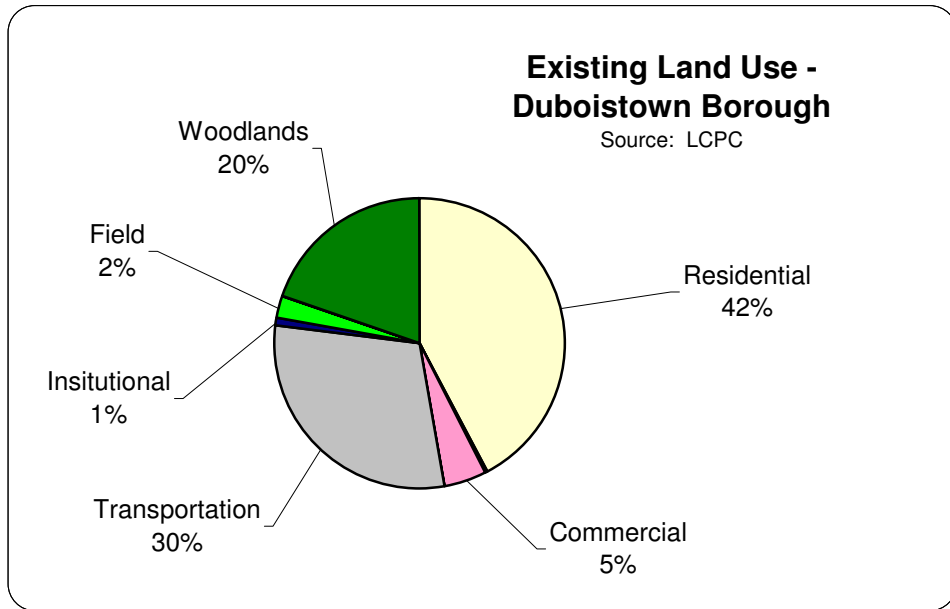
The graphs that follow provide a summary of the existing land uses for the Planning Area as a whole and for each individual municipality. The City of Williamsport and the Boroughs of South Williamsport and DuBoistown exhibit fairly urban land use distributions, while Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships are more suburban in nature. Armstrong Township is quite different as 93 percent of land use falls into the open space categories of Woodlands, Field, and Cultivated.



# Technical Background Studies

## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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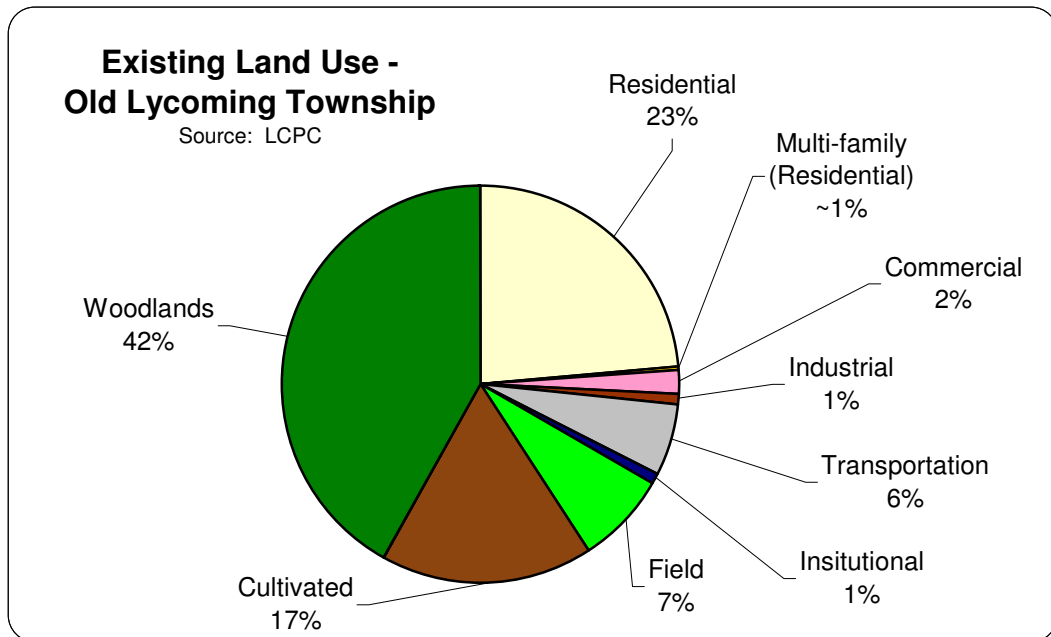
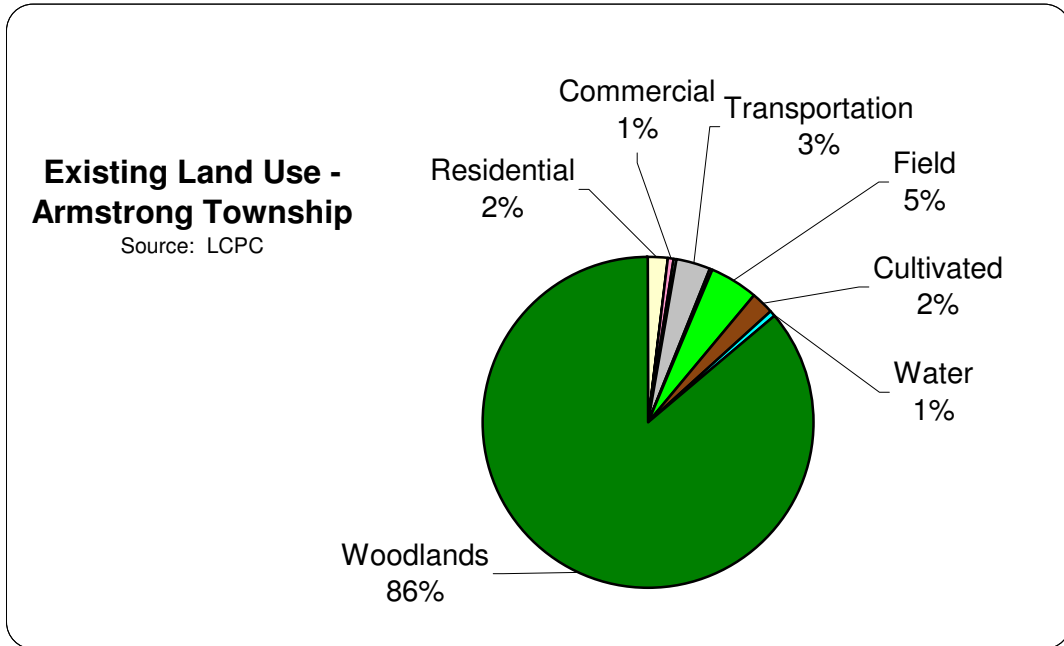




# Technical Background Studies

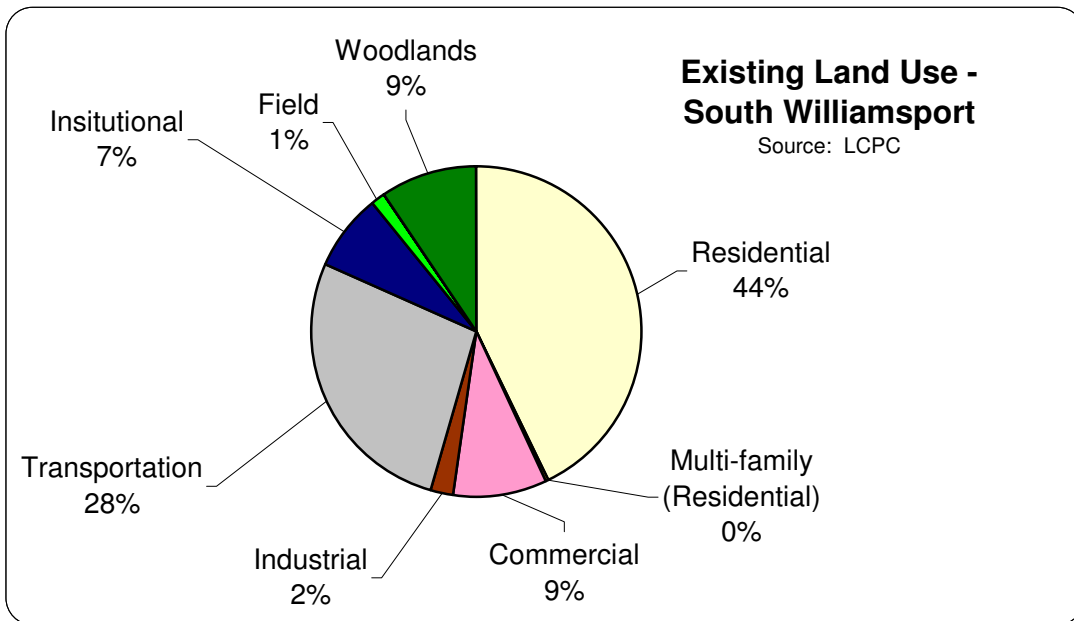
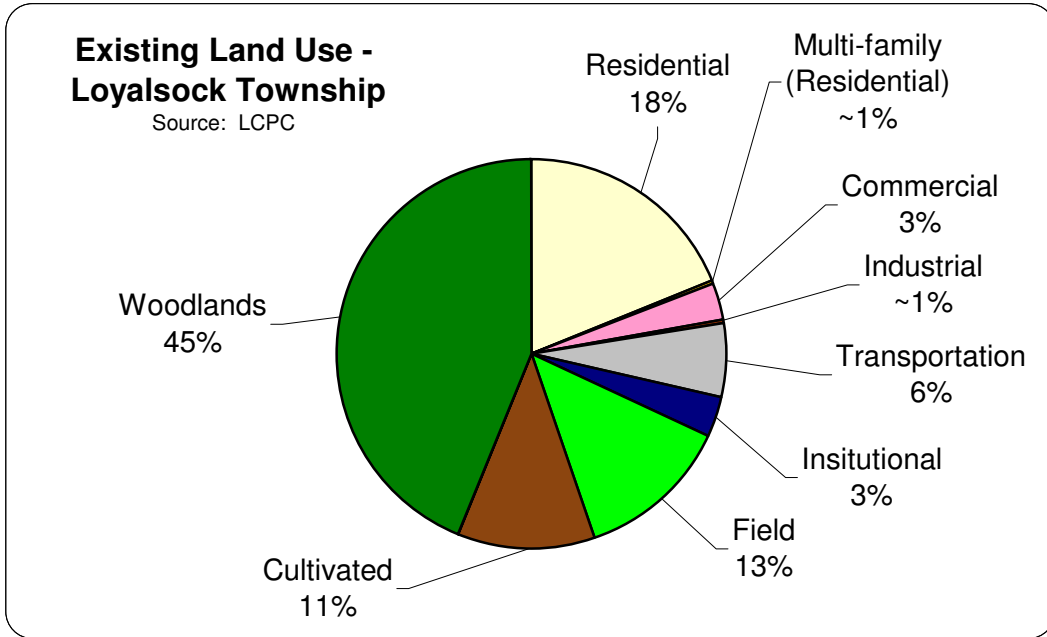
## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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# Technical Background Studies

## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile



## Technical Background Studies

### No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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Current land use in the Planning Area is heavily influenced by topography and historical development patterns, particularly the presence of the US 220 and US 15 transportation corridors. The past importance of the Susquehanna River has combined with the rough terrain of the surrounding area to focus development in the relatively flat areas along the river and its tributaries. The following is a brief summary of the land use patterns in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area.

**Residential** – Residential land uses account for an average of 15 percent of all land uses in the Planning Area. However, this figure ranges from a high of 44 percent in South Williamsport to a low of 2 percent in Armstrong Township.

**Commercial/Industrial** – This type of land use accounts for only 5 percent of all land uses for the Planning Area. In Williamsport they account for about 20 percent and 11 percent in South Williamsport. In Armstrong Township they account for a mere 1 percent, and in the northern townships, for about 3 percent.

**Institutional** – This type of land use accounts for 3 percent of the Planning Area, from 9 percent in Williamsport, to less than one percent in Armstrong Township.

**Transportation** – The amount of area devoted to transportation facilities is quite significant, particularly in the southern boroughs where it accounts for 28 to 30 percent of all land uses. For the entire Planning Area, transportation occupies about 10 percent of the total land area.

**Agriculture** – This category includes both field and cultivated land use classifications. These are most prevalent in Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships, where they account for about 24 percent of all land uses; for the Planning Area as a whole, they account for only 14 percent.

**Woodlands** – This use accounts for only 8 to 9 percent of all land uses within the more urbanized areas of the City of Williamsport and South Williamsport. In Duboistown Borough, it accounts for 20 percent and in the northern townships for 42-45 percent; Armstrong Township has the highest percentage at 86 percent.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 2. - Existing Land Use Profile

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### Land Use Regulations

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) provides the legal framework for local governments to enact, administer and enforce both zoning, and subdivision and land development regulations. Zoning is a method a community may use to regulate the use of land and structures and is designed to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to guide growth. In contrast, subdivision and land development regulations control how a use or activity relates to the land upon which it is located. But before any land use regulations are implemented, a well-articulated statement of community development objectives must be achieved through a comprehensive planning process. These objectives should be supported by sufficient analysis and documentation to defend the zoning, and subdivision and land development ordinances.

The following table provides an inventory of the enacted municipal zoning and subdivision/ land development ordinances in the Greater Williamsport Planning Area.

**Selected Land Use Regulations for the Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Municipalities**

Municipalities	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance	Floodplain Development	Stormwater Management
Armstrong Township	■	■	■	■
Duboistown Borough	■	■	■	■
Loyalsock Township	■	■	■	■
Old Lycoming Township	■	■	■	■
South Williamsport	■	■	■	■
Williamsport City	■	■	■	■

Legend:

- Municipal Enacted Ordinance

It should be noted that, while there are no Agricultural Protection Zoning ordinances within the Planning Area, there are zoning ordinances that do establish agricultural use districts. However, these do not afford any protection from land development. Instead there are several agricultural preservation programs available to land owners and they are being used. At the present time, over 10,000 acres across the County are enrolled in these programs. The most popular program is Clean and Green with over 91 percent of the protected acres. Agricultural Security Areas are much less popular, but this may be due to the 250 minimum acre requirement. What is most interesting is that approximately 67 percent of the open spaces within the Planning Area, i.e. field, cultivated, and woodland, are enrolled in some type of protection program.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 3 - Utilities Profile

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### Introduction

This chapter examines the full range of utilities infrastructure, available in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area related to the functioning of the communities, economic growth, health, education, welfare, safety and other needs of the citizens. These utilities include sewer, water, electric, gas and telecommunications. Available utilities infrastructure has a big effect on future economic development and growth. Adequate infrastructure is an essential ingredient in fostering new development and in retaining and strengthening existing business and industry. This profile is useful in identifying strengths as well as inadequacies and needs.

### Key Utilities Issues

Through consultation with the Planning Advisory Team and interviews with key persons and focus groups within the planning area and throughout the County, the important issues that could potentially impact on the community in terms of utilities were identified. The utilities issues that were noted for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area are as follows:

- ☑ **Water Quality for Wells** - The quality of the natural groundwater is not high in many areas. Although well water may be potable, often it is not palatable without treatment. Pollution of groundwater from non-point sources, such as agriculture, has not been identified as problematic.
- ☑ **Water Quantity for Wells** - The quantity of water available through drilling of private wells has been problematic in several areas.
- ☑ **Storm Water Management Problems** - Development has occurred without storm water management controls required. Only the City of Williamsport has a combined sanitary and storm sewer systems, the remainder of the planning area's municipalities have separated systems.
- ☑ **Campground Sewage Disposal** - The Susquehanna River corridor, has public and private campgrounds, as well as numerous river recreation lots. Use of river lots is restricted to a six-month period over the spring and summer. Collection and disposal of sewage from this concentrated recreational use is a significant issue.
- ☑ **Campground/River Lot Flooding** - The public and private campgrounds, as well as river recreation lots, located along the Susquehanna River are in most cases located within the floodway. There is a concern for safety, and pollution from stored items.
- ☑ **Sewer Expansion Capacity** - The Williamsport Sanitary Authority has a limited excess capacity available for growth. Expansion of capacity will require renovations and improvements to each facility.

## **Technical Background Studies No. 3 - Utilities Profile**

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- ☑ **Flood Protection** - The majority of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area has adequate flood protection from the Susquehanna River. Portions of Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships do not have adequate flood protection.

### **Background Utilities Data**

#### **Utility Networks**

Residential and commercial development in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area will place greater demands on natural gas, electricity, cable service, and telecommunication services. Although most of the service providers have the ability to meet increased demands, it is essential that a review of service providers and service areas be completed for the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Natural Gas**

PGEnergy provides gas service to the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area.

#### **Bottled propane Gas**

Propane gas is available to all of the municipalities within this planning area. The following providers make deliveries: Agway Energy Products, Amerigas, Montour Oil Service Company, and Suburban Propane.

#### **Electricity**

PPL Utilities, Inc. in Montoursville, PA is the major provider of electric service in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area. Pennsylvania is one of several states that offer residents a choice in their electric service generation supplier. Under the Electric Choice program established in 1999, customers can select their electric service based on cost, services and incentives, or personal preference.

#### **Telephone**

Verizon Communications provides local service for residents of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area. Long distance service is offered by a number of long-distance carriers.

#### **Cellular Service**

Cellular Telephone services are available through AT&T Wireless, Cellular One, Conestoga Wireless, Montour Wireless, Nextel, Radio Shack and Verizon Wireless.

## **Technical Background Studies No. 3 - Utilities Profile**

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### **Cable TV**

Susquehanna Communications, 330 Basin Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, provides cable TV services to the more densely populated areas of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area. Satellite service is available in areas where cable service is not available.

### **Internet Service Providers**

Local internet service providers include Susquehanna Communications, Chili Tech, and Keystone Community Network. Many national internet service providers are also available, such as Earthlink, AOL, Compuserve and MSN.

### **Broadband Service**

Broadband service is available primarily in urban and industrialized areas. See the Broadband Service by Zip Code Map for availability of broadband service.

### **Public Water Service Facilities**

The Williamsport Municipal Water Authority provides public water service to residents of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning. The Mountain Laurel Mobile Home Park also has a public water supply system. The table below contains information pertaining to these public water systems. The remaining residents are served by private, on-lot wells.

Both of these systems have adequate capacity through 2020. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the Mountain Laurel Mobile Home Park include well safe yield capacity.

Additional information is available in the Lycoming County Water Supply Plan completed in September 2001. The Water Service Area Map shows those areas that are capable of connecting to a public water supply source. Also refer to the Groundwater Availability Map, which shows the areas with potential problems for private wells.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 3 - Utilities Profile

GREATER WILLIAMSPORT ALLIANCE PLANNING AREA WATER SYSTEMS							
Water System	Area Served	Water Source	Population Served	Treatment		Storage	
				Filtration	Capacity (gpd)	Raw (gallons)	Finished (gallons)
Williamsport Municipal Water Authority	Williamsport, Duboistown and South Williamsport & Armstrong, Loyalsock, and Old Lycoming Townships	2 surface impoundments backed by 9 Wells	53,000	Yes	12,500,000	1.081bg	12,800,000
Mountain Laurel Mobile Home Park	Armstrong Township	2 Wells	74	No	N/ A		Unknown

### Public Sewer Service Facilities

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act of 1966 as amended is also known as “Act 537”. It is the primary law controlling individual and community sewage disposal systems. It requires every municipality in the state to prepare and maintain an up-to-date sewage facilities plan. These plans are required to be reviewed and updated as necessary every five years. The following table indicates plan approval dates:

Armstrong Township	11/ 22/ 1997	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old
Duboistown Borough	1/ 6/ 1999	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old
Loyalsock Township	1/ 6/ 1999	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old
Old Lycoming Township	2/ 3/ 2000	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old
South Williamsport	2/ 7/ 1991	Plan Approval Date 1986 - 1991
Williamsport City	1/ 6/ 1999	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old

### Williamsport Sewage Treatment System

Williamsport Sanitary Authority operates and maintains two sewage treatment plants serving the City of Williamsport, Armstrong Township, Duboistown Borough, Loyalsock Township, Old Lycoming Township, and South Williamsport Borough. The Sewer Service Area Map shows those areas that are capable of connecting to a public sewer. All other areas within the above townships and boroughs are served by on-lot septic systems.



## **Technical Background Studies No. 3 - Utilities Profile**

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The Authority's conveyance system consists of 8" to 42" collector and interceptor mains. The conveyance system is strictly a sanitary system in the above-mentioned townships and boroughs. In addition, there are three Municipal-owned and operated pumping stations: one is located in Duboistown Borough at Valley Street, one is located in Loyalsock Township at Bull Run and one is located in South Williamsport Borough at Charles Street.

The Williamsport plants are designed for 12.3 million gallons per day (mgd), with a maximum monthly average daily flow of 16 mgd.

### **On-lot Septic Systems**

The remaining areas are serviced by on-lot septic systems. The Sewage Enforcement Officer for the Townships within the Planning Area is with the Lycoming Sanitary Committee. As outlined in the Lycoming County Soil Survey, soil type also affects septic tank absorption. Soils are rated according to their absorption capabilities, and range from slight, i.e., few limitations to absorption, to severe, i.e., limitations so difficult to overcome that special designs and additional costs are necessary. Many of the planning area's soils are classified as severe. While this does not preclude development, the cost of installing adequate on-lot sewage disposable systems is much higher. Without the proper systems, the chances of groundwater contamination due to system failure are much greater. Site-specific analysis for new development is essential to ensure that the proper systems are put in place.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 4 – Transportation System Profile

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### Introduction

The transportation network of a community is the backbone for its development and prosperity. It can help attract merchants and residents and is the overall foundation for community growth. A carefully planned roadway network will ultimately provide for the advancement and success of a community; however, if poorly planned or maintained, it can deter prosperity and overshadow a community's positive attributes.

### Key Transportation Issues

- This area is well served by road, rail and air transportation facilities.** Residents and business owners value the access they have to the various transportation networks.
- The new I-99 /US 15 Interchange in Williamsport** can have numerous future impacts, including smoother through traffic flow, and improved access. Providing improved connectivity to arterial streets will be a critical component for enhancing redevelopment opportunities.
- Traffic Safety** – Specific details to be provided by PAT.
- Access to the west end of the city**, particularly the Industrial Park, needs to be improved.
- The Williamsport Regional Airport** is located in the Borough of Montoursville. It 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. Additional details regarding other issues concerning runways and accessibility can be found in the Community Development Profile.
- City Bus provides public, fixed route transit services to the area.** There are numerous routes throughout the area, as well as additional services for the disabled and for seniors.
- The SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority has played a key role in preserving** freight services in the Planning Area by purchasing the Williamsport Branch Line from Conrail. Currently, the line is operated by the Lycoming Valley Railroad. The authority's goal is to "preserve service to rail-dependent industries through shortline

## Technical Background Studies

### No. 4 – Transportation System Profile

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operations”. However, there are no passenger rail services in the area. At the present time, the Authority serves 8 Counties and owns 300 miles of track and 5 shortline railroads that haul approximately 30,000 carloads of freight annually. This has allowed some 50 companies to remain cost competitive, which, in turn, has protected over 2,000 jobs in the region. The LVRR alone services 20 companies and handles approximately one third of the total carloads of freight. Currently, there are also concerns regarding the preservation of the Norfolk-Southern Harrisburg to Buffalo Main Line.

- ☑ **Limited parking within the city** hinders growth of local merchants and, in some cases, keeps new merchants from locating downtown.
  
- ☑ **Limited parking within the residential areas** of Williamsport, South Williamsport, Duboistown, and Loyalsock Township.

### Existing Roadway Network Overview

The major roadways servicing the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area are as follows:

- Interstate 180 runs along the north side of the Susquehanna River from new US 15 North east through Loyalsock Township and continues on to I-80 in Northumberland County. At US 15, the road becomes US 220.
  
- US 15 runs north through the east end of Armstrong Township, through South Williamsport. It crosses the Susquehanna River into the City of Williamsport where it connects with I-180. These two roads follow the same right of way west to Lycoming Creek where US 15 heads north into Tioga County and from there into New York. This stretch will become part of the new I-99 corridor.
  
- SR 2014, which is Broad Street in Montoursville and Third Street in Williamsport, provides additional east/west access through these municipalities.
  
- Route 554, Sulphur Spring Road, provides north/south access through Armstrong Township out of South Williamsport, while SR 654 (Euclid Ave./Riverside Drive) connects Duboistown and South Williamsport.
  
- Other major thoroughfares include SR2018 (Four Mile Drive/Grampian Blvd), 2016 (High Street), and Old US 15.

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### Functional Classification

Roadways are grouped into categories according to the service they are intended to provide. Known as the functional classification system, the categories serve as a guide for both planning and funding purposes and are summarized below.

**Interstates** are limited access highways designed for traffic between major regional areas or larger urban communities of 50,000 or more. These highways extend beyond state boundaries, with access limited to interchanges located by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Interstate 180 is the only one within the Planning Area.

**Freeways** are limited access highways designed for large traffic volumes between communities of 50,000 or more to regional traffic generators (such as central business districts, suburban shopping centers, and industrial areas). Freeways should be tied directly to arterial roads, with accessibility limited to specific interchanges to avoid the impediment of thru traffic. US 15 North along Lycoming Creek and US 220 from the Woodward Township line to its junction with US 15 North are the only freeways in the Planning Area. Eventually, they will both become part of the new I-99.

**Principal Arterials** are roads that provide land access while retaining a high degree of thru traffic mobility and serve major centers of urban activity and traffic generation. These roadways provide a high speed, high volume network for travel between major destinations in both rural and urban areas. U.S. 15 south through South Williamsport and Armstrong Township is classified as a principal arterial, as are Third and Fourth Street between US 15 north and south in Williamsport.

**Minor Arterials** are roads that provide land access with a lower level of thru traffic mobility than principal arterials and serve larger schools, industries, institutions, and small commercial areas not incidentally served by principal arterials. SR 2014 (Washington Boulevard), 2016 (High Street), 2018 (Grampian Blvd.), 654 (Riverside Drive), and old US 15 are classified as minor arterials

**Collectors** are roads that link traffic between local roads and arterial streets and provide access to abutting properties. Collectors serve minor traffic generators, such as local elementary schools, small individual industrial plants, offices, commercial facilities, and warehouses not served by principal and minor arterials. Fox Hollow Road and Bottle Run Road in Old Lycoming Township; Bloominggrove Road, Poco Farm Road, and Northway Road in Loyalsock Township; and Warrensville Road in Armstrong Township are all classified as Major Collectors.

**Local roads** serve farms, residences, businesses, neighborhoods, and abutting properties. The remaining roads fall into this classification.

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### **No. 4 – Transportation System Profile**

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#### **Traffic Volumes**

The most fundamental and visible description of a highway's function is the volume of traffic using that highway over a given time. To standardize this number, volume is generally expressed over a twenty-four hour period, factored by both day of the week and month of the year, to produce an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) value.

PENNDOT keeps track of this data for the state road system, and a quick review clearly shows that Interstate 180 is the most heavily traveled road in the Planning Area, handling anywhere from 24,00 to 46,000 trips per day according to 1999 data. Comparatively, the next busiest route is U.S. 15 North and South with approximately 16,000 trips per day. SR 654 handles about 12,000 daily trips, Northway Road (just east of Williamsport) carries about 11,000 and SR 2014 handles about 9,100 trips. Once outside the City limits, average values drop significantly, ranging from 6,700 in the more populated areas near Montoursville to 1,100 south into Armstrong Township.

#### **Aviation**

The Williamsport Regional Airport, which is owned and operated by the Williamsport Regional Airport Authority, is within easy reach for most of the Planning Area - it is located just east of the City of Williamsport in Montoursville Borough. This facility provides regularly scheduled commercial service through US Airways. There are seven flights daily – five to Pittsburgh and two to Philadelphia. Additional charter services are provided by DeGol Aviation. Federal Express offers air-freight services as well.

At the present time, PENNDOT is preparing the environmental impact studies for a new access road to the airport. In addition, plans for rehabilitating the terminal, including a new addition, have been completed and are awaiting FAA approval. The Airport would also like to extend its primary runway an additional 500 feet in order to attract other, larger carriers, which would allow more freight to be moved through the airport, as opposed to trucking it to other airports, thus adding to overall costs; however, they have been unable to obtain approval from the FAA because they do not meet the necessary criteria. More specific details can be found in the Community Development Profile.

It is expected that US Airways' recent filing for bankruptcy will not have an impact on the services provided at the Williamsport Regional Airport. The daily flights to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are provided through contract carriers that are not wholly owned by USAir and are not included in the bankruptcy filing.

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### Public Transit

Williamsport City Bus, which is operated by the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation, has numerous fixed routes throughout the Planning Area. In addition to regular services, there are also special shuttle services to various events in the County, including the Lycoming County Fair in Hughesville, the Little League World Series, Super Sunday Holiday Service and Charter Services for Local Schools and other organizations. They also operate the Williamsport Trolley Tour through the City. Additional tours and charter services are also available.

City Bus Plus, is a paratransit service operated by City Bus, and provides transportation for individuals with disabilities that prevent them from being able to use the regular bus routes. The service area extends  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from any City Bus route within the municipalities participating in the City Bus fixed route system. Individuals must be certified as ADA eligible in order to take advantage of this service.

Intercity Bus services are provided by Susquehanna Trailways. They have a sales office and terminal in Williamsport, with daily routes to Philadelphia. Charter and tour services are also available.

The Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action, Inc., also known as STEP, operates a shared ride, demand-responsive transportation service throughout the County for senior citizens. Currently, the base fare is \$1.00 per one-way trip and reservations must be made by 2:00 PM the day before.

Taxi service is provided by Billtown Cab Company in Williamsport and Jersey Shore Taxi in Jersey Shore Borough.

### Rail Service

The Norfolk-Southern Railroad operates freight services along the south side of the Susquehanna River in Duboistown, South Williamsport and Armstrong Township. This is a National – Class 1 Line and is part of the Harrisburg-Buffalo Main Line. Across the River, the Lycoming Valley Railroad operates as a switching carrier and a Norfolk Southern handling line carrier. They also provide limited access to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Lycoming Valley Railroad connects with the Norfolk Southern in Newberry, on the west end of the City of Williamsport. There are dock, ramp, and team track services available there, as well as the LVRR operations office and yard. There are also dock and ramp services at the Faxon Street facilities in Williamsport.

### Intermodal Facilities

Currently, the Lycoming County Planning Commission has plans to begin a needs and feasibility study for a rail/ truck/ air freight intermodal facility for Northcentral Pennsylvania. At the present time, the closest intermodal facilities are located in Harrisburg and Taylor (near

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Scranton), PA. This type of facility could enhance economic development in the region by providing services that could help reduce transportation costs for existing manufacturers in the area, as well as provide incentives for new businesses to locate in the area. In addition, it is felt that a facility of this type would help reduce truck traffic throughout the area, thus improving public safety. It is also likely that the study will consider other intermodal options, such as an air cargo facility.

The County Planning Commission, the SEDA-COG Regional Transportation Planning Advisory Committee and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority will work together to coordinate the study. Elements of the study will include a definition of the study area, evaluation of present and future demands for such a facility, evaluation of potential sites, and an analysis of potential transportation impacts. A cost analysis, including a financial plan would also be within the scope of the project.

### **Transportation Improvement Programs /WATS Long Range Plan**

The Williamsport Area Transportation Study (WATS) was formed in 1968 to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Williamsport Urbanized Area. The study area was expanded to include the entire county in September 2002, with additional voting representation for local municipalities and intermodal providers. The WATS Long Range Plan is included in the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan and currently contains over \$165 million in projects throughout the county. The plan is updated every two years, and the County, through WATS, coordinates with local municipalities to develop transportation project needs and priorities.

There are two WATS committees – Technical and Coordinating. The Technical Committee reviews transportation plans, programs, and projects, and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee, which issues final approval. Representatives on the Technical committee include the Lycoming County Planning Commission, the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation General Manager, Williamsport City Engineer, Williamsport Regional Airport Director and PENNDOT representatives. The Coordinating Committee representatives include the Lycoming County Commissioners, Williamsport Mayor and City Council, a Township representative, a Borough representative, and a representative from each of the following – the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation, the Williamsport Regional Airport, the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, and PENNDOT officials.

In accordance with federal regulations, WATS identifies transportation needs throughout the area and develops a Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan covers road, air, rail, and bike/pedestrian modes of transportation. These recommendations are then incorporated into the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan based on realistic funding opportunities.

The WATS most recent 20 Year Long Range Plan – Stage One (2001-2004) includes numerous projects in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area, which are summarized below. All of these projects, with the exception of the Rail projects, have been included in the 2003 Statewide Twelve Year Transportation Improvement Program.

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### WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan Stage One Project Listings - 2001-2004

Type	Description	Municipality	Year
Bridge Replacement - design/ROW	US 15 Bottle Run	Old Lycoming Township	2003
Bridge Replacement - design/ROW	US 15 Market Street/ Susquehanna River	Williamsport/ South Williamsport	2001-02
Bridge Replacement - construction	"	"	2002-04
Bridge Rehabilitation	Reach Road Overpass	Williamsport	2001-02
Transportation Enhancement - design & construction	Streetscape	Williamsport	2001
Transportation Enhancement - design & construction	Phase I Susquehanna River Trail	Loyalsock Township/ Williamsport	2001-02
Highway Restoration	US 220 Woodward Line to Lycoming Creek	Williamsport	2001-02
Highway Reconstruction	Maynard St. Widening	"	2001
Highway Construction	Trenton Ave. Connector	"	2001
Transit	Numerous - ranging from equipment purchases to operating assistance	Williamsport Bureau of Transportation	2001-04
Rail	Upgrade track in Newberry Yard	LVRR	2001-04
Rail	Relocate switch and siding @ Williamsport Wire Rope Works	LVRR	2001-04

Source: WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan



# Technical Background Studies

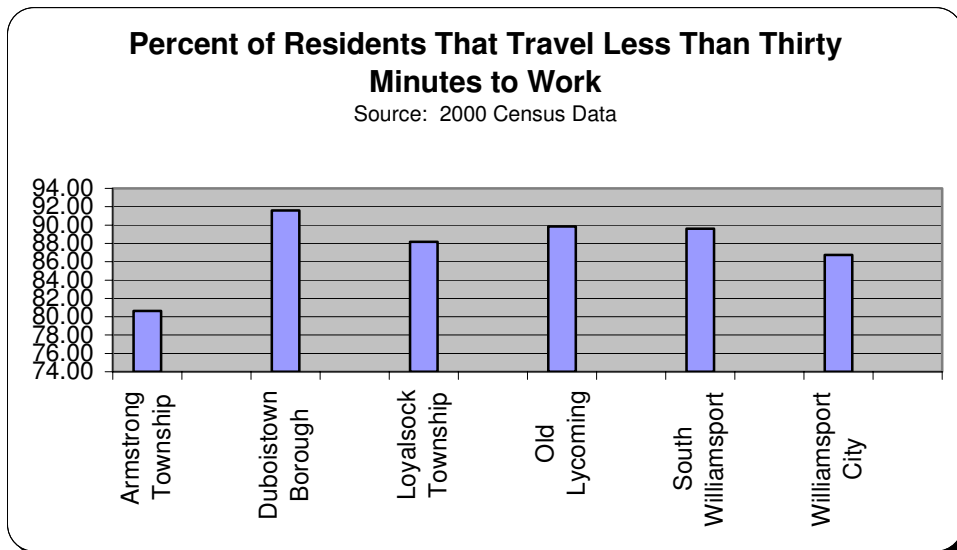
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### Journey to Work

Obtaining a basic knowledge about commuting patterns and the characteristics of commuter travel of the Planning Area is an essential component to the comprehensive planning process. This information is used for planning highway improvements and developing public transportation services, as well as for designing programs to ease traffic problems during peak hours, conserve energy, and reduce pollution.

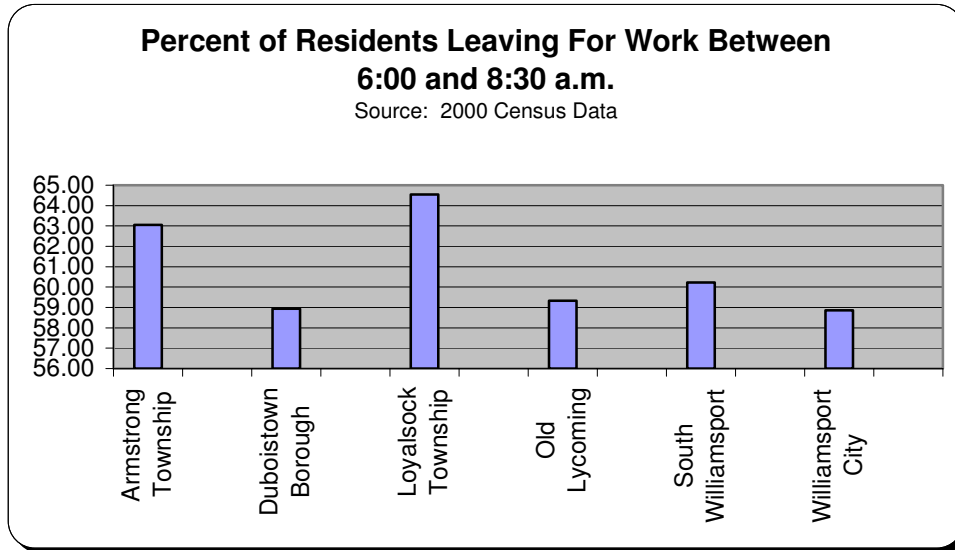
Place of work and commuting pattern statistics for the planning area municipalities were obtained from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses, and are presented in Table 2. Approximately 94 percent of the planning area's residents work in the county in which they reside. Most people drive to work – 91 percent. An average of 88 percent of the planning area's residents travel less than 30 minutes to work. The following figure shows the percentages for each municipality. It should be noted that all of the municipalities within the planning area except for Loyalsock Township experience a decline in the number of people who worked at home.



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As shown in the preceding chart, an average of 56 percent of all residents leave for work between 6 and 8:30 a.m. These departure times correspond to the work start times between 7 and 9 a.m. Interestingly, almost 20 percent of the planning area’s residents leave for work between 12 noon and midnight.

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### Place of Work and Journey to Work

Category	Total Persons												
	Armstrong Township		Duboistown Borough		Loyalsock Township		Old Lycoming Township		South Williamsport Borough		Williamsport City		
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	
<b>Place of Work</b>													
Worked in the minor civil division of residence	15	27	42	40	867	914	284	340	422	423	8,495	7,527	
Worked outside minor civil division of residence	341	319	521	554	3,406	3,452	2,470	2,427	2,530	2,498	4,353	5,372	
Worked in county of residence	332	299	539	558	4,033	4,036	2,630	2,616	2,806	2,674	12,151	17,255	
Worked outside county of residence	22	47	24	33	192	280	99	151	118	223	607	1,042	
<b>Journey to Work (Mode)</b>													
Car, truck or van	333	332	537	570	4,063	4,106	2,603	2,673	2,746	2,751	10,502	10,864	
Drove alone	281	304	478	505	3,663	3,697	2,252	2,230	2,473	2,536	8,568	9,003	
Carpooled	52	28	59	65	400	409	351	443	273	215	1,934	1,861	
Public transportation	0	2	4	8	6	68	25	7	34	8	697	477	
Motorcycle	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	
Bicycle	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	12	30	44	106	
Walked	11	6	8	6	92	49	42	34	98	91	1,340	1,173	
Other Means	2	1	3	3	15	14	11	0	14	9	78	113	
<b>Journey to Work (Travel Time)</b>													
Less than 5 minutes	8	5	18	33	2,096	151	62	64	223	235	885	819	
5 to 9 minutes	45	28	152	117	807	1,094	538	700	657	671	3,343	2,859	
10 to 14 minutes	101	87	183	245	1,479	1,315	957	819	970	928	3,526	3,633	
15 to 19 minutes	110	119	78	89	929	812	545	597	567	459	2,175	2,435	
20 to 24 minutes	38	38	59	45	370	359	229	204	219	245	1,247	1,083	
25 to 29 minutes	18	2	15	15	103	119	107	102	44	79	253	361	
30 to 34 minutes	22	13	33	11	83	177	68	72	115	151	782	693	
35 to 39 minutes	2	9	2	3	15	17	14	41	16	0	36	29	
40 to 44 minutes	2	2	0	4	43	59	20	18	18	27	82	68	
45 to 59 minutes	0	15	12	10	70	73	40	30	55	36	222	298	
60 to 89 minutes	0	7	2	6	52	37	85	19	17	10	105	262	
90 or more minutes	0	16	0	9	24	24	16	48	10	55	5	193	
Worked at home	10	5	9	7	89	129	73	53	41	25	187	166	
<b>Time Leaving Home for Work</b>													
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	2	16	7	21	63	96	57	89	47	82	350	374	
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	4	2	13	7	50	44	107	41	38	104	217	311	
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	11	17	8	29	74	162	156	110	88	159	468	435	
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	24	50	34	50	299	252	289	216	170	193	885	985	
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	51	30	79	82	540	402	341	399	430	296	1,623	1,419	
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	58	43	63	64	526	554	335	292	314	336	1,120	1,254	
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	59	53	135	92	1,012	816	424	397	520	616	2,164	1,790	
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	30	39	65	58	559	711	275	306	412	303	1,312	1,147	
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	31	29	25	29	300	237	147	192	244	118	791	900	
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	17	8	26	28	184	295	119	109	209	186	738	642	
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	6	9	5	22	51	94	34	40	12	99	403	187	
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	0	2	8	4	29	45	32	26	9	17	99	209	
12:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	28	17	45	63	210	298	175	176	149	205	1,432	1,647	
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	25	26	41	38	287	231	190	321	269	182	1,059	1,433	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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### Introduction

This chapter examines the full range of community facilities and services available in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area related to the functioning of the communities, economic growth, health, education, welfare, safety and other needs of the citizens. These services include both public and private police protection, emergency services, recreation, education and health care. The timely and orderly arrangement of facilities and services is important to the well being of all residents. This profile is useful in identifying strengths as well as inadequacies and needs. Adequate infrastructure is an essential ingredient in fostering new development and in retaining and strengthening existing business and industry.

### Key Facilities and Services Issues

Through consultation with the Planning Advisory Team and interviews with key persons and focus groups within the planning area and throughout the County, the important issues that could potentially impact on the community in terms of facilities and services were identified. The key facilities and services issues that were noted for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area are as follows:

- ☑ **Public Infrastructure** – The existing infrastructure, including road network, utilities, and services is in place and can support continued growth.
- ☑ **Integration of Land Use and Facilities** – There has been poor integration of land use changes with existing facilities.
- ☑ **Access to the Susquehanna River** - Access to the river is both a strong point and a weakness. The river is a tremendous recreational asset flowing through the community. In some respects it is readily accessible, however, there is room for significant improvements in boating access and general public access. The dike levee and I-180 has separated the residents of Williamsport from the river.
- ☑ **Skateboarding** - Skateboarding has become a popular activity by our youth. With this activity has come a generational conflict and damage to public and private property. Skateboarding has created conflict in many communities. A skateboard park has been established in the west end of Williamsport.
- ☑ **Bikeway Connectivity** - The area has several bikeways, including the Montoursville/ Loyalsock Bikeway, the Lycoming Creek Bikeway, and designated bike paths throughout the City. 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. By the summer of 2003, the Pine Creek Rail Trail will extend from the northwestern border of the County to a trailhead in Jersey Shore.

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### No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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- ☑ **Natural Beauty** - 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 County. A single trip along any one of a number of scenic corridors, such as the Pine Creek Valley, Route 15, or Loyalsock 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.
- ☑ **Arts, Music, Museums** - The Greater Williamsport Area is blessed with excellent facilities and programs to address the needs of musicians, artists, and performing artists.
- ☑ **Outdoor Recreation** - 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 local parks and 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.
- ☑ **Amateur & Professional Sports** - 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.
- ☑ **Sports Programs** - The region has a wide variety of sports programs, from youth leagues through adult leagues.
- ☑ **Indoor Recreation (YMCA, YWCA)** - There are indoor recreation facilities within a reasonable distance, including the YMCA & YWCA in Williamsport and several commercial facilities.

## Background Infrastructure Data

### Public Safety

#### 9-1-1 Communications Center

The Lycoming County's 9-1-1 Communications Center receives emergency phone calls for both Lycoming and Sullivan Counties and dispatches fire, police and emergency medical services in the two county area. Telecommunicators, the individuals who receive and dispatch calls for the 9-1-1 Center, receive approximately 600 hours of training to perform their job functions. Telecommunicators are Pennsylvania State Certified, and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) certified. This permits the Telecommunicator to provide emergency care instructions to the caller prior to arrival of emergency services. The Communications Center dispatches

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile**

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approximately 45,000 to 50,000 incidents and receives over 200,000 telephone calls from the general public annually.

The mission of the Lycoming County Communications Center is to provide a county-wide communications system that permits 9-1-1 access to any individual in need of assistance in the County, dispatch of the appropriate police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management personnel, and other affiliated agencies to emergency incidents by certified telecommunicators. They work in conjunction with the County Emergency Management Agency, Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, and Hazardous Materials Planning Division of the Department of Public Safety, as well as State agencies.

The 9-1-1 Communications Center is at the heart of Lycoming County's Fire, EMS, Sheriff and Police services. Lycoming County 9-1-1 services operate with state-of-the-art equipment. Telecommunication is performed by experienced, trained, emergency personnel who operate the "Simulcast" communications system, which is a radio tower network tied to the Communications Center. Dispatching decisions are made by the box card system that keeps track of cooperative agreements between fire companies, police, and emergency medical services.

#### **Emergency Management**

The Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for developing plans to respond to natural and man-made disasters, and to protect the lives and property of residents/ visitors to the county. The County Commissioners have appointed a full time Emergency Management Coordinator who is responsible for the development of these plans as well as maintaining a county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where county officials, support agencies, and volunteers meet to coordinate disaster activities. In addition to these functions, a major task of the Emergency Management Agency is working with all local municipal EMA Coordinators and assisting them with developing their EOC's and emergency operations plans. The Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency is also the focal point in any major disaster that coordinates the activities between federal, state and municipal government agencies.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa. C. S. Section 7101-7707) requires that all counties and municipalities develop and maintain an emergency management program consistent with state and federal emergency management programs. Each county and municipal program is administered by a director, who is appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of county and/ or municipal officials and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Floods are the primary source of mass destruction from weather related emergencies in Lycoming County. The National Weather Service and the Lycoming County 9-1-1 Center have access to information from the fifteen (15) IFLOWS gauges within the county. The gauges report a digital signal, through the County owned microwave system, to the IFLOWS computer located in the County EMA Emergency Operations Center.

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile**

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With any impending major emergency (i.e.: flood, tornado, hazardous materials) the EOC is activated with provisions for 24-hour staffing. Upon determining a need for warning due to flood or other severe weather, the County 9-1-1 Center will dispatch (by pager) all of the County Department of Public Safety (DPS) Management Team staff. This staff will report to the EOC to gather data and determine the complexity and severity of the event as well as to notify elected officials, emergency responders and municipal EMA Coordinators. Warning information is disseminated by the 9-1-1 Communications Center, The National Weather Service via radio stations, door-to-door, and the Disaster Communications Team-made up of amateur radio operators.

During major emergencies such as floods, tornadoes, snow storms and power failures, there is often the need to provide congregate care shelters for residents who may be unable to stay in their own homes. In Lycoming County, the American Red Cross maintains agreements with the owners of over 150 shelter sites.

#### **Emergency Medical Services Council**

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga Counties contracts with the Department of Health in Harrisburg to coordinate activities with our local Emergency Medical Services personnel. Basic Life Support, and rescue training is provided by the Regional EMS Council as well as inspections of our local basic and advanced life support vehicles, coordination of the DOH Voluntary QRS (Quick Response Service) program, preparation of grants for purchases of equipment and vehicles, Quality Assurance, Public Education, and data collection of patient information.

#### **Hazardous Materials**

In Pennsylvania, each county is required under Act 165 to have a contract with a state certified hazardous materials response team. The program, which is managed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), establishes operational, staffing, training, medical monitoring, supply, and equipment guidelines. The County has contracted with Teem Environmental Services, a State certified response and recovery Haz-Mat team for their Haz-Mat response services. This team will be responsible for responding to a wide variety of incidents involving the storage and transport of hazardous materials. Each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties is designated as a Local Emergency Planning District and each is required to have a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Lycoming County LEPC members are appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by Department of Public Safety director, one County commissioner, and at least one person selected from the following groups:

- Elected officials representing local government within the County;
- Law enforcement, first aid, health, local environment, hospital and transportation personnel;
- Firefighting personnel;
- Emergency management personnel;

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- Broadcast and print media;
- Community groups not affiliated with emergency services groups; and
- Owners and operators of facilities subject to the requirements of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA).

LEPC responsibilities are essentially those established by SARA (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986) Title III, with additional specific requirements under Pennsylvania Act 165. In Pennsylvania, an offsite emergency response plan is required for each SARA EHS planning facility. This plan becomes a supplement to the County emergency operations plan. Lycoming County has 93 SARA EHS planning facilities, each having a plan filed with the County's emergency management office.

The focus of the Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) section is compliance with Federal and Pennsylvania hazardous materials regulations. Through planning, training, and public information, the impact of hazardous chemical emergencies is lessened. Haz-Mat works closely with the Lycoming County Local Emergency Planning Committee, hazardous chemical users, and emergency responders.

Site-specific emergency plans are kept current for 93 facilities in Lycoming County. Training courses, many of them customized for local needs, are offered to emergency responders. Exercises are conducted to allow operators, facilities, responders, and support agencies to operate jointly to solve a common problem. Programs are offered to the public upon request. Haz-Mat assists local responders, the County's Haz-Mat team, the Lycoming Decontamination Task Force, and foam bank during chemical emergencies.

#### **Counter-terrorism**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has created nine (9) regional counter-terrorism task forces for the purpose of regionalizing the planning and preparedness for and response to weapons of mass destruction incidents. Lycoming County is the administrative host to one of the task forces. Presently, municipalities can best aid counter terrorism task force efforts by supporting their municipal public safety agencies such as fire, police, emergency management, and emergency medical services.

#### **Fire Protection Services**

Volunteer fire companies provide service to all of the County's municipalities. The City of Williamsport has a paid fire department. Some fire companies are using paid day shifts to operate the ambulance(s) for times they do not have volunteer coverage. The county is split into primary service areas for fire protection. Primary service areas represent a specific jurisdiction to which an individual fire company has "first-call" responsibility for providing fire and rescue service. Fire protection services are conducted in a multi-municipal manner for efficient coordination and cooperation. The location of the fire stations and the primary service areas are shown on the Fire Service Areas Map. Primary service providers for the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area include:



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\* Information on current and optimum staffing obtained from current Fire Chiefs.

Company	Current Number of Active Staff Members	Optimum Staff of Active Members *	Average Response Time	Dedicated Fire Tax	Remarks
Citizens Fire Department (South Williamsport)	20	40	5-7 min.	Yes; Armstrong Twp contributes	None
First Ward Fire Company (South Williamsport)	20	40 (per 10-hour shift)	5-7 min.	Yes; Armstrong Twp contributes	None
Independent Fire Department (South Williamsport)	20	40	5-7 min.	Yes; Armstrong Twp contributes	None
Old Lycoming Twp Fire Department	40	75	1 min.	No; Old Lycoming Twp. contributes	Ambulance service becomes volunteer after 10:00 p.m., which affects response time; mutual aid agreement with Williamsport Bureau of Fire; Williamsport staffs 2 firefighters at the Old Lycoming Twp Fire Dept.
Duboistown Fire Department	23	32	5-6 min.	Yes; Duboistown Boro and Armstrong Twp.	Staff shortages greatly affect response time.
Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Company	45	60	4-6 min.	No	Daytime staffing is a problem. 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is the critical time.
Williamsport Bureau of Fire	38 (paid staff)	62 (paid staff)	< 1 min.	No; receives monies from the general fund	Staffing less than optimum affects response time.

Company	Engine	Tanker	Rescue	Ambulance	Utility	Special Unit	Ladder	Brush	Squad	Tower	MICU	Boat	Mobile Air	Remarks
Citizens Fire Department (South Williamsport)	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
First Ward Fire Company (South Williamsport)	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	

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Company	Engine	Tanker	Rescue	Ambulance	Utility	Special Unit	Ladder	Brush	Squad	Tower	MICU	Boat	Mobile Air	Remarks
Independent Fire Department (South Williamsport)	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Old Lycoming Twp Fire Department	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Duboistown Fire Department	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Company	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	
Williamsport Bureau of Fire	4									1	-	1	-	

Cooperative agreements exist between fire companies. These agreements are formed by the fire chiefs of each fire department. These agreements change frequently and are updated as needed in the Lycoming County 9-1-1 system card file. The card file lists each fire chief's preferences and order of call up for the backup from other departments. The County 9-1-1 Telecommunicators use the card file to send backup from other departments.

The biggest issues concerning volunteer fire companies are manpower and equipment costs, because the delivery of fire protection services is almost entirely dependent upon local volunteers. Volunteerism is declining nationwide and this area is no exception. Factors attributing to declining membership include:

1. A volunteer's daily schedule is constrained by time commitments required for family life and employment obligations. Volunteerism, therefore, produces an added burden and increases personnel stress.
2. Interest in volunteering appears to be diminishing because of the large number of hours necessary to conduct fund-raising activities. Constant fund-raising becomes tiresome to the volunteer who is interested in training and fire fighting. The increased need and emphasis on fund-raising often jeopardizes the strength levels of local fire services, and moreover, tends to dissuade new membership.
3. Other service organizations are competing for volunteers and donations, thus, limiting the number of individuals available for membership.
4. Training requirements for becoming a Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician are extensive.
5. The declining wage level and the loss of family sustainable incomes from a single job have forced more people to work more than one job to support their families. This has led to a decline in volunteerism as people have less time to give.

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As mentioned above, fundraising is an integral part of a volunteer fire company organization. The companies serving the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area raise money through a variety of community events. Bingo, carnivals, and dinners at the fire stations have historically been successful in both fund-raising and community interaction.

Recent legislation was passed to set aside a fund to make it easier for volunteer fire companies to obtain new equipment.

#### **Emergency Medical Services**

Emergency medical services involve the transportation of patients from the scene of a medical emergency to a local medical care facility for treatment. Emergency medical services are provided by Basic and Advanced Life Support ambulance units, as well as non-transport quick response units (QRS) from the volunteer fire companies and the Williamsport Bureau of Fire.

Similar to the system for fire protection, the county is split into primary service areas for emergency medical services. Primary service areas represent a specific jurisdiction to which an individual team has “first-call” responsibility for providing emergency medical service. Because Primary Response Areas are not mutually exclusive, there may be municipalities that are served by one or more EMS services. The location of the services and the primary service areas are shown on the Ambulance Service Areas Map. There are also mutual aid agreements on file at the 9-1-1 Command Center. Primary service providers for the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area include:

- Old Lycoming Volunteer Fire Company
- Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Company
- Old Lycoming Twp. Police Department
- Duboistown Fire Department
- South Williamsport Fire Department
- Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative
- Susquehanna Health Systems
  - Muncy Hospital
  - Williamsport Hospital
- Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Company

#### **Fire and Emergency Services Training**

Fire Training:

- Basic training for a new recruit is approximately 140 hours consisting of primarily 4-5 courses.
- Re-certification training is needed for Haz-Mat certification each year and consists of 2 classes per year totaling 7 hours.
- Generally, training is provided at no cost to the firefighter.

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- Training is made available through the PA Fire Academy, the Department of Education and several community college systems. The Pennsylvania fire academy in Lewistown, and Bucks County-Doylestown provide classroom instructors, and financially support this system.

#### Emergency Medical Technician Training:

- Basic training for a new recruit is approximately 120 hours
- Training is made available through the Department of Health several community college systems. The Harrisburg Area Community College provides EMT training, in Lycoming County.

#### Additional training and practice is provided by local fire training associations:

- Central Area Fire Chiefs Association (CAFCA) – 1750 W. Third Street, Williamsport PA. This training association has a facility with these features:
  - Two burn rooms
  - 4-story drill tower-for rope training evaluations and aerial device training
  - Drafting pit
  - State Firefighter I & II, and Fire Officers I & II testing certification site. Currently the only one within a 50 mile radius of Williamsport.
  - Technical rescue Practice area
  - Concrete pad encircling the 4-story tower and the associated burn rooms
  - Concrete area for vehicle rescue classes
  - Pump test area
- Muncy Area Mutual Aid Association (MAMA) This training association has a facility with these features:
  - Maze building
  - Smoke Building
  - Swede Flashover Building
  - Tower Building-for ladder and repelling training
  - Ventilation Mock-up Building
  - Vehicle Rescue Pad

#### Police Services

Police protection is an essential service required for the protection of local residents and the business community. The traditional role of the police involves three functions—(1) law enforcement, (2) order maintenance, and (3) community service. Law enforcement involves the application of legal sanctions, usually arrest, to persons who injure or deprive innocent victims of life or property. Order maintenance involves the handling of disputes. The third aspect of the police function, and the one most likely to occupy the major portion of the officer's time, are

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activities not necessarily related to criminal acts and include such tasks as traffic control, education, and other public services.

Four municipal police departments serve the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area:

#### **Williamsport Police Department**

- Complement for 55 full-time sworn officers
- Is involved in county wide mutual aid
- One holding cell, with a 1 person capacity

#### **South Williamsport Police Department**

- 6 full-time and 1 part-time sworn officers
- Is involved in county wide mutual aid, first call for Armstrong Township
- Cooperative reciprocal agreement for full arrest powers with Duboistown Police Department
- Agreements with Old Lycoming Police Department, and Williamsport Police Department for use of holding cells.
- Comment/ Concern: Maynard Street Bridge, and Market Street Bridge are officially Loyalsock Township jurisdiction-and are thus covered by state police. However usually Williamsport Police Department, and South Williamsport Police Department handle these bridges.

#### **Duboistown Police Department**

- 4 sworn officers (2 full-time, and 2 part-time)
- Is involved in county wide mutual aid
- Cooperative reciprocal agreement for full arrest powers with South Williamsport Police Department

#### **Old Lycoming Township Police Department**

- 8 full time sworn officers
- Is involved in county wide mutual aid
- Contracts with Lycoming and Hepburn Townships to provide police services to these municipalities.
- One holding cell, with a 4 person capacity

The municipal police departments within Lycoming County have Mutual Aid agreements in place that allow the various municipal departments to acquire reinforcements for various situations.

Police coverage in Armstrong and Loyalsock Townships is provided by the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop F. The State Police may call in neighboring local forces.

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Troop F has 260 sworn officers and 37 civilian employees. 73 of the Troopers and 14 of the employees are assigned here in Lycoming County, although at times, dependent on their specialty, their duties take them outside the county. The Captain can bring any of the other 187 Troopers assigned to the rest of Troop F to assist in Lycoming County, if necessary. In addition, the Captain can also bring in any number of Troopers from outside the Troop area if exigent circumstances dictated a greater response.

State Police response times vary with the following factors: weather conditions, distance from the Trooper's position in an assigned zone to the incident, number of Troopers working on a particular day and shift, number of other incidents in progress, etc. Since Troopers are assigned to "zones", the response time is figured from the Trooper's position in the zone, not from the Montoursville Barracks. The State Police do not have any holding facilities; however they have designated detainment areas that are CALEA compliant.

Other law enforcement groups that contribute to Lycoming County's public safety include the Lycoming County Sheriff Department, the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

#### **Correctional Custody**

Correctional Custody Services are provided by the Lycoming County Prison located in Williamsport. The inmate capacity of the Lycoming County Prison is 250. Electronic Monitoring is done by the county and usually involves a global positioning system that is contracted to two different companies. House arrest is a more passive involvement where the person is usually confined to a house. Lycoming County also conducts a work release program from the County facility off Warrensville Road in Loysock Township, at the Lysock View Complex. The work release program allows prisoners to have full-time jobs in the community that pays a nominal wage. The work crew program is for part-time workers. Lycoming County has entered into an agreement with Clinton County to house female inmates.

The Muncy State Prison for male and female inmates in Clinton Township, has a population capacity of 843. The Allenwood Federal Prison Complex is located in Gregg Township.

#### **Health Care Facilities**

Health care for the residents of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area is provided by the Susquehanna Health System and the Geisinger Health System.

In July 1994, an alliance was formed among three area hospitals signaling the beginning of a new era in healthcare for the region. This alliance, called Susquehanna Health System, brought together the Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center, Divine Providence Hospital and Muncy Valley Hospital, along with their subsidiaries into a fully-integrated healthcare System. While some services such as general surgery, anesthesiology, laboratory and x-ray services are offered at the three hospital campuses, other specialized services are concentrated at the hospital that has already established itself as a recognized Center of Excellence for those services. Divine

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Providence Hospital is, for example, designated as the Center of Excellence for Outpatient Services in Williamsport.

Founded in 1915, Geisinger Health System provides more than two million people in 31 counties in Pennsylvania a complete continuum of quality health care. Geisinger Health System offers a complete range of quality health care services. Services for this planning area are provided through satellite centers at Muncy and McElhattan, and at the Jersey Shore Hospital.

The Divine Providence Hospital and the Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center are located within this Planning Area. Regional Health Care Facilities readily available to the residents of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area include:

Facility	Type	Beds	Location
Divine Providence Hospital	Hospital	31	1100 Grampian Boulevard Williamsport, PA 17701
Jersey Shore Hospital	Hospital	49	Thompson Street Jersey Shore., PA 17740
Lock Haven Hospital	Hospital	77 Acute Care 120 ECU	24 Cree Drive Lock Haven, PA 17745
Muncy Valley Hospital	Hospital	25 Acute Care 139 Long Term	215 East Water Street Muncy, PA 17756
Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center	Hospital	260	777 Rural Avenue Williamsport, PA 17701
Interim Health Care of Central PA	Home Health	-	160 Chad Road Muncy, PA 17756
Susquehanna Regional Home Health Services	Home Health	-	1100 Grampian Boulevard Williamsport, PA 17701
North Central PA Dialysis Clinics	End Stage Renal Disease	-	1660 Sycamore Road Montoursville, PA 17754
Evangelical Community Hospital	Hospital	190	One Hospital Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837
Susquehanna Regional Hospice Services	Hospice	-	1100 Grampian Boulevard Williamsport, PA 17701

Facility	Type	Location
Behavioral Health Center	Mental Health	1100 Grampian Blvd, Williamsport, PA
Central Penna Therapy and Wellness Center	Mental Health	252 Broad St., Montoursville, PA
Community Services Group	Mental Health	201 Academy St. Williamsport, PA

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Facility	Type	Location
Counseling & Consulting Specialists	Mental Health	1965 Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport, PA
Green Ridge Counseling Center	Mental Health	520 West Fourth, Williamsport, PA
Lycoming-Clinton Mental Health & Retardation Program	Mental Health	200 East Street, Williamsport, PA
Miele Nicole LCSW	Mental Health	904 Campbell Street, Williamsport, PA
Williamsport Psychological Associates	Mental Health	811 Market Street, Williamsport, PA
Genesis Eldercare	Nursing Home	1201 Rural Ave., Williamsport, PA
Manorcare Health Services	Nursing Home	101 Leader Dr., Williamsport, PA
Muncy Valley Hospital Skilled Nursing Unit	Nursing Home	215 East Water Street, Muncy, PA
Millville Health Center	Nursing Home	State Street, Millville, PA
Williamsport Home	Nursing Home	1900 Ravine Road, Williamsport, PA
Valley View Nursing Center	Nursing Home	2140 Warrensville Road, Montoursville, PA
Sycamore Manor Health Center	Nursing Home	1445 Sycamore Road, Montoursville, PA
Susque-View Home & Health Center	Nursing Home	22 Cree Drive, Lock Haven, PA
Outlook Pointe At Loyalsock	Nursing Home	2985 Four Mile Drive Montoursville, PA
Insinger's Personal Care-South	Nursing Home	6 East Central Ave. South Williamsport, PA

### Educational Facilities

#### Public Facilities

The Williamsport Area School District has a current enrollment of 6287 students in grades Kindergarten through 12. Although it is an Urban School District, many of the students are transported by bus. There are eleven schools in the District: Williamsport Area High School, Curtin Middle School, Lycoming Valley Middle School, Roosevelt Middle School, Cochran Elementary School, Hepburn Lycoming Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, Round Hills Elementary School, Sheridan Elementary School, Stevens Elementary School, and the



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Alternative Education School in Woodward Township. The District Administrative offices are located at 201 W 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701-6409.

The Williamsport Area School District offers a wide range of electives in the areas of the sciences, language arts, social studies, mathematics, business, art, and music. The District offers approved Occupational Vocational Education programs in Business, Health, Home Economics, Trades and Industry, and Diversified Occupations.

The table below provides student capacity, 2001-2002 actual student population, and student population projections from 2002 through 2012. Projections are from the Pennsylvania Department of Education statistical reports published at "[http:// enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/](http://enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/)."

### WILLIAMSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

YEAR	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Capacity	3994				2163				2558				8715	
2001-2002	377	426	482	483	489	509	531	518	513	519	504	480	456	6287
2002-2003	350	393	412	478	477	486	521	540	505	519	484	459	431	6055
2003-2004	338	391	380	408	472	474	497	530	527	511	484	441	412	5865
2004-2005	339	377	378	376	403	469	485	505	517	533	476	441	396	5695
2005-2006	356	378	364	374	371	401	480	493	493	523	497	433	396	5559
2006-2007	349	397	365	361	369	369	410	488	481	499	487	452	389	5416
2007-2008	342	389	384	362	356	367	377	417	476	487	465	443	406	5271
2008-2009	335	381	376	380	357	354	375	383	407	482	454	423	398	5105
2009-2010	328	373	368	372	375	355	362	381	373	412	449	413	380	4941
2010-2011	321	366	360	364	367	373	363	368	372	377	384	409	371	4795
2011-2012	315	358	354	357	359	365	381	369	359	376	351	349	367	4660

The townships of Susquehanna and Armstrong and the Boroughs of Duboistown and South Williamsport comprise the South Williamsport Area School District. It includes approximately 38.2 square miles. It is located along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River across from Williamsport. The district has two elementary schools Central and Rommelt Elementary. The South Williamsport Area Junior/ Senior High School houses grades seven through twelve. The District Administrative offices are located at 515 Central Avenue, South Williamsport.

The table below provides student capacity, 2001-2002 actual student population, and student population projections from 2002 through 2012. Projections are from the Pennsylvania Department of Education statistical reports published at "[http:// enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/](http://enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/)."

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### SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT

YEAR	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Capacity	952						950						1902	
2002-2003	74	84	93	112	137	115	138	143	147	125	125	118	119	1530
2003-2004	67	77	84	97	122	144	117	156	142	138	120	123	103	1490
2004-2005	88	71	77	87	105	128	146	132	155	133	133	118	107	1480
2005-2006	86	92	71	80	94	110	130	165	131	146	128	131	103	1467
2006-2007	84	90	92	74	87	98	112	147	164	123	140	126	114	1451
2007-2008	82	88	90	96	80	91	99	127	146	154	118	137	110	1418
2008-2009	80	86	88	94	104	84	92	112	126	137	148	116	119	1386
2009-2010	79	84	86	92	102	109	85	104	111	118	132	145	101	1348
2010-2011	77	82	84	90	100	107	111	96	103	104	113	130	126	1323
2011-2012	75	80	82	87	98	105	109	126	95	97	100	111	113	1278

The Loyalsock Township School District is coterminous with Loyalsock Township, Lycoming County, a township of the Second Class located north, east and west of the City of Williamsport. The School District covers 20.3 square miles, consisting principally of developed suburb and rural farmland.

The table below provides student capacity, 2001-2002 actual student population, and student population projections from 2002 through 2012. Projections are from the Pennsylvania Department of Education statistical reports published at "[http:// enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/](http://enrlproj.ed.state.pa.us/)."

### LOYALSOCK

YEAR	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Capacity	1190						692			635				2517
2002-2003	70	109	87	86	91	120	119	119	120	132	123	134	106	1416
2003-2004	69	87	111	83	83	93	127	119	117	124	127	119	113	1372
2004-2005	120	86	88	106	81	85	98	127	117	121	119	123	101	1372
2005-2006	138	150	87	84	103	83	90	98	124	121	116	115	104	1413
2006-2007	140	172	153	83	82	105	87	90	96	129	116	112	97	1462
2007-2008	143	175	175	146	81	84	111	87	88	99	124	112	95	1520
2008-2009	145	178	178	167	142	83	89	111	85	91	95	120	95	1579
2009-2010	148	181	181	170	163	145	87	89	109	88	87	92	101	1641
2010-2011	150	184	184	173	165	167	153	87	87	113	84	84	78	1709
2011-2012	153	187	187	176	168	169	177	153	85	90	108	81	71	1805

### Private Facilities

A number of private schools are located in close proximity to the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area. These additional educational resources provide a variety of options to the community residents.

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#### LICENSED, PRIVATE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS:

School	Enrolled	Location
Bostley's Preschool Learning Center	31	Williamsport
Bostley's Preschool Learning Center	80	Hughesville
Fairfield Private Academic School	35	Montoursville
LCCC's Children's Development Center	700 served	Williamsport
Lycoming Nursery School		Williamsport
Magic Years	70	Williamsport
Miller Training Center	85	Williamsport
Paddington Station	186	South Williamsport
West Branch School		Williamsport

#### NON-LICENSED, PRIVATE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS:

School	Enrolled	Location	Affiliation
Bishop Neumann High School	198	Williamsport	Roman Catholic
Christian School At Cogan Station	54	Cogan Station	Other Christian Denomination
Immaculate Conception School	88	Williamsport	Roman Catholic
Independent Christian Academy	unknown	Montoursville	Baptist
Memorial Baptist Christian School	75	Williamsport	Baptist
Pine Woods Nippenose Valley	unknown	Jersey Shore	Amish
St Ann's Elementary School	161	Williamsport	Roman Catholic
St Boniface School	171	Williamsport	Roman Catholic
St Josephs School	115	Williamsport	Roman Catholic
Valley Bell School	unknown	Montgomery	Amish
Walnut Street Christian School	188	Jersey Shore	Baptist
White Deer Valley School	unknown	Allenwood	Amish
Williamsport Christian School	unknown	Williamsport	Baptist
YMCA Kindergarten	238	Williamsport	Other Christian

#### Charter Schools and Home Schooling

There are no Charter Schools in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area.

#### Facilities for Higher Education

Residents of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area who choose to pursue higher education levels have access to a number of excellent facilities within Lycoming County and

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adjacent counties. The following institutions provide the residents with additional higher education opportunities:

Bloomsburg University  
Bucknell University  
Lock Haven University  
Lycoming College  
Newport Business Institute  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Penn State University – Reach Road Satellite

### Library Facilities

The following libraries are located within the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area:

Libraries of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area	
Facility	Location
James V. Brown Library	Williamsport
John G. Snowden Memorial Library (Lycoming College)	Williamsport
PA College of Technology Library	Williamsport
Lycoming County Courthouse Law Library	Williamsport
Learning Resources Center (Medical Library Susquehanna Health Systems)	Williamsport

The James V. Brown Library is a member of the Lycoming County Library System. The Lycoming County libraries share a common online catalog, participate in resource sharing, and work together to bring superb library services to the citizens of Lycoming County. Library card holders have access to any of the online resources using their library card barcode number. The members of the Lycoming County Library System (LCLS) run a daily shuttle between all of the public libraries in Lycoming County. You can request and return materials to any of the member facilities by using only one card.

James V. Brown Library is a million-dollar plus operation with 60 employees and 80 volunteers providing free services to more than 1,000 customers a day, seven days a week. The library has 50,000+ card holders locally, and as a state-designated district center offers resource sharing and advisory services for over 40 public libraries in an 11-county area of North Central Pennsylvania.

Through the website at [www.jvbrown.edu](http://www.jvbrown.edu), anyone can search the Brown Library's collection of 200-thousand plus books, videos, audio-cassettes, CD's and other products online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Patrons also have access to the Pennsylvania POWER Library system. This is a series of databases that permits people to access magazines, medical information, encyclopedias, and other reference sources on the internet.

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The library's three bookmobiles deliver products to special needs customers, including those in rural communities, infants and preschoolers, and senior citizens. The library also has a branch building that serves as a computer training center with ten public computers and another ten specifically for teaching adults age 50 and older in the SeniorNet program.

The James V. Brown Library is planning on construction of a children's wing, scheduled for a Capital Campaign slot in 2006. The library is located at 19 East Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

Constructed in 1968, the Lycoming College library is named after late state Senator John G. Snowden. Snowden Library is a teaching library with a strong instructional support program designed to enhance the curriculum of the college and provide students with life-long information skills. These goals are further illuminated in the Snowden Library Mission Statement. Students become familiar with traditional methods of research as well as new information technologies utilizing CD-ROM, online searching, and the Internet.

The print collection includes more than 170,000 volumes, approximately 950 periodical titles, and a strong reference section selected for undergraduate education. A Lycoming College Author collection is integrated into our circulating book collection. The Snowden Library also serves as a partial depository for U.S. government publications and houses the Lycoming College Archives and the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church Archives.

The Snowden Library belongs to the Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania, the Susquehanna Library Cooperative, PALINET and PALCI.

Penn College's main library (28,155 sq. ft.) is located in the Learning Resources Center on the Williamsport campus. A 23.5% expansion of this facility occurred in 1994. The Earth Science and Aviation Centers have small, program-specific collections.

The library houses a collection of over 100,000 items in support of the curriculum, including collection in the health sciences, culinary arts, and technology-related areas. The book collection is growing at a rate of 6000 titles per year to keep pace with student needs.

The library is fully automated, including WebCat, the catalog of materials owned by the library. The Library Catalog and other extensive reference sources, periodical abstracts, and full text databases are available through the library home page.

The Learning Resources Center is located at 777 Rural Avenue Williamsport, PA 17701. Susquehanna Health System staff have full privileges to borrow all non-reference medical texts and audiovisual materials. Students and faculty at colleges whose libraries are members of Susquehanna Library Cooperative may borrow non-reference medical texts, with the exception of those marked "For Primary Clientele Only." Students may not check out audiovisual materials. The general public is free to utilize the library, but they may not check out any materials.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

Other Libraries of the Lycoming County Library System	
Facility	Location
Dr. W.B. Konkle Memorial Library	Montoursville
Montgomery Public Library	Montgomery
Muncy Public Library	Muncy
Hughesville Public Library	Hughesville
Jersey Shore Public Library	Jersey Shore

### Municipal Facilities and Services

	Municipal Building	Business Hours	Public Meeting Space Capacity	Automation					Maintenance		Outside Storage	
				Municipal PC	Word Processing	E-Mail	Internet	Accounting / Billing	Web Page	Building		# Bays
Duboistown	Y	8 - 4	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4	N
South Williamsport	Y	8 - 4	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	4	Y
Williamsport	Y	9 - 5	100	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1+	Y
Armstrong Township	Y		40	N	Y					Y	2	Y
Loyalsock Township	Y	7:30 - 4:30	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	20	Y
Old Lycoming Township	Y	8 - 4:30	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	13	Y

### Solid Waste Management

Lycoming County Resource Management Services has a 505 acre site situated along U.S. Route 15 which is used for land filling and recycling. The facility primarily serves Lycoming, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties, with a few other counties having small tonnages. The landfill accepts municipal, residual, sewage sludge, infectious, construction / demolition, ash, and asbestos wastes.

The permitted landfill facility of 175.2 acres is 85% in use for active land filling. The site is projected to be in use until August 2011 if filling rates remain on their current trend. Permits allow filling at a rate of 1600 ton/ day average with a 2000 ton maximum per day. The current average rate of filling is 1113 tons/ day. This rate being less than the maximum is acceptable since it extends the useful life of the landfill.

The Authority is constantly seeking ways to improve its processes, and as a result has been operating a fully integrated recycling system since 1993. The Authority recently received a federal grant to build a 7.6 Million dollar recycling plant that is currently under construction.

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile**

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The goal of the Authority is to reduce the amount of land filling and gain maximum use of the permitted 175 acre site. To achieve this, the Authority is using the recycling operations to generate revenue, and to slow the filling rate. Also the Authority is operating experimental anaerobic digesters that are being developed by university researchers, with the goal of full implementation, which will extend the useful life of the landfill by reducing the filling rate by 50%. The Authority is already selling approximately 1000 kilowatt hours per day of electrical energy to PPL that is generated by the burning of methane 2 co-generation units. The authority is also in the process of setting up the permits and the pipeline to supply methane gas to the Federal Bureau of Prisons which is located nearby. The new recycling plant will also make use of methane gas for heating the facility.

The County operates one solid waste transfer station in the City of Williamsport, which is located along Third Street, and it is primarily for the convenience of public.

One of the major concerns for the landfill/ recycling facility is to have long term financial assurance to maintain the landfill years after it is filled. The law requires that a landfill be maintained at least 30 years beyond the closing of the site, and this will be a major cost long after revenues being generated through the selling of space have ceased.

Within Lycoming County, a large recycling system is in operation through County government. Williamsport, South Williamsport, Duboistown, Loyalsock Township, and Old Lycoming Township offer a curbside recycling pick-up service. Recycling drop off centers for the Greater Williamsport 2000 Alliance Planning Area include: Loyalsock Township at 815 Northway Road, Old Lycoming Township at 1951 Green Ave., South Williamsport at Winthrop and Front Streets, Williamsport at 1550 West Third Street- Streets and Park Garage, and also Railway Street.

#### **Stormwater Management Planning (Act 167)**

One Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan has been completed for the watersheds in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area. The Miller's Run, Grafius Run, and McClures Run watersheds have been studied and approved by Lycoming County. Loyalsock Township, Old Lycoming Township, and the City of Williamsport have specific Stormwater Management Ordinances. Where municipalities lack specific Stormwater Management Ordinances, Stormwater management is controlled through Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance provisions. A phase I Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan study is in process for the Lycoming Creek watershed.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulations require a degree of stormwater management on some projects. Persons proposing earth disturbance activities which disturb one (1) to less than five (5) acres with a point source discharge to surface waters of the commonwealth, or five (5) or more acres require an NPDES permit. As part of the NPDES permit requirements, a Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan (PCSM) is needed. A PCSM Plan identifying Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be installed, which

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile**

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manage and treat the stormwater discharges to protect water quality after construction, must be prepared and implemented. Such BMPs should be designed to maximize groundwater infiltration, to protect the structural integrity of the stream, and to protect existing and designated uses. The PCSM Plan is designed to manage the stormwater resulting from the 2-year/ 24-hour storm.

Federal Phase II stormwater regulations established NPDES permit requirements for MS4 discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). Pennsylvania is required to implement these MS4 requirements by December 2002. Based on 1990 census data there are approximately 700 municipalities and other facilities within the Commonwealth that must meet the Phase II permit requirements. Municipalities in this planning area that require an MS4s permit are: Duboistown Borough, South Williamsport Borough, City of Williamsport, Loyalsock Township, and Old Lycoming Township.

In general terms, the MS4 permit requirements are to develop, implement and enforce a BMP based Stormwater program with these six elements:

1. Implement a public education program;
2. Include public involvement in decision making;
3. Eliminate or treat discharges not composed entirely of stormwater;
4. Require erosion and sediment controls for construction activities;
5. Require BMPs to manage post-construction Stormwater for new development and redevelopment; and
6. Require pollution prevention/ good housekeeping for municipal operations.

EPA's Phase II regulations allow existing state and local regulatory programs to be used to meet the MS4 requirements. The Department will use a general permit to cover the required program elements in watersheds other than special protection. Pennsylvania will use the Stormwater Management Act ("Act 167") Program as a centerpiece of the MS4 program for Pennsylvania. In general, municipalities that have developed and are implementing an Act 167 Plan developed on a watershed basis that includes the water quality protective measures, including an MS4 module, will be able to meet the EPA MS4 NPDES requirements through the Act 167 process.

Municipalities that are required to obtain an MS4 permit but which have discharges to watersheds without an approved Act 167 Plan that meets the water quality requirements of 25 Pa. Code Section 93.4a, will be encouraged to work with their county to develop a Stormwater plan that meets the requirements of Act 167 and the Phase II MS4 permit. Financial assistance for that effort is authorized under Act 167, and a special MS4 module is available for this purpose. Municipalities that do not want to participate in the Act 167 process will be required to develop a separate municipal plan to meet the MS4 requirements, without the use of state cost-sharing funding under Act 167.



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### **Recreation and Open Space**

An updated Lycoming County Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan is being prepared concurrently with this Plan. This update process includes an Advisory Committee, a public survey, and a public involvement process. Key recreation issues developed for this Planning Area have been provided to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in that plan.

The Lycoming County Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan contains more information pertaining to recreation and open space. The residents of this Planning Area live in close proximity to a multitude of public and private recreation facilities. Please refer to the Public Recreation Facilities Map for identification and location of public recreation facilities.

# Technical Background Studies

## No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

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### Introduction

The Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area contains the urban heart of Lycoming County. Bridging the West Branch Susquehanna River corridor, the area reaches from the foothills of the Allegheny Front in Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships, through the city, to the Bald Eagle Ridge in Armstrong Township. (Terrain Model and Elevation Maps)

The planning area contains the mouth of Lycoming Creek and the western portion of the Loyalsock valley, both of which broadly meet the river corridor. Other river tributaries meander through the complex, gently rolling foothills formations. Development in the northern municipalities is primarily concentrated in the creek valleys and bottomland areas.

Though significant topographic change has occurred as a result of transportation and flood protection projects, the topography of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area still reflects the rural, mountainous character of the County. The urban core dominates the river bottomlands with structural density and nearly level surfaces.

The identification and characterization of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area's natural and cultural resources are an important part of the planning process. These resources are numerous and are key elements of the quality of life in the area. Protecting these resources while allowing for future economic growth will be a constant challenge for planners.

### Key Natural and Cultural Resource Trends and Issues

The following is a summary of the key trends and issues regarding the natural and cultural resources of the County. These have been identified through consultation with the Planning Advisory Team (PAT) and through a Focus Group Workshop held on September 26, 2002.

- ☑ **Ridgetop Development** – Development has the potential to occur on the steep slopes, i.e., slopes of 15% or greater, in the planning area. Also referred to as “ridgetop development,” several negative impacts, including landslide hazards, runoff problems, and loss of scenic areas, are associated with this trend. This poses a problem for new growth because available space for new development is greatly reduced.
- ☑ **Groundwater** is a source of drinking water for some of the residents of the area. Currently, supplies are endangered due to overuse and failing septic systems. In addition, new development will need to be sensitive to the fact that paving and other surface alterations will impact both the quality and quantity of ground water recharge.
- ☑ **Floodplains** - A large portion of the planning area is located in the floodplains of Loyalsock and Lycoming Creeks and their tributaries, and to a lesser extent, the Susquehanna River. At present, most of the area is protected by the dike system. Accurate delineation of the floodplains and appropriate regulations will help ensure

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### No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

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that new development is sensitive to this natural hazard. Protection of existing development remains a constant challenge.

- ☑ **Wetlands** - Wetlands are unique communities of soils, plants, and animals, and are both functional (temporary water storage and filtering) and scenic. Federal and state regulations exist for their protection and can pose challenges for developers. Accurate identification of these areas will help to facilitate wetland protection and planning for new development.
  
- ☑ **Air Quality** – Air quality is very important to the overall quality of life and is generally good in the planning area. Identified hazards to air quality include auto emissions and open burning. Methods to minimize their impact will need to be developed.
  
- ☑ **Scenic Resources** – The natural beauty of the area is one its 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, including the Susquehanna River corridor. New development needs to be sensitive to the intrinsic value of these areas by using design techniques that preserve and enhance the views and scenic beauty of the area.
  
- ☑ **Cultural Resources** – Cultural and historical resources can be found throughout the area, particularly in the City of Williamsport. The Little League Baseball World Series is just one of the more prominent events that are important to the area. Together, they are an integral part of the overall culture and quality of life in the region. A strong sense of community and volunteerism help to promote these resources.

### Natural Resources Inventory

The following sections of the plan identify in more detail the natural resources of the planning area so that they can be incorporated into the final Comprehensive Plan recommendations. This will help ensure that future development in the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area takes place in an environmentally sensitive manner.

### Land Resources

**Prime Farmland Soils** - Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, and fiber and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and water supply needed to economically produce a sustained high yield of crops when it is treated and managed using acceptable farming methods and include Class I and II soils. Soils of Statewide Importance are soils that are predominantly used for agricultural purposes within a given state, but have some

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limitations that reduce their productivity or increase the amount of energy and economic resources necessary to obtain productivity levels similar to prime farmland soils. These soils are usually classified as capability Class II or III. These soils retain their classification regardless of any development activities; therefore, even though much of the planning area is developed, there are approximately 4,700 acres of Prime Farmland soils within the Planning Area, which is about 11 percent of the total land area. There are approximately 6,800 acres that are classified as Soils of Statewide Importance – about 16 percent of the total acreage. Many farmland protection programs use soil classifications as criteria for farmland preservation. The following table shows a breakdown of these soils by municipality. (Soil Characteristics Map)

	Prime Farmland (Acres)	Soils of Statewide Importance (Acres)
South Williamsport	113	44
Duboistown	41	0
Williamsport	1047	452
Armstrong	1145	747
Old Lycoming	898	1753
Loyalsock	1420	3834

**On-lot Septic Suitability** - As outlined in the Soil Survey, soil type also affects septic tank absorption. Soils are rated according to their absorption capabilities, and range from slight, i.e., few limitations to absorption, to severe, i.e., limitations so extreme that special designs and additional costs are necessary. The vast majority of the planning area's soils are classified as severe. While this does not preclude development, the cost of installing adequate on-lot sewage disposable systems is much higher. Without the proper systems, the chances of groundwater contamination, due to system failure, are much greater. Site-specific analysis for new development is essential to ensure that the proper systems are put in place.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act of 1966 as amended is also known as Act 537. It is the primary law controlling individual and community sewage disposal systems. It requires every municipality in the state to prepare and maintain an up-to-date sewage facilities plan. These plans are required to be reviewed and updated as necessary every five years. All of the municipalities in the planning area have plans approved by PADEP.

**Highly Erodible and Hydric Soils** - A number of soils are particularly sensitive to disturbance and development. Highly erodible soils are typically found on steep slopes, which are found throughout the planning area. These soils are unstable under conditions of disturbance and pressure and contribute sediment to surface waters. Many of these soils are already protected

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from development by steep slope regulations. In addition, existing woodlands also provide protection from erosion. Steep slopes comprise a significant percentage of the planning area, particularly in Armstrong Township. While the municipalities do not purposely protect these areas from development, municipal regulations of on-lot septic systems, in essence, limits development and site disturbance in such areas.

Hydric soils are those that retain water during a portion of the year and are usually associated with wetlands. As a natural resource, hydric soils provide water storage and filtration that naturally regulates water sources and flows. These soils are susceptible to compaction and uneven settling when developed. These factors will ultimately impact land use decisions. (Environmental Hazards Map)

**Carbonate (Karst) Geology** - Portions of the planning area's landscape are underlain by limestone-based geologic formations that are susceptible to the formation of solution caverns and sinkholes. Also known as karst topography, these areas are considered both hazardous, because of the danger of collapse, and beneficial because they provide unique habitats, mineral sources, and recreational opportunities. These areas are very susceptible to changes in land use and development. A band of these formations runs through the planning area in an east-west direction, roughly parallel to the River. In these areas, detailed, site-specific studies are needed to determine foundation conditions for large structures. These areas may also contain water supplies that would allow for new development. However, extreme caution must be used in designing septic systems in these areas, due to the fact that the same conditions that allow water to seep into these cavities, also allow seepage of sewage into the groundwater. (Karst Topography Map)

**Scenic and Natural Areas** - Undisturbed natural areas have inherent scientific, recreational, ecological, and economic value, in addition to providing refuge from an increasingly complex world. Some of the most prominent natural and scenic areas of the County were identified in the 1997 County Comprehensive Plan and included the Lycoming Creek Cliffs and The Susquehanna River Corridor.

Unique and scenic attributes of the planning area worthy of preservation extend beyond the natural environment to include the man-made environment, as well. Its historical pattern of development, consisting of concise towns and villages surrounded by fertile valley farmland and forested hillsides and mountains, provide not only visual uniqueness and beauty, but also a clear sense of community. Protecting these views will require a combination of both zoning and design standards. (Natural Resources Protection and Open Space Maps)

### **Water Resources**

**Surface Waters** - Surface waters include rivers, streams and ponds that provide aquatic habitat, carry or hold runoff from storms, and provide recreation and scenic opportunities. In addition to the Susquehanna River, the surface waters of the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area include Lycoming and Loyalsock Creeks and their tributaries. (Surface Waters Map)

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**Water Quality** - The Pennsylvania Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards classify surface waters according to their water quality criteria and protected water uses. Selected bodies of water that exhibit exceptional water quality and other environmental features are referred to as “Special Protection Waters.” Land development, sewage treatment and disposal, industrial and municipal waste, mining and quarrying, timber harvesting, stormwater management, and confined feeding operations must follow guidelines found in PADEP’s Special Protection Waters Implementation Handbook. Special Protection Waters in the study area are Mosquito Creek, Lycoming Creek and its tributaries, Grafius Run, Millers Run, Hagermans Run, and part of Loyalsock Creek and its tributaries. (Surface Water Quality Map)

The new Clean Water Institute being developed by Lycoming College is very active in the assessment of the local water quality. During the summer of 2002, nine students began studying several streams, including Lycoming Creek. Their website details current projects and their results and can be found at [www.lycoming.edu/biology/cwi](http://www.lycoming.edu/biology/cwi). Water quality in Lycoming Creek is of particular importance to the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area, since millions of gallons of water are drawn from the creek each day for the Williamsport Water Authority’s public water supply.

Currently, the County has begun a system-wide investigation of Combined Sewer Overflow in the Williamsport Sanitary Authority (WSA) sewer service area. Known as the Lycoming County Comprehensive Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Study, it is a series of nine related projects that will be integrated into a single comprehensive analysis of the WSA area. Their website provides specific details of the individual projects, and can be accessed through a link on the County Website – [www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org).

**Stormwater Management** - The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act, Act 167 of 1978, requires counties to prepare stormwater management plans that provide standards for controlling runoff from new development on a watershed basis. These plans must be prepared in consultation with the affected municipalities. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s (PADEP) Stormwater Management Program administers a grant program under Act 167 for counties to prepare watershed plans. A key objective of is to coordinate decisions of the watershed municipalities. Once the plans have been approved by the PADEP, they may then be implemented through mandatory municipal adoption of ordinance provisions consistent with the plan.

Lycoming County has initiated a stormwater management plan for the Lycoming Creek Watershed. Also, the first subwatershed plan for the Grafius, McClure’s and Miller’s Run watershed region, located in Williamsport and Loyalsock Township, was completed in 2000.

**Wetlands** - Wetlands are unique environments that are transitional areas between terrestrial and hydrologic systems. Wetlands help to maintain surface stream flow and groundwater recharge. They moderate stormwater runoff and downstream flood crests because they are natural water storage areas. They also provide important habitat for many species of plant and animal life. The Federal Clean Water Act and similar state and local laws have led to the enforcement of wetland protection. In Pennsylvania, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile**

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Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection strictly regulate development in wetland areas. Therefore, any development of these areas is subject to both federal and state permitting processes. (Surface Water Features Map)

**Groundwater** - Historically, groundwater resources have provided an adequate water supply to wells in the region. Average annual rainfall for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area has been around 40 inches per year. Historically, this amount has been sufficient to replenish groundwater aquifers and meet water supply demands. However, recent droughts across Pennsylvania have impacted both surface and groundwater resources. As a result, PADEP has issued drought watches and warnings across the state requesting and, in some cases, requiring water conservation. Aside from these drought conditions, monitoring and management of groundwater resources has become more challenging due to the increasing number of private domestic wells. Promoting infiltration (groundwater recharge) and protecting well-head source areas will be critical to protecting the supply and quality of the groundwater in the planning area. (Groundwater Availability and Recharge Area Maps)

**Floodplains** - Floodplain areas perform a number of critical ecologic functions. However, since these areas are relatively flat and have good soils, they are also convenient for development. Natural flooding cycles can cause tremendous damage to man-made structures. At the same time, these structures can impact the depth of floodwaters and where they travel. Due to historical development patterns, specifically settlement along major waterways, most of the heavily populated areas are located in the floodplains of the Susquehanna River and Lycoming and Loyalsock Creeks. Much of the planning area is protected by a dike system, although not all. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a new set of maps that redefine the flood-hazard areas of Lycoming County. The new mapping addresses the entire County. The maps were sent to County municipalities in September 2002, and are currently being reviewed. (Surface Water Features)

The Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act (Act 166 of 1978) requires municipalities that have been identified as flood-prone to enact floodplain regulations that, at a minimum, meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federal program that allows property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. All of the planning area municipalities participate in the NFIP.

The Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Partnership, also known as Project Impact, is a disaster resistance initiative with a mission “to identify risks and take actions which eliminate life threats and reduce financial losses,” including flood hazards, for residents of Lycoming County. The Partnership is currently pursuing several flood mitigation projects in the planning area. The Lower Lycoming Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Plan was adopted in 2001 by Loyalsock, Old Lycoming, Hepburn, Lycoming and Lewis Townships. This plan identifies flood hazards and risk factors in the area and also provides a collection of recommended policies and actions to mitigate these hazards.

Flood hazards and protection continue to be a challenging issue for the municipalities of the Greater Williamsport Alliance 2000. Each municipality’s zoning ordinance contains floodplain development regulations.

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## No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

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### Biological Resources

**Timber Resources/Vegetation** - Approximately 75% of the County is forested. According to the 1986 Soil Survey, these woodland areas consist of stands of second and third growth trees. Over 60% of the forest cover falls into the oak-hickory and associated varieties classification. Maple-beech-birch and associated species are the second most prevalent. Other varieties include cherry, ash, white pine, and hemlock. These woodland areas serve many purposes, including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and as a source of income from wood crops.

Much of the planning area has been cleared and developed for village, residential, and agricultural uses; however, there are still large areas of forest and woodlands throughout the planning area, particularly in Armstrong Township.

**Wildlife** - Lycoming County's wildlife reflects both the forested landscape, as well as changes to its vegetative patterns due to human activities. Game species, such as deer, black bear, turkey, grouse, pheasant, and coyote, thrive in forest and forest edge habitats. At present, there are concerns about the increasing size of the deer population, which has prompted the State Game Commission to change hunting regulations in an attempt to control the herds. Non-game species flourish as well, including bobcat, otter, herons, bald eagles, osprey, hawks and owls. Trout inhabit the cold-water streams, while large and small mouth bass and muskies populate the warmer waters. Many of these species thrive in the Tiadaughton State Forest and PA State Game Lands No. 126 located in Armstrong Township.

There are a number of organizations that are currently involved in monitoring and protecting biological resources throughout Pennsylvania. They include The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), The Bureau of Forestry, The PA Boat and Fish Commission, and the PA Game Commission. Also, The Pennsylvania Natural

Diversity Inventory (PNDI), which is a partnership of DCNR, The Nature Conservancy, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, has conducted inventories and collected data to identify and describe the Commonwealth's most rare and significant ecological features, both individual species and their habitats.

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is an organization that is working to protect the rural nature of the County and the surrounding region. Its mission is to conserve, protect, and utilize lands, landmarks, and waterways of special natural, cultural and historic value for the enjoyment and well being of present and future generations. To date they have protected 13 properties in Lycoming County, totaling over 1200 acres.



# Technical Background Studies

## No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

### Cultural Resources

**Archaeological/Historical – According to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, there are 36 properties located throughout Lycoming County that are either eligible or already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 24 located in the planning area; most (21) are found in the City of Williamsport. The following table lists these properties and their locations. There are a number of archaeological sites within the planning area as well, including the Canfield Island and Ault Sites, both of which are located in Loyalsock Township. Preservation of these resources helps to maintain connections with the area’s heritage, as well as to encourage tourism. (Historical Resources Map)**

Historic Property	Municipality	Location	Date Listed	Date Eligible
Canfield Island Site	Loyalsock Township	Riverfront Park (Greevy Road)	4/14/82	
Evenden House	Loyalsock Township	1323 E. 3rd Street		4/17/86
Pennsylvania Railroad	Old Lycoming Township	Lycoming Creek		10/4/93
James V Brown Library	Williamsport City	19 E. 4th Street		8/29/94
J. Henry Cochran Elementary School	Williamsport City	1500 Cherry Street		11/15/99
Fidelity National Bank	Williamsport City	21-25 W. 3rd Street		5/1/84
Grit Building	Williamsport City	200-222 W. 3rd Street		12/20/94
Hart Building	Williamsport City	26-30 W. 3rd Street	9/7/84	
Peter Herdic House	Williamsport City	407 W. 4th Street	11/21/78	
Lincoln School	Williamsport City	2130 Lincoln Street		8/10/84
Lycoming County Jail	Williamsport City	128 W. 3rd Street		3/30/87
Millionaire’s Row Historic District	Williamsport City	Williamsport	1/24/85	
Northern Central Bank Building	Williamsport City	102 W. 4th Street		3/6/98
Original Little League Baseball Field	Williamsport City	W. 4th Street		7/8/98
Second Street Workers Row	Williamsport City	609-643 2nd Street		5/14/82
Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School	Williamsport City	West 4th Street		10/11/91
Transeau Building	Williamsport City	Park Ave & 1st Ave	9/20/93	
U.S. Post Office/City Hall	Williamsport City	245 W. 4th Street	3/16/72	
Upegraff Hotel	Williamsport City	43-45 W. 4th Street		9/10/82
Williamsport Armory	Williamsport City	1300 Penn Ave	11/14/91	
Williamsport City Hall (former)	Williamsport City	454 Pine Street	11/7/76	
Williamsport Downtown Historic District	Williamsport City	Roughly bounded by 3rd, Center, Academy, & Edwin		3/6/98

Source: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

**Cultural** – In addition to the historical resources, numerous cultural activities and resources add to the quality of life in the planning area. The City of Williamsport is the County Seat and the County’s cultural hub. The new Community Arts Center is the home of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, and hosts a variety of theatrical and musical shows. The Community Theater League, which is located in the Trade and Transit Center in Downtown Williamsport, offers a wide variety of theatrical performances, including the Sprouts Theater for Children. The Williamsport/ Lycoming Arts Council is a key organization, as they “provide services and support for...34 affiliate organizations and promote the arts and cultural life...” within the community. Their website, [www.lycoarts.com](http://www.lycoarts.com) provides information about the arts throughout the planning area.

## **Technical Background Studies**

### **No. 6 - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile**

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The Thomas T. Taber Museum, the Little League Baseball Museum, and the James V. Brown Library are just a few of the other cultural resources that are located in Williamsport. The Little League Baseball World Series is held every August and the Susquehanna Festival of the Arts has also become an annual event. Lycoming College and Penn College of Technology are located in Williamsport, and continue to sponsor major artists' series, lecture series, art exhibitions and summer theater programs.

**Recreational** – The planning area is well situated to take advantage of the vast areas of unspoiled lands throughout the County. Hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting continue to become more popular and the economic potential for the County is well recognized. A large piece of Tiadaughton State Forest is located in Armstrong Township and the Susquehanna State Park is found in the City of Williamsport. Other local parks include Brandon Park, the East End Pool, Bruce E. Henry Park and The South Williamsport Municipal Park. At present, the County is in the process of updating its Parks and Recreation Plan, which will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan when complete.

# **Technical Background Studies**

## **No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile**

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### **Introduction**

Flooding is a natural phenomenon that occurs wherever there are surface waters, i.e., streams, rivers, lakes, etc. Once human activity is introduced to the areas immediately adjacent to a body of water, flooding becomes a hazard. Lycoming County has approximately 2,200 miles of streams that are subject to flooding. In fact, flooding is the number one hazard that the county has to deal with. This section reviews the nature of flooding within the county, provides a brief discussion of past flood events, and details the current status of the county's efforts to mitigate the impact of future flood events.

### **The Nature of Flood Hazards**

There are two basic factors that impact the nature of flood hazards: topography and historic development patterns. The county's topography is very rugged and is traversed by numerous streams. The West Branch of the Susquehanna River flows through the county, and along with its main tributaries – Pine, Larry's, Lycoming, Loyalsock, and Muncy Creeks – drains thousands of square miles of land. Whenever there is excessive rainfall and/ or snowmelt, flooding occurs. Over the centuries, the regular flooding of these waters has created areas of relatively flat, fertile land that are ideal for human settlement.

Yet, it is the presence of human settlements that makes flooding a hazard. Damage to buildings, sewage systems, and other elements of the human landscape are frequently the results of flooding. The River's historic role as a major transportation corridor, in addition to the physical nature of the land itself, has meant that much of the area's development has occurred on the floodplains. As a result, each time the river or one of its tributaries flood, there is usually significant damage to homes and businesses. Residents are acutely aware of the problem, as evidenced by the fact that there is approximately \$165,000,000.00 worth of flood insurance coverage in the County at the present time.

### **Flood Impacts**

There have been 48 significant floods of record in the county since 1814. Most notable are the Flood of 1889, Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, and the winter storm of 1996.

After the flood of 1889, the city engineer counted 3,402 residential buildings that had been washed away. More than 8,000 people - nearly a quarter of Williamsport's Citizens at the time - lost all possessions. "Inventory was waterlogged in first-floor businesses downtown. Food stocks were ruined and re-supply was impossible. Starvation and disease became serious worries for hastily formed relief committees. Huge piles of lumber filled the streets and practically every bridge in the county was gone. Roads washed so badly that horse-drawn wagons could not use them. Railroads lost dozens of bridges and many miles of track. The West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal was clogged with debris. Telephone and telegraph lines washed away, cutting off the city from the rest of the world. The city's fledgling

electrical generating plant and the natural gas were shut down. Mayor James S. Foresman hired 50 temporary special policemen to prevent looting and ordered all saloons closed." (Lycoming

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County Flood History, Project Impact Website) By all accounts, there were many things that were never the same in the area after that flood.

In June of 1972, Tropical Storm Agnes dumped enough rain in the area to cause the Susquehanna to rise more than a foot above the City of Williamsport's dikes' design limits. According to County records, over 2,000 buildings in the city and an additional 4,000+ throughout the rest of the county were within the flooded areas. This resulted in millions of dollars worth of damages.

In the winter of 1996, an unusual combination of factors caused flooding that resulted in more than \$25 million in real-estate property damages; 6 deaths, 88 hospitalizations, and 200 injuries; 1,418 damaged homes, with 674 destroyed or heavily damaged, and 160 businesses damaged, putting 1000 jobs at risk.

### **Flood Hazard Mitigation**

Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent flooding; however, it is possible to minimize the damages that might occur as a result of flooding. Flood hazard mitigation is a top priority for the County. In conjunction with numerous organizations, Lycoming County continues to improve the safety of area residents and businesses through a combination of programs and projects designed to reduce flood damages.

### **Agencies and Organizations**

There are many organizations that are involved in the ongoing flood mitigation efforts in Lycoming County. In addition to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), there are two local groups that are critical to these efforts: The County's Emergency Management Agency and The Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Partnership, Inc., also known as Project Impact. The US Army Corps of Engineers is also a key player.

### **FEMA and PEMA**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is an independent agency that reports to the President and is tasked with responding to, planning for, recovering from and mitigating against disaster. FIMA, the Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration is the division that manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and oversees FEMA's mitigation programs. The NFIP consists of three components: flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. "Flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a year through communities implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing of flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance. And, every \$3 paid in flood insurance claims saves \$1 in disaster assistance payments." In addition, the NFIP identifies and maps the Nation's floodplains, which creates

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broad-based awareness of the flood hazards and provides the data needed for floodplain management programs. (FEMA Website)

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is charged with supporting county and local government in the areas of civil defense, disaster mitigation and preparedness, and planning, response and recovery from man-made or natural disasters. PEMA manages the Integrated Flood Observation and Warning System, also known as IFLOWS. This is a state-wide system of rain and stream gauges that provide rainfall and stream level data via radio and satellite to the counties, the state Emergency Operations Center, PEMA area offices and the National Weather Service offices in Pennsylvania.

### **County Organizations**

The Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency coordinates and supports several programs, including emergency operations planning for all 52 municipalities, emergency planning assistance to public, private, and government agencies, the Flash Flood Warning Volunteer Program, SKYWARN weather observation volunteer program, and National Weather Service assistance and cooperation. They use a combination of Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), organizations, local Emergency Management Coordinators, and mutual aid agreements to mobilize all possible resources during an emergency situation.

The Agency maintains communications links with the National Weather Service, PEMA, and all other Counties in Pennsylvania. They are also connected via radio through the Emergency Communications Center to police, fire and ambulance services. The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is staffed by 30 – 40 volunteers, depending on the situation, who are responsible for the “dispatch and maintenance of equipment, supplies, and personnel...for efficient and effective response”. (Lycoming County Department of Public Safety – Website)

Project Impact is a disaster resistance initiative with the following mission: “...to identify risks and take actions which eliminate life threats and reduce financial losses by being proactive, measuring success, creating incentives for local communities, educating the public to help themselves, providing and implementing long-term solutions, maintaining the initiative and providing leadership” (Project Impact Website)

The organization is a partnership of local utility providers, the chamber of commerce, civic and non-profit groups, private businesses & industries, financial institutions, school districts, local governments, etc. The first full meeting of the Advisory Board was convened on November 24, 1998. Presently, the Lycoming County Project Impact Membership is nearly 200 individuals and organizations. Their website provides a list of current board members and partners, as well as details on current projects and funding.

### **Mitigation Projects**

The County Flood Warning System, which originally consisted of stream gauges that were monitored by Volunteer Flood Coordinators and now is coordinated with the state IFLOWS

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program, has been in place since the early 1970's. It has received State and Federal recognition and is used as a model system by flood prone communities throughout the United States. The Williamsport Dike Flood Protection System was originally approved in 1940 and construction soon began; however, work was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. The system was finally completed in 1955, and since then has been improved and extended to provide maximum protection. In fact, a look at FEMA mapping shows that the areas protected by the dike system are only included in the 500 year flood plain, not the 100 year.

Numerous other flood hazard mitigation projects are in progress throughout the County. In addition to the projects listed below, the County is also working in partnership with FEMA and the USGS on a Countywide Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) to improve flood hazard mapping for all 52 municipalities. Also, flood hazard mitigation planning is underway for the County and Jersey Shore Borough, and has been completed for the Lower Lycoming Creek Area.

Project Impact is working on the following:

- Acquire and demolish 124 residential properties that have been repeatedly flooded
- Acquire and remove 30 Mobile homes and convert the space to a community park
- Development of a "How to Retrofit" video
- Muncy Flood Mitigation Project – flood damage retrofit of utilities in 42 residences and 3 businesses
- Ralston Flood Hazard Mitigation Project – reduce 100-year flood levels in the village by 3-4 feet.
- Retrofit utilities in Jersey Shore Municipal Building and evaluate need for such in the Police Station and The Fire Co./ Red Cross Shelter
- Development of GIS Vulnerability Analysis Database (VAD)
- Partnership Development and Community Awareness

There are also other projects underway in cooperation with PEMA, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers, which include the following:

- Flood warning system upgrade Phase I, I b and II a
- Montoursville Flood Protection
- Trout Run Stream Stabilization
- McClure's Run Flood Protection
- Heshbon/ Hepburnville Phase B

## **Zoning**

As previously mentioned, the NFIP consists of three components: flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Currently each of the county's municipalities participate in the NFIP, and flood insurance coverage in the county is valued at over

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\$165,000,000.00. Floodplain management is accomplished by zoning ordinances. Several municipalities have local ordinances in effect, and the county has made provisions within the county zoning ordinances to satisfy the state and federal requirements for the Federal Flood Insurance Program for those municipalities that do not have a local ordinance.

In most cases, there are three types of Floodplain Districts: the General Floodplain District (FP), the Flood Fringe District (FF), and the Floodway District (FW). These designations apply to those areas subject to the 100-year flood as identified in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and/ or maps prepared by FEMA. They are usually considered an overlay on existing uses as shown on the official Zoning Ordinances Maps, meaning that existing uses are still permitted, but new development and substantive improvements are subject to specific flood proofing requirements. If a conflict exists between existing use and floodplain requirements, the more restrictive floodplain provisions apply.

Generally speaking, new development in the FP and FF Districts is permitted as per the underlying uses as long as they are undertaken in strict compliance with required flood proofing measures and are not located “within the area measured fifty (50) feet landward from the top-of-bank of any water course”. (Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance) Flood proofing measures include, but are not limited to lowest floor regulations, fill specifications, placement of buildings, anchoring of structures, and flooring, walls, and utilities specifications. There are also special requirements for mobile homes and water management.

In the FW Districts, no new development is permitted that would cause an increase in the elevation of the 100-year floodplain, although in some cases it is permitted if “the effects of such on flood heights is fully offset by accompanying stream improvements” (Old Lycoming Township Zoning Ordinance) and all necessary permits have been obtained. In addition, there are several municipalities that prohibit mobile homes within the FW District. It should be noted that there are several additional uses that are permitted in these districts, namely, agricultural uses such as general farming, outdoor plant nurseries, and forestry; recreational uses such as hiking trails and nature preserves (e.g. the Susquehanna Greenway), and temporary uses such as carnivals.

### **Flood Hazard Mitigation and Economic Development**

The 1997 County Comprehensive Plan incorporates the Lycoming County Commissioners Economic Development Strategy. The overriding goal of the strategy is “To implement changes which will improve the local economy and make Lycoming County a better place to live and conduct business.” (County Comprehensive Plan) Flood hazard mitigation plays a critical role by helping to ensure the safety of the County’s residents and businesses.

Since there is no way to prevent flooding, the next best thing is to implement as many measures as possible to minimize the potential damages. As put forth in the county zoning ordinances, “The purpose of these (zoning) provisions is to prevent the loss of property and life, the creation of health and safety hazards, the disruption of commerce and governmental services, the extraordinary and unnecessary expenditure of public funds for flood protection and relief, and

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the impairment of the tax base...” (Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance) By creating a safer environment, it is more likely that existing businesses will stay in the area, and new businesses will choose to locate here, which in turn promotes further economic development.