



**The Comprehensive Plan
Background Studies
for the
Lower Lycoming Creek
Planning Area**

**Hepburn Township, Lewis Township, Loyalsock
Township, Lycoming Township, Old Lycoming
Township**

Lycoming County, PA

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

Important 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Advisory Team as being of particular importance within the planning area. 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.
- ☑ **Housing Stock and Diversity** – is of particular concern in regard to the elderly population as well as the needs for younger families with limited incomes.
- ☑ **Affordable Housing** – was viewed as positive aspects of the area for maintaining a stable community.
- ☑ **Good Labor** – was viewed as important to business development and expansion in the area.
- ☑ **Loss of Industries and Opportunities** – is a concern in terms of maintaining job opportunities for younger workers.
- ☑ **Strong Manufacturing Base** – is viewed as a key component of maintaining a strong diverse economy.
- ☑ **Importance of Tourism** – and especially outdoor recreation such as fishing is viewed as important component of the economy.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

- ☑ **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 a 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)

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

- 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

Demographic Characteristics

Overview of Demographics

Table 1-1 presents a historic population trend analysis for the Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area (LLC) municipalities, Lycoming County, and Pennsylvania. As shown, the LLC municipalities experienced increases in their respective populations over the 1970 to 2000 Census period. Moreover, the population growth rates enumerated for the LLC municipalities, except Loyalsock Township, exceeded those calculated for the county (6.0 percent) and state (4.1 percent).

Loyalsock Township's population grew by only 2.8 percent over the 1970 to 2000 Census period. Given the township's proximity to the City of Williamsport, this trend demonstrates that the city's population is migrating further out towards the more suburban and rural townships of Old Lycoming, Lycoming, Lewis and Hepburn.

The most significant growth in population over the 1970 to 2000 Census period was experienced by Hepburn Township, which grew by 1,217 persons or by 74.9 percent. Lewis and Old Lycoming Townships also experienced significant growth in their populations increasing their respective totals by 51.9 percent (389 persons) and 19.3 percent (892 persons). Again, these trends are attributed to the shifts in the county's population from the city to the outlying suburban and rural townships.

The population growth trends enumerated for the LLC municipalities during the 1970 to 2000 Census periods are in part attributed to the outward growth patterns of the City of Williamsport into the neighboring suburban LLC townships.

Technical Background Studies

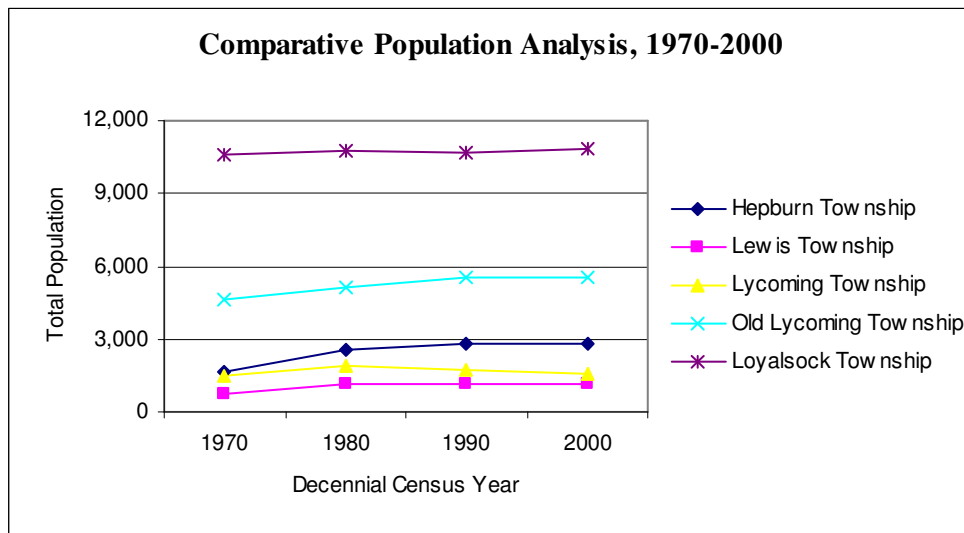
No. 1 – Community Development Profile

More recently, however, the historic population gains of the LLC municipalities have slowed or decreased, which in part may be attributed to the 1996 flood impacts, as well as the employment losses resulting in the decline of the county's, as well as the state and nation's, manufacturing industry.

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%
Lower Lycoming Planning Area	19,077	21,484	21,946	21,965	19	0.1%	2,888	15.1%
Hepburn Township	1,623	2,534	2,832	2,840	8	0.1%	1,217	74.9%
Lewis Township	750	1,149	1,196	1,139	-57	-7.6%	389	51.9%
Loyalsock Township	10,581	10,763	10,586	10,876	290	2.7%	295	2.8%
Lycoming Township	1,507	1,902	1,748	1,602	-146	-9.7%	95	6.3%
Old Lycoming Township	4,616	5,136	5,574	5,508	66	1.4%	892	19.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2 - 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

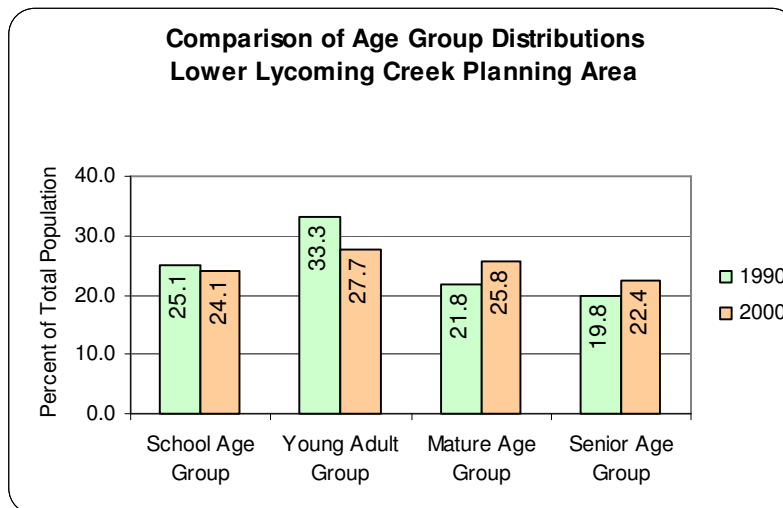
Issue- Exodus of Younger Generation with Increasing Elderly Population

An analysis of the LLC'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 LLC 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 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 LLC municipalities are indeed experiencing a decrease in their young adult populations and that their populations are aging. These trends are supported by the following statements:

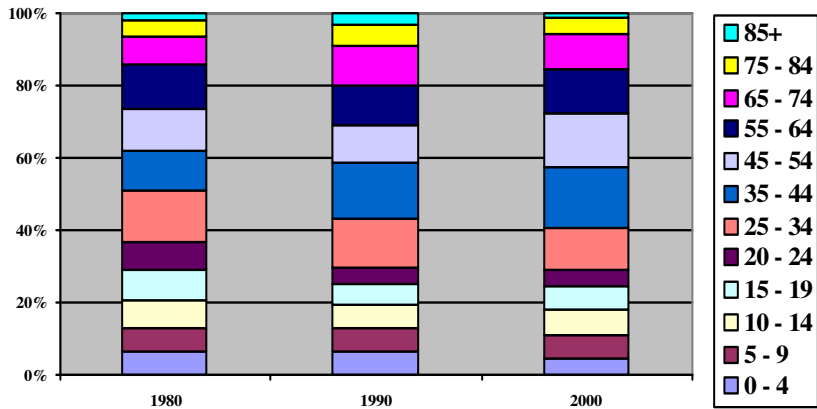
Figure 2 - 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2-2a

**Trends in Population by Age Group
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

“Exodus of Young Adults”

- According to the 1990 and 2000 Censuses, the young adult age group comprised the largest share of the LLC’s total population. During this period, however, the total population share of 33.3 percent in 1990 decreased to 27.7 percent in 2000. Likewise, the school age group’s share of the total population decreased from 25.1 percent in 1990 to 24.1 percent in 2000.
- From 1990 to 2000, all LLC municipalities experienced decreases in their respective young adult populations. Moreover, the percentage losses of several municipalities--including the LLC as a whole--exceeded the rates enumerated for Lycoming County (-2.7 percent) and Pennsylvania (-2.2 percent).
- Likewise, all LLC municipalities experienced decreases in their respective school age group populations. Moreover, these percentage decreases exceeded the percentage decrease enumerated for Lycoming County (-1.1 percent).

“Aging Population”

- From 1990 to 2000, the LLC’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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

- The LLC’s mature age group population increased by 888 persons or by 4.0 percent over the 1990 to 2000 Census periods. This growth rate was slightly higher than the rates enumerated for the county (3.9 percent) and state (3.9 percent).
- Relative to the county and state, the LLC’s senior age group comprised a greater share of the planning area’s total 1990 (19.8 percent) and 2000 (22.4 percent) Census populations. As a result, the GWA represents one of the state’s highest concentrations of persons 65 years and over.
- Since 1990, the median ages of the LLC planning area municipalities have increased. Except for Hepburn Township, the median ages enumerated by the 2000 Census for the municipalities exceed the median age of the entire county.

Table 1-2
Age Group Distribution 1990-2000

Age Groups	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Change (1990-2000)	
					# Increase	% Increase
School Age Group (0-19)						
Hepburn township	852	30.1%	802	28.3%	-50	-1.8%
Lewis township	381	31.9%	302	26.5%	-79	-6.6%
Lycoming township	586	33.5%	432	26.9%	-154	-8.8%
Old Lycoming township	1,389	25.1%	1,328	24.1%	-61	-1.1%
Loyalsock township	2,308	21.7%	2,426	22.3%	118	1.1%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	5,516	25.1%	5,290	24.1%	-226	-1.0%
Lycoming County	33,292	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%
Young Adult Group (20-44)						
Hepburn township	1,103	38.9%	857	30.2%	-246	-8.7%
Lewis township	474	39.7%	400	35.1%	-74	-6.2%
Lycoming township	695	39.8%	523	32.6%	-172	-9.8%
Old Lycoming township	2,000	36.2%	1,694	30.8%	-306	-5.5%
Loyalsock township	3,027	28.4%	2,612	24.0%	-415	-3.9%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	7,299	33.3%	6,086	27.7%	-1,213	-5.5%
Lycoming County	43,954	37.0%	40,795	34.0%	-3159	-2.7%
Pennsylvania	4,520,330	38.0%	4,254,648	34.6%	-265,682	-2.2%
Mature Age Group (45-64)						
Hepburn township	614	21.7%	809	28.5%	195	6.9%
Lewis township	221	18.5%	301	26.4%	80	6.7%
Lycoming township	317	18.1%	449	28.0%	132	7.6%
Old Lycoming township	1,263	22.9%	1,468	26.7%	205	3.7%

Technical Background Studies No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Loyalsock township	2,363	22.2%	2,639	24.3%	276	2.6%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	4,778	21.8%	5,666	25.8%	888	4.0%
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%
Senior Age Group (65+)						
Hepburn township	265	9.4%	368	13.0%	103	3.6%
Lewis township	118	9.9%	136	11.9%	18	1.5%
Lycoming township	150	8.6%	202	12.6%	52	3.0%
Table 1-2 (cont'd) Age Group Distribution 1990-2000						
Age Groups	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Change (1990-2000)	
Senior Age Group (65+)						
Old Lycoming township	874	15.8%	1,018	18.5%	144	2.6%
Loyalsock township	2,946	27.7%	3,199	29.4%	253	2.4%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	4,353	19.8%	4,923	22.4%	570	2.6%
Lycoming County	17,940	15.1%	1,9251	16.0%	1,311	1.1%
Pennsylvania	1,829,106	15.4%	1,919,165	15.6%	90,059	0.8%
Planning Area Total	21,946	100.0%	21,965	100.0%	19	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-3 Median Age: 1990 - 2000		
Municipality	1990	2000
Pennsylvania	38.0	38.0
Lycoming County	34.8	38.4
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area	45.5	52.0
Hepburn Township	33.9	40.8
Lewis Township	33.1	37.9
Lycoming Township	32.6	39.5
Old Lycoming Township	37.5	42.4
Loyalsock Township	44.9	47.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Forecasts

Given that the existing population of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area 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 Greater Williamsport area, in addition to the flood hazard mitigation efforts being undertaken

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

by the county and local municipalities. 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area municipalities and Lycoming County. As shown, the populations of the planning area municipalities, except Lycoming Township, are expected to decrease through the year 2020. These forecasted trends, however, are likely to change given the economic revitalization and flood mitigation efforts underway in the planning region and county. When the success of these initiatives is realized, then the planning area municipalities may begin to experience real population growth.

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
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	21,936	21,965	21,959	21,948	21,888	21,846	-112	-0.5
Hepburn Township	2,832	2,840	2,835	2,833	2,824	2,818	-17	-0.6
Lewis Township	1,196	1,139	1,110	1,081	1,049	1,018	-92	-8.3
Loyalsock Township	10,586	10,876	10,985	11,093	11,177	11,271	286	2.6
Lycoming Township	1,748	1,606	1,534	1,461	1,385	1,310	-224	-14.6
Old Lycoming Township	5,579	5,508	5,495	5,480	5,453	5,430	-65	-1.2

Source: BonData, 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 over the 1990 to 2000 Census periods.

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%
Lower Lycoming Planning Area	21,604	342	1.6%	21,173	792	3.7%
Hepburn Township	2,819	15	0.5%	2,801	35	1.2%
Lewis Township	1,178	16	1.3%	1,124	15	1.3%
Loyalsock Township	10,392	252	2.4%	10,312	564	5.2%
Lycoming Township	1,727	21	1.2%	1,572	34	2.1%
Old Lycoming Township	5,488	38	0.7%	5,364	144	2.6%

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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 (34.5 percent), Irish (10.5 percent) and English (9.2 percent) lineages. The remaining population is, however, distributed across a number of non-European ancestral countries that are located within Mediterranean, Arab,

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-6 Ethnic Diversity			
Area	Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area Total	Lycoming County Total	Pennsylvania Total
Arab	0.15%	0.10%	0.36%
Czech	0.36%	0.26%	0.52%
Danish	0.05%	0.09%	0.12%
Dutch	3.32%	3.93%	1.88%
English	9.18%	8.47%	7.12%
French (except Basque)	2.66%	2.53%	1.56%
French Canadian	0.55%	0.32%	0.23%
German	34.54%	35.64%	22.95%
Greek	0.14%	0.21%	0.42%
Hungarian	0.48%	0.33%	0.97%
Irish	10.48%	11.31%	14.61%
Italian	6.36%	6.59%	10.45%
Lithuanian	0.47%	0.25%	0.58%
Norwegian	0.23%	0.29%	0.29%
Polish	5.33%	3.66%	6.07%
Portuguese	0.05%	0.06%	0.10%
Russian	0.41%	0.37%	1.32%
Scotch-Irish	1.73%	1.51%	1.61%
Scottish	1.93%	1.45%	1.36%
Slovak	0.67%	0.44%	1.79%
Subsaharan African	0.03%	0.22%	0.43%
Swedish	0.93%	1.01%	0.78%
Swiss	0.40%	0.33%	0.44%
Ukrainian	0.28%	0.18%	0.90%
United States or American	9.72%	8.60%	4.66%
Welsh	1.34%	1.47%	1.34%
West Indian (excluding Hispanic groups)	0.01%	0.05%	0.27%
Other ancestries	8.19%	10.30%	16.86%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Issue – Perception of a Close Knit Community with Low Migration

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 the LLC municipalities. As shown, the LLC's mobility rate of 35.3 percent is relatively high compared to several other planning areas; particularly, the Lycoming County Planning area, which is primarily comprised of rural townships. However, the LLC's mobility rate is below the rates enumerated for the county (39 percent) and state (36.5 percent). This mobility rate is largely due to a significant number of new residents (7,368) have moved into the community since 1995.

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 Figures 1-3 and 1-4. Relative to the other surveyed jurisdictions, a high correlation does not exist for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area.

These analyses suggest that while the Lower Lycoming Creek's is perceived to be a close-knit community, it has experienced a significant number of new residents since 1995. Considering the countywide population trends, however, these new residents are likely to have moved here from within the county and therefore, instill a continued sense of kinship to the area.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Table 1-7
Resident Mobility**

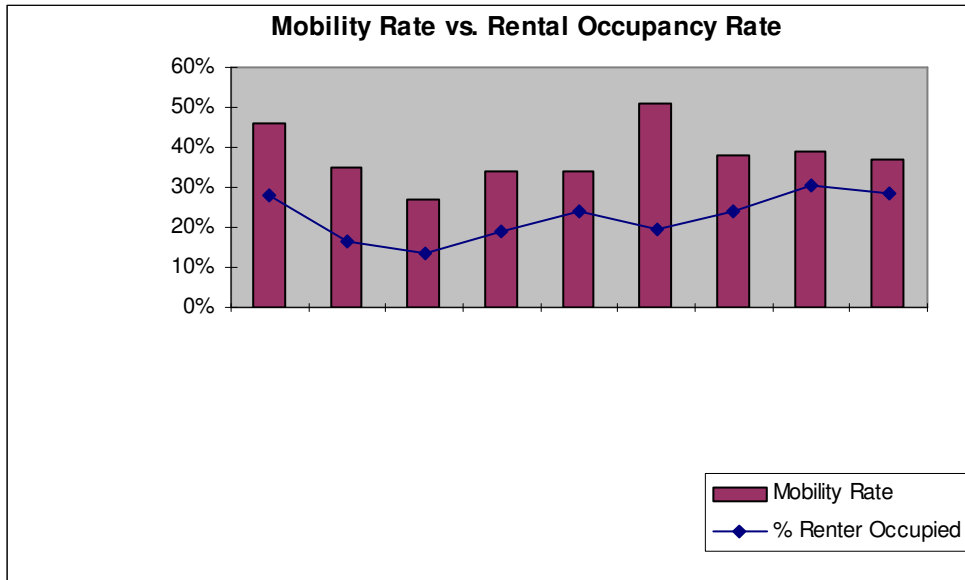
	Population 5 years and over	Same house in 1995	Movers	Mobility Rate	Origin of New Residents			
					Elsewhere in Lycoming County	Elsewhere in PA	Other State	Abroad
Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance Planning Area	52,437	28,550	23,887	45.6%	65.5%	22.7%	10.4%	1.5%
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-8
Resident Mobility

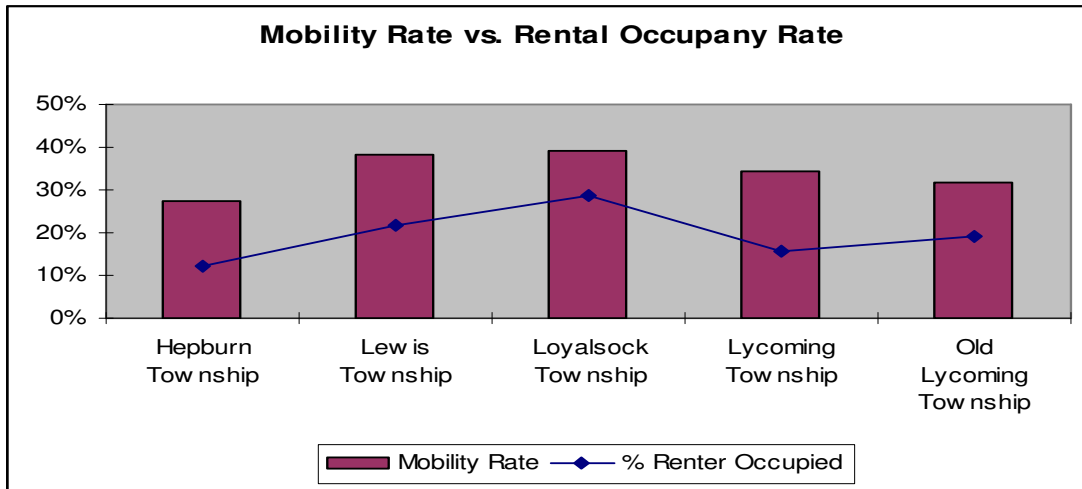
	Population 5 years and over	Same house in 1995	New Residents since 1995	Mobility Rate	Origin of New Residents			
					Elsewhere in Lycoming County	Elsewhere in PA	Other State	Abroad
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area	20,888	13,520	7368	35.3%	77.2%	11.7%	10.3%	0.7%
Hepburn Township	2,695	1,959	736	27.3%	82.1%	7.2%	9.2%	1.5%
Lewis Township	1,083	669	414	38.2%	76.6%	13.3%	9.7%	0.5%
Loyalsock Township	10,335	6,306	4,029	39.0%	73.5%	14.3%	11.5%	0.8%
Lycoming Township	1,518	999	519	34.2%	85.4%	6.9%	7.3%	0.4%
Old Lycoming Township	5,257	3,587	1,670	31.8%	81.6%	8.7%	9.2%	0.5%

Source: U. S Census Bureau

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 4

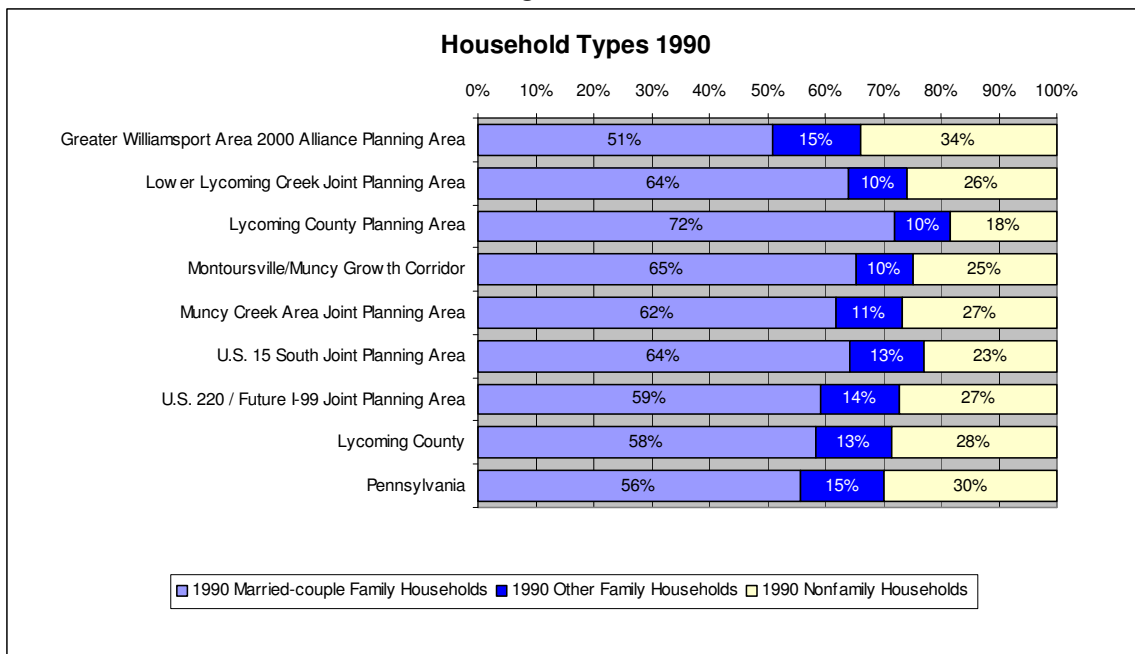


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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).

Figure 1 - 5

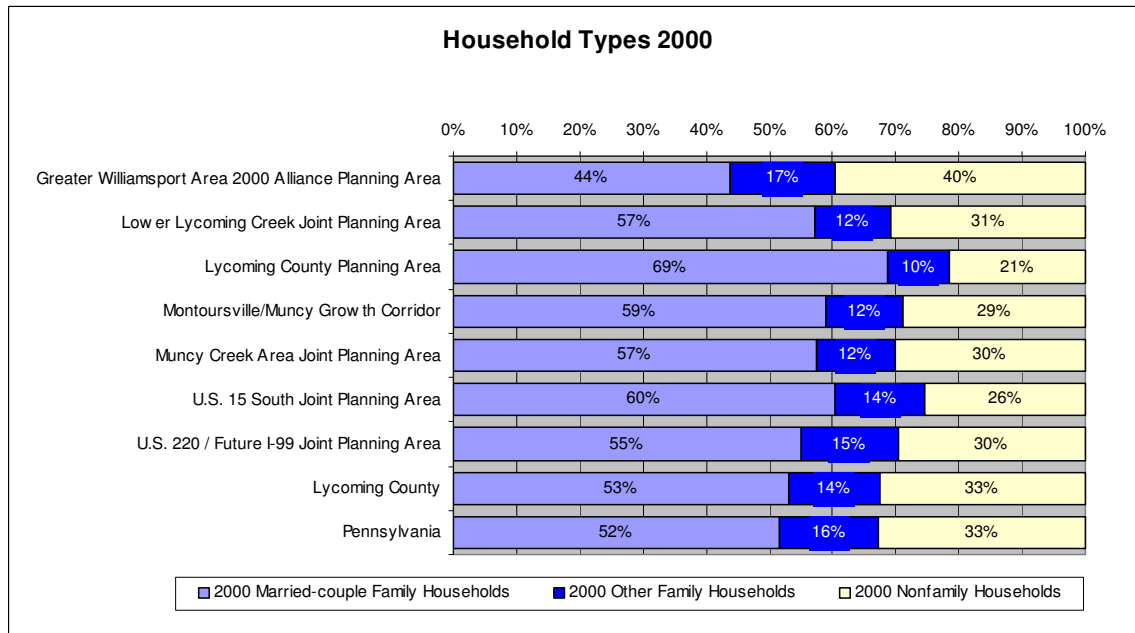


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 6



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The types of households in the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek area are presented in Table 1-9. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of nonfamily households increased, while family households decreased in three of the five municipalities of the planning area. Overall the planning lost 75 family households and gained 559 nonfamily households. 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. The total number of households in the planning area increased by 5.7 percent from 8,444 to 8,928. During this same period, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania also experienced household increases of 4.5 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 declined from 64 percent of the total households in 1990 to 57 percent in 2000, while other family households grew from 10 percent to 12 percent. All five municipalities saw a substantial shift from married-couple family households to other family households and nonfamily households. 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 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.

Table 1-9
Household Characteristics 1990-2000

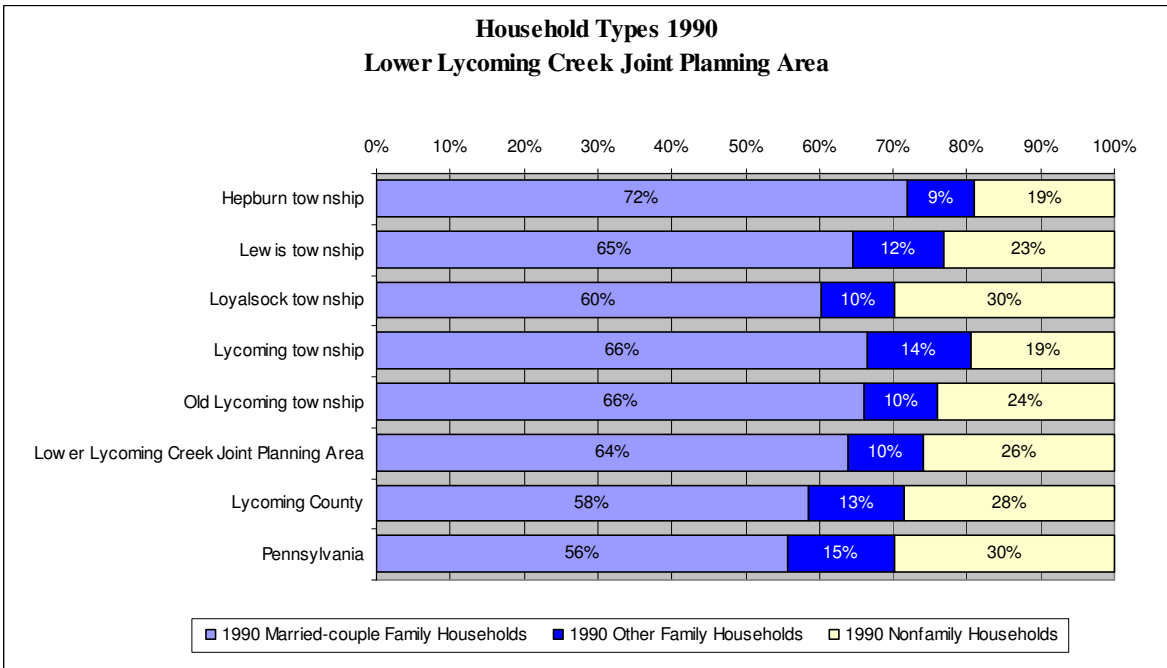
Municipality	1990 Household Types		2000 Household Types		Change in Household Types 1990 - 2000		Persons per Household	
	Family	Non-family	Family	Non-family	Family	Non-family	1990	2000
Pennsylvania	3,155,989	1,339,977	3,208,388	1,568,615	52,399	228,638	2.57	2.48
Lycoming County	32,165	12,784	31,703	15,300	-462	2,516	2.56	2.44
Lower Lycoming Planning Area	6249	2195	6174	2754	-75	559	2.66	2.48
Hepburn Township	818	193	841	241	23	48	2.80	2.62
Lewis Township	331	99	305	146	-26	47	2.78	2.53
Loyalsock Township	2960	1263	2968	1533	8	270	2.34	2.25
Lycoming Township	492	119	470	144	-22	25	2.86	2.62
Old Lycoming Township	1648	521	1590	690	-58	169	2.54	2.40

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Technical Background Studies

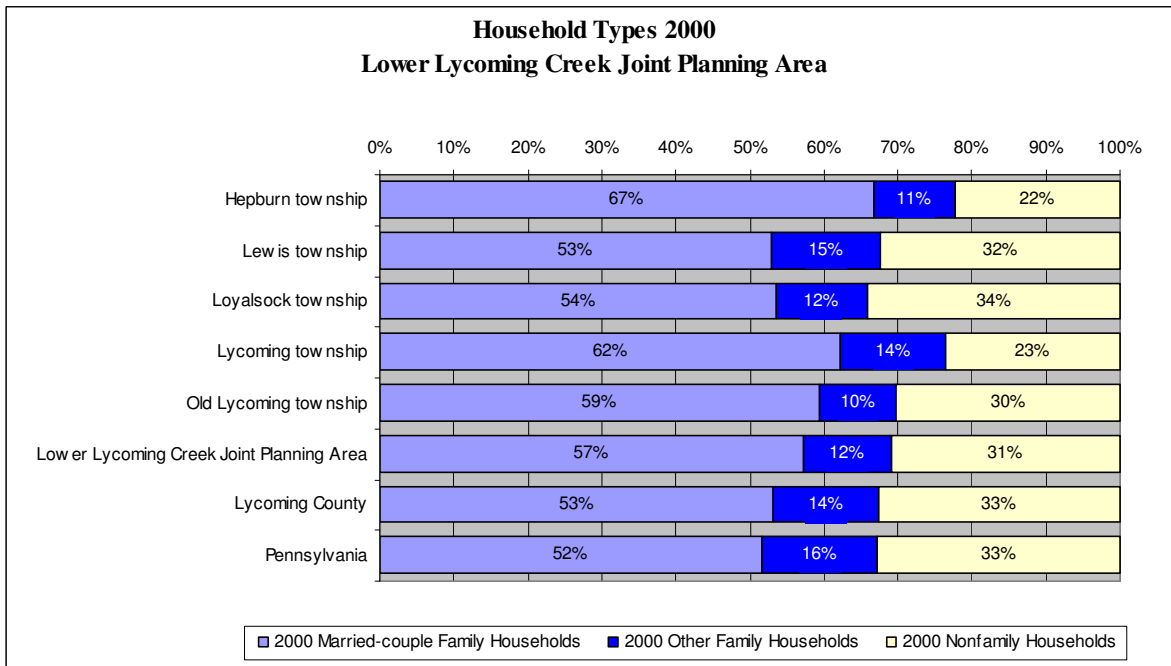
No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 7



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1 - 8



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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No. 1 – Community Development Profile

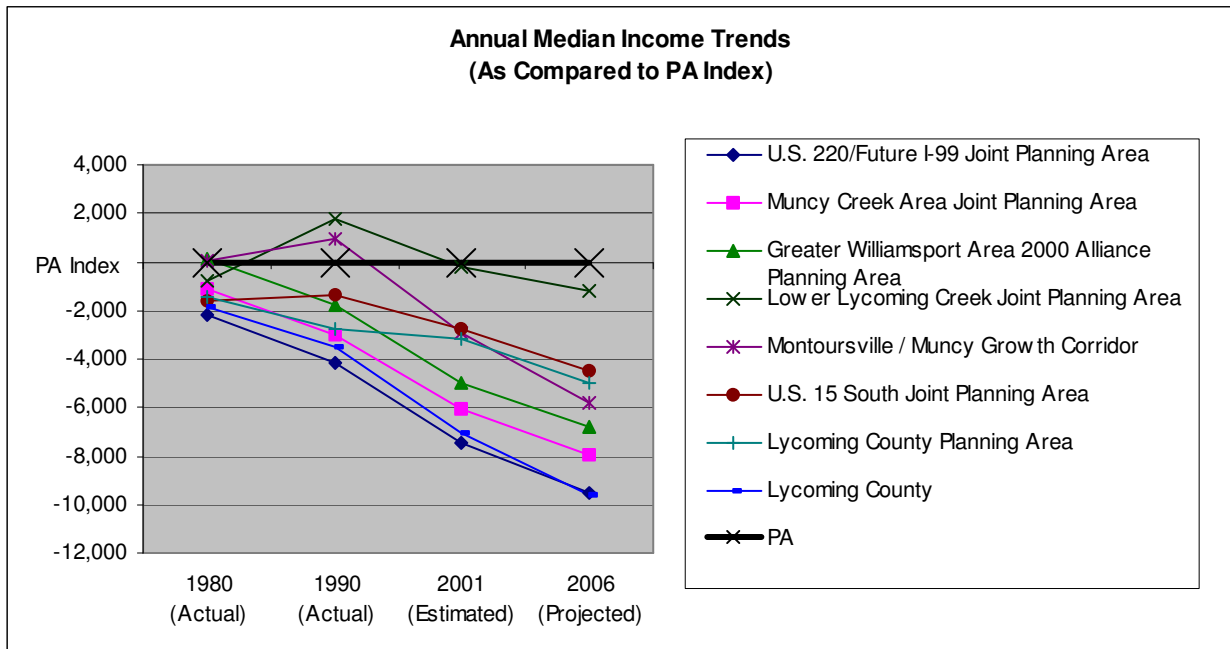
Issue – Perception of Low Wages and Income

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.

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 Lower Lycoming Creek planning area's growth in median household income (0.7%) from 1989 to 1999 lagged well behind the county (2.6%) and state (6.3%). 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Loyalsock Township saw a very substantial decline of 9.1%. On the other hand, Lycoming Township experienced an increase of 10.3% in its median household income between 1989 and 1999.

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 (Percent Change)
Pennsylvania	\$29,069	\$37,728	\$40,106	6.3%
Lycoming County	\$25,552	\$33,163	\$34,016	2.6%
Lower Lycoming Planning Area	\$29,092	\$37,757	\$38,039	0.7%
Hepburn Township	\$31,201	\$40,495	\$42,202	4.2%
Lewis Township	\$26,650	\$34,588	\$34,074	-1.5%
Loyalsock Township	\$31,181	\$40,469	\$36,806	-9.1%
Lycoming Township	\$26,023	\$33,774	\$37,262	10.3%
Old Lycoming Township	\$30,403	\$39,459	\$39,852	1.0%

(1) Consumer Price Index (CPI) 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).

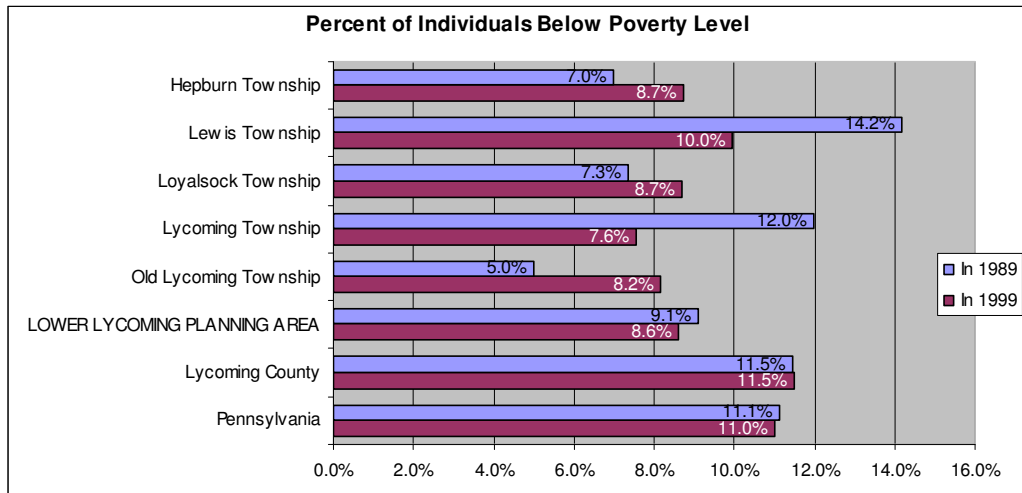
In the Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area, Lewis and Lycoming townships experienced a significant decrease in the percentage of their residents falling below the poverty level. Lewis Township saw a decrease from 14.2 percent in 1989 to 10.0 percent in 1999. Lycoming Township saw a decrease from 12.0 percent in 1989 to 7.6 percent in 1999. On the other hand, Old Lycoming Township experienced a substantial increase of 3.2 percent in the proportion of individuals falling below the poverty level between 1989 and 1999, from 5.0 percent to 8.2 percent. Hepburn Township and Loyalsock Township experienced a slight increase in the percentage of their population falling below the poverty level. Overall, individuals in this planning area fared slightly better than the county and the state. In the planning area 8.6

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

percent of individuals were below the poverty level in 1999, while 11.5 percent of individuals in the county and 11.0 percent of individuals in the state were below the poverty level in the same year.

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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. As presented in Table 1-11, slightly more housing units were constructed in the planning area during the 1980s. During this period, 1,240 units were constructed as opposed to 1,224 units during the previous decade.

Table 1-11 also reveals that the greatest number of housing units was constructed in Loyalsock, Old Lycoming, and Hepburn 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 exceeds the percentage shares enumerated for the remaining planning area municipalities, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. Based on these statistics, it is clear that Loyalsock, Old Lycoming and Hepburn Townships are the planning area's fastest growing municipalities. Furthermore, the proportion of housing units built in Hepburn Township (20.1 percent) over the 1990 to 2000 decade exceeded the percentages enumerated for Loyalsock (11.2 percent) and Old Lycoming (13.2 percent) Townships.

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
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area	9,424	1,240	13.2	1,224	13.0
Hepburn Township	1,137	181	15.9	228	20.1
Lewis Township	572	43	7.5	76	13.3
Loyalsock Township	4,687	563	12.0	526	11.2
Lycoming Township	659	55	8.3	81	12.3
Old Lycoming Township	2,369	398	16.8	313	13.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Issue—Perception: Area has Affordable Housing

Housing is generally more affordable in the Lower Lycoming Creek planning area than in the county, except for Loyalsock Township. County residents spent 29.9 percent of their median monthly household income on selected owner costs. Loyalsock Township residents spent 32.0 percent of their monthly income on owner costs. Conversely, residents of the other four municipalities in the planning area spent between 24.5 percent and 26.6 percent of their monthly income on owner costs. In comparison, Pennsylvanians spent 30.2 percent of their median monthly household income on selected monthly owner costs.

Median home values varied in the planning area in 2000. The median home values in Loyalsock, Hepburn and Old Lycoming townships exceeded the county's median home value of \$86,200. These townships had median home values between \$105,900 and \$94,300. Lewis Township and Lycoming Townships were more affordable with median home values of \$71,300 and \$83,000, respectively. This compares to the state's median home value of \$97,000.

The percentage of median monthly household income devoted to gross rent was generally lower in the planning area than in the county. County residents spent 15.8 percentage of their median monthly household income on gross rent. Only Loyalsock Township exceeded this rate with 17.5 percent of monthly income devoted to rent. Hepburn Township had a very reasonable rate of 11.1 percent of monthly income spent on rent. Old Lycoming Township was close, with 13.7 percent of median monthly household income dedicated to gross rent. Renters throughout the state spent 15.9 percent of their median monthly household income on gross rent.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-12
Housing Affordability

Municipality	2000 Median Home Value	1999 Median Househo ld Income	Median Monthly Househol d 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%
Lower Lycoming Planning Area	\$90,740	\$38,039	\$3,170	\$857	27.0%	\$458	14.4%
Hepburn Township	\$99,200	\$42,202	\$3,517	\$935	26.6%	\$391	11.1%
Lewis Township	\$71,300	\$34,074	\$2,840	\$748	26.3%	\$419	14.8%
Loyalsock Township	\$105,900	\$36,806	\$3,067	\$981	32.0%	\$538	17.5%
Lycoming Township	\$83,000	\$37,262	\$3,105	\$762	24.5%	\$485	15.6%
Old Lycoming Township	\$94,300	\$39,852	\$3,321	\$861	25.9%	\$455	13.7%

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.

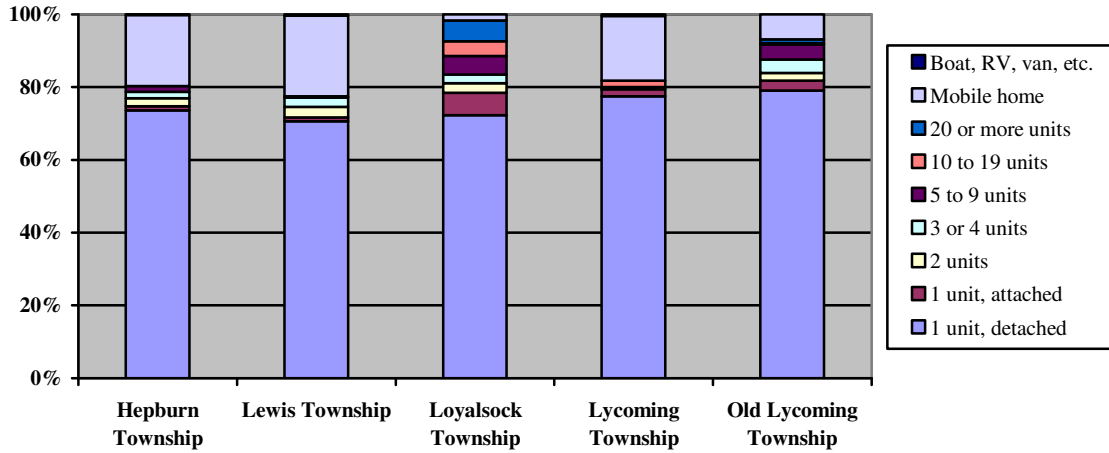
An inventory of the planning area’s housing diversity is presented in Figures 1-11 and 1-12. As shown, the majority of the planning area’s housing stock consists of single-family detached dwelling units. In regard to age, the planning area townships’ housing stock offers a wide array of construction period options. To this end, there exists many housing units constructed 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. In terms of affordability, the planning area offers an affordable supply of housing stock, relative to the county and state’s median housing values. The exception here is Loyalsock Township where the median home value exceeds \$105,000.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Figure 1 - 11

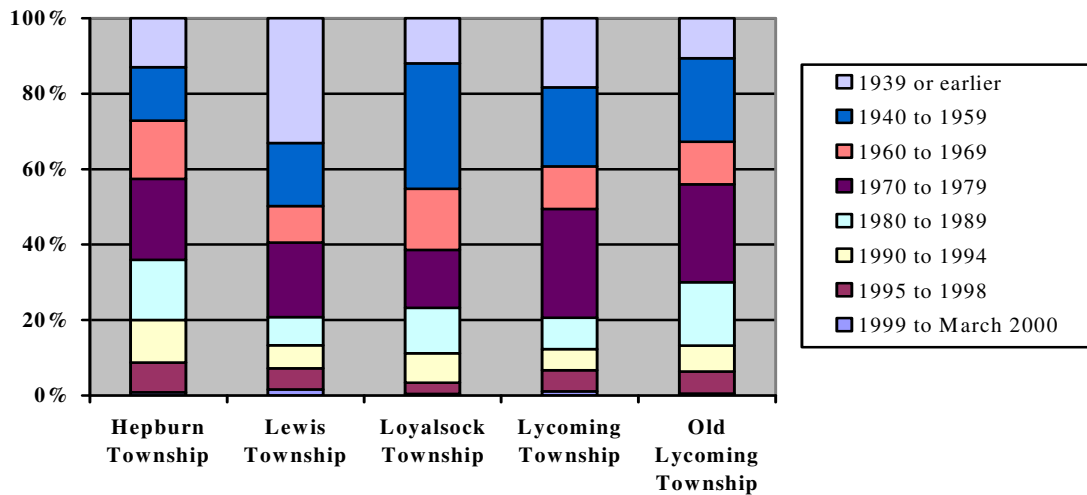
Housing Diversity - Units in Structure
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1 - 12

Age of Housing Stock
Lower Lycoming Creek Joint Planning Area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Technical Background Studies

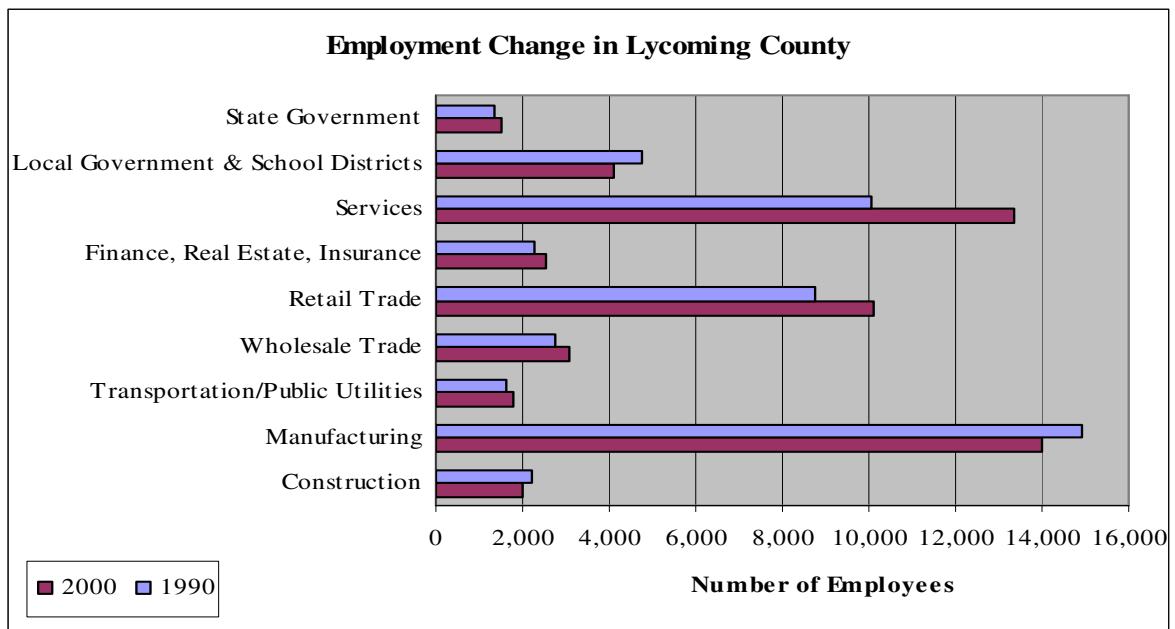
No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

Table 1-13 Employment Change			
	1990	2000	% Change
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	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 19th 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 diversification in Lycoming County, this section analyzes the County’s economic base using three (3) primary methods:

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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:

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

e^i = employment by industry in Lycoming County

e^t = total employment in Lycoming County

E^i = 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

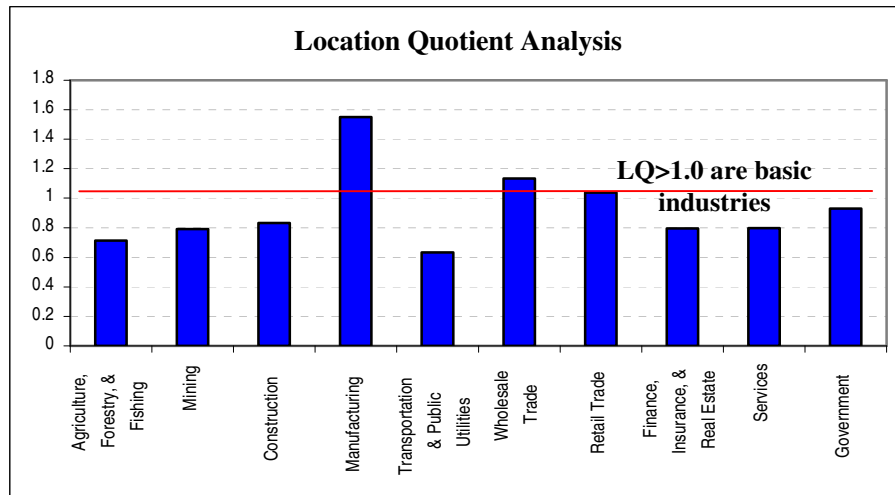
No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

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 ³	Lumber & Wood Products	767	1,239 (472)	2.4377	3.2655
SIC 25 ¹	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
	Total Manufacturing	14,921	13,997	1.4565	1.5511

Figure 1- 14



³ 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

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

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 2-16 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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
Lumber & Wood Products	84	101	286	472
Furniture & Fixtures	167	-332	224	58
Paper & Allied Products	77	-174	-146	-243
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
Fabricated Metal Products	153	-130	533	556
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	177	-294	254	136
Electronic & Other Electric Equipment	81	-99	121	102
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)

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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)². 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.

Table 1-17
Major Company Locations & Expansions in Lycoming County

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

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-17 (cont'd)				
Major Company Locations & Expansions in Lycoming County				
Company Name	Product/Service	New Facility/Expansion	Jobs Created (Retained)	Capital Investment (US dollars)
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
TOTAL			868	\$8,503,000

*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 1-18 indicates, some of the companies that have issued layoffs or closed within the last year have been manufactures of durable consumer goods.

Table 1-18				
Company Layoffs/Closings				
Lycoming County				
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 underwear & sleepwear	10/ 01 (45) 5/ 02 (13)	8/ 01 (20)	78
General Cable	Cord sets and appliance cords	-	9/ 01	341

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-18 (cont'd) Company Layoffs/Closings Lycoming County				
Company	Specialization	Layoff Date	Closure Date	Total Jobs Lost
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 people³. 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:

³ SEDA-COG. June 2001. "Understanding the Needs of Our Central Pennsylvania Customers." Annual Report for the TEAM Pennsylvania Business Calling Program.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

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%
Worker Reliability and Attitudes							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	0%
Median	17%	Median	56%	Median	26%	Median	6%

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-19 (cont'd)							
Comparisons of Employers Ratings (Total Workforce)							
Williamsport Area Labor Shed/Locations Previously Surveyed							
Reading/Writing Competency							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	10%
Median	9%	Median	54%	Median	27%	Median	8%
Calculations Competency							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	20%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	30%
Median	8%	Median	50%	Median	39%	Median	9%
Availability of Skilled Workers							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	0%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	20%
Median	7%	Median	41%	Median	37%	Median	19%
Availability of Unskilled Workers							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	10%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	30%	Williamsport	10%
Median	19%	Median	48%	Median	24%	Median	8%
Availability of Technical Workers							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Williamsport	0%	Williamsport	50%	Williamsport	40%	Williamsport	10%
Median	7%	Median	30%	Median	46%	Median	22%
Availability of Professional Workers							
Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
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).

- 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

production.”⁴ The results of this report tend to substantiate the local view that Lycoming County has a good labor force and work ethic.

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 105.5.⁵ 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)”.

Occupation Title	Employment (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Rate (Pennsylvania)	Percent Difference
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%

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

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

Occupation Title	Employment (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Rate (Pennsylvania)	Percent Difference
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%
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%

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

Occupation Title	Employment (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Adjusted Median Hourly Wage (Williamsport MSA)	Median Hourly Rate (Pennsylvania)	Percent Difference
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. However, it should be kept in mind that the cost of living in the area is lower as well.
- 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 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Issue – Local perception that area has lack of employment opportunities

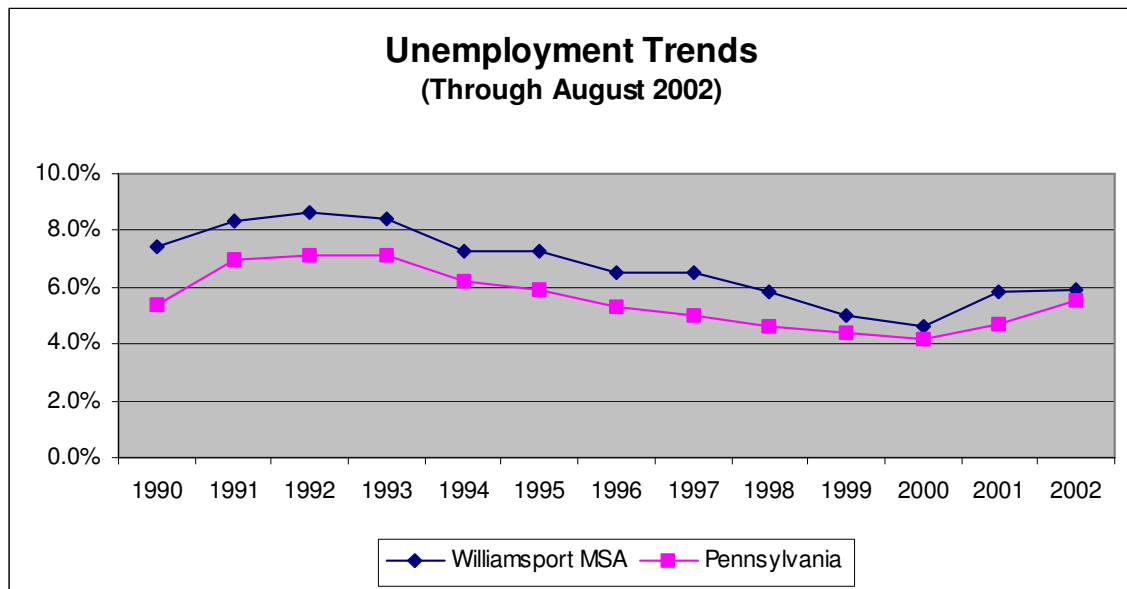
Unemployment Trends

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.

Figure 1 - 15



Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area municipalities, Lycoming County and Pennsylvania.

As presented in Table 1-23, the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area boasts one of the county's most educated populations whereby the share of its population that has attained a post high school education increased from 38.1 percent in 1990 to 43.5 percent in 2000. Moreover, these rates exceeded or were comparable to the rates enumerated for the county and state.

Table 1-23 also reveals that the majority of the municipal populations, save Loyalsock Township, have attained a high school level education or equivalency. These rates exceeded the equivalent rates enumerated for the county and state.

It should be noted that from 1990 to 2000, Hepburn Township's educational attainment levels increased significantly. During this period, the share of its population that attained a post high school education increased from 29.3 percent in 1990 to 41.7 percent, respectively. This trend has resulted from the increase in the number of persons with professional occupations many of which have migrated into the township from the City of Williamsport.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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
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
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area	22.4	39.5	38.1	15.6	40.9	43.5
Hepburn Township	23.3	47.4	29.3	14.8	43.5	41.7
Lewis Township	29.7	48.4	21.9	21.1	51.8	27.2
Loyalsock Township	21.9	32.9	45.2	14.3	36.8	48.9
Lycoming Township	29.3	41.8	28.9	21.4	44.2	34.4
Old Lycoming Township	19.8	46.9	33.3	16.1	44.9	39.0

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 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 1999.⁶

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.⁷

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.

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

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 which may be advantageous for one community, may turn out to involve liabilities for nearby communities.

An example of local competition which 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 rates to dominate development decision-making processes.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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:⁸

- 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.⁹ (Caveat: It

⁸ US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, “Highlights of Agriculture: 1997 and 1992 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

⁹ Website: http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/pub_bro1.htm, “What is the Census of Agriculture?”

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 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.¹⁰ 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.

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

**Table 1-24
Property Tax**

	Common Level Ratio (1)	County Mills	Municipal Mills	School District Mills	Total Mills	Estimated Tax on \$150,000 (Market Value) Home
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

(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.

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

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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

- 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
- 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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 Service Characteristics

Overview of Human Services Needs

Identifying the human service needs of the Lower Lycoming Planning Area'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 2-25, 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.

Similar to statewide trends, the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 12.7 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 the many of the planning area municipalities far exceeded 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area	1,388	1,081	-22.1	4,128	4,209	2.0	4,369	4,923	12.7
Hepburn Township	230	147	-36.1	625	655	4.8	264	368	39.4
Lewis Township	108	49	-54.6	272	253	-7.0	118	136	15.3
Loyalsock Township	570	536	-6.0	1,733	1,890	9.1	2,972	3,199	7.6
Lycoming Township	124	83	-33.1	465	349	-24.9	147	202	37.4
Old Lycoming Township	356	266	-25.3	1,033	1,062	2.8	868	1,018	17.3

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 49th 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.¹¹

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.¹²

Pennsylvania has conducted biannual surveys of school students (6th, 8th, 10th & 12th 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

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

¹² Pennsylvania State Police, "Table 4: Offenses by Metropolitan Statistical Area."

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

the counties of Lycoming, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Clinton, Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Sullivan) the following was reported:¹³

- 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 2000:¹⁴

- 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 6th, 7th and 9th graders, and increased among 10th, 11th and 12th graders.
- Experimental cocaine use has increased among 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th 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).

¹³ 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

¹⁴ Website: http://www.lchic.org/Priority_Issues/priority_issues.html, "Priority Issues."

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

Data Category	Pennsylvania	Lycoming County
Low Birth Weight (Percent)	7.7	5.8
No Pre-natal care in 1 st 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

Green indicates a rate better than the statewide rate
Yellow indicates a rate worse than the statewide rate

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Data Category	Pennsylvania	Lycoming County	Healthy People 2010 Target
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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-27 Select Health Statistics from Healthy People 2010 (1996-2000)			
Data Category	Pennsylvania	Lycoming County	Healthy People 2010 Target
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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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
Age 65 – 74					
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%
Age 75 – 84					
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%
Age 85+					
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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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, 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. Based on the current total of beds as previously mentioned, this 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 achieved¹⁵:

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

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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.

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 Loysock 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%).

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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	2.2	*(17)	*(54)	*(11)	*(18)	1057 (24%)
Montgomery	2.2	34 (16)	30 (43)	18 (21)	17 (21)	984 (15%)
Montoursville	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	1.3	12 (12)	34 (42)	26 (24)	28 (22)	1063 (20%)
Williamsport	2.7	16 (13)	21 (33)	21 (18)	43 (36)	974 (18%)
STATE	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)

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-	1,844	3,118	1,416	1,030	2,165	1,138	1,530	6,055
2003-	1,814	3,068	1,372	1,003	2,034	1,133	1,490	5,865
2004-	1,772	2,984	1,372	977	1,963	1,129	1,480	5,695
2005-	1,722	2,921	1,413	934	1,864	1,127	1,467	5,959
2006-	1,682	2,869	1,462	890	1,762	1,121	1,451	5,416
2007-	1,640	2,821	1,520	827	1,673	1,109	1,418	5,271
2008-	1,597	2,764	1,579	791	1,588	1,079	1,386	5,105

Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

Table 1-30 (cont'd)
Enrollment Projections
Lycoming County School Districts

	East Lycoming	Jersey Shore Area	Loyalsock Township	Montgomery Area	Montoursville Area	Muncy	South Williamsport Area	Williamsport Area
2009-	1,574	2,716	1,642	755	1,509	1,054	1,348	4,941
2010-	1,542	2,687	1,709	721	1,428	1,016	1,323	4,795
2011-	1,511	2,653	1,805	689	1,392	983	1,278	4,660
Ten-Year	-18.0%	-15.0	+27.0%	-33.0%	-36.0%	-14.0%	-16.0%	-23.0%

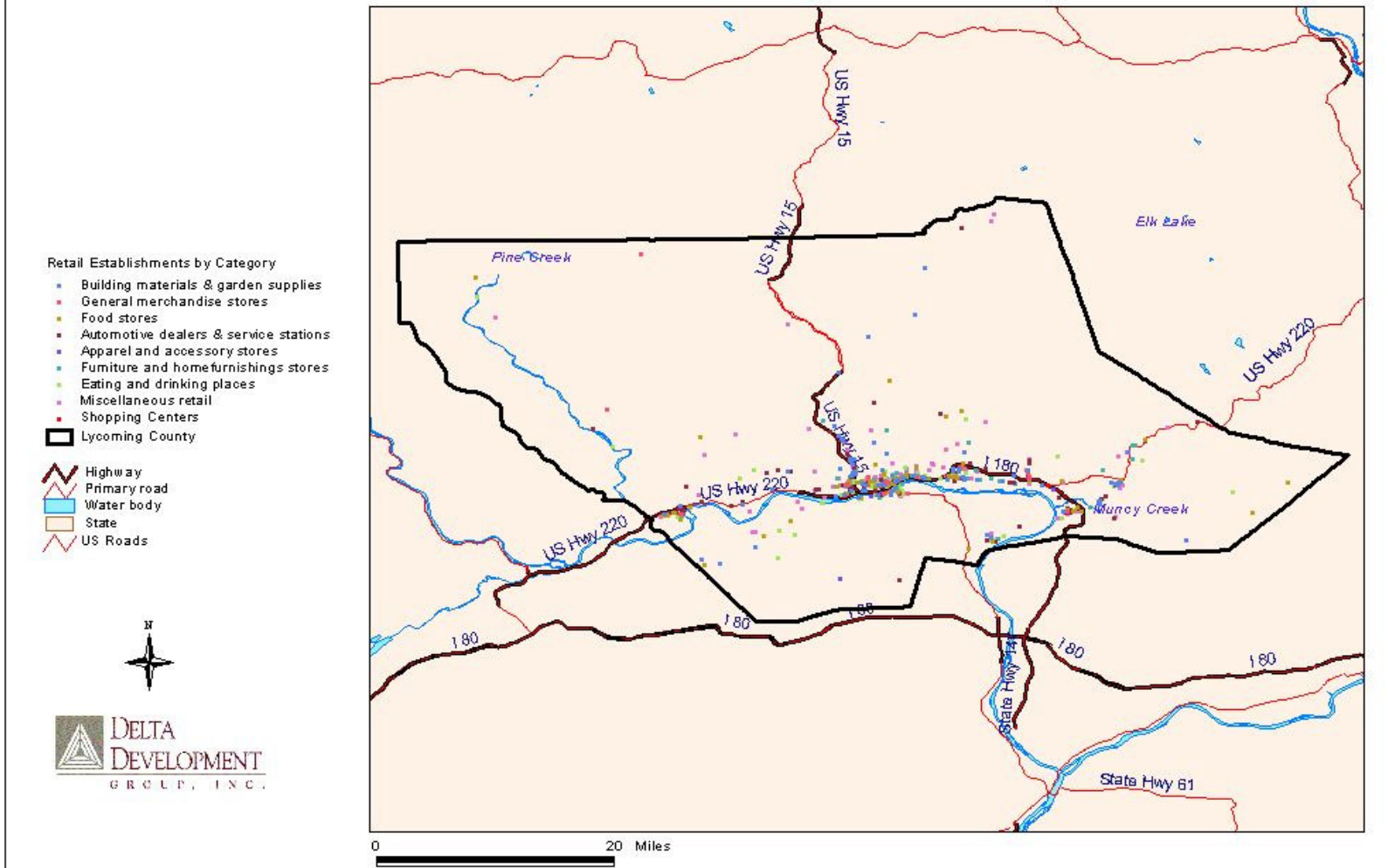
Source: Enrollment Projections prepared by the PA Department of Education (based on 2001

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.

Lycoming County Retail



Technical Background Studies

No. 1 – Community Development Profile

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

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 lands while controlling negative impacts.

Key Land Use Issues

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

- ☑ **Land use/interchange impacts from Interstate 99** – The future development of Interstate 99 will afford local municipalities with additional land development opportunities around the existing U.S. Route 15 interchanges and new interchanges adjacent to U.S. Route 220. However, such opportunities pose additional challenges for the study area municipalities in terms of regulating such development, mitigating the impacts, and providing sufficient infrastructure to adequately accommodate this growth. Municipal land use regulations currently lack the regulations necessary to properly control highway interchange development.
- ☑ **Steep slope development** - Development of steep slopes often results in increased stormwater runoff, which, in turn, causes siltation and erosion of streams. Steep slope development also requires improved on-lot sewage disposal technologies as approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Steep slope development is currently regulated locally through zoning and subdivision/ land development ordinances.
- ☑ **Ridgetop development** – One of the most important issues that surfaced during this comprehensive planning process is the need to preserve Lycoming County’s scenic resources. Ridgetop development is negatively impacting the County’s scenic landscapes. Regulation of such development is necessary to preserve the County’s rural character.
- ☑ **Private driveways and erosion** – Maximum gradients for the construction of private driveways are not regulated by local subdivision/ land development ordinances. Moreover, adequate stormwater management and erosion control measures may be lacking for single lot developments. Typically, such developments have no central storm drainage system; therefore, runoff from driveways, roofs, and other improved surfaces are diverted and carried downhill along driveway edges which often causes severe erosion.

Technical Background Studies

NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

- ☑ **Mobile home parks** – The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has several mobile home parks that are located within the floodplain. The member municipalities recognize the importance of providing for this affordable residential housing and therefore, need to ensure that their land use planning and regulations adequately provide for and protect such uses.
- ☑ **Residential development pressure from the City of Williamsport** – The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that the City of Williamsport’s population has decreased steadily since 1950. At the same time, the populations of neighboring municipalities, including those of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, have increased, suggesting that city’s losses were the neighboring municipalities’ gain. This has produced a proliferation of residential development throughout the Planning Area.
- ☑ **Beach family property** – Located in Hepburn Township, this tract of land represents one of the study area’s future residential development opportunities. Local officials, however, are beginning to realize the growth pressures and the need to plan for such development impacts. An increase in traffic volumes on the local rural roadway network would be one such impact from this potential development opportunity.
- ☑ **Lack of retail shopping services** – Although the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area includes a highly developed commercial corridor along Lycoming Creek Road, it is felt that the Planning Area has insufficient retail shopping opportunities.
- ☑ **Open space preservation** – More than 75 percent of the Planning Area is classified as open space – either woodlands or agricultural. Ensuring that the most sensitive of these areas are protected as development pressures increase is a high priority.
- ☑ **Supplemental agricultural businesses** – Local family farm operators are beginning to supplement their incomes by establishing supplemental rural-service operations, such as automotive repair and welding operations. While zoning regulations do permit certain types of businesses, there are few specific regulations controlling their operations.
- ☑ **Industrial Farm Operations** - The sustainability of the traditional family farm is becoming increasingly harder to achieve as trends in the agricultural industry are shifting towards franchising and cooperatives, where independent producers enter into a production contract with animal processing corporations. In addition to the environmental impacts, research is beginning to reveal negative social impacts as well. Lycoming County is in the process of amending the County’s zoning ordinance to limit concentrated animal feeding operations to areas zoned specifically for agriculture, and then only after a public hearing and proof that measures have been taken to protect public health and safety. If approved, such measures would only apply to those municipalities who come under the jurisdiction of the County Zoning Ordinance.

Technical Background Studies

NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

- ☑ **Standardized land use inventory** – The need for developing a standardized land use inventory system has long been recognized in the Planning Area. Such a system would greatly benefit the regional cooperation and planning initiatives of the Planning Areas' municipalities, as well as enhance economic development initiatives. Moreover, a standardized land use system would, in part, enable local municipalities and the County to achieve consistency in their comprehensive planning policies and land use regulations. To this end, the County, in cooperation with its municipal partners, has drafted the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Consistency Manual, which contains a suggested list of zoning definitions based on the American Planning Association's Land-Based Classification Standards (LBCS) model in their GIS-based land use inventory and classification procedures.

- ☑ **Standardization of zoning** – In an effort to achieve a high level of consistency, the Lower Lycoming Creek and Greater Williamsport Area Alliance member municipalities have expressed interest in developing a standardized set of zoning terminology, supported by consistent dimensional and use provisions.

- ☑ **Floodplain Management/Regulation** – Historically, the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has been one of the hardest hit areas when flooding occurs, due to the fact that most development has occurred in the floodplain of Lycoming Creek. Flood hazard mitigation efforts in the area have included zoning ordinances, acquisition and relocation/ demolition of repeatedly damaged properties, stream stabilization, and flood protection projects. The overriding goal of all of these projects has been to reduce the damages associated with the regular flooding of the creek.

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.

- 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.

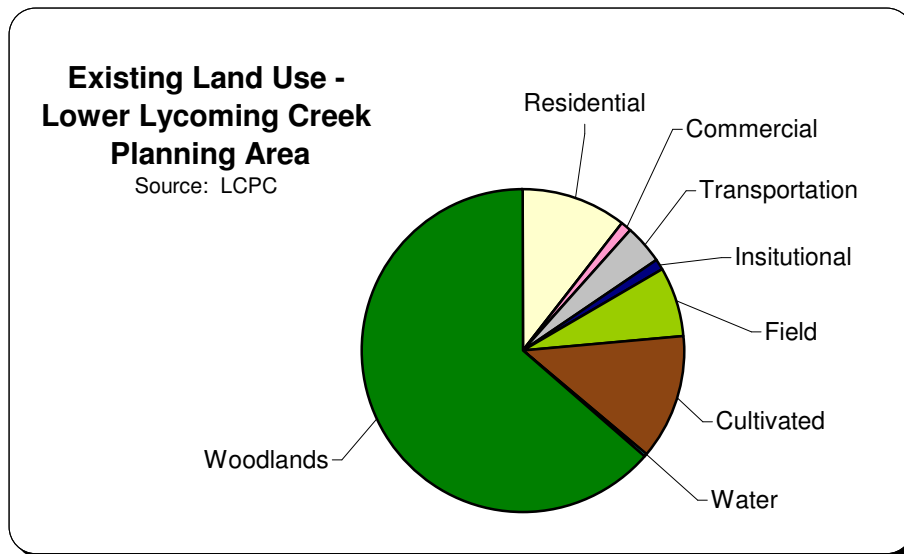
- Structure refers to the type of structure or building on the land, such as single-family house, office building, warehouse, hospital building, or highway.

- 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.

Technical Background Studies NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

- Ownership refers to the relationship between the use and its land rights, and is usually either public or private.

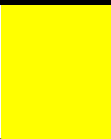






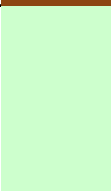


The LCPC prepared an initial land use inventory by photo-interpreting the County's low level digital aerial photography, which was recently updated in 2000. The identified land uses were primarily classified using the LBCS's Activity and Structure dimensions. The following graph summarizes existing land use for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area. It is followed by Table 1-1, which presents a descriptive overview of each classification used by the LCPC. This is followed by a series of graphs that summarize the existing land uses within the individual municipalities of the planning area.



Technical Background Studies

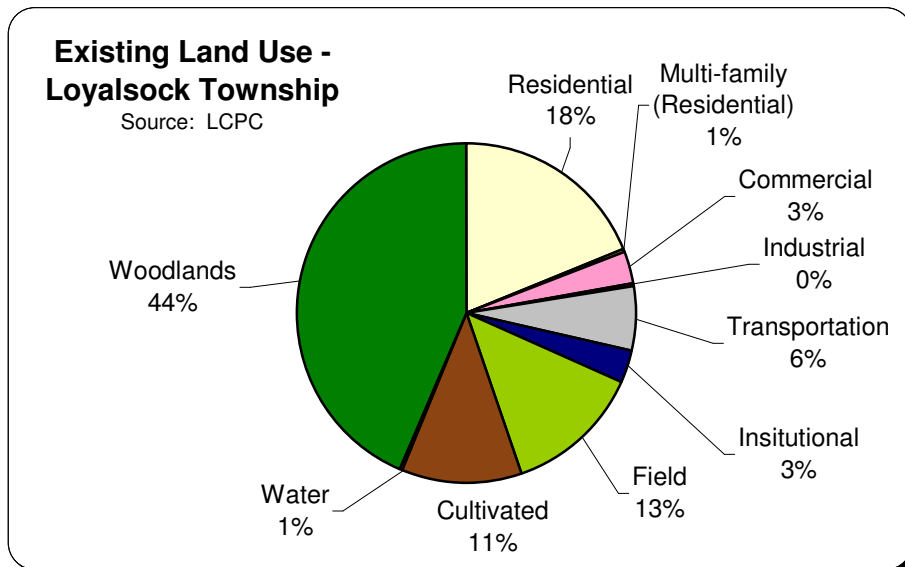
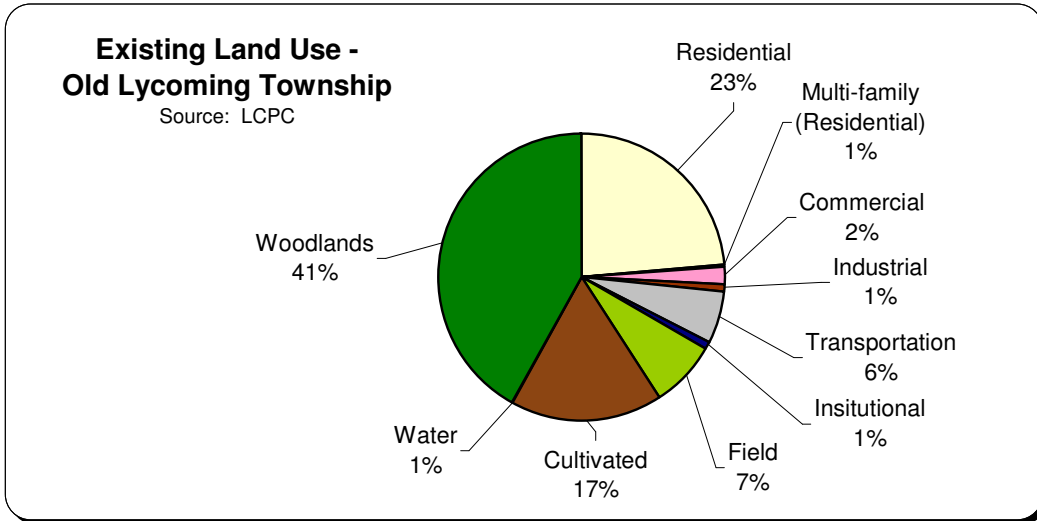
NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

Table 1-1, 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 designati	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	Insitutional	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)	

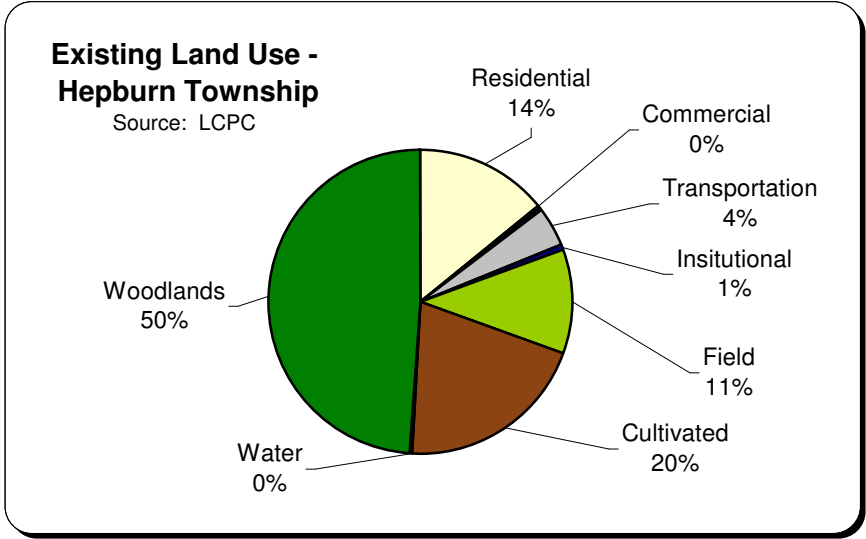
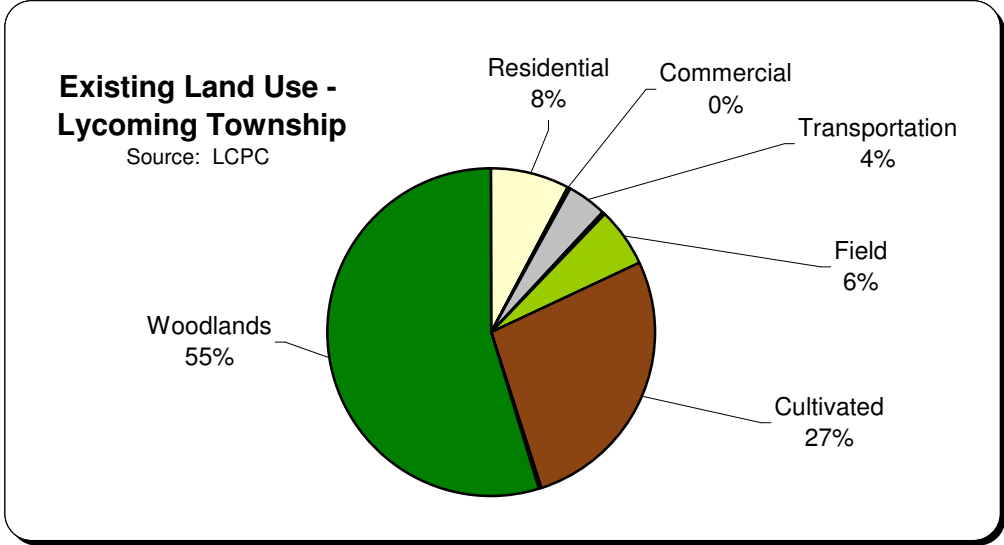
Technical Background Studies

NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

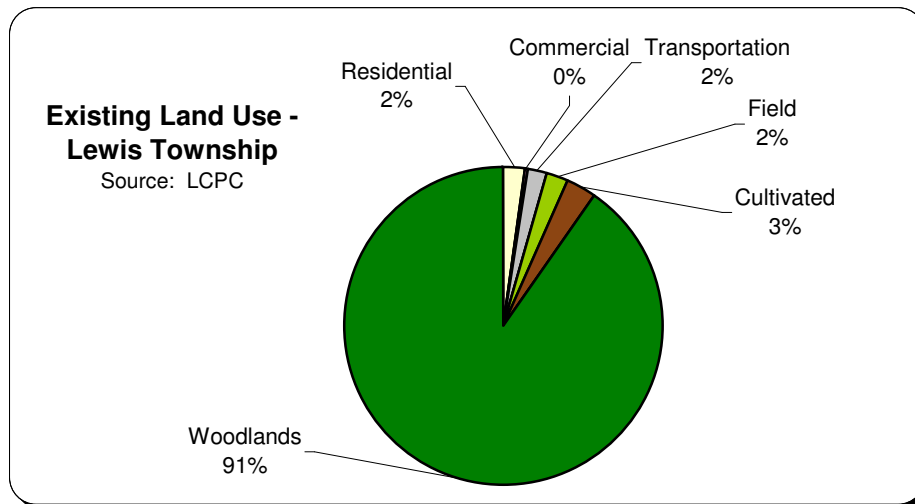


Technical Background Studies

NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile



Technical Background Studies NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile



As is the case throughout the County, land use has been heavily influenced by the area's topography. The past importance of the Susquehanna River as a transportation corridor 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has also been influenced by the Lycoming Creek and U.S. Route 15. U.S. Route 15 has been the north-south route to New York and Canada for much of the central part of Pennsylvania and even other states to the south such as Maryland and Virginia. U.S. Route 15 has been upgraded from a local "business route" road to a limited access roadway that will soon become part of the I-99 roadway system. This roadway has and will continue to have an impact on this Planning Area. The following is a brief summary of the land use patterns in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area.

Residential – For the Planning Area as a whole, residential uses account for less than 1/3 of the area; however, this ratio varies within each municipality. Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships have the greatest percentages of residential land - 24 percent and 19 percent respectively - which reflects their proximity to the City of Williamsport. Lewis Township has the least amount of land devoted to residential uses – only 2 percent. Lycoming and Hepburn Townships fall in between, with 8 and 14 percent respectively. Throughout the county, residential land uses account for approximately 4 percent of the total.

Commercial/Industrial – There is very little commercial or industrial land use within the Planning Area. In the outlying municipalities this accounts for less than one percent of all land uses. Even within Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships, this type of land use only accounts for 3 - 4 percent of the total, which is slightly higher than for the entire county where they account for less than one percent of the total land area.

Technical Background Studies NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

Institutional – This type of land use includes schools, hospitals, and other public and semi-public facilities. In the Planning Area, this accounts for approximately 2 percent of the total area – only slightly more than for the county as a whole.

Agriculture and Open Space – These types of land use are by far the most dominant throughout the Planning Area. They include the LBCS categories of Field, Cultivated, and Woodlands for purposes of this discussion. For the entire Planning Area, they account for more than 75 percent of all land use; however, the ratio of each use is different for each municipality as shown in the series of graphs.

Transportation – The amount of area devoted to transportation facilities within the Planning Area is about 2500 acres, or about 4 percent. However, within the municipalities it ranges from 6 percent in Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships to 2 percent in Lewis Township. For the entire county, transportation facilities comprise about 3 percent of the total area.

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 Lycoming County.

Selected Land Use Regulations for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area

Municipalities	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance	Floodplain Development	Stormwater Management
Hepburn Township	■	■	■	■
Lewis Township	□	■	□	■
Loyalsock Township	■	■	■	■
Lycoming Township	■	■	■	■
Old Lycoming Township	■	■	■	■

Legend:

- Municipal Enacted Ordinance
- Lycoming County Enacted Ordinance

Technical Background Studies NO. 2 - Existing Land Use Profile

It should be noted that in addition to the above-mentioned ordinances, there are County zoning ordinances that address steep slope protection, Agricultural Protection Zones (APZ), ridgetop development, and wireless communications, which apply in Lewis Township.

Technical Background Studies

No. 3 - Utilities Profile

Introduction

This chapter examines the full range of utilities infrastructure, available in the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek 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 nonpoint 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. Areas have been identified where there is no source of well water available, with instances of residences constructed without a public or private water source.
- ☑ **Storm Water Management Problems** - Development has occurred without storm water management controls required. This has led to runoff problem areas adjacent to township roads and complaints amongst residents.
- ☑ **Good Water Supply**
- ☑ **Sewer Expansion Capacity** - The existing capacity of public sewerage systems does not provide for significant growth.
- ☑ **Flood Protection** - Flood protection from Lycoming Creek is a primary concern of many citizens. A flood buyout program has been initiated for this Planning Area.
- ☑ **Lack of Rural Water Service** - The public water supply does not provide service to the rural areas of these municipalities. In conjunction with water quality and quantity of wells in the rural areas, water supply becomes a limiting factor to growth in the rural areas.

Technical Background Studies

No. 3 - Utilities Profile

- Regional Water System** - The lack of a regional water system throughout the area limits future growth.
- Regional Sewer System** - The lack of a regional sewer system throughout the area limits future growth.
- Failing Septic Systems** - There are failing septic systems in the rural areas, which will lead to groundwater and surface water contamination if not properly addressed.

Background Utilities Data

Utility Networks

Residential and commercial development in the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area.

Propane Gas

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

Electricity

Providers of electric service in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area include:

- PPL Utilities, Inc., Montoursville
- Tri-County Rural Electric, Inc. Mansfield, PA
- First Energy-GPU Energy, Towanda, PA
- Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Forksville, PA

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.

Technical Background Studies No. 3 - Utilities Profile

Telephone

Verizon Communications in Williamsport, PA, provides local service for residents of the Lower Lycoming Creek 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.

Cable TV

Susquehanna Communications, 330 Basin Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, provides cable TV services to the more densely populated areas of the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 and Private Water Service Facilities

The Williamsport Municipal Water Authority provides public water service to residents of Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships, although there is no service provided to the Hepburn section of Loyalsock Township. American Tempo Village Park, Cogan Valley Mobile Home Park, Bittner's Mobile Home Park, Wilawan Mobile Home Park, ABC #2 Mobile Home Park, and Fairlawn Trailer Court 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.

All of these systems have adequate capacity through 2020. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the American Tempo Village Park include a 2nd well, storage, and a blowoff valve. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the Cogan Valley Mobile Home Park include a generator and storage. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the Bittner's Mobile Home Park include a 2nd well and storage. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the Wilawan Mobile Home Park include a 2nd well, generator, storage, and a blow off valve. Improvements needed

Technical Background Studies

No. 3 - Utilities Profile

to meet minimum standards identified for the ABC #2 Mobile Home Park include a 2nd well and storage. Improvements needed to meet minimum standards identified for the Fairlawn Trailer Court include a 2nd well and a blowoff valve.

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 shows the areas with potential problems for private wells.

LOWER LYCOMING CREEK 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	9 Wells 2 Streams	48,363	Yes	12,500,000	1.081bg	12,800,000
American Tempo Village Park	Hepburn Township	1 Well	75	No	N/A		0
Cogan Valley Mobile Home Park	Hepburn Township	2 Wells	160	Yes	36,015		5000
Bittner's Mobile Home Park	Lewis Township	1 Well	90	No	N/A		3100
Wilawan Mobile Home Park	Lewis Township	1 Well	72	No	N/A		1,000
ABC #2 Mobile Home Park	Lycoming Township	1 Well 36,000 gpd,	75	No	N/A		3400
Fairlawn Trailer Court	Lycoming Township	1 Well 32,000 gpd	63	No	N/A		1000
Brown's Trailer & Mobile Home Park	Lycoming Township	1 Well	?	?		?	
Shannon's Mobile Home Park	Lycoming Township	4 Wells	?	?		?	

Technical Background Studies

No. 3 - Utilities Profile

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 original plan approval dates:

Hepburn Township	4/ 8/ 1991	Plan Approval Date 1986 - 1991
Lewis Township	1/ 11/ 1971	Plan Approval Date 1966 - 1971
Loyalsock Township	1/ 6/ 1999	Plan Approval Date Less Than 5 Years Old
Lycoming 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

Source: PADEP

Lycoming Township Collection System

Lycoming Township oversees sewage collection and transfer within the township. Williamsport Sanitary Authority provides treatment. The Sewer Service Area Map shows those areas that are capable of connecting to a public sewer.

The remaining areas, including Hepburn Township and Lewis Township, are serviced by on-lot septic systems.

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

Introduction

The transportation network of a community is the backbone for its development and prosperity. It can help attract both 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.

The purpose of this section is to profile the transportation systems serving the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area. Included in this profile is an inventory and description of the key issues facing these transportation systems. The results of this profile will be coupled with the findings from land use, community development, natural and cultural resources, and public utilities profiles to provide a foundation for the development of the comprehensive plan.

Key Transportation Issues

Consultation with the Planning Advisory Team (PAT) and input received from the Lycoming County Focus Group Workshop produced a number of key transportation issues relevant to the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area. These issues and their implications for future growth and development are described as follows:

- ☑ **The U.S. 15 corridor** has long been the major north/ south route through not only the planning area, but also Lycoming County as a whole. As the area has grown, development has been focused along the corridor, which has helped reduce the incidence of sprawl. The corridor has been designated as part of the new Interstate 99 system, and through most of the planning area it is now a four lane, limited access highway.
- ☑ **Public Transit is currently quite limited within the planning area as a whole**; however, where service does exist, the fares are reasonable and the service good. City Bus, which operates in Williamsport, has scheduled routes that serve the more developed areas in southeastern Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships. However, there are no routes in the northern areas. This limits opportunities for residents who may wish to find alternative ways to work and for those who don't own a car or drive at all, particularly younger residents and senior citizens.
- ☑ **The current and planned transportation systems provide good access** to other areas; however there are some concerns regarding air and rail facilities.
- ☑ **Several of the bridges in the planning area need major rehabilitation or replacement.** While these bridges are programmed for improvement, securing the appropriate level of funding to implement these improvements will be the challenge.
- ☑ **The capacity of the local road system is reaching its limit in many areas.** This has led to some major traffic safety concerns, particularly on Bottle Run Road.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

- ☑ **Access drives** can be found throughout the planning area. Currently, many of these drives are very steep and, in some cases, are so close together that they pose serious safety hazards.
- ☑ **A full interchange is needed at Route 973 and US 15** in Lycoming Township and has included in the WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan - Stage 2 (2005-2012).
- ☑ **The Williamsport Regional Airport provides connecting services to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; however, affordability is an issue for many residents.** Located in the Borough of Montoursville, the Williamsport Regional Airport is classified by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation as a scheduled service facility providing services to area businesses, residents, and companies visiting the region. Although the airport provides direct connections to USAir hubs, flights from Williamsport are not affordable in relation to other schedule competitive facilities, such as HIA in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh International, University Park in State College, and Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton International.

Existing Roadway Network Overview

The major roadways servicing the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area are summarized below.

- US 15 runs north/ south through the entire planning area and handles the vast majority of the through traffic in the area. It follows Lycoming Creek all the way to Trout Run in Lewis Township where it veers slightly west into Cogan House Township. Old Route 15 parallels US 15 the entire way and provides access to the communities and services along the same corridor.
- PA 14 starts at Trout Run in Lewis Township and provides access to the northeastern part of the township.
- PA 973 provides east/ west access across Hepburn and northern Lycoming Townships; Beauty's Run Road provides east/ west access in southern Lycoming Township.
- Bottle Run Road in Old Lycoming Township is the major east/ west route, and Daugherty's Run Road runs north/ south on the west side of the township.
- Interstate 180 is in the southeast corner of Loyalsock Township and continues through the City of Williamsport.
- Washington and Grampian Boulevards also provide east/ west access for the southeastern corner of the Planning Area.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

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 in 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 is classified as a freeway.

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. Old US 15 in Hepburn Township is the only principal arterial.

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. Grampian and Washington Boulevards and Northway Road, all of which are in southeast Loyalsock Township, are considered minor arterials, as is US 15 in Loyalsock and Old Lycoming Townships.

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. There are numerous collectors located throughout the planning area.

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

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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

PENNDOT tracks this data for the state road system, and a quick review clearly shows the importance of US 220. According to 1999 data, US 15 handles anywhere from 11,000 daily trips in Lewis Township to 25,000 daily trips just outside of Williamsport in Old Lycoming Township. Comparatively, the next busiest route is Northway Road in Loyalsock Township which handles an average of 11,000 trips per day, followed by the south end of Old Route 15, which handles approximately 9300 daily trips. Most of the outlying roads handle between 4600 and 500 trips or less.

Bridges

Since the planning area has numerous creeks and streams flowing through it, there are quite a few bridges in the planning area. Many of these are very old and in need of either major rehabilitation or complete replacement. The WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan has identified several bridge rehabilitation or replacement projects within the planning area; however, most are slated for funding in Stage 2 (2005-2012). The following table provides a summary of these projects.

**WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan
Bridge Project List - Stage One and Two**

Stage One: 2001 - 2004			
Type	Description	Municipality	Year
Bridge Replacement	US 15 Bottle Run - design/ROW	Old Lycoming	2003
"	T616 Sheridan Street - design/ROW	Loyalsock	2001-03
"	T616 Sheridan Street - construction	"	2004
Stage Two: 2005 - 2012			
Bridge Replacement	US 15 Bottle Run - construction	Old Lycoming	2005-08
"	Liberty Drive - design/ROW/const.	Loyalsock	"
"	T836 Trout Run - design/ROW/Const.	Lewis	"
"	T510 Mill Creek - design/ROW	Hepburn	"
"	T510 Mill Creek - construction	"	2008-12
"	T629 Slacks Run - design/ROW	Lewis	2005-08
"	T629 Slacks Run - construction	"	2008-12
Bridge Rehabilitation	T856 Pleasant Stream - design/ROW	"	2005-08
"	T856 Pleasant Stream - construction	"	2008-12

Source: WATS 20 Year Long Range Plan

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

Aviation

Although there are no aviation facilities located within the planning area, the businesses and residents of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning area are serviced by two aviation facilities—the Williamsport Regional Airport and the Jersey Shore Airport.

The Williamsport Regional Airport is located in Montoursville Borough in Fairfield Township and is owned and operated by the Williamsport Regional Airport Authority. 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 cost of flying from the Williamsport Regional Airport is rather expensive when compared to flying from Harrisburg International and similar facilities. This has limited the ability to attract more customers. Another limitation to the growth of the airport involves the length of its primary runway. The Airport would like to extend its primary runway from 6449 feet to just over 7000 feet in order to attract other carriers; however, they have been unable to obtain approval from the FAA because they do not meet the necessary criteria.

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.

The Jersey Shore Airport is classified by the Bureau of Aviation as a general aviation facility, and is located in Nippenose Township. This airport is a privately owned, public-use facility with one grass runway that is 2300 feet long. This facility provides recreational benefits to area residents, and is preferred by many novice and seasoned-weekend pilots.

Public Transit

Currently, public transit in the planning area is limited to the more developed areas in the southern part of the planning area. City Bus has several fixed routes that originate in Downtown Williamsport and serve the adjacent areas in southeastern Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

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.

The only other public transit available to planning area residents is provided by the Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action, Inc., also known as STEP. They operate a shared ride, demand-responsive transportation service throughout the County for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Currently, the base fare is \$11.00 per one-way trip and reservations must be made by 2:00 PM the day before.

Rail Service

The SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority purchased the Williamsport Branch Line System from Conrail in 1996. It is operated and maintained by the Lycoming Valley Railroad and is a switching carrier and a Norfolk Southern carrier. They also have limited access to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The rail line provides freight services only. At the present time there are no passenger services in the area. This line runs long the Susquehanna River in southeastern Loyalsock Township.

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 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

Transportation Improvement Programs /WATS Long Range Plan

The Williamsport Area Transportation Study 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.

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.

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 addition to the bridge projects previously mentioned, WATS projects scheduled in the 2003 Statewide Transportation Improvement program are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
PENNDOT 2003 Twelve Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area

Project	Route	Project Title	Improvement	Program Period	Cost (\$000)							
					Study	PE	FD	UTL	ROW	CON	PRA	Total
Highway												
5698	15	Appalachian Thruway	New Alignment	1st	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300	\$ 300	\$ 1,200	\$ 26,820	\$ -	\$ 29,620
5698	15	Appalachian Thruway	New Alignment	2nd	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,230	\$ -	\$ 23,230
58120	2016	High Street Concrete	Highway Restoration	1st	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 624	\$ -	\$ 624
Bridge												
62074	2016	High Street Bridge	Bridge Restoration	1st	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800	\$ -	\$ 1,800
6071	9900	T-616 Sheridan Street	Bridge Replacement	1st	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180

Source: PENNDOT 2003 Twelve Year TIP

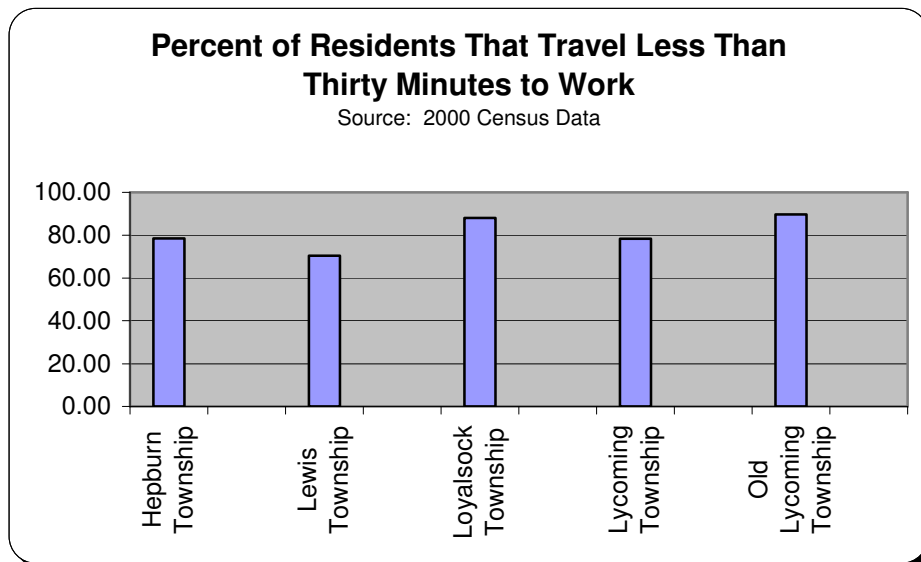
Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

Journey to Work

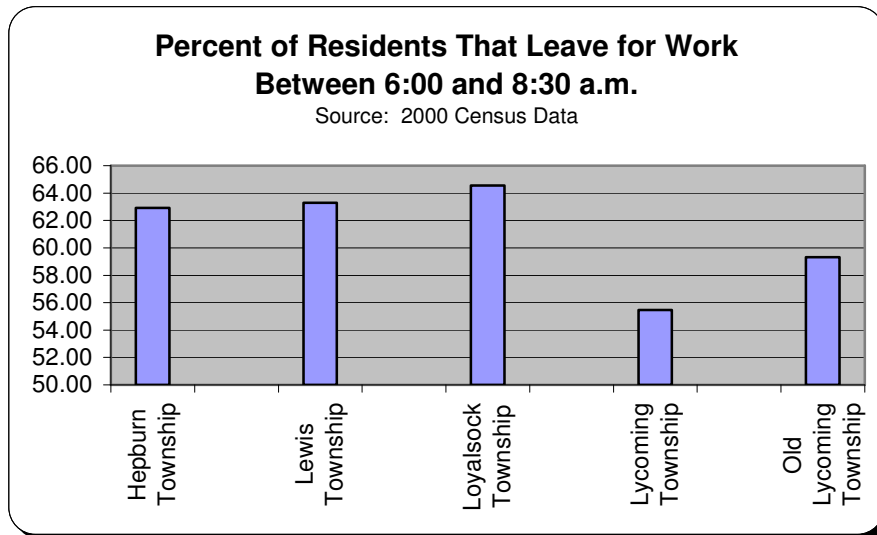
Obtaining a basic knowledge about commuting patterns and the characteristics of commuter travel of the planning area is an essential component to the comprehensive planning process. Such trends are useful for planning highway improvements and developing public transportation services, as well as for 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 Table 2. 92 to 95 percent of the planning area's residents work in Lycoming County. Countywide, about 88 percent work within the county's borders. Most people drive to work – between 94 and 99 percent, of these an average of 87 percent drive alone. This is slightly higher than the county rate of 82 percent. Most residents travel less than 30 minutes to work – 71 percent in Lewis Township to 90 percent in Old Lycoming Township. These are very comparable to the countywide rate of 80 percent, but much higher than the statewide rate of 65 percent.



Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile



As shown in the preceding chart, over 60 percent of the residents in Hepburn, Lewis and Loyalsock Townships leave for work between 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The peak departure times correspond to the work start times of 7 AM and 9 AM. It is interesting to note that approximately 15 percent of the planning area's residents leave for work between 12 noon and midnight.

Technical Background Studies

No. 4 - Transportation System Profile

Place of Work and Journey to Work

Category	Total Persons									
	Hepburn Township		Lewis Township		Loyalsock Township		Lycoming Township		Old Lycoming Township	
Place of Work	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Worked in the minor civil division of residence	160	131	86	54	867	914	22	40	284	340
Worked outside minor civil division of residence	1,250	1,243	417	499	3,406	3,452	790	739	2,470	2,427
Worked in county of residence	1,300	1,264	476	528	4,033	4,036	764	714	2,630	2,616
Worked outside county of residence	102	98	22	25	192	280	45	59	99	151
Journey to Work (Mode)	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Car, truck or van	1,299	1,306	459	534	4,063	4,106	762	712	2,603	2,673
Drove alone	1,102	1,154	399	486	3,663	3,697	620	635	2,252	2,230
Carpooled	197	152	60	48	400	409	142	77	351	443
Public transportation	7	2	0	0	6	68	2	0	25	7
Motorcycle	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	0	0
Bicycle	0	0	0	0	8	0	3	2	0	0
Walked	52	4	16	6	92	49	17	33	42	34
Other Means	8	12	2	2	15	14	0	0	11	0
Journey to Work (Travel Time)	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less than 5 minutes	84	21	29	27	2,096	151	18	20	62	64
5 to 9 minutes	82	114	26	28	807	1,094	36	51	538	700
10 to 14 minutes	203	257	25	43	1,479	1,315	107	94	957	819
15 to 19 minutes	413	416	56	51	929	812	213	169	545	597
20 to 24 minutes	256	236	102	160	370	359	197	224	229	204
25 to 29 minutes	38	35	53	81	103	119	71	53	107	102
30 to 34 minutes	118	101	122	94	83	177	87	66	68	72
35 to 39 minutes	29	22	11	9	15	17	22	5	14	41
40 to 44 minutes	49	21	19	13	43	59	11	6	20	18
45 to 59 minutes	68	49	25	22	70	73	16	29	40	30
60 to 89 minutes	17	21	9	5	52	37	10	22	85	19
90 or more minutes	9	31	0	9	24	24	6	11	16	48
Worked at home	44	50	26	11	89	129	18	29	73	53
Time Leaving Home for Work - 1990-2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	45	38	13	25	63	96	21	14	57	89
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	0	28	26	15	50	44	25	23	107	41
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	23	74	28	17	74	162	52	67	156	110
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	140	87	62	70	299	252	113	71	289	216
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	281	212	52	79	540	402	119	104	341	399
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	119	203	72	55	526	554	87	72	335	292
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	232	204	71	94	1,012	816	122	103	424	397
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	134	127	30	45	559	711	69	66	275	306
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	70	54	16	9	300	237	22	39	147	192
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	103	63	16	12	184	295	29	28	119	109
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	23	19	3	8	51	94	4	9	34	40
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	32	9	5	3	29	45	7	4	32	26
12:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	69	86	31	56	210	298	72	91	175	176
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	95	120	52	54	287	231	52	59	190	321

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

Introduction

This chapter examines the full range of community facilities and services available in the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area are as follows:

- Good school systems (public/private)** – The communities in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area have the opportunity to attend quality public and private school systems at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Additionally, there are excellent technical schools, colleges, and universities in the immediate area.
- Public Infrastructure** – The existing infrastructure, including road network, utilities, and services is in place and can support continued growth.
- Subdivision without Infrastructure** - An issue that is prevalent throughout the rural areas of these municipalities is residential subdivisions that are planned and constructed without adequate road network, sewage treatment, or water supply.
- Hospital and Medical Support** - High quality hospital and medical support supports continued growth of the communities and is an important factor in attracting new industry to the area.
- 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.
-

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

- ☑ **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 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.
- ☑ **Golf Courses** - The region has a variety of quality golf courses, to include the White Deer Golf Complex and the Williamsport Country Club. There are numerous golf courses within an hour drive outside the county.
- ☑ **Abundant Wildlife** - The large number of acres of forest land, natural fields, and waterways with State Forest Lands, State Game Lands, and large tracts of land from private hunting and fishing clubs, provide an abundance and variety of habitat. This abundant habitat supports a variety of wildlife, including a variety of small birds and animals, big game animals, and many migratory birds. The area has seen a resurgence of bobcats and introduction of species such as the otter and fisher. There are several nesting eagle pairs throughout the County.
- ☑ **Bike Paths** - The area has several bikeways, including the Montoursville/ Loyalsock Bikeway and the Lycoming Creek Bikeway. Construction plans are in process for completing the section of the Susquehanna Trail that will connect to the Montoursville/ Loyalsock Bikeway, the Lycoming Creek Bikeway, and Susquehanna State Park.
- ☑ **Preserved Open Space** - There is a large number of acres of forest land, natural fields, and waterways with State Forest Lands, State Game Lands, and large tracts of land from private hunting and fishing clubs that is preserved. There is also a high percentage of private property enrolled in the Clean and Green Program. Additionally, many farms have fields and woodlands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is very active in this region.

Background Infrastructure Data

Public Safety

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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.

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).

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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;
- 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area include:

Company	Current Number of Active Staff Members *	Optimum Staff of Active Members *	Average Response Time	Dedicated Fire Tax	Remarks
Hepburn Twp Volunteer Fire Department	25	35	5-7 min.	Yes	Daytime staffing is a problem. 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. is the critical time. Having some volunteers who work nights, and are available during the day helps.
Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Department	45	60	4-6 min.	No; Lycoming Township contributes	Daytime staffing is a problem. 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is the critical time.
Old Lycoming Twp Fire Department	40	75	1 min.	No; Old Lycoming Twp contributes	Mutual aid agreement with Williamsport Bureau of Fire. Williamsport staffs 2 firefighters at the Old Lycoming Twp Fire Dept. Ambulance service becomes volunteer after 10:00 p.m., which affects response time.
Trout Run Fire Company	35	50	6 min.	Yes - Gamble Twp; Cascade, Lewis, Lycoming & Cogan House Twps contribute	Weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is the critical time. Response time is slower with staff shortages.

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

Company	Engine	Tanker	Rescue	Ambulance	Squad	Tower	Special Unit	Brush	Utility	Mobile Air	MICU	Remarks
Hepburn Twp Volunteer Fire Department	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	
Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Department	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	
Old Lycoming Twp Fire Department	2	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Trout Run Fire Company	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

As mentioned above, fundraising is an integral part of a volunteer fire company organization. The companies serving the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area include:

- Old Lycoming Volunteer Fire Company
- Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Company
- Old Lycoming Twp. Police Department
- Trout Run Volunteer Fire Company
- 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.
- 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:

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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

One municipal police department serves in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area:

Old Lycoming Township Police Department

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

- 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 Hepburn, Loyalsock, Lycoming and Lewis Townships is provided by the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop F. The State Police may call in neighboring local forces.

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 Loyalsock 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

Health Care Facilities

Health care for the residents in the Lower Lycoming Creek 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 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.

Regional Health Care Facilities readily available to the residents of the Lower Lycoming Creek 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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
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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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 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 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.

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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/>."

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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area. These additional educational resources provide a variety of options to the community residents.

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:

Technical Background Studies No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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 Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area.

Facilities for Higher Education

Residents of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area who choose to pursue higher education levels have access to a number of excellent facilities within Lycoming County and adjacent counties. The following institutions provide the residents with additional higher education opportunities:

- Lycoming College – Current enrollment: 1500 students
- Newport Business Institute – 2000 enrollment: 111
- Pennsylvania College of Technology – 2001 enrollment: 5,538
- Bloomsburg University
- Bucknell University
- Lock Haven University

Library Facilities

Although there are no public libraries located in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area, several public libraries of the Lycoming County Library System are readily available. 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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.

Members of the Lycoming County Library System	
Facility	Location
James V. Brown Library	Williamsport
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

Other Libraries	
Facility	Location
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

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			
Hepburn Township	N		30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	Y
Lewis Township	Y	9-11 F	60	Y	Y			Y		Y	2	Y
Loyalsock Township	Y	7:30 - 4:30	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	20	Y
Lycoming Township	Y	9 - 12	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	3	Y
Old Lycoming Township	Y	8 - 4:30	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	13	Y

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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.

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. Loyalsock Township, Lycoming Township, and Old Lycoming Township offer a curbside recycling pick-up service. Recycling drop off centers for the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area include these locations: Hepburn Township at the Hepburn Township Volunteer Fire Co., Loyalsock Township at 815 Northway Road, Lycoming Township at RD#3 Cogan Station, Old Lycoming Township at 1951 Green Avenue, and Trout Run at the Trout Run Fire Hall.

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

Stormwater Management Planning (Act 167)

One Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan has been completed for the watersheds in the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area. The Miller's Run, Grafius Run, and McClures Run watersheds have been studied and approved by Lycoming County. Loyalsock Township and Old Lycoming Township have specific Stormwater Management Ordinances. Where municipalities lack specific Stormwater Management Ordinances, Stormwater management is controlled through Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance provisions. An 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 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: Hepburn Township, Loyalsock Township, and Old Lycoming Township. Refer to the MS4s map.

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 5 - Community Facilities and Services Profile

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.

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

Introduction

The Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area is based loosely on the lower reaches of the Lycoming Creek watershed. The majority of the Planning Area lies at the foothills of the Allegheny Ridge, while Lewis Township extends the Planning Area beyond the suburban areas of Williamsport into the mountainous regions of Lycoming County. (Terrain Model and Elevation Maps)

Lewis Township is characterized by flat ridgetops, steep hillsides, and narrow stream valley corridors. As a result, the majority of the Township's development is concentrated in the bottomlands along Lycoming Creek and is nearly absent from the steep slopes and inaccessible ridgetops. The southern portion of the Planning Area contains more complex, gently rolling uplands. Stream corridors tend to meander around these formations, rather than cutting through them. Development is denser in these southern municipalities and is still primarily concentrated in the valley and bottomland areas.

The identification and characterization of the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area is an important part of the planning process. These resources are numerous and are a key element of the quality of life in the area. Protecting these resources while allowing for continued economic growth will be an ongoing 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.

- ☑ **Steep slope and ridgetop development** - Development of steep slopes and ridges is prevalent in Lycoming County, which results in several negative impacts, including landslide hazards, runoff problems, and loss of scenic areas. This poses a problem for new growth because available space for new development is limited. Site-specific soil and geology reports, as well as grading standards, can help to minimize the negative impacts of the development that does occur in these areas. However, opportunities for this type of development are limited for two reasons: the on-lot sewage techniques required to support steep slope development are prohibitively expensive, and the depth to groundwater is too great.
- ☑ **Groundwater quality** – Groundwater is a main source of drinking water for residents of the area and its protection will require sound practices regarding sewage and 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 accessible ground water.
- ☑ **The surface waters of Lycoming Creek and its tributaries** are very important as they provide drinking water, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. Stormwater

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

management, soil conservation measures, and riparian buffers are key tools for maintaining surface water quality.

- ☑ **Floodplains** - A large portion of the Planning Area is located in the floodplains of Lycoming Creek and its tributaries. While protection of existing development remains a constant challenge, accurate delineation of the floodplains and appropriate regulations will help ensure that new development is sensitive to this hazard. Protection of existing development remains a constant challenge.

- ☑ **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. A 1973 study, *Scenic Resources of Lycoming County*, identified many of the scenic vistas in the Planning Area, including the Allegheny Scenic Front Area and the Rose and Beech Valley Area. Both are located in the northern reaches of the Planning Area. 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.

- ☑ **Historical/Cultural Resources** – The Planning Area has numerous historical and cultural resources that represent and reflect its rural character. Conservation and promotion of these resources increases the quality of life and potential for tourism.

Natural Resources Inventory

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

Land Resources

Prime Farmland Soils - The Soil Survey of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania (1986) describes the soils found across the County and utilizes soil associations to describe how soil depth, slope, and drainage affect potential land use. Prime farmland soils, i.e., those that produce the highest yields with minimal additional inputs. There are approximately 6,700 acres of Prime Farmland soils scattered throughout the Planning Area, which is approximately 11 percent of the total acreage. The next most productive soils are classified as Soils of Statewide Importance. There are a little more than 11,800 acres, or 19 percent of the total acres, that fall into this classification. Many farmland protection programs use soil classifications as criteria for farmland preservation. (Soil Characteristics Map)

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

On-lot Septic Suitability - As outlined in the 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 Act 537 plans approved by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). According to PADEP, Lewis Township has not reviewed its plan since 1971 and Hepburn Township's plan hasn't been reviewed since 1991. Loyalsock and Lycoming Township are due to review their plans in 2004, and Old Lycoming Township's plan will be due for review in 2005.

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, as previously mentioned cover a large percentage of the Planning Area. These soils are unstable under conditions of disturbance and pressure and contribute sediment to surface waters. At the present time, there are a number of State and Local regulations that apply to development on steep slopes.

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. These areas are very susceptible to changes in land use and development. A small band of these formations runs through the southeastern portion of Loyalsock Township along the river. Detailed, site-specific studies must take place in these areas in order to determine foundation conditions for large structures. These areas may also contain water supply capacity 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

world. Some of the most prominent natural areas of the County were identified in the 1997 County Comprehensive Plan and include the Lycoming Creek Cliffs.

The historic pattern of development, i.e., towns and villages surrounded by fertile valley farmland and forested hillsides and mountains, provides not only visual uniqueness and beauty, but also a clear sense of community. A 1973 study, *Scenic Resources of Lycoming County*, identified many of the scenic vistas in the Planning Area, including the Allegheny Scenic Front Area and the Rose and Beech Valley Area are located in the northern reaches of the Planning Area. Protecting these views will require a combination of both zoning ordinances and design standards. (Natural Resource 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. The surface waters of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area are namely the Lycoming Creek and its tributaries. Portions of various Susquehanna River tributaries are also located in the Planning Area. (Surface Water Features Map)

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 Lycoming Creek and its tributaries, Grafius Run, Millers Run, and Loyalsock Creek. (Surface Water Quality Map)

In addition to the Lycoming Creek Watershed Association, several groups are monitoring and assessing the watershed landscape, including the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, and the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM). Also, the new Clean Water Institute being developed by Lycoming College is very active in the assessment of water quality in the watershed. This summer, 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.

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

website provides specific details of the projects, and can be accessed through a link on the County Website

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. PADEP's Stormwater Management Program administers a grant program under Act 167 for counties to prepare watershed plans. A key objective of the program 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. 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 started preparing a stormwater management plan for the Lycoming Creek Watershed. In addition, stormwater management controls and regulations are implemented at the municipal level through local ordinances, such as the Old Lycoming Creek Stormwater Management Ordinance (1996). There are also specific permit regulations, which also assist in controlling runoff and are discussed in more detail in the Community Facilities and Services Profile.

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 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 Planning Area has been around 40 inches per year, which 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. Other concerns about the availability of groundwater highlight the fact that most of the planning area's underlying geologic formations do not allow for more than 50 gallons per minute (gpm) well yields. However, there are some areas in Lewis Township that have typical yields over 200 gpm.

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

critical to protecting the supply and quality of the groundwater. (Groundwater Availability and Recharge Areas Maps)

Floodplains - Floodplain areas perform a number of critical ecologic functions. In addition, since these areas are relatively flat and have good soils, they are also ideal for development. However, natural flooding cycles can cause tremendous damage to man-made structures. The floodplains within the planning area are delineated on the Surface Water Features Map. Much of the development in the Planning Area lies in the flood plain of Lycoming Creek and its tributaries. 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 whole County and is available in digital format, to allow for viewing on computers. The maps were sent to County municipalities in September 2002, and should be available for a 90-day public review during the early part of 2003. Eventually, the maps will also be used to determine flood insurance rates for floodplain properties.

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. Each of the five municipalities of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area participates in the NFIP.

The NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 to recognize and encourage community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. The National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 codified the CRS in the NFIP. Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are adjusted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community activities that meet the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses, (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating, and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. At the present time, none of the planning area municipalities participate in this program.

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” for residents of Lycoming County. Nearly 200 individuals and organizations have joined as partners and/ or advisors to this organization since its inception in 1998. Project Impact has a website that is accessible from the County Website (www.lyco.org). A list of current projects and a new Flood Hazard Vulnerability Map can be found there. The Partnership completed and adopted the Lower Lycoming Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Plan in 2001. The plan outlines hazard areas, risk factors and mitigation objectives and then provides a collection of recommended policies and implementation strategies.

Biological Resources

Vegetation and Wildlife – Much of the southern portion of the Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area has been cleared and developed for village, residential, and agricultural uses;

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

however, there are still large areas of forest throughout the Planning Area, particularly in Lewis Township.

The 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 Tiadaghton State Forest and PA State Game Lands No. 133 located in Lewis Township.

There are a number of organizations that are currently involved in monitoring and protecting the 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. 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. Grampian Hills Woods, located in Loyalsock Township has been identified as having a high statewide significance in this regard. At the present time, the Lycoming Creek Watershed Association, with assistance from the Lycoming College Clean Water Institute, is compiling a biological, chemical and physical inventory and assessment of portions of Lycoming Creek within the planning area.

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is another organization that is working to protect the rural nature of the County and the surrounding region. Their 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, including the Miller Property in Lewis Township.

Cultural Resources

Archaeological/Historical – At present, there are 36 properties located throughout Lycoming County that are either eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Properties located within the Planning Area are listed in the following table. Preservation of these and other historic resources helps to maintain connections with the area's past, as well as to encourage tourism. (Historical Resources Map)

Technical Background Studies

No. 6. - Natural and Cultural Resources Profile

Historic Property	Municipality	Location	Date Listed	Date Eligible
J. Alderhold, Jr. Farm	Hepburn Township	South side TR452, east of Old Rte 15		10/7/98
Leonard Ulmer House	Hepburn Township	Balls Mills		6/18/85
Bridge in Lewis Township	Lewis Township	L.R. 41051	6/22/88	
Canfield Island Site	Loyalsock Township	In Riverfront Park	4/14/82	
Evenden House	Loyalsock Township	1323 E. 3rd Street		4/17/86
Pennsylvania Railroad	Old Lycoming Township	Lycoming Creek		10/4/93

Source: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Cultural – In addition to the previously mentioned 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 cultural hub of the area. The new Community Arts Center is home of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, and also hosts a variety of theatrical and musical shows. Local fairs and festivals throughout the area enhance the sense of community and celebrate local heritage

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, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing continue to become more popular and the economic potential for the County is well recognized.

Part of Tiadaghton State Forest and State Game Lands No.133 are located in Lewis Township. There are also several municipal parks in the Planning Area: Lycoming Township Park, Hepburn Township Park, Heshbon Park, and Old Lycoming Township Park in Old Lycoming Township; James E. Short Park, Bruce E. Henry Park, and Riverfront Park in Loyalsock Township and Trout Run Park in Lewis Township. At present, the County is in the process of updating its Parks and Recreation Plan.

Technical Background Studies

No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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

Technical Background Studies

No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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 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.

Technical Background Studies No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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 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

Technical Background Studies

No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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 \$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

Technical Background Studies

No. 7 - Flood Hazards Profile

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 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.