

Lycoming County

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenway Plan



ADOPTED

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**LYCOMING COUNTY
RECREATION, PARKS, &
OPEN SPACE/GREENWAY PLAN**

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*** See Appendix B**

Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenways Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Chapter 1	Introduction	
	<i>Role and Purpose</i>	1-1
	<i>The Planning Process</i>	1-2
	<i>Visions</i>	1-4
	<i>Plan Organization</i>	1-6
	<i>Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Map Book</i>	1-7
	<i>Related Plans and Policies</i>	1-8
Chapter 2	Background Information	
	<i>Regional Setting</i>	2-1
	<i>Brief History</i>	2-1
	<i>Community Character</i>	2-1
	<i>Political Subdivisions</i>	2-2
	<i>Recreation Service Areas</i>	2-3
	<i>Population, Statistics, and Trends</i>	2-4
	<i>Socio-economic Conditions and Trends</i>	2-5
	<i>Land Use</i>	2-5
Chapter 3	Evaluation and Analysis Process	
	<i>Public Participation</i>	3-1
	<i>County-wide Recreation Survey</i>	3-2
	<i>Areas and Facilities</i>	3-3
	<i>Programs</i>	3-7
	<i>Ordinances</i>	3-7
Chapter 4	Lycoming County Recreation Organizations	
	<i>County Role In Recreation</i>	4-1
	<i>Lycoming County Recreation Authority</i>	4-2
	<i>County Recreation Organization Visions</i>	4-3
	<i>County Recreation Organization Implementation Strategies</i>	4-5

Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenways Plan

Chapter 5	Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services	
	<i>Recreation Commissions, Committees, and Authorities</i>	5-1
	<i>Recreation Areas and Facilities</i>	5-3
	<i>School Districts</i>	5-9
	<i>Recreation Programs</i>	5-13
	<i>State Agencies</i>	5-15
	<i>Other Recreation Providers</i>	5-18
	<i>Recreation Providers, Facilities, and Services Visions</i>	5-21
	<i>Recreation Providers, Facilities, and Services Implementation Strategies</i>	5-24
Chapter 6	Recreation Activities	
	<i>Arts and Entertainment</i>	6-1
	<i>Water Related Activities</i>	6-4
	<i>Winter Recreation</i>	6-8
	<i>Youth Sports</i>	6-11
	<i>Youth and Adult Activities</i>	6-13
	<i>Recreation Activity Visions</i>	6-17
	<i>Recreation Activity Implementation Strategies</i>	6-22
Chapter 7	Establishing Greenways	
	<i>Overview</i>	7-1
	• <i>What is a greenway?</i>	7-1
	• <i>Benefits of a greenway</i>	7-3
	• <i>Types of greenways</i>	7-7
	• <i>Step/process in the development of the Lycoming County Greenway Plan</i>	7-8
	<i>Greenway Analysis</i>	7-9
	• <i>Potential demand and use of greenways</i>	7-9
	• <i>Inventory</i>	7-10
	• <i>A Watershed Approach to Greenways</i>	7-15
	• <i>Greenway Connections</i>	7-16
	• <i>Land Use Compatibility</i>	7-17
	<i>Priority Greenway Corridors</i>	7-18
	• <i>Lower W. Branch Susquehanna River</i>	7-18
	• <i>Muncy Creek/Little Muncy Creek</i>	7-22
	• <i>Nippenose Valley/Elimsport</i>	7-25
	• <i>Loyalsock Creek</i>	7-28
	• <i>Lycoming Creek</i>	7-32
	• <i>Larry's Creek</i>	7-36
	• <i>Pine Creek</i>	7-38
	<i>Financing and Managing Greenways</i>	7-47

Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, & Open Space/Greenways Plan

Chapter 8	Open Space, Trails and Greenways	
	<i>Open Space</i>	8-1
	<i>Open Space Preservation and Conservation Techniques</i>	8-4
	<i>Trails</i>	8-10
	<i>Greenways</i>	8-14
	<i>Greenway Visions</i>	8-18
	<i>Greenway Implementation Strategies</i>	8-21
Chapter 9	Implementation	
	<i>Priority Implementation Actions by Lycoming County</i>	9-1
	<i>Greenway and Trail Priorities</i>	9-1
	<i>Greenway Demonstration Project</i>	9-2
	<i>Strategic Implementation Actions</i>	9-3
	<i>Trail Implementation Actions</i>	9-3
	<i>Municipal Implementation Action Plans</i>	9-3

APPENDICES:

A	Population Statistics and Trends
B	Recreation Advisory Committee Members
C	Survey Questionnaire
D	Focus Group Information
E	Municipal Recreation Areas and Facilities
F	School Areas and Facilities
G	Recreation Programs
H	Greenway Priority Matrix
I	Implementation Matrix

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Lycoming County is a great place to play, relax and rejuvenate – whether it is at a park, on a trail, along the river or creeks, or in our vast open space and forestland. Lycoming County has a variety of recreation opportunities that are only minutes away from most of the population. The County has a multitude of organized sports for youth, young adults and adults, and is recognized world-wide as the birthplace of Little League Baseball. Although mostly centered around the Greater Williamsport Area, high quality arts and entertainment programs are readily available to residents of the County. As the largest County in the State, Lycoming County has a tremendous acreage of open space and forestland. The beauty of the landscape is at times breathtaking, with view sheds, wildlife, hiking trails, and natural areas that rival anyplace east of the Mississippi. These opportunities provide for a great quality of life for County residents, and are also available to County visitors.

Role and Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to facilitate the development and enhancement of recreation facilities, parks, open space and greenways. The plan presents a wide spectrum of visions, goals and implementation strategies that can be used by the County and local municipalities in decision making. Additionally this Plan complements, augments, and is a functional element of the Comprehensive Plan for Lycoming County.

The original Lycoming County Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plans were developed by the Lycoming County Planning Commission and adopted by the Lycoming County Commissioners effective September, 1974. A Recreation Plan Addendum was prepared in April, 1977 which contained detailed recommendations pertaining to the County role in recreation, environmental education facility use and development, and proposed bicycle trail alignments. Many of the policies and recommendations from these Plans are still applicable today, over 30 years later, and were carried over or modified as needed as part of this document. The original County Recreation Plan stated that:

“Recreation should be regarded not as only sports, or even leisure time activity, but a broad concept of activity oriented toward health, individual happiness, creativity and community vigor. Incorporation of recreation values into everyday life and commonplace activities is essential in order to improve the quality of life and to make our activities meaningful. All facets of recreation should be viewed in this broad sense, rather than only something to be done in a park, during a summer program or while on a team.”

This Plan contains information and analysis developed through inventory, survey, and public involvement pertaining to recreation related organizations, facilities and services, programs, and open space trails and greenways. The visions, goals and implementation strategies establish a framework to:

- Provide a basis for allocating local & state resources to meet recreational needs of residents, businesses & tourists.
- Promote regional cooperation for provision of recreational facilities. The Plan is a priority of the Greater Williamsport Area Alliance.
- Promote sustainable economic development, including tourism.
- Provide statistical data & other documentation to justify grant applications & acquire funding.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

- Identify opportunities for greenways, open space & floodplain preservation.
- Identify opportunities for public access points & linkages between trail systems & County population centers.
- Assist elected officials in making decisions and wisely spending limited tax dollars.
- Identify key issues and raise awareness of current issues and opportunities.
- Prioritize projects and assist municipalities in obtaining a fair share of grant funds for recreation and parks.
- Evaluate community recreation facilities, services and programs and provide framework for measuring success in serving community needs.
- Establish organizational structure, build teamwork, and gain buy-in to implement priority projects.
- Establish a blueprint for maintaining, improving and adding to recreation facilities, services and programs so that everyone is working together in the same direction.

The Planning Process

The Advisory Committee identified priority issues and opportunities during the first two working sessions. These priority issues and opportunities established a framework from which to identify focus groups and key persons to interview, and the questions to ask on the public survey.

A Broad-Based Public Process

In January 2003, the Lycoming County Planning Commission, with assistance from the Recreation Advisory Committee, conducted a direct mail survey of Lycoming County households to assess public opinion about recreation facilities and programs, open space protection, and the establishment of a County-wide Greenway network. The goal was to obtain citizen input regarding:

- Recreational facilities & programs participation, strengths, & concerns
- Support for Open Space protection and Greenway development
- Role of the County in Recreation, Parks and Open Space/Greenways
- Funding & support for additional Recreation & Open Space facilities & programs
- Additional comments or concerns not identified in the survey instrument

Detailed results and a summary are available on the Lycoming County web-site at www.lyco.org or at the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development office. Information from analysis of survey data was used in formulating the key issues, vision statements, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies contained in the Plan

A week of visioning was conducted during April 2003 in conjunction with planning efforts for the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plans. Visioning sessions were held on four evenings at four different locations to encourage maximum county-wide participation. Attendees reviewed the results of the Recreation Survey, and maps of the County. Opportunity was provided to have an open discussion with representatives from the County staff, consulting team and the Advisory Committee, provide written comments, or make annotations on the maps.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Focus Group and Key Person Interviews

The Advisory Committee established the following focus groups for interview and identified individuals for each of the groups:

- Boating
- Chamber of Commerce
- Conservation/Sportsman's Clubs
- Performing and Visual Arts
- Recreation Committees, Commissions, and Authorities
- State Agencies
- Trails
- Winter Sports
- Youth and Adult Activities
- Youth Leadership
- Youth Sports

Interviews were conducted from June through October 2003. Additionally, key person interviews were conducted with members of the Lycoming County Recreation Authority. Information obtained through the interview process was used in formulating the key issues, vision statements, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies contained in the Plan.

Areas and Facilities

Letters were mailed to municipalities, school districts, universities, churches, and member driven organizations, requesting that they complete a table providing information on recreation areas and facilities under their control. Representatives of the consulting team also visited all parks and playgrounds within the County to verify information provided, obtain photographs and assess the general condition and safety of parks and playgrounds.

Information and analysis from this inventory and assessment was used in formulating the key issues, vision statements, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies contained in the Plan.

Programs

Letters were mailed to municipalities, school districts, universities, churches, and member driven organizations, requesting that they provide information on recreation programs under their direction or control. Recreational programs are considered as instructional or organized activities that require supervisory personnel and are directed toward particular areas of interest or age groups.

Information and analysis from this inventory and assessment was used in formulating the key issues, vision statements, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies contained in the Plan.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

County Resources

The consultants, with assistance from the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development staff, conducted an inventory and analysis of the County land and water resources. The Lycoming County Planning and Community Development staff developed a Map Book consisting of 29 maps. This mapping was used for development of the Plan and is an integral part of the Plan. Maps include visual information pertaining to demographics, service areas, land use and zoning, vision, natural resources and protections areas, trails concept, and greenways.

Connection with the PA Wilds Initiative

Lycoming County is the eastern edge of a twelve County “PA Wilds” region with over two million acres of public land, including some of the most wild and scenic areas in the northeast. The Commonwealth is actively promoting the PA Wilds as a destination for outdoor tourism and related businesses. The goal of PA Wilds is to enhance the visitor experience in the region, while protecting and conserving those treasured natural and cultural resources. The Wilds initiative provides both an opportunity and a concern for Lycoming County. The opportunity is to increase low impact/high yield tourism, develop needed infrastructure and services with State support, and provide economic benefits, particularly for gateway communities such as Jersey Shore. The concern, as summarized by Ted Eubanks from Fermata, Inc., consultant for the PA Wilds project, is “we must be careful not to exceed the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the resource.”

Visions

The Advisory Committee, with assistance from the consultants and the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development staff, refined the initial list of issues and opportunities into key issues after listening to the information and analysis from public input and resource inventory. Twenty-six visions were created under four major areas:

- Lycoming County Recreation Policy
- Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services
- Recreation Activities
- Open Space, Trails and Greenways

The following visions were developed:

Vision 1: County government should consider assisting local municipalities in developing recreational services and establishing programs and facilities to meet regional needs exceeding local government capabilities.

Vision 2: The White Deer Golf Complex will continue to be a professionally run entity meeting golfing educational and recreational needs of Lycoming County and the central Pennsylvania region.

Vision 3: Recreation planning and programming is consistent throughout Lycoming County, providing every resident an opportunity for quality recreation experiences, active living and a healthy lifestyle.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Vision 4: Communities in Lycoming County are healthy active places to live, work and play, offering a variety of safe, challenging and educational public recreation opportunities.

Vision 5: All public playgrounds are safe, encouraging children to build strength while developing hand-eye coordination and balance, and improve personal health.

Vision 6: New land developments provide open space, recreation areas, and connectivity to adjacent developments, communities, and recreation areas.

Vision 7: Municipal governments, County government and state agencies provide a coordinated approach to long range planning and provision of recreation programs and facilities that meet the needs of County residents and increases tourism and economic benefit.

Vision 8: Improvement and expansion of recreation programs, areas, and facilities improves economic development and increases tourism for the County.

Vision 9: Residents of the County will have improved access to arts and entertainment performances, displays, and events. Local artists, performing artists, and entertainers will have more opportunities for performances and exhibits to reach residents of the County.

Vision 10: Lycoming County becomes the hub and destination for cultural events, performances and exhibitions in Northcentral Pennsylvania. Arts and entertainment become a source of increased tourism and economic development. Access to and availability of arts and entertainment is a strong quality of life asset that helps attract people and business, and retain our youth in the area after graduation.

Vision 11: Lycoming County residents and tourists have access to clean water for boating, sustainable fishing, viewing of abundant and diverse wildlife, and other activities.

Vision 12: Communities have established outdoor recreation areas that provide a safe place for our youth to participate in water related activities.

Vision 13: Lycoming County will be recognized as a premier winter recreation destination, serving the needs of a variety of users, including families, for an extended stay. Available activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, ice boating, hunting, hiking, and scenic views. An indoor ice facility could be a central area attraction.

Vision 14: Communities have established outdoor recreation areas that provide a safe place for our youth to participate in winter activities.

Vision 15: School districts and local communities have established a partnership to provide affordable indoor recreation opportunities for recreation activities during the winter months.

Vision 16: Every child in Lycoming County can participate in activity/activities of their choice in a fun and safe environment.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Vision 17: Youth sports in Lycoming County provide opportunities to learn and develop sport skills and knowledge, while teaching participants the value of good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Vision 18: Athletic fields and /or courts used by all organized sports are in excellent condition, constructed and maintained in accordance with industry standards.

Vision 19: Lycoming County offers a variety of safe recreational and social opportunities and facilities that serves the needs of various interests, ages, and skill levels.

Vision 20: Lycoming County offers a variety of safe recreational and social opportunities that benefit the economic and social health of communities.

Vision 21: The Susquehanna Trail is completed connecting the Pine Creek Valley from Tioga County to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, with a connection to Clinton County, and then along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River corridor to the Union County line. Completion of this scenic section will springboard development of the larger interconnected bikeway from New York to Maryland.

Vision 22: Communities have a pedestrian plan with safe walking and biking paths that connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods.

Vision 23: Tourism and economic gain increase through extended visits with a variety of improved outdoor recreation opportunities and promotion of scenic views.

Vision 24: Lycoming County and its municipalities adopt a greenway plan that enhances the quality of life and promotes healthy co-existence of people in their built and natural environments. When integrated as part of a statewide system, this plan will network Lycoming County communities to valued resources both county and statewide.

Vision 25: Lycoming County, its municipalities, and recreation/conservation agencies encourage the granting and maintenance of public access to recreational open space, while respecting the rights of landowners.

Vision 26: Lycoming County and its municipalities maintain open space and help to conserve working farms and forest lands, including provision of conservation incentives to landowners.

Plan Organization

Background information regarding land use, population trends, and recreation service areas is contained in Chapter 2. This information provides characteristics and trends that may affect the future needs of recreation. Chapter 3 describes the process used to gather and analyze information, gain public participation, and develop visions, goals and objectives, and implementation strategies. Chapter 7 contains background and educational information relating to developing and managing greenways.

The analysis and recommendations of recreation functional areas are contained in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 8. These chapters are organized to present the information gathered for each functional area, analysis of the information, identification of the key issues and implications to the community. Each chapter then presents the visions that were developed, along with the

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

goals and objectives necessary to achieve those visions. Finally, at the end of each chapter there is a table of implementation strategies that provides strategic actions; methods, tools and references; potential partners; and funding sources.

Chapter 9 identifies the steps for implementation.

Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Map Book

Although the plan contains smaller versions of several of the maps contained in the Map Book, the maps of the Map Book are an integral part of this plan and should be reviewed for more detail than is available within this publication. The maps in the Map Book include:

Map Number	Map Name
1	County Base Map
2	State & Federal Lands
3	Population Density Percentage Population Change By Municipality
4	1970-2000
5	School Districts
6	Recreation Sites
7	Historic Sites
8	Existing Land Use
9	Zoning: Intensity for Development Potential
10	Countywide Vision
11	Watershed Boundaries & Wetlands
12	Special Protection Watersheds (EV & HQ)
13	Floodplain Boundaries
14	Natural Resource Protection Areas
15	Slope Percentages
16	Agricultural Areas
17	Agricultural Preservation
18	Open Space - Large Parcels
19	Conservation Lands
20	Scenic Areas
21	Trails Concept
22	Greenway Countywide Key
23	Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Greenway and Nippenose Valley - Elimsport Greenway
24	Muncy Creek/Little Muncy Creek Greenway
25	Loyalsock Creek Greenway
26	Lycoming Creek Greenway
27	Larry's Creek Greenway
28	Pine Creek Greenway
29	Lycoming Creek Greenway Detail

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Related Plans and Policies

The Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Plan provides visions, goal and objectives, and implementation strategies for County recreation organizations; recreation providers, facilities and services; recreation activities; and open space, trails and greenways. In addition this plan provides valuable information to augment current and future editions of the following related planning documents:

- The Comprehensive Plan for Lycoming County
- The Greater Williamsport Comprehensive Plan
- The Lower Lycoming Creek Comprehensive Plan
- The Montoursville/Muncy Comprehensive Plan
- The Muncy Creek Comprehensive Plan
- The US 15 South Comprehensive Plan
- The US 220/Future I-99 Comprehensive Plan
- Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance
- Lycoming County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
- Act 537 Stormwater Management Plans
- Lycoming County Water Supply Plan
- A Natural Areas Inventory of Lycoming County
- Taking Back the Future: An Action Plan for Advancing Recreation & Park Services in Williamsport, by the Recreation and Park Peer Advisory Team, February 16, 2005
- Pine Creek Valley Management Plan
- Lower West Branch of the Susquehanna River Greenway Plan
- Pine Creek Watershed River Conservation Plan
- Lower W. Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan

CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Regional Setting

Lycoming County is located in northcentral Pennsylvania, straddling the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, which flows west to east before turning to the south and leaving the County. Lycoming County, with more than 1200 square miles, is the largest in land area of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The County lies just north of Interstate 80, providing easy east west access to many large metropolitan areas.

Brief History

The area was originally populated by Native Americans as the river, creeks, and woodlands attracted these cultures. Lycoming is a Delaware Indian word meaning sandy or gravelly creek. The county is named for Lycoming Creek. Lycoming County was formed from Northumberland County in 1795. The City of Williamsport was laid out in 1795 and became the County Seat.

Lycoming County prospered in the mid-19th Century during the heyday of the logging industry. Williamsport quickly became the commercial center of the region and was known as the Lumber Capital of the World during the 1800's. Williamsport was producing 350 million board feet per day during peak production, the highest level of production of lumber in the world. As a result of the logging industry many millionaires evolved. In addition to the huge mansions they built, an area now known as "Millionaire's Row", these lumber barons pushed the advancement of transportation in the region.

With the advantage of natural resources, the Susquehanna River as an industrial resource, and the advancement of transportation, Lycoming County continued to prosper through manufacturing. The majority of the County population, along with commerce and industry, has and will continue to be along the corridor of the Susquehanna River. However the majority of the land area of Lycoming County has always been rural with population springing up in village centers along the major transportation routes, which follow the four major stream valleys that divide the northern plateau area of the County. These rural areas flourished during the lumber era with populations soaring at times. Some of the village centers have remained, while others have all but disappeared with only a few foundation structures visible to those who know where to look.

The rural areas of Lycoming County have always been given a regional and statewide importance for outdoor values – primarily hunting and fishing in the past century. The most recent trends show expanded outdoor recreation, to include canoeing, hiking, backpacking, camping, snowmobiling, and biking to name just a few. The future of the rural area appears tied to an increase in quantity and variety of outdoor recreation. The PA Wilds initiative, along with related efforts, will strongly influence that future.

Community Character

The County has four distinct regions that display different community character. The urban areas that are within the corridor of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River make up almost 65% of the County population. This area contains the major commercial and industrial development. The Greater Williamsport Area has the densest population, with traditional

CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

residential neighborhoods. The smaller Boroughs, such as Jersey Shore, Muncy, and Montgomery provide more of a small town atmosphere. Usable open space is disappearing

The Countryside area to the north of the River corridor has seen urban sprawl and modest population growth. Residential housing is either large lots or suburban neighborhood housing developments. There still remain small areas of farming, but most of these lesser productive agricultural areas have given way to the pressure of development. This area is characterized by low shale hills which are mostly forested, with some open fields. Although this area does not have the relief and breathtaking views of the area to its north, there are beautiful views, considerable open space and achievable quiet and solitude just minutes from the urban population centers.

The Agricultural regions in the eastern and southern regions of the County, as shown on the Countywide Vision Map, are mostly rolling hills with cultivated or grassed fields and small woodlots. In addition to the farmsteads, these areas have several village centers with permanent rural residences with several small commercial establishments. There are few public or commercial recreational facilities located in these regions. The agricultural regions are surrounded by State Forest Lands and State Game Lands.

Northern Lycoming County is the southern edge of the Allegheny Plateau. This is the area shown as the Natural Resource Area on the Countywide Vision Map. Four major stream valleys in a north-south orientation separate this large area. There are broad, flat-topped ridges with narrow, steep walled valleys of the tributary streams. These tributary streams were the major transportation routes during the lumbering era. Many communities were established in the valleys; however the populations have dwindled considerably over the years. There are still several remaining village centers with small commercial establishments. Seasonal and recreational housing, in the form of cabins, was the latest and most extensive development throughout the region. However, there has been an increase in permanent residences in recent years, purportedly from retirees, and home based occupations. This area is mostly forested, with State Forest Lands, State Game Lands, and hunting and fishing clubs.

The Rural Centers and Villages Map shows the location of the village centers in the Natural Resource Area and Agricultural Areas.

Political Subdivisions

Lycoming County has an elected Board of Commissioners. The County is comprised of the City of Williamsport, nine Boroughs, and forty-two Townships. The County Map (Map 1) shows the municipal boundaries of the County. The City of Williamsport has a strong Mayor/Council form of government, with the Mayor and staff conducting daily business. Each of the Boroughs is governed by an elected Council of varying size from 5 to 9, and a mayor. In most cases a Borough Manager with a small staff governs the daily business. The Townships are governed by ~~three~~ elected Supervisors. In the more rural Townships, many of the employees are part-time and daily hours of operation are limited.

Multi-municipal planning areas have been formed to take advantage of common interests, and the benefits of multi-municipal comprehensive plans and zoning. The multi-municipal planning areas, shown on the map below, are the Greater Williamsport Area, Lower Lycoming Creek Area, Montoursville/Muncy Growth Area, Muncy Creek Area, US 15 South Area, US 220/Future

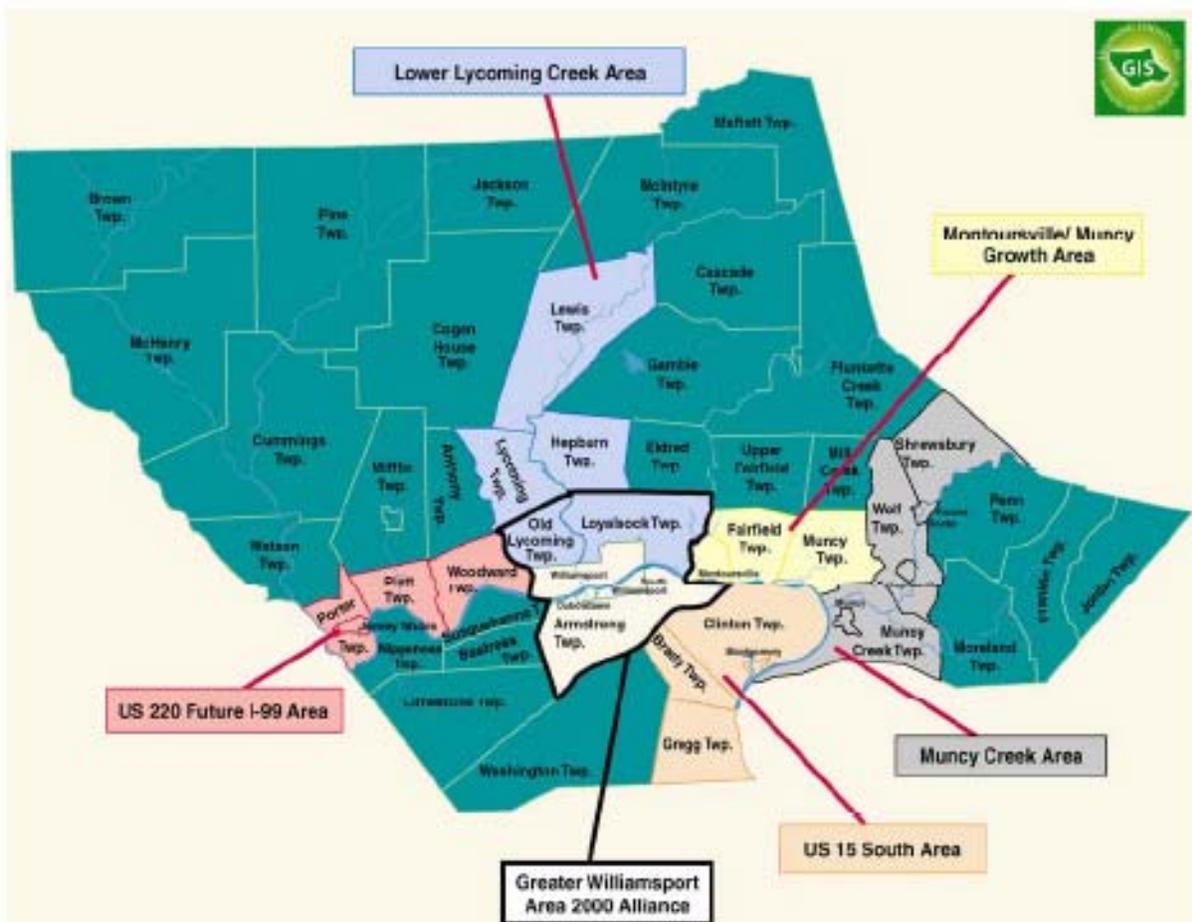
CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I-99 Area, and Lycoming County – Rural Planning Area.

Recreation Service Areas

Identifying recreation service areas is a difficult task in Lycoming County. The school districts provide many of the facilities and programs for our youth and also are the centers for many community events. However, with neighborhood and community schools giving way to centrally located facilities, there is an increasing need for municipal involvement in providing recreational facilities and programs.

The School Districts Map shows those service areas for school related programs and facilities, and organized youth athletics. Several communities have established very successful cooperative efforts for programs and facilities that support the general population.



However, there can be a case made for establishing different service areas for other leisure activities, non-structured activities, open space, trails and greenways. Using the multi-municipal planning areas will provide municipalities with an alternative avenue to pursue in planning and providing these services with limited resources and funding. Partnerships and cooperative agreements will be the key in meeting needs in the future.

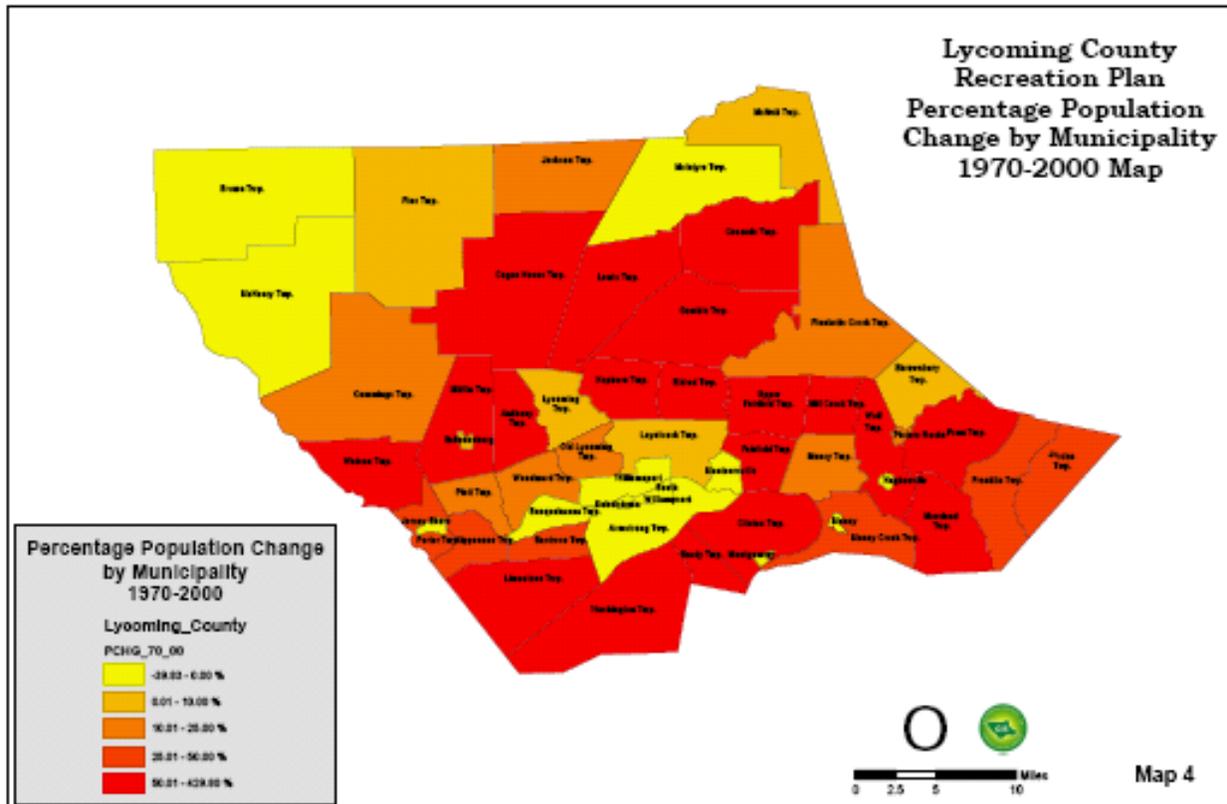
CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Population, Statistics, and Trends

Appendix A provides population data for all municipalities from the US Census. The population trends of Lycoming County from 1970 to 2000 are indicative of statewide trends where population shifted outward from the cities and boroughs into the suburban and rural townships. The Percentage Population Change by Municipality Map clearly shows the trend in population shift.

More detailed information on population, statistics, and trends is available in the individual multi-municipal comprehensive plans. Some of the trends that may affect the provision of recreation from these plans include:

- The greatest population increases are projected for Anthony, Brady, Clinton, Cogan House and Limestone Townships.
- Population decreases are projected for McHenry, McIntyre, Plunketts Creek, and Susquehanna Townships, as well as Salladasburg Borough.
- Since fewer younger individuals and families are making Lycoming County their home, our population is growing older.
- Lycoming County wages are falling behind the State median and are projected to continue this decline.
- As the median age of the community's population increases, tax revenues typically decrease.



CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Appendix A also provides information concerning recreation spending by municipality. Although this is just a short snapshot in time, some conclusions can be drawn. The municipalities of Loyalsock and Lycoming Townships, along with Montgomery Borough, spend the largest amount on recreation per person. These same municipalities are the leaders in terms of recreation expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures. Nippenose Township spends a high percentage of overall expenditures on recreation, as well as in terms of dollars per resident. This however is misleading, in that this is a result of income and expenses at their park, which has regional attraction and participation. The Townships of the Rural Planning Area spend very little money on recreation, both in terms of percentage of budget and dollars per resident. Recreation spending in the rural townships is cyclical and not on a consistent basis.

Socio-economic Conditions and Trends

The two socio-economic trends that will have the greatest impact on recreation in the near future are the retirement of the “Baby Boomers” and the ever increasing percentage of the population that is overweight.

As the Baby Boomers enter retirement years, it is anticipated that they will have more leisure time and financial resources than any prior generation has had. There will be more opportunities to improve recreation facilities, but at the same time there will be more pressure and needs for our limited facilities and open space. This will be a situation that will need to be monitored over the next several years, with planning documents revised and updated to keep up with the change.

According to the American Heart Association 2005 update on Obesity, overweight and obesity together represent the No. 2 preventable cause of death in the United States, second only to cigarette smoking. Almost seven of every 10 U.S. adults are overweight, with three of those categorized as obese using Body Mass Index as a guide. The incidence of children who are overweight or obese is also rising at an alarming rate. Since 1991, the prevalence of obesity has increased 75 percent. Obesity has become the modern epidemic. The estimated annual cost of obesity-related diseases in the United States is about \$100 billion. Additional and updated information is available at the American Heart Association website.

This is clearly a result of unhealthy lifestyles and a prevalence of physical inactivity. If there is only one goal that comes out of this plan, it should be to do everything possible to promote an active healthy lifestyle for our citizenry. We should take this into consideration in government budgeting, development of recreation facilities and programs, and development of communities.

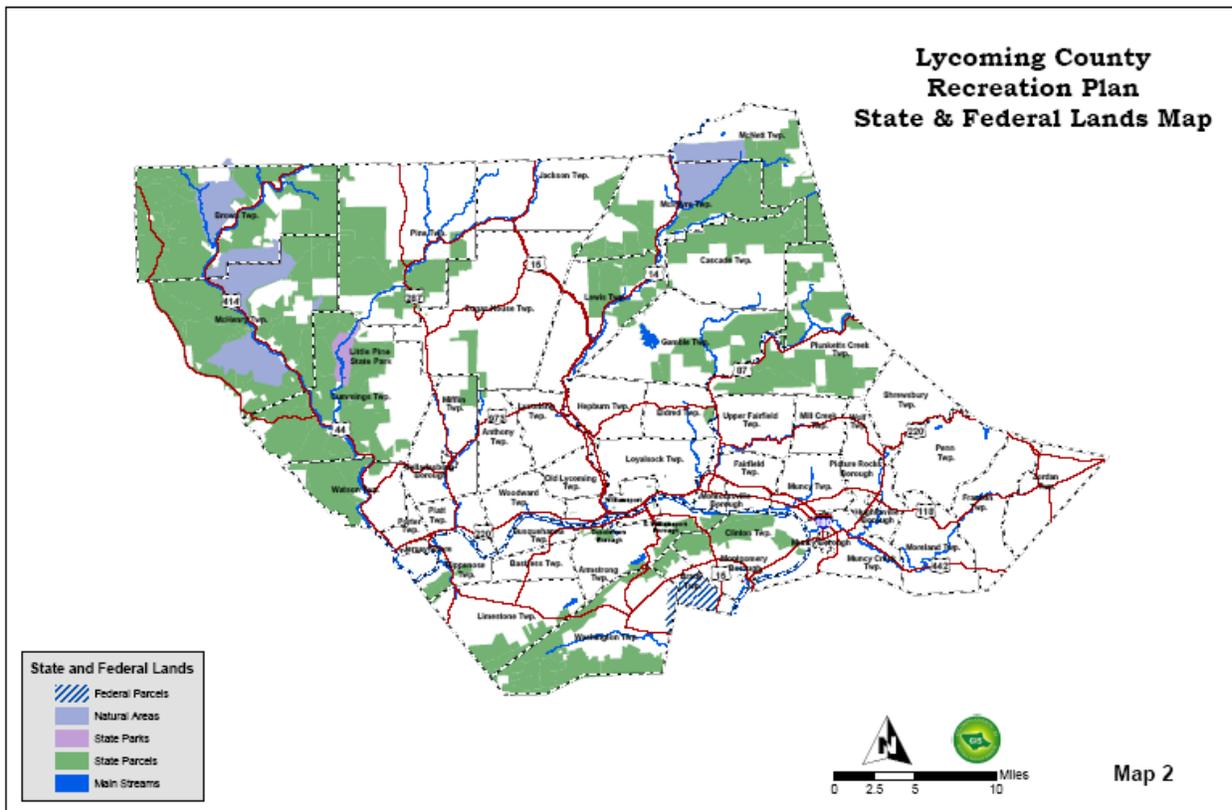
Land Use

The existing land use is shown on the Existing Land Use Map. As would be expected, the majority of land is forested, with land in active agriculture the second most prevalent use.

CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

State and Federal Lands

There are extensive public land holdings in Lycoming County as shown by the State & Federal Lands Map. These lands make up more than 30 percent of the total land within Lycoming County. A majority of the mountainous area is made of State Forest or State Game Land, especially in the northern Natural Resource Area. Private development is not permitted under current State policy. Timber production on these lands is managed by the Bureau of Forestry and State Game Commission. There are some mining operations permitted on these lands. Use generally consists of outdoor recreation.



Large Parcel Landowners

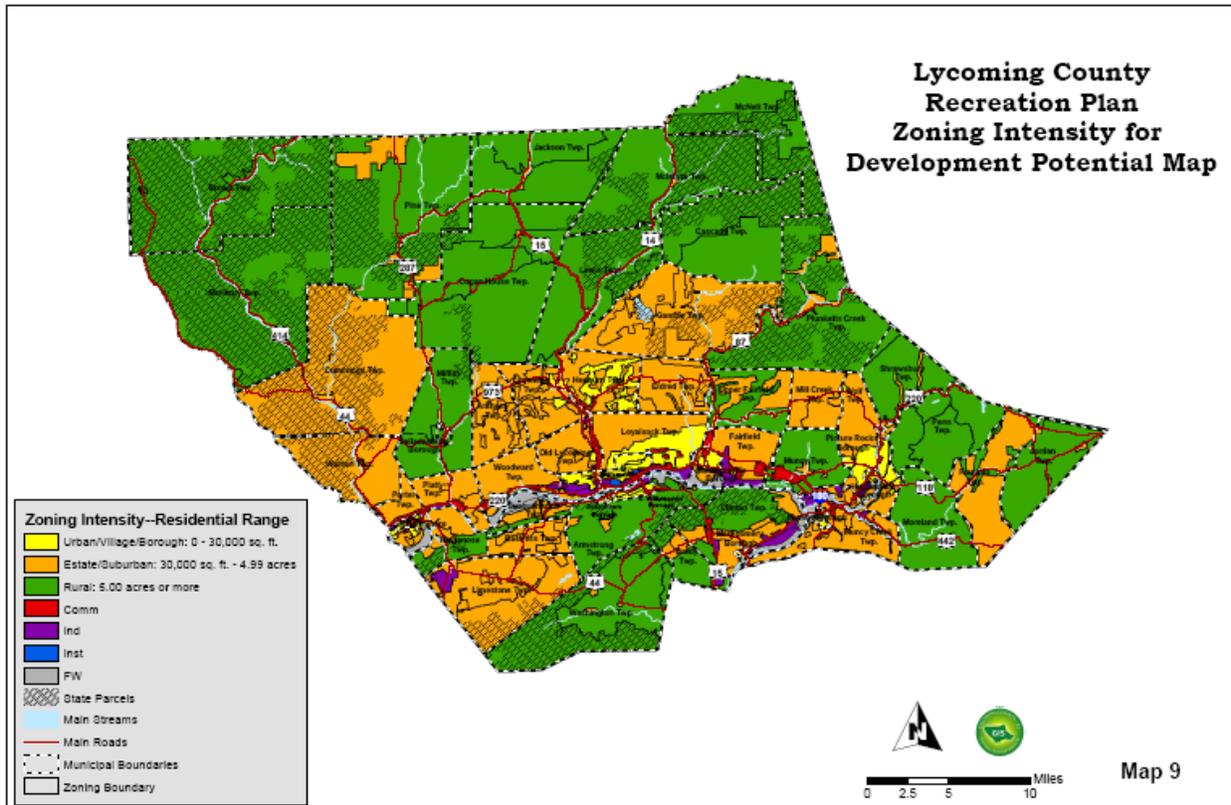
Privately owned land parcels of 100 or more acres make up 66% percent of the total land within Lycoming County. The majority of this acreage is State Lands and Hunting and Fishing Clubs. These areas have remained intact over the years and have not been the subject of development or subdivision, with the exception of agricultural farms. Should this trend change, there could be a significant impact on the future land use of the County.

Zoning and Future Land Use

Seventeen of the fifty-two municipalities in Lycoming County fall under the jurisdiction of the County Zoning Ordinance. The majority of these are municipalities in the rural areas. The

CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

zoning encourages protection of open space and natural resources, with low intensity development allowed in the more rural areas. Other techniques such as clustering, with preservation of open space, are also encouraged. The Zoning Intensity for Development Potential Map shows the density that might be achieved if parcels were developed in accordance with current zoning ordinances. The Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance was enacted 12/31/2006 and last revised on 10/31/2006. The Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan was adopted on 08/10/2006. Specific information on zoning provisions and techniques are discussed in Chapter 8. The Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance will be revised to include recommendations from the latest revision of the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan.



CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

Public Participation

Recreation Advisory Committee

A Recreation Advisory Committee composed of recreation officials, natural resource user groups, municipal officials, school district representatives, and others who have an interest in recreation, parks and open space, was established at the start of the planning process. Members of the Advisory Committee are listed in Appendix B.

The Advisory Committee identified priority issues and opportunities during the first two working sessions. These priority issues and opportunities established a framework from which to identify focus groups and key persons to interview, and the questions to ask on the public survey.

Representatives from the consultant team and Lycoming County Planning and Community Development provided information from analysis of focus group and key person interviews, the county-wide recreation survey, background information and other planning efforts to the Advisory Committee. The Key Issues were developed from this information and the Advisory Committee established Vision Statements with assistance from the consultant team and Lycoming County Planning and Community Development. Goals, objectives and implementation strategies were then developed for each of the vision statements.

Focus Group and Key Person Interviews

The Advisory Committee established the following focus groups for interview and identified individuals for each of the groups:

- Boating
- Chamber of Commerce
- Conservation/Sportsman's Clubs
- Performing and Visual Arts
- Recreation Committees, Commissions, and Authorities
- State Agencies
- Trails
- Winter Sports
- Youth and Adult Activities
- Youth Leadership
- Youth Sports

A summary of the interviews is contained in Appendix D. Additionally, key person interviews were conducted with members of the Lycoming County Recreation Authority. Information obtained through the interview process was used in formulating the key issues, vision statements, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies contained in Chapters 4 through 8.

Public Input

A week of visioning was conducted during April 2003 in conjunction with planning efforts for the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plans. Visioning sessions were held on four evenings at four different locations to encourage maximum county-wide participation. Each session lasted 5 hours and included open house display of plans and maps, open discussions, and two 90

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

minute presentations. Attendees reviewed the results of the Recreation Survey, and maps of the County. Opportunity was provided to have an open discussion with representatives from the County staff, consulting team and the Advisory Committee, provide written comments, or make annotations on the maps.

The draft of the Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Plan will be available for review on the County web-site at www.lyco.org or at the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development office.

County-wide Recreation Survey

The Lycoming County Planning Commission, with assistance from the Recreation Advisory Committee, conducted a direct mail survey of Lycoming County households to assess public opinion about recreation facilities and programs, open space protection, and the establishment of a County-wide Greenway network. The results of this survey provide a better understanding of citizen's needs and interests, and were considered in the development of the visions, goals and objectives, and implementation strategies. More specifically, the results of the survey helped the Committee develop well reasoned management recommendations and direct its planning efforts and resources for the benefit of the public.

Process

The survey instrument was drafted by the project consultants and refined through input from the Advisory Committee, the Lycoming County Planning Commission, the Lycoming County Commissioners, and the DCNR Project Advisor, Dianne Kripas. The goal was to obtain citizen input regarding:

- Recreational facilities & programs participation, strengths, & concerns
- Support for Open Space protection and Greenway development
- Role of the County in Recreation, Parks and Open Space/Greenways
- Funding & support for additional Recreation & Open Space facilities & programs
- Additional comments or concerns not identified in the survey instrument

A random sample of 5,000 households was drawn from the County Tax Assessment data base. Efforts were made to reduce duplication of property owners. The sample was drawn from all residential properties in all 52 of Lycoming County municipalities, representing over 10% of all Lycoming County households. The survey was mailed out by bulk-mail in early January, 2003 along with a cover letter, fact sheet about Greenways, and a self-addressed bulk mail reply envelope. The actual survey questionnaire is in Appendix C.

Of the 5,000 surveys which were mailed, 28% were returned; which was considered a sufficient rate for this type of survey and provides a statistically significant response. The 1,348 households that responded represent 3,470 individuals. There were no follow-up efforts conducted as they were not considered necessary. There was some initial concern about the results being skewed towards certain age groups, but a comparison with the 2000 Census demographic profile shows a comparable age response. Additionally, the percentage response by municipality matched the percentage of population by municipality, with the exception of the City of Williamsport. Responses from residents of the City of Williamsport were 15 percent of the total responses, whereas the City of Williamsport has 27% of the County residents.

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

Detailed results and a summary are available on the Lycoming County web-site at www.lyco.org or at the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development office. Highlights from analysis of survey data is contained in Chapters 4 through 8.

Areas and Facilities

Letters were mailed to municipalities, school districts, universities, churches, and member driven organizations, requesting that they complete a table providing information on recreation areas and facilities under their control. Follow-up phone calls were made in order to obtain 100% response. A tabulation of recreation areas and facilities is contained in Appendices E, F, and G.

Representatives of the consulting team visited all parks and playgrounds within the County to verify information provided, obtain photographs and assess the general condition and safety of parks and playgrounds. Information and analysis from this inventory and assessment is contained in Chapter 5 – Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services.

Types of Parks

Mini-Park.

Mini-Parks are areas of 2,500 square feet to one (1) acre in size. They are geared specifically for those living within a service radius of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Neighborhood Park.

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood or part of a larger neighborhood. These parks are for informal or passive activity and are generally areas of 10 acres or less. They serve people living within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile service area. They should be easily accessible by the children of the neighborhood with safe routes for walking or biking.



Elementary school playgrounds have historically met the needs for neighborhood parks. However, with school consolidations and the closing of some of the neighborhood elementary schools, some of these playgrounds are being lost. It is important that communities recognize this as schools close. There is little land left for neighborhood parks in the urban areas and if the land is not obtained at the time of the school closing, the opportunity may be lost. Flood buyouts do provide an opportunity for neighborhood parks. Also with urban sprawl and new development, there is a tendency for larger lot sizes, with individual homeowners

meeting the recreation needs for their children and friends.

Reserving open space for neighborhood parks is important for higher density development such as apartments, townhouses, and trailer courts. Land use ordinances should provide for the

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

development of neighborhood parks for these high density developments.

Community Park.

Community parks serve community active and passive based recreation needs, as well as preserving open spaces and unique landscapes. The size is as needed to accommodate the uses desired, usually containing between 20 and 50 acres. Typically a community park would serve a population of 10,000 or less within a three-mile radius. Larger areas are required for larger populations. Parks should be located within walking and biking distance of the population, with pedestrian safe routes. Community parks could include special recreation areas such as athletic field complexes. For example, Bruce Henry Park in Loyalsock Township and Montgomery Park in the Borough of Montgomery are considered Community Parks.



Rural Community Park.

Lycoming County has as significant rural character with village centers and rural communities. Rural community parks to serve the needs of some of the rural communities take on a distinctively different form than the community parks that serve more urban communities. This



category of parks is not included in the State Guidelines as contained in DCNR's Community Recreation and Park Handbook. The rural areas of Lycoming County have low population density and a great deal of available open space. Community parks serving the needs of these communities may be more primitive and may be specialized, such as a picnicking area with access to hiking trails, or a playground at the township building. For example, Trout Run Park in Lewis Township and Ralston Park in McIntyre Township are considered Rural

Community Parks.

School Parks.

School-Parks are public school sites with facilities that could serve as a neighborhood or community park. Sites are determined by the location of school district property.

Single Purpose/Special Use Parks.

Single Purpose/Special Use Parks cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.

Sports Complexes.

Sports Complexes consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community for community-wide use. These

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

areas are usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal. The South Williamsport Recreation Area is an example of Sports Complexes.

Private Park/Recreation Facilities.

Private Park/Recreation Facilities are sites that are privately owned yet contribute to the public recreation and parks system. The areas can be of any size. YMCA facilities and Little League Baseball are examples of these type of facilities.

Large Urban Park

A large urban park serves the needs beyond the neighborhood and community parks. They are usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 acres or more being optimal, and serve the entire Community. These parks may be the result of a cooperative agreement between municipalities, or may be that a park attracts and serves the needs of a larger population because of unique features that it offers. Lycoming County has several parks established as large urban parks that have become parks of regional significance, such as the large recreation areas in Jersey Shore, Montoursville, and South Williamsport. Riverfront Park in Loyalsock Township attracts visitors from throughout the County and is beginning to attract visitors from throughout the State. It is important to recognize parks that serve a regional need to ensure they receive proper priority in allocation of funding at the County and State level.



Level of Service

Level of service guidelines have been established and used to identify infrastructure and public service needs for many years. It is not unreasonable to use a national standard to establish needs such as police, fire, and emergency medical service based on response time. Sewage treatment and water supply are based on a projected population and per person usage. In the early days of parks and recreation planning a national standard of 10 acres of park land per 1000 persons distributed throughout the community was proposed and used as a national standard for meeting recreation needs of citizens. The 1974 Lycoming County Recreation Plan recommended 15 acres per 1000 population, excluding state forest land, state game lands, golf courses, and private recreational land. The 2004 inventory of parks, recreation areas, and recreation facilities indicates there are approximately 800 acres of municipal owned neighborhood, community, and regional parks. This provides 6.7 acres per 1000 population. If you include playgrounds and open space from the elementary schools, the ratio increases to 7 acres per 1000 population. Considering just Williamsport, the boroughs, and townships with populations over 5,000, only the Boroughs of Montoursville (17) and Picture Rocks (16) exceed the recommendations from the 1974 plan. Hughesville (combined with Wolf Township) (14), Montgomery (14), South Williamsport (13), and Loyalsock Township (10) meet the original national standard. Given these statistics, it is then surprising to learn that the majority of respondents in the county-wide survey indicated that their communities had sufficient recreation areas, open play areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, and picnic areas.

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

It becomes evident that using level of service standards based on population size to determine recreation facilities, space requirements and open space needs for communities would be a complicated process and may not lead to a fair and equitable use of limited funding resources. For Lycoming County, a different approach to establish standards is needed. A systems approach to planning that is needs based, facilities driven and land measured is described in the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association, © 1996.

Systems Approach to Planning

This approach to planning takes into consideration that all communities are different. In order to make the best use of limited resources, planning must consider community interests, available resources, the priority of the recreation users, level of commitment, and willingness to fund projects. The systems approach is the process to assess park, recreation and open space needs of the community, inventory the existing assets, identify the shortfalls, and develop the space and facilities requirements to satisfy the shortfalls. The following steps are the key components to the planning process:

Identify the Users. This is an extremely important step in the process. You need to identify the characteristics of the people who participate in recreation activities. What is the population? What are the age groups, education levels and income levels? You also need to identify user groups, such as youth leagues, clubs, and organizations. Non-participants also need to be considered, as they may not participate because their needs are not being met.

Involve the Public. A means to establish communication with the users and maintain that communication is imperative. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has an excellent Public Participation Guide that is available on their website. Public participation can include an advisory committee, key person interviews, focus group interviews, survey questionnaires, public meetings, and design charettes,

Assess the Needs. The bottom line outcome of the needs assessment is an understanding of the issues, concerns, and opportunities confronting the community. In addition to information obtained during the public participation process, it is also necessary to examine the following:

- Current trends (locally and nationally)
- Inventory and evaluation of existing resources
- Condition of existing parks and recreation facilities
- Participation rates in organized recreation
- Usage rates
- Standards for size of athletic fields and recreation facilities

Develop Plans and Priorities. The needs assessment has identified and clarified the pertinent issues. From these issues specific projects and actions are developed and prioritized. Mapping should be completed to depict any spatial requirements. The final product then is a recreation master plan or comprehensive recreation plan.

Identify Costs and Financing. The cost to implement each individual aspect of the plan is estimated. A financial plan must be developed that includes income and expenses. Expenses must consider operation and maintenance costs, as well as improvement cost. The financial plan then must be considered in revising the recreation master plan or comprehensive

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

recreation plan and perhaps identify a phased timeline for the implementation aspect of the plan.

Areas and Facilities Analysis

Key issues, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies relating to recreation areas and facilities are contained in Chapters 5 and 6. Chapter 8 includes key issues, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies relating specifically to open space, trails, and greenways. Appendix I contains implementation action recommendations that are specific to communities.

Programs

Letters were mailed to municipalities, school districts, universities, churches, and member driven organizations, requesting that they provide information on recreation programs under their direction or control. Follow-up phone calls were made in order to obtain 100% response. A listing of municipal recreation programs identified through this mailing is contained in Appendix H.

Recreational programs are considered as instructional or organized activities that require supervisory personnel and are directed toward particular areas of interest or age groups. Recreation program needs within Lycoming County have been largely served through volunteer organizations, such as is the case with youth sports. Recreation programs are also conducted by clubs and organizations, member driven organizations such as the YMCA, state agencies, and commercial enterprises.

County government has had little involvement in recreation programs in the past and increased involvement in programming is not recommended by this plan. The County Conservation District has been involved in environmental education through the schools and sponsorship of the Envirothon. Continued involvement by the County Conservation District in Environmental Programs is recommended. Key issues, goals, objectives, and implementation strategies relating to programs are contained in Chapters 5 and 6.

Ordinances

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances can provide a vehicle to improve or add recreational facilities or space within a community for new development. Article V, Subdivision and Land Development, of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) allows for provisions in subdivision and land development ordinances requiring the public dedication of land suitable for the use intended; and, upon agreement with the applicant or developer, the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, the private reservation of the land, or a combination, for park or recreation purposes as a condition precedent to final plan approval, provided that:

- There are definite standards for determining the proportion of a development to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu thereof.
- The land or fees, or combination thereof, are to be used only for the purpose of providing park or recreational facilities accessible to the development.
- The governing body has a formally adopted recreation plan (or adopts the County Plan

CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS PROCESS

- by reference), and the park and recreational facilities are in accordance with definite principles and standards contained in the subdivision and land development ordinance.
- The amount and location of land to be dedicated or the fees to be paid shall bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by future inhabitants of the development or subdivision.
 - A fee authorized under this subsection shall, upon its receipt by a municipality, be deposited in an interest-bearing account, clearly identifying the specific recreation facilities for which the fee was received. Interest earned on such accounts shall become funds of that account. Funds from such accounts shall be expended only in properly allocable portions of the cost incurred to construct the specific recreation facilities for which the funds were collected.
 - Upon request of any person who paid any fee under this subsection, the municipality shall refund such fee, plus interest accumulated thereon from the date of payment, if the municipality had failed to utilize the fee paid for the purposes set forth in this section within three years from the date such fee was paid.

Twenty-four boroughs and townships fall under the jurisdiction of the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, as of 9/14/07. The County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance has provisions consistent with the MPC for dedication of lands or fees for recreation. A review of the Land Development and Subdivision Ordinances from the 28 other municipalities yielded only 3 that have provisions consistent with the MPC for dedication of lands or fees for recreation. Approximately half of these municipalities have no provision in their ordinances, while an equal number have provisions that need to be updated to comply with the MPC. Few ordinances within the County provide specific standards or requirements for the provision of bikeways or walkways.

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

County Role in Recreation

Current County Government Recreation Role

The County participates in and supports various recreational events by providing specialized equipment and staff assistance. The County also supports local programs by making pre-release prisoners and staff available for construction of playgrounds and other recreational facilities. The Lycoming County Recreation Authority manages the White Deer golf courses.

Lycoming County Planning & Community Development provides limited recreation assistance. The County Environmental Planner provides recreation grant writing assistance. The County Transportation Planner has primary responsibility for trail system planning.

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following issues relate to the role of County government in recreation:

- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels. Knowing what is available and the timely release of information.
- Develop a plan to manage facilities with set priorities.
- Assess recreational trends & interests and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to the role of County government in recreation:

- More than sixty percent of respondents felt that County government should assist local Municipalities in developing recreational services.
- Forty percent of respondents felt that County government should maintain status quo with their current role.
- Eighteen percent felt that County government should develop additional facilities or programs.
- The top responses for facilities that County government should assist in development were:
 - Biking/walking trails.
 - Ice skating, both indoor and outdoor
 - Other trails (ATV, x-country skiing, hiking, and equestrian)
 - Environmental education areas.
- The top responses for programs that County government should assist in development were:
 - Youth activities.
 - Education and preservation of nature.

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Although there was not a specific Focus Group for the role of County government in recreation, the following focus groups input to the role of County government: the Chamber of Commerce, Conservation and Sportsmen's Groups, Recreation Commissions, Committees and Authorities Group, Trails, Winter Sports, Youth Leadership, Youth & Adult Activities, and Youth Sports. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices. The following issues are highlights for the role of County government in recreation:

- The County Government should support grant applications for the development of public recreation programs, facilities and services.
- More cooperative efforts are needed between recreation providers.
- A regional approach would be beneficial to development of facilities and services.
- There is a need for leadership and technical assistance, especially in the areas of grant writing and planning for future need.
- Consistency in leadership at the County level is needed, specifically in long range planning for the development of facilities.
- The County can provide information about recreation and other quality of life considerations to prospective businesses and industry for the area.
- The County can locate funding and provide a bridge between municipalities.
- The County can also provide leadership for the planned County-wide trail network.
- The County role should be advisory & supportive to municipalities and other recreation providers.
- Lycoming County should support parent/volunteer groups.

Key Issues

- Leadership and Technical Assistance. There is only one recreational professional in Lycoming County at the municipal level. Municipal officials and volunteers also provide recreation management. There is a need for leadership and technical assistance especially in the areas of grant writing and planning for future needs.
- Regional Approach. Recreation crosses municipal boundaries for many programs and activities. Additional effort for establishing cooperative programs is warranted, particularly as open space, natural resources and financial resources become limited. A County or regional level organization is best suited to coordinate inter-community cooperative efforts and implement regional level projects and programs.
- Environmental Education. There is a lack of environmental education facilities within the County. School districts and other programs have taken advantage of the facilities at the PP&L Montour Preserve; however a facility or facilities that are closer are needed.

Lycoming County Recreation Authority

An interview with the Chairman and Executive Director of the Lycoming County Recreation Authority was conducted to gain an understanding of the Authority's mission, personnel and facilities. The Authority by-laws were reviewed and goals and objectives established in 2003

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

were also reviewed. Additionally, the qualifications and interests of Authority Board Members were discussed.



The Lycoming County Recreation Authority should be commended for the improvements that have been completed at the White Deer Golf Complex over the last five years. A major tournament has been established, a website was established along with an on-line tee time reservation system, a marketing program is in place, personnel policies have been updated, and maintenance and capital improvement programs have been developed. This is truly a first rate facility that is professionally run. The Authority board members are enthusiastic about golf and the success of the operation of the White Deer Golf Complex. A review of the background of the current board members reveals that they are well educated, have a variety of professional backgrounds, and a variety of recreational interests and hobbies.

Key Issues

- Operations There are opportunities for improved operation of the Pro Shop through computer software and systems upgrades.
- Fiscal Management. There is a need to increase the number of rounds of golf and reduce debt. Additional funding is needed for vehicle replacement and facility/equipment maintenance and upgrades.

County Recreation Organization Visions

Vision 1: County government should consider assisting local municipalities in developing recreational services and establishing programs and facilities to meet regional needs exceeding local government capabilities.

Goals:

- Provide leadership, planning, and technical assistance for recreation.
- Perform trail planning, and identify or develop an entity to manage and maintain multi-municipal trails and trails of county-wide significance.
- Support the establishment of an environmental education center.
- Support and encourage private development of recreation facilities and programs that promote healthy lifestyles and economic development.

Objectives:

- Support volunteers to provide consistent leadership for the provision of recreation county-wide.
- Assist municipalities with technical recreation issues, coordinate cooperative efforts, and assist in grant writing.

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

- Implement a County trails program. Manage and maintain multi-municipal trails and trails of county-wide significance.
- Support the development of a facility or facilities to fill the need for environmental education to augment and support programs by the Lycoming County Conservation District, school districts, and the PP&L Montour Preserve.

Vision 2: The White Deer Golf Complex will continue to be a professionally run entity meeting golfing educational and recreational needs of Lycoming County and the central Pennsylvania region.

Goals:

- Maintain an efficient, productive, informed, and satisfied working staff at the White Deer Golf Complex.
- Enhance fiscal and operational efficiency and responsiveness.
- Increase use by the public and increased awareness and understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the Authority.
- Maintain facilities/structures/systems through efficient use of available funds, manpower, and materials.

Objectives:

- Maintain an effective, efficient workforce by implementing personnel programs that enhance the work environment.
- Maintain efficient and responsive operational processes and fiscal management procedures to plan and control spending, refine checks and balances to maximize revenue and investments, and minimize costs.
- Refine the programs of the Authority and Golf Course to enhance customer use and fiscal efficiency, and inform our community, employees, and customers of the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the Authority and Golf Complex.
- Implement plans and procedures to conduct and implement maintenance of Authority facilities/structures/systems.
- Implement a plan that will address facility issues, and assist in the coordination, implementation, and integration of facilities management and improvements.

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

County Recreation Organization Implementation Strategies

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
4-1. Expand the provision of recreation programming and project development assistance to municipalities.		County and local government.	DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and local government.
Strategic Action		Notes	
1a. Expand the provision of recreation programming and project development assistance to municipalities through grant-funded County or multi-municipal staff position(s), contracted services to the YMCA or other organizations, or other means.		Staff member would be trained in grantsmanship and technical aspects of recreation facilities and programs.	
1b. Consider the establishment of a Lycoming County Recreation Commission to promote development of recreational facilities and programs.		Mission, roles, and responsibilities would have to be defined for a Lycoming County Recreation Commission. Membership would include representation from: a Borough, rural government, conservation group, sportsman group, member driven organization, commercial recreation sector, organized sports, youth group, and seniors community.	

CHAPTER 4 COUNTY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
4-2. Establish an entity to manage and maintain a County Trail System.		County government	DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, local government, private donations, and user fees
Strategic Action		Notes	
2a. Consider establishing a greenway and trail entity to manage and maintain a County trail system, or partner with a regional or multi-county trail organization(s).		Articles of incorporation for a new organization would need to clearly define role and limitations.	
2b. Appoint Board of Directors if a new organization is formed.		Board of Directors would include interested parties such as trail owners and a County government representative.	

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
4- 3. Continue to upgrade programs and facilities at the White Deer Golf Complex.		County government, Lycoming County Recreation Authority	DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and local government.
Strategic Action		Notes	
3a. Continue to upgrade computer systems and software.		Improve software program(s) for operation of the Pro Shop.	
3b. Implement the priority preventive maintenance program.		Continue to maintain and replace cart paths, bunkers, irrigation, drainage, landscaping, and facilities as scheduled and prioritized.	
3c. Implement the priority capital improvement program.		Secure funding and continue to replace and upgrade facilities as needed.	

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Recreation Commissions, Committees, and Authorities

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the advisory committee, the following recommendations related to recreation commissions, committees, and authorities were identified:

- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels.
- Develop a plan to manage facilities with set priorities.
- Assess recreational trends & interests (use reports from the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association) and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs; i.e. skateboarding, growth of youth soccer, etc.
- Assess current recreation facilities for adaptability to current needs.
- Present realistic expectations, but do not ignore the benefits of brainstorming and creativity.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Recreation Commissions, Committees and Authorities Group were interviewed to specifically discuss recreation provider related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input to recreation commissions, committees, and authorities as well; most notably the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, State Agencies, Youth Leadership, Youth & Adult Activities, and Youth Sports. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices. The following issues are highlights for recreation commissions, committees and authorities

- More cooperative efforts are needed.
- A regional approach would be beneficial to development of facilities and services.
- There is a great need for leadership and technical assistance.
- There are several excellent examples of cooperative efforts:
 - Montoursville: The Volunteers of Indian Park (VIP) is a strong multi generational force of volunteers. This group works to raise money, maintain and improve Indian Park.
 - Loyalsock Township and the Loyalsock Township School District work together to share facilities and resources to provide quality services and facilities and enhancing public recreation.
 - Montgomery Area School District needed a new gymnasium for its basketball program and also needed public support. Working with the community, the District built a gymnasium and fitness center that is available to residents of the School District for \$1.00 per year. The Center is open daily to the public and is supervised by School district personnel.
 - The East Lycoming Recreation Authority is made up of seven municipalities cooperating to provide a wide variety of services and facilities throughout the service area.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Most municipalities who have a definite need for a recreation commission now have one. Several exceptions may be in suburbanizing townships which are under increasing need for recreation facilities.
- A number of the commissions or boards which exist become active only to address a specific problem. A more consistent leadership is needed.
- Williamsport has experienced difficulty with recreation leadership, management, programming, and facility maintenance. A peer-to-peer study has addressed these deficiencies and provided recommendations.
- Recreation opportunities should be available to all segments of the population.
- Involvement at different levels of responsibility should be identified to minimize duplication of efforts or conflicts in activities.
- State government should provide for regional population needs and low intensity recreation such as is now experienced on State Forest, Game and Park lands.
- County government should provide for county-wide program and facility needs.
- Local governments and school districts should provide for municipal, community and neighborhood services.
- Volunteer public involvement should be encouraged wherever possible to provide services, particularly of a program nature.
- Private recreation development should be used where resident needs exist and where special facilities or profit-making facilities are in demand.
- Citizen interest, initiation and participation in recreation services in the County should be encouraged and relied upon for much of the needed action.

Key Issues:

- Need for technical recreation assistance. Most municipalities rely on their manager, administrative staff or citizen volunteers to provide recreation services. Loyalsock Township has a paid recreation professional providing services to the community. The City of Williamsport currently contracts with the YMCA for recreational programming and services. Lycoming County provides limited assistance with various recreational events, providing specialized equipment and staff assistance. The County also uses pre-release prisoners and staff for construction of playgrounds and other recreational facilities. The County and SEDA-COG also provide limited grant writing assistance.
- Lack of consistent recreation planning and programming. Existing recreation commissions, committees, and authorities do not maintain a consistent level of activity to provide proper long-range planning. The level of recreation planning and programming is not consistent throughout the County.
- Youth Leadership not involved in planning. Representation of youth on commissions, committees, and authorities is severely lacking.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The implications to the Community:

- Lack of regional coordination between recreation providers.
- There is a deficiency of recreation professionals to provide technical advice to serve the needs of municipal officials.
- Youth do not have a voice in recreation programs and services.
- Recreation planning and programming is reactive rather than proactive.

Recreation Areas and Facilities

Lycoming County includes fifty-two (52) municipalities. Twenty-nine (29) of these municipalities own and operate at least one public recreation area. There are 787 total acres dedicated to public recreation in Lycoming County. Each of these public recreation facilities are unique to the population that it serves. In addition to municipally owned public parks, there are two (2) State owned parks, Susquehanna State Park and Little Pine State Park. White Deer Golf Course is owned by Lycoming County and operated through the Lycoming County Recreation Authority. A recreation site map in the map book shows public recreation areas and parks



Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following recreation areas and facilities related issues were identified:

- Provide facilities throughout the County for all residents.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources.
- Improve quality and quantity of public facilities – restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Maintain, expand and improve existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Develop a plan to manage facilities with set priorities.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages. For example consider needs of runners versus family out for a walk.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should include accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Assess recreational trends & interests (using reports from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association) and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs; i.e. skateboarding, growth of youth soccer, etc.
- Assess current recreation facilities for adaptability to current needs.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to public recreation facility issues:

- County residents value public park and recreation resources.
- Ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents reported visiting public recreation spaces.
- The ten most frequently visited public recreation areas in Lycoming County are:
 - Indian Park (Montoursville)
 - Hughesville Fairgrounds (Hughesville)
 - Brandon Park (Williamsport)
 - State Game Lands
 - Little Pine State Park
 - Memorial Park (Williamsport)
 - Montoursville Bikeway
 - South Williamsport Recreation Area
 - Susquehanna State Park
 - Old Lycoming Bikeway
- The following community parks were visited by a significant number of County residents from outside the host municipality and are considered as parks of regional importance:
 - Jersey Shore Recreation Area (Jersey Shore)
 - James E. Short Park (Loyalsock Township)
 - Riverfront Park (Loyalsock Township)
 - Indian Park (Montoursville)
 - Antes Fort Village Park (Nippenose Township)
 - South Williamsport Recreation Area (South Williamsport)
 - Brandon Park (Williamsport)
 - Memorial Park (Williamsport)
 - East Lycoming Recreation Area (Wolf Township)
- Respondents were asked to select amenities which they valued when visiting a public recreation area.
 - Picnic facilities
 - Open space
 - Programs and special events
 - Walking / biking Trails
 - Playground areas
 - Athletic fields
 - Scenery/atmosphere
- Written comments received from the survey data indicated that other qualities which are valued and promote higher use of public recreation areas are:
 - Access to public comfort facilities
 - Perception of a safe environment
 - Facilities are clean and well maintained.



CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- The travel distance between home and a recreation area was not a significant factor to the survey respondents. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the respondents indicated that a public park should be located within fifteen (15) minutes of their home in order for members of their household to use these public recreation facilities on a regular basis. Twenty-five percent (25%) suggested that they should be able to visit a public park within thirty (30) minutes of their home. The majority of respondents, thirty-nine percent (39%), indicated that distance did not matter.
- Maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities is a concern among the respondents.
- Respondents feel that existing public sports facilities are adequate.
- There is a strong interest in individual sports especially:
 - Miniature golf
 - Bicycling
 - Skateboarding / rollerblading
 - Shooting at ranges
 - Tennis
- Indoor recreation will play a significant role in our county in the future, providing opportunities for users to socialize, increase knowledge and strive for higher individual performance both mentally and physically.
- Respondents feel that their outdoor recreation will increase during the next 5 years.
- County residents appreciate a feeling of personal safety when visiting public recreation areas.
- The increasing County Government's involvement in the provision of parks and recreation facilities and services will have a positive impact on the quality of life for the residents.
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing group sports opportunities:
 - Practice fields
 - Volleyball courts
 - Youth basketball courts
 - Youth soccer fields
 - Adult basketball courts
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing Social Activity opportunities:
 - Picnicking
 - Sitting / passive areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Community recreation centers
 - Dog parks
- Indoor recreation will play a significant role in our county in the future, providing opportunities for users to socialize, increase knowledge and strive for higher individual performance both mentally and physically.
- Public playgrounds in the county are in poor condition.
- Availability of public restrooms was indicated as a deficiency by many respondents.
- Public parks in Williamsport are perceived as unsafe and poorly maintained.



CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Focus Group Interviews

Focus group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. All focus groups provided input related to public recreation areas and facilities. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices

Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities:

Appendix E is a listing of Municipal Recreation Areas and Facilities developed through a survey of municipal governments. The listing provides major facilities and amenities available at each area. The Recreation Sites Map shows the location of these municipal parks and recreation areas within the County. Appendix G is a listing of Commercial Recreation Facilities.

Parks within Lycoming County listed in Appendix E are classified according to service delivery organization, municipality, type of park and condition. Park classifications comply with the National Recreation and Park Association's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines published in 1996 and the . A regional park classification is added to describe public recreation areas with unique features that attract users from beyond the communities or organizations that provide them including but not limited to Lycoming County, neighboring counties, the state, neighboring states and the nation. Park types are defined as follows:

- Mini-Park - Small parcel of land between 2500 square feet and 1.0 acre. Used to address isolated or unique recreational needs.
- Neighborhood Park - A basic unit of the park system, one to five acres, or more. Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. These parks are for informal or passive activity and are generally areas of 10 acres or less.
- Community Park - Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community based needs as well as preserving unique landscapes, historical feature and open spaces. Usually larger in size.
- Rural Community Park - Rural community parks to serve the needs of some of the rural communities take on a distinctively different form than the community parks that serve more urban communities. This category of parks is not included in the State Guidelines as contained in DCNR's Community Recreation and Park Handbook. The rural areas of Lycoming County have low population density and a great deal of available open space. Community parks serving the needs of these communities may be more primitive and may be specialized, such as a picnicking area with access to hiking trails, or a playground at the township building.
- School-Park - Combined parks with school facilities. Can include a variety of amenities such as playground apparatus areas, and sports facilities, but must be available to the public.
- Single Purpose/ - Single purpose/special use parks cover a broad range of

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Special Use Parks	parcs and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.
Large Urban Park	- A large urban park serves the needs beyond the neighborhood and community parks. They are usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 acres or more being optimal, and serve the entire Community. These parks may be the result of a cooperative agreement between municipalities, or may be that a park attracts and serves the needs of a larger population because of unique features that it offers. These parks are of regional significance attracting visitors outside the communities. These facilities are available and are used by visitors who reside in other parts of the County and the Commonwealth.

The term “service delivery organization” refers to committees, commissions, and authorities which are responsible for identifying needs, as well as planning and recommending the development of services and facilities within a designated service area. These service delivery organizations serve specific municipalities or cooperating groups of municipalities. As is demonstrated in the survey data, use of services and facilities are often used by citizens outside of the service area. This is often determined by availability and perceived quality of the services and/or facilities.

A site visit was made to each of the community parks and recreation areas to gain a general understanding of the condition of parks throughout the County. A cursory inspection was made of all playgrounds to assess the general condition and maintenance of the playground, determine ADA accessibility, and to note obvious safety issues. The following observations were made during these visits:

- 32 playgrounds were visited.
- 24 had at least one obvious safety issue.
- 14 needed maintenance or additional depth for the safety surface.
- 10 did not have sufficient safety surface area around items of equipment.
- 8 had acceptable ADA parking. 4 playgrounds had ADA access to the equipment. Only Memorial Park playground has equipment specifically designed to meet the needs of the physically challenged.
- 7 had Merry-Go-Rounds - outdated and unsafe.
- 6 had exposed hazards, such as concrete footings, projections, nuts, bolts, etc...
- 3 had outdated swings; 5 had other outdated equipment.

Some specific recommendations for recreation areas and parks are contained in Appendix I – Municipal Implementation Plan. The purpose of this inventory was to assess the condition of existing facilities and identify any significant deficiencies; especially related to safety. This inventory and listing of facilities is not intended for a comparison of service provided or to establish a level of standards for community owned facilities. A systems approach to planning as described in Chapter 3 is recommended for each community in establishing their needs and priorities.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Within several of the communities, only small amounts of land are open for public use. These sometimes have poor access. Lands of special natural features which would add appeal and variety are usually not a part of the community recreation system. River frontage is the outstanding example of this.
- Recreation areas are not a problem in most rural areas. An abundance of open space can often be used for varying activities.
- While much land in the County is in public ownership, relatively small amounts of it are available for people near home. Incorporation of parks and activities within and near neighborhood areas will result in better and more meaningful use by residents, will integrate recreational activities better with other activities by being closer, and will improve the community.
- Recreation development in the County should be a type which is indigenous to the environment, the landscape and the character of the County as it exists. Major changes in the environment should be avoided. The County has a variety of qualities for recreation use which are rarely found--a major river which is relatively undeveloped, clean waters in many streams, wild and primitive mountain land and small communities with open space within or nearby. While changing those areas to serve other activities (i.e. reservoirs, large recreation developments) the qualities that they now possess would be lost.
- Existing communities and nearby areas should be used for recreational facilities involving local residents as well as nonresidents when desired. Economic improvement of those communities may result, the needed public services are located there, and resident population is concentrated there. Tourism should be optimized, while minimizing the disadvantages. Encouragement of development near communities may help to do this, rather than development in rural areas where no services exist.
- In some rural areas, concentrated developments demand facilities for residents who live there. In other cases, open lands for recreation use should be reserved/conserved now, before development takes place and makes acquisition much more difficult.
- Open areas critical to recreation use should be protected for future use, and conflicting land use discouraged. Many recreational uses depend upon having open space. While some lands of the County are available for the public, many critical areas are not. Existing or potential trail systems, both in wild areas or within the developed and developing communities, require a reservation of open space if they are to be used in the future.
- Protection of resident's lands from tourist recreational use, and the protection of the environment of the rural areas from the pressures brought about by great amounts of recreational users from areas beyond the township or county boundary is a significant issue. While this is a serious problem in some sections of rural Lycoming County, it will continue to grow as a problem in many of the mountainous and forested parts. Side road camping, trespassing on private land, snowmobile use, trail bike use, streamside camping and other activities present a need for definitive policy in the management of rural area recreation, with enforcement, maintenance and facility provisions to implement policies.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Key Issues:

- Playground Safety. The general condition and safety of public playgrounds is not at an acceptable level. Site visits indicate the need for detailed annual playground inspections by qualified recreation specialists. Training on playground safety needs to be provided to recreation providers.
- Public Restrooms and Trash Receptacles. Lack of public restrooms and trash receptacles was cited as lacking for all types of outdoor recreation.
- ADA Accessibility. A significant number of public recreation areas do not have proper ADA Parking facilities, to include several areas that have designated Reserved Handicap Parking that do not meet the requirements. ADA accessible paths to outdoor recreation areas are frequently not maintained or marked.
- Elder Accessibility. Although not physically handicapped, many of the elderly population have mobility needs similar in nature to the physically handicapped. Paths and routes should be identified as meeting ADA accessibility guidelines to provide the elderly with preferred routes.
- Parks of Regional Importance. Parks that are identified as having regional importance should receive priority for grants and funding.
- Maintenance and improvements of existing parks and recreation areas. Well maintained parks and greenspace contribute positively to local quality of life.
- Health Aspects of Recreation. The benefits of regular physical activity in addressing the increasing trends in obesity are well documented. In addition to building and maintaining healthy bones and muscles, regular physical activity reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Psychological health is also improved through reduced feelings of depression and anxiety.

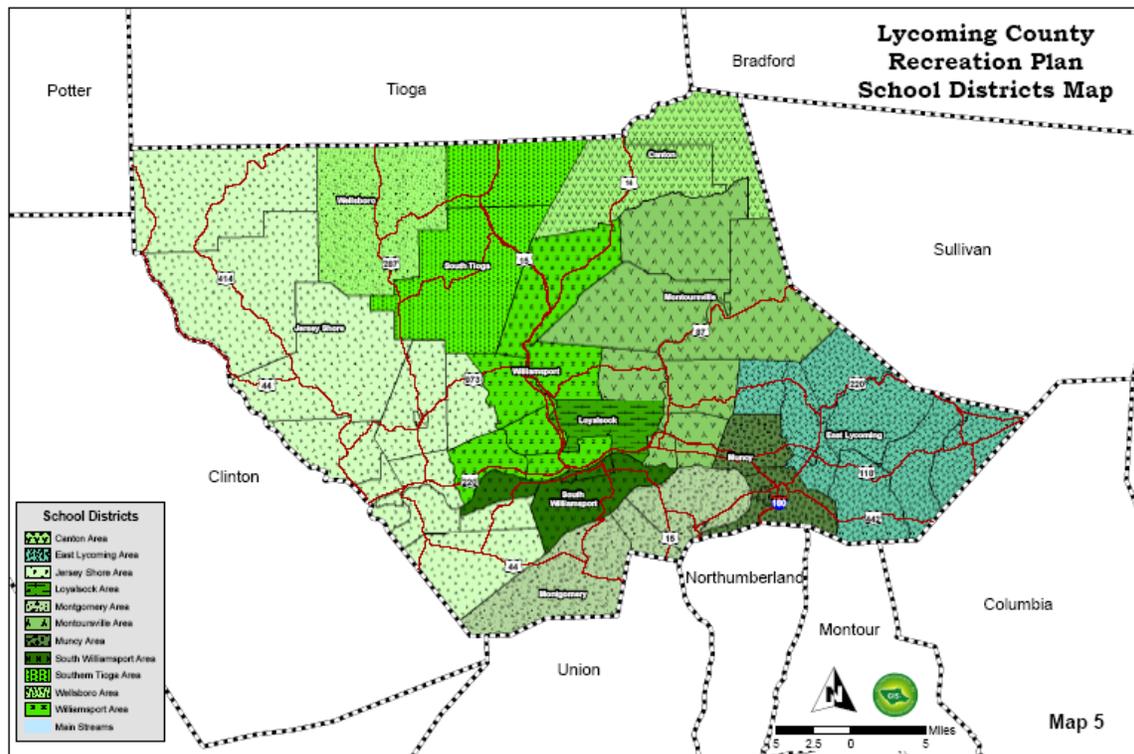
Implications to the Community:

- Livable communities have safe and clean parks that meet the mobility requirements for all users.
- Playground safety should be the top recreation priority for all recreation providers.
- Funding is limited and should be allocated to resources that serve the majority of the population.

School Districts

Lycoming County includes eight (8) School Districts. School District properties provide recreation facilities for enrolled students and for surrounding communities. The School Districts Map shows the boundaries of the area from which students are enrolled.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES



Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following issues pertain to cooperation and provision of recreation services and facilities by school districts:

- Provide facilities throughout the County for access by all residents.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources.
- Improve quality and quantity of public facilities – restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Assess current recreation facilities for adaptability to current needs.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 did not specifically address the use of school districts for public recreation facilities and services. However the issues and concerns listed for Recreation Areas and Facilities above, also apply to areas and facilities that are or may be provided by school districts.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Focus Group Interviews

Focus group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Focus groups interviewed specifically discussed issues and opportunities related to school district property and the provision of public recreation facilities and services. Focus groups providing input related to school district property and the provision of public recreation facilities and services included: The Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; recreation commissions, committees and authorities; State agencies, conservation/sportsman's clubs; cultural and performing arts; youth and adult activities, youth sports and trails. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities:

Appendix F is a listing of School District Areas and Facilities developed through a survey of all school districts. The listing provides major facilities and amenities available at each area. The School District Sites Map shows the location of these schools and recreation areas within the County.

A site visit was made to each of the schools during 2004 to gain a general understanding of the condition of recreation facilities on public school properties throughout the County. A cursory view was made of all playgrounds to assess the general condition and maintenance of the playground, determine ADA accessibility, and to note obvious safety issues. The following observations were made during these visits:

- School playgrounds generally had newer equipment and were better maintained.
- South Williamsport elementary schools had very limited equipment and do not provide the same level of opportunity as the other school districts.
- Myers Elementary in Muncy had installed new equipment which was up to standard and the older equipment was being revised to bring it up to standards -- accordingly no deficiencies were noted.
- Many of the deficiencies resulted from keeping outdated equipment after installing new, up-to-date equipment.
- 19 playgrounds were visited.
- 8 had at least one obvious safety issue.
- 6 needed maintenance or additional depth for the safety surface.
- 7 did not have sufficient safety surface area around items of equipment.
- All had acceptable ADA parking. 2 playgrounds had ADA access to the equipment.
- 1 had a merry-go-round that was outdated and unsafe.



Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Local governments and school districts should provide for municipal, community and neighborhood services. Semi-public involvement should be encouraged wherever possible to provide services, particularly of a program nature.
- Recreation facilities should be located where they will provide maximum service to residents of Lycoming County. Pedestrian and bicycle access should be possible for many of the potential users.

Key Issues:

- Playground Safety. The general condition and safety of public playgrounds is not at an acceptable level. Site visits indicate the need for detailed annual playground inspections by qualified recreation specialists. Training on playground safety needs to be provided to recreation providers.
- Public restrooms and trash receptacles. Lack of public restrooms and trash receptacles was cited as lacking for all types of outdoor recreation.
- ADA Accessibility. A significant number of public recreation areas do not have proper ADA Parking facilities, to include several areas that have designated Reserved Handicap Parking that do not meet the requirements. ADA accessible paths to outdoor recreation areas are frequently not maintained or marked.
- Neighborhood schools are very important to the community character. Schools are centers of the community that link neighbors as well as families. Densely populated neighborhoods have very limited open, green space and neighborhood schools often provide valuable open space and playgrounds.
- Cooperation between communities and school districts works. Montgomery Area School District needed a new gymnasium for its basketball program and also needed public support. Working with the community, the District built a gymnasium and fitness center that is available to residents of the School District for \$1.00 per year. The Center is open daily to the public and is supervised by School district personnel.

Implications to the Community:

- Playground safety should be the top recreation priority for all recreation providers.
- Limited funding should be allocated to resources that serve the majority of the population.
- As neighborhood schools are closed and the disposition of buildings and properties for commercial and private and purposes is being considered, school boards and community planners need to consider the loss of valuable playgrounds and its impact on quality of life within communities.
- Cooperation between governments, school districts and volunteer organizations can reduce duplication of services, and promote a wiser use of limited resources.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Recreation Programs

Lycoming County is a great place to live, work and play and offers many benefits for families in all stages.

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following recreation program related issues were identified:

- Practical vision for implementation and a defined implementation plan.
- Value of public recreation efforts. Cost of structured recreation programs versus cost of incarceration.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to public recreation programs and services:

- Programs and Special Events were identified as top reasons for visiting a public recreation area.
- Indoor recreation will play a significant role in our county in the future, providing opportunities for users to socialize, increase knowledge and strive for higher individual performance both mentally and physically.
- A majority of respondents felt that viewing/learning activities and social activities should be increased or improved.
- Fitness, concerts, and cultural arts were all in the top five list of activities which respondents were very likely to participate.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Focus Groups interviewed specifically discussed issues and opportunities related to recreation programs. Focus groups providing input related to recreation programs included: the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; recreation commissions, committees and authorities; conservation/sportsman's clubs; state agencies; cultural and performing arts; youth and adult activities, youth sports and trails. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices

Inventory of Recreation Programs:

Appendix H is a listing of municipal recreation programs developed through a survey of municipal governments. Appendix A lists population and budget information by municipality. The percentage of income and expenditures for recreation programs and facilities is also provided.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- The boroughs in Lycoming County do not presently employ anyone on a part-time basis to coordinate recreation programs and activities within each borough. This is needed if programs are to be effectively carried out.
- All of the townships in the County do not need an organized recreation program, simply because the population in some of these townships is not substantial.
- While team sports are often offered, individual orientation, group activities and environmental orientation are seldom offered, and usually to a small population segment.
- Many programs are conducted in the summer, but other times of the year are neglected. While school activities fill much of this need, a greater variety is needed for a larger population group.
- Strong educational emphasis should be a part of recreation programming and services in the County. Awareness and respect for the area which is being used, new and stimulating experiences for individuals, personal development through activity, and cooperation and communication within a group should all be achieved.

Key Issues:

- Recreation Programs augment and enhance the educational process. Public, educational and private entities offer a wide variety of recreation programs designed to increase knowledge and skills in a wide variety of interest areas
- Special events such as tournaments and festivals are valued. Not only do festivals and other special events have a major impact on the quality of life within communities but according to published research by John L. Crompton, many of these events contribute to the economic health of the hosting communities.
- Promoting healthier, active lifestyles. Lycoming County should take an active role in promoting health and wellness. Obesity among youth, and adults as well, is growing at an alarming rate.
- Recreation programming for all ages. For example, youth of Lycoming County need places to go where they can socialize with friends with less-structured types of activities. Expand recreation facilities and services that are designed for youth ages 13 to 17. Special events, such as a Senior Olympics, are recommended to serve our rapidly growing senior population.
- Family recreation. Recreation opportunities that promote family interaction are desired
- Outdoor recreation. Excellent outdoor recreation opportunities are available in the County. (e.g. fishing, hunting, hiking) but need to be protected and sustainably promoted.
- Ice skating. There are not enough ice skating facilities in our area. Outdoor ice skating facilities are difficult to maintain and manage due to our region's winter weather conditions and frequent freeze-thaw cycles.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Travel. Figure skating and hockey are popular in our area but people must travel more than an hour to use an indoor facility.
- Cost of participation. The user fees associated with recreation may discourage participation, particularly for lower income people. Participation costs are rising due to liability.

Implications to the Community:

- Recreation programming will assist in addressing the growing concerns of obesity in the general population.
- Residents will develop more active, healthy lifestyles.
- Participation in programmed activities will establish the habits for children to participate in unstructured recreation, organize their own activities, and resolve conflicts.
- Social activities and recreation programs will reduce the rate of teen crime.
- Level of programming is a major attribute for quality of life in respect to people moving into the area.

State Agencies

The following information relates to cooperation by local and County government with the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of Parks, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the PA Game Commission.

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following issues and recommendations related to state agencies were identified:

- Open space and forest preservation.
- Education in good forest stewardship.
- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels.
- Maintain, expand and improve existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources. Avoid unnecessary duplication of services and facilities.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages. For example consider needs of runners versus family out for a walk.
- Maintain hunting and fishing resources.
- Refuse management in public spaces and the effect on neighboring private landowners.
- Maintain public parks and public spaces.
- Conservation of lands, landmarks and waterways.
- Consider total eco-system.
- Assess current recreation facilities for adaptability to current needs.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to State Agencies:

- Little Pine State Park and State Game Lands were identified as two of the top five recreation areas visited.
- Several state parks were listed as other recreation areas that respondents visited outside the County.
- The majority of respondents felt that wildlife areas, natural areas, heritage parks, historical sites, and environmental education should be increased or improved.
- There were strong indications that winter sports areas for skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and sledding areas should be increased or improved.
- A lack of outdoor restrooms was identified as a significant deficiency.
- Walking/fitness, fishing, and hunting were the top three activities which respondents were very likely to participate.
- Sixty-five percent of respondents felt that it is very important that open space areas are protected.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A State Agencies Group was interviewed to specifically state agency related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to state agencies as well; most notably the Boating, Conservation/Sportsman's Clubs, Trails, and Winter Sports. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Increased access to major waterways is needed for swimming, boating and fishing. More use will be made of the Susquehanna River as pollution levels are decreased. The PA Fish & Boat Commission should acquire and develop appropriate access facilities wherever possible near populated areas of the County, and at critical points for fishing and boating on other major County streams.
- Many county streams remain wild trout waters, with relatively little encroachment and pollution. These areas should be effectively managed and protected for the fisherman who prefers this type of recreation experience. Stocking should be done in streams which do not support good native trout populations and which are more easily accessible. Emphasis should be placed on programs of long term gain such as water quality control, wild stream preservation and waterfront access.
- There is a need in rural areas for protection of resident's lands from tourist recreational use, and the protection of the environment of the rural areas from the pressures brought

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

about by great amounts of recreational users from areas beyond the township or county boundary. While this is a serious problem in some sections of rural Lycoming County, it will continue to grow as a problem in many of the mountainous and forested parts. Side road camping, trespassing on private land, snowmobile use, trail bike use, streamside camping and other activities present a need for definitive policy in the management of rural area recreation, with enforcement, maintenance and facility provisions to implement policies.

- A large interest exists for hiking and walking areas in the county. Nationally more people backpack, birdwatch and primitive camp than hunt. The landscape and environmental specialty areas such as wild areas, scenic areas and natural areas in the County show an outstanding suitability for this activity. A great need exists in these areas of trails for pedestrian recreation and travel.
- There is an increasing demand for off-road vehicle use and areas to ride snowmobile, ATVs, and trail bikes.
- Enforcement of restriction of off-road vehicles on state owned lands is extremely difficult. Non-road areas, deep woodland areas, steep slopes, wetlands, wild areas and natural areas are poorly suited for motorized vehicle use, and enforcement of regulations should be made.
- Opportunity for primitive camping for canoeists is available where State Forest lands exist, but not in other areas.
- Those land areas of prime wildlife habitat should be given attention as wildlife habitat protection and hunting areas.
- Fishing is a major recreational activity of the county and the streams here provide an attraction to great numbers of fishermen in a state-wide and multi-state area. Attention must be given to the preservation and restoration of trout producing waters and effective management of warm water fisheries as well.
- Preservation of wild land areas adjacent to trout waters will assure a high quality environment.
- Involvement at different levels of responsibility should be identified to minimize duplication of efforts or conflicts in activities. State government should provide for regional population needs and low intensity recreation such as is now experienced on State Forest, Game and Park lands. Effective management policies and facilities to protect local residents and the environment of those rural areas should be instituted. County government should provide for county-wide program and facility needs. Local governments and school districts should provide for municipal, community and neighborhood services. Semi-public involvement should be encouraged wherever possible to provide services, particularly of a program nature.
- Solutions to existing problems resulting from tourist use must be identified, including problems of littering, floodplain development, over-use of facilities and specialized areas, financial inequities to local residents and a changing character of rural and natural landscapes.
- An expanded management program of forest area recreation, especially dealing with State Forest Lands, should be encouraged.
- The problems of littering, sewage disposal, and vandalism may increase in the future. There are also potential problems associated with off-road vehicles, heavy trail use, roadside camping, and canoe use. While policies or regulations may be in effect to deal with these issues, implementation, maintenance, or enforcement is often not. Orientation of priorities to deal with these problems will need to be made. Deliberate efforts should be undertaken to secure input from municipalities regarding the

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

management of State recreation lands. Increased use of volunteers and civic organizations for maintenance of recreation facilities should be encouraged.

- The PA Game Commission helps to meet County recreation needs of hunters by owning Game Lands which are open to public hunting and by carrying out land management and stocking programs to make more game animals available...There are many non-hunting recreational opportunities which can be provided for, including wildlife photography, wildlife study, and simply the enjoyment persons get from watching animals.

Key Issues:

- Coordination of state agency plans and programs. Long-range planning by state agencies is sometimes done without the benefit of interagency communication.
- Consistency of regulations. Application of land use rules and regulations are inconsistent throughout public lands. For example, general access and camping regulations are significantly different between state forest land and state game lands.

Implications to the community:

- Cooperation between governments, school districts, state agencies and volunteer organizations will eliminate duplication of services, and promote a wiser use of limited resources.
- Connecting communities and recreation areas with trail systems promotes active and healthier communities.

Other Recreation Providers

There are a number of other recreation providers in Lycoming County, providing services from martial arts, gymnastics, dancing and fitness to visual and performing arts, equestrian arts and extreme sports to non credit adult education programs. Providers include, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and for profit enterprises. All work together to enhance the quality of life in Lycoming County.



Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following Other Recreation Providers related issues were identified:

- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels. Knowing what is available and the timely release of information.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources. Avoid unnecessary duplication of services and facilities.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages. For example consider needs of runners versus family out for a walk.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should include accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Assess recreational trends and interests and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs, i.e., skateboarding, growth of youth soccer, etc.
- Analyze reports from Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association.
- Assess current recreation facilities for adaptability to current needs.
- Commercial recreation facilities are needed to meet demand, for example, skateboard parks and ATV trails.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to Other Recreation Provider issues:

- There is a strong interest in individual sports especially:
 - Miniature golf
 - Bicycling
 - Skateboarding/rollerblading
 - Shooting at ranges
 - Tennis
- Indoor recreation will play a significant role in our county in the future, providing opportunities for users to socialize, increase knowledge and strive for higher individual performance both mentally and physically.
- Respondents feel that their outdoor recreation will increase during the next 5 years.
- County residents appreciate a feeling of personal safety when visiting public recreation areas.
- Approximately half of the respondents stated that Lycoming County Government should increase recreational assistance to municipalities. Thirty two percent felt that the County should maintain it's present role, 14% that the County should develop additional facilities, and 3% felt that the County should have no role at all.
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing group sports opportunities:
 - Practice fields
 - Volleyball courts
 - Youth basketball courts
 - Youth soccer fields
 - Adult basketball courts
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing social activity opportunities:
 - Picnicking
 - Sitting / passive Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Community recreation centers
 - Dog parks

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Focus Groups interviewed specifically discussed issues and opportunities related to Other Recreation Providers. Focus groups providing input related to public recreation facilities included: the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; recreation commissions, committees and authorities; conservation/sportsman's clubs; State agencies; cultural and performing arts; youth and adult activities, youth sports and trails. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices

Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities:

Appendix G is a listing of commercial recreation facilities.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Private recreation development should be used where resident needs exist and where special facilities or profit-making facilities are in demand.
- Citizen interest, initiation and participation in recreation services in the County should be encouraged and relied upon for much of the needed action. A dependence upon government is far too prevalent in most aspects of society today, and recreation is no exception. "Grass roots" programs of public involvement for recreation programs, action by clubs and semi-public institutions such as the YMCA, and genuine individual interest in the communities and environment will be a vital part of any action that occurs. Where this initiative exists, agencies should help if needed. Where it does not exist, it should be stimulated or services provided if they are essential needs of the community.
- Professional recreational specialists can be very effective in developing and organizing a wide array of active volunteers to conduct recreation activities.

Key Issues:

- Non-Profit, Member Driven Organizations:
 - The YMCA's of Williamsport, Jersey Shore, and East Lycoming offer a wide variety of fitness programs, life skills programs, instructions and competition in life-time sports. Programs, facilities and services are available to members and non-members. Program fees are discounted for members.
 - The YMCA is willing to provide contractual recreation programming and services to municipalities.
 - The YWCA of Williamsport promotes healthy and responsible life-choices. Programs, facilities and services are available to members and non-members. Program fees are discounted for members.
 - 4-H Clubs are very active in Lycoming County.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Participation in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America is widespread.
- Educational Institutions.
 - Lycoming and Pennsylvania College of Technology: Concerts, sports events, educational speakers, recreational activities.
- For-Profit Recreation Providers.
 - The leisure industry is experiencing growth in Lycoming County:
 - As public trail systems grow in the county and the region so will the need for livery services, equipment rental services, restaurant lodging services and outfitters.
 - Miniature golf is one of the area's most requested needs. Currently there are only two providers in the County. This is traditionally an activity provided by the private sector.
 - Extreme sports is another high interest area in Lycoming County.
 - Tennis and bowling are provided. There are opportunities for other high demand activities such as skateboard and ATV parks.

Implications to the Community:

- Expansion of public and private recreation opportunities will promote tourism and have a positive economic benefit.
- Opportunity for quality recreation experiences will be improved for all residents.
- For profit and other recreation providers will continue to meet many of the recreational needs of the community.

Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services Visions

Vision 3: Recreation planning and programming is consistent throughout Lycoming County, providing every resident an opportunity for quality recreation experiences, active living and a healthy lifestyle.

Goals:

- Provide voice from all citizens and groups.
- Involve youth in planning and programming decisions.
- Establish quality recreation for residents throughout the County.
- Establish safe trails connecting downtowns, parks, and neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Establish recreation commissions, committees, or authorities that represent all municipalities and the County.
- Establish a Youth Recreation Council.
- Improve inter municipal cooperation and establish multi-municipal planning.
- Increase connecting trail between residential areas and activity destinations such as parks and shopping centers.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Vision 4: Communities in Lycoming County are healthy active places to live, work and play, offering a variety of safe, challenging and educational public recreation opportunities.

Goals:

- Expand cooperation between governments, school districts, volunteer organizations and private enterprise in order to enhance public recreation opportunities.
- Provide safe and welcoming public recreation spaces in Lycoming County.
- Secure private and public funding for the improvement, and expansion of public recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- Provide municipalities with a list of potential funding sources for the improvement and expansion of public recreation opportunities.
- Demonstrate the benefits of interagency and intergovernmental cooperation and its role in improving the quality of life within the service area.
- Develop regional recreation opportunities that link communities and public recreation areas.

Vision 5: All public playgrounds are safe, encouraging children to build strength while developing hand-eye coordination and balance, and improve personal health.

Goals:

- Equip all playgrounds with safe playground apparatus and remove old unsafe equipment
- Provide safe playground surfacing under all public playground equipment.
- Secure private and public funding for the improvement, and expansion of public playgrounds.
- Provide equal access to playgrounds for physically challenged and handicapped individuals.

Objectives:

- Establish a playground inspection program as a partnership service for municipalities.
- Provide municipalities with a list of potential funding sources for the improvement and expansion of public recreation opportunities.
- Prioritize playground needs on a County wide basis.

Vision 6: New land developments provide open space, recreation areas, and connectivity to adjacent developments, communities, and recreation areas.

Goals:

- Land use and planning ordinances include provisions authorized by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code for dedication of land for recreation, or payments in lieu of dedication.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Land use and planning ordinances include provisions for pedestrian traffic.
- Establish safe trails connecting downtowns, parks, and neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Maintain level of open space, recreation space and facilities in growth areas.
- Maintain pedestrian connectivity as population centers expand to growth areas.

Vision 7: Municipal governments, County government and state agencies provide a coordinated approach to long range planning and provision of recreation programs and facilities that meet the needs of County residents and increases tourism and economic benefit.

Goals:

- Establish a recreation council of governments and agencies.
- Develop a long-range strategic plan for development of recreation areas throughout the County.

Objectives:

- Conduct consistent joint planning sessions that include representation from local government and all state agencies providing recreation programs and facilities.
- Coordinate recreation planning for local government and all state agencies providing recreation programs and facilities.
- Improve inter-municipal cooperation and establish multi-municipal planning.

Vision 8: Improvement and expansion of recreation programs, areas, and facilities improves economic development and increases tourism for the County.

Goals:

- Provide quality recreation opportunities that complement economic advantages for locating new business within the County.
- Increase income from tourism.
- Support the PA WILDS initiatives.
- Provide opportunity for entrepreneurs and new small businesses.

Objectives:

- Establish Lycoming County as a quality Pennsylvania tourist destination.
- Provide recreation programs, areas, and facilities that attract new employers.
- Encourage and support new business startups that support needed recreation programs and facilities.
- Establish bus tours and walking tours of historic areas.
- Establish self guided tours of historic areas, open space, recreation areas, and natural areas.

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services Implementation Strategies:

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
5-1. Establish a County-wide network of recreation commissions, committees, and authorities .		County and local government.	DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and local government.
Strategic Action		Notes	
1a. Establish a County recreation council.		<p>A single organization at the County level is needed to establish working partnerships between state agencies, local governments, private business, and specific recreational interests.</p> <p>Coordination and communication among organizations, governmental agencies, professional staffs involved with promoting tourism and economic development, and private business is essential where resources are limited and the need for shared efforts becomes a compelling strategy.</p> <p>Council should include representation from County government, State Agencies, YMCA/YWCA, Rider Park, and commercial providers.</p>	
1b. Seek representation from municipalities.			
1c. Seek representation from citizen groups.			
1d. Establish three youth councils within the County.		Representation from Eastern, Central, and Western sections of the County.	

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
5-2. Develop a broad funding strategy to upgrade, maintain, and add recreation services and facilities.	Bond issues, trust funds, tax earmark, and user fees.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission, School Districts, Recreation services and facility providers, and property owners.	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, school districts, user fees, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
2a. Develop a process to make priority recommendations for DCNR Community Conservation Partnership. Program grant applications from municipalities.			
2b. Continue to provide grant writing support from County government, River Valley YMCA, or other appropriate contractor.			
2c. Identify funding sources to support municipal recreation providers, County recreation programs and facilities, and recreation commissions, authorities, and corporations.		Establish a recreation fund through grant funds, bond issues, tax earmarks, user fees, and donations. Develop procedures for annual allocation of funds.	
2d. Encourage partnerships between municipalities and user groups.			

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
5-3. Apply “Active Communities by Design” philosophies to promote healthier lifestyles.	Studies and planning tools.	County Governments, School Districts, Business and Industry, Neighborhood Associations, Recreation Services and Facility providers.	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, school districts and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
3a. Establish trail connections in communities, linking businesses, schools, recreation areas and residences.			
3b. Establish facilities which promote opportunities for individual and families to exercise together in a safe environment.			
3c. Establish programs which promote regular physical activity and healthy lifestyles.			
3d. Use land use tools to provide open space, recreation areas, and pedestrian connectivity in growth area development.			
3e. Provide replacement playgrounds and open space when neighborhood schools close.			

CHAPTER 5 RECREATION PROVIDERS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
5-4. Ensure that every playground is safe and meets current industry standards.	Studies and planning tools. National Playground Safety Institute standards	County and Local governments, School Districts, Recreation services and facility providers.	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, school districts and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
4a. Annually assess and evaluate the condition of every playground within the County.		Use Certified Playground Safety Inspectors.	
4b. Establish a cost share program to upgrade and maintain safe playgrounds.			

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Arts and Entertainment

Recreation Plan Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following arts and entertainment related issues were identified:

- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels.
- Provide facilities throughout the County for access by all residents.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to arts and entertainment issues:

- Only one-third of those responding offered an opinion on the adequacy of facilities for performing arts and entertainment. Of those offering an opinion, 60% felt that outdoor Performing Arts facilities should be increased or improved, and two-thirds felt that gardens and arboretums should be increased or improved.
- More than 27% of those responding to the survey indicated that it was very likely that a member of the family would participate in a concert. Only walking/fitness and fishing ranked higher.
- More than 21% of those responding to the survey indicated that it was very likely that a member of the family would participate in cultural arts (theatre, dance, music). This was the 5th ranked activity for participation.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A Visual & Performing Arts Focus Group was interviewed to specifically discuss arts and entertainment related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to arts and entertainment as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; recreation commissions, committees and authorities; and youth & adult activities. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- More annual operating funds. The majority of operating budgets of cultural organizations are raised through grants and contributions. Cultural organizations and museums cannot cover costs with ticket prices and entrance fees and still maintain a service to the general public.
- Better audience development programs. Area cultural organizations do not have sufficient funds to spend on marketing their performances and exhibitions in order to reach new audiences. As a result, large segments of the public are unaware of cultural events taking place in the area.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- More central coordination/events clearing house services. A “surprising” number of arts, business and governmental leaders surveyed believe that central coordinated services are essential for successful cultural development in the area.
- Additional arts facilities. Cultural leaders have noted limited facilities in the area where medium sized or larger art exhibitions can be installed. The Madigan Library at the Pennsylvania College of Technology does provide such a venue. This may restrict area citizens from seeing touring exhibitions of the nation’s fine painters and sculptors or major shows featuring local and regional artists.
- Area artists identified the following needs:
 - More opportunities to exhibit and perform their work.
 - More coordinated marketing efforts and sales assistance (artists registry).
 - Access to specialized equipment: presses, foundries, photo labs, etc.
- Area educators identified the need to improve the delivery of area cultural resources to schools; and to explore the relationship between more intensive arts programs in the daily curricula and improved academic achievement.
- Area leaders in business and local government noted the following needs:
 - More coordination and communication among organizations, governmental agencies and professional staffs involved with cultural, economic and educational development. It was noted that this problem is particularly acute in less populated areas like Williamsport/Lycoming where resources are limited and the need for shared efforts becomes a compelling strategy.
 - More outreach programs in the arts that would involve under-served constituencies: seniors, handicapped, youth and minorities.
- Recommendations from the 1991 Cultural Action Plan for the Williamsport/Lycoming Area:
 - Support the development of coordinated programs and services that strengthen area cultural resources. Help the Williamsport-Lycoming Arts Council and other cultural organizations implement the Cultural Action Plan for the Williamsport/Lycoming Area.
 - Help cultural organizations to obtain more public and private funds and reach a wider public. Identify and help evaluate income sources for cultural organizations.
 - Encourage working partnerships between community cultural groups that enhance the cultural, educational and economic benefits of the Community Arts Center.
 - Assist area schools in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of education through a more intensive use of arts and cultural resources.
 - Establish working partnerships between local governments, agencies, institutions and cultural organizations that link cultural, economic and educational development strategies for the ultimate benefit of all area citizens:
 - ~ Undertake outreach programs in cooperation with hospitals and social service agencies for underserved constituents - seniors, handicapped, youth, minorities, etc.
 - ~ Encourage the development of cultural programs and festivals for local communities that reflect local traditions – ethnic, social and historic.
 - ~ Support the development of cultural programs, festivals, and other events that generate increased county-wide tourist activity and reflect local traditions and customs.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- ~ Include more cultural events – public art displays, performances, festivals, etc...- in the programming for White Deer Park and other County Facilities.
- Small, community movie theatres are closing throughout the country and Lycoming County is no exception. The Great Escapes movie multi-plex opened in May 2004 at the Lycoming Mall. The Williamsport population center has been without a movie theatre for quite some time. The Community Arts Center offers a limited movie selection in downtown Williamsport. The redevelopment of the Beiter Block for a 9 screen cinema is underway and expected to open in mid 2008, which will help address this need. There are also two active drive-in movie facilities in the County.

Key Issues:

- Marketing of performances and exhibitions. Local artists and performers do not have the financial resources to market performances and displays. The advertising and publishing of scheduled art and entertainment events is somewhat disjointed. Consequently, a large portion of the County population is unaware of the excellent opportunities available to them.
- Outdoor performing art events and art displays. Re-establish an outdoor program in community parks to show movies and conduct concerts in the summer. Williamsport Symphony would like to use the Brandon Park bandshell for public concerts, but it is in need of maintenance and improvements. Our Towns 2010 has mobilized the First Friday series to provide an opportunity for local artists and craftsmen to display their work, and organized a major community mural funded by private donations which is in process, but additional opportunities are needed.
- Need for gardens and arboretums. When asked about the adequacy of viewing/learning activities, the need to increase or improve community gardens and arboretums was identified by a significant number of respondents.
- Low cost display and studio space. Local artists have limited resources to display their work. Local performing artists and groups have limited affordable studio space for community performances.
- Funding for cultural organizations. Admission fees do not cover the cost of expenses and facilities needed to sustain a diversity and desired level of cultural activities throughout the County. Additional sponsors and other funding sources are needed.
- Use of public school facilities. A number of schools open up their facilities during evening hours and weekends for use by community residents. Staffing and liability issues need to be addressed to facilitate continued expansion of school facility use.

Implications to the Community:

- The disjointed marketing approach for arts and entertainment has not developed audiences from throughout the County, nor outside the region. A large portion of the County population is unaware of the excellent opportunities and entertainment available to them.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- The majority of County residents do not currently have reasonable access to view first run movies at a quality public location, although the Beiter block movie complex will help address this situation.
- Local artists, performing artists, and entertainers need more opportunities to demonstrate and grow their talents.
- Residents of the County do not have equal access or opportunity for arts and entertainment activities.

Water Related Activities

Recreation Plan Advisory committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following water related activity issues were identified:

- Public access to rivers and streams.
- Facilities throughout the County for equal access by residents.
- Improved quality and quantity of public facilities – restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Variety of interpretive trail developments with diverse purposes.
- Conflicts of users and resources. Avoid unnecessary duplication of services and facilities.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages.
- Williamsport's access to the river is severed by the dike/levee system and the effect on the economic health of the City as well as the quality of life.
- Look at the use of the Hepburn Street dam, including improved shad fish passage.
- Environmental concerns and the impact of roadways.
- Refuse management in public spaces and the effect on neighboring private landowners.
- Conservation of lands, landmarks and waterways.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Develop a family oriented, river accessible public space for picnicking.
- Develop public docking facilities on the river.
- Be sensitive to private landowners.



2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to water related activity issues:

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- The majority of respondents supported improved or increased opportunity for indoor swimming and canoeing/boating access.
- The significant number of respondents supported improved or increased boat ramps or marinas.
- Fishing and canoeing/boating were in the top ten activities that respondents were most likely to participate in during the next year.
- Power boating and jet skiing had a significant number of respondents for activities that they were most likely to participate in during the next year.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A boating focus group and a conservation / sportsmen's clubs focus group were interviewed to specifically discuss water related activity issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input regarding water related activities as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, state agencies, trails, and youth and adult activities. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

- There is a need for a full service public marina on the river.
- Need for increased rental opportunities for all types of boats.
- Need additional camping areas and boat launching areas available to the general public along the river and navigable creeks.
- Need portage paths around obstacles – especially the Hepburn Street dam.
- Need water trail maps showing camping areas, trails, water obstructions, portages, drinking water and restrooms, and launch sites.
- Ready access is needed to the outdoors and fishing and watercraft opportunities to meet the needs of numerous water activity interests.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Within several of the communities, only small amounts of land are open for public use. These sometimes have poor access. Lands of special natural features which would add appeal and variety are usually not a part of the community recreation system. River frontage is the outstanding example of this.
- Access to waterways is frequently a need in rural areas, so that residents have a way to get to swimming, boating and fishing water.
- Rural area needs for protection of resident's lands from tourist recreational use, and the protection of the environment of the rural areas from the pressures brought about by great amounts of recreational users from areas beyond the township or county boundary. Side road camping, trespassing on private land, streamside camping and other activities



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

present a need for definitive policy in the management of rural area recreation, with enforcement, maintenance and facility provisions to implement policies.

- Canoe waters: Waters in the County present excellent opportunities for canoeing. A growing demand adds more users each year.
- Need exists for access areas for launching of canoes on Pine Creek, Lycoming Creek, Loyalsock Creek, Muncy Creek and the Susquehanna River.
- Opportunity for primitive camping for canoeists are available where State forest lands exist, but not in other areas. The river is the most critical of these. Controls, enforcement and primitive facilities will be needed in heavily used areas.
- Motor boating waters: Many small boats are used in pools throughout the river and streams. The Hepburn Street dam upstream to Crane riffles and the Muncy to Montgomery reaches of the river are the major use areas. Boating in these areas becomes crowded at peak times, and will become more so. Major boating facilities do not exist in the County, and feasibility for their creation is very limited.
- Sailing: As opportunities for sailing have not been available in the county, demand or popularity is difficult to determine. Excellent sailing for small boats is available at Rose Valley Lake, and this lake is used regularly on weekends.
- Fishing: This is a major recreational activity of the County and the streams here provide an attraction to great numbers of fishermen from a state-wide and multi-state area.
- Attention must be given to the preservation and restoration of trout producing waters, and effective management of warm water fisheries as well.
- Preservation of wild land areas adjacent to trout waters will assure a high quality environment.
- Solutions to existing problems resulting from tourist use must be identified, including problems of littering, floodplain development, over-use of facilities and specialized areas, financial inequities to local residents and a changing character of rural and natural landscapes.
- The problems of roadside camping, littering, sewage disposal, vandalism, off-road vehicles, heavy trail use and canoe use will be increasing in the future. While policies or regulations may be in effect to deal with these issues, implementation, maintenance, or enforcement is often not. Orientation of priorities to deal with these problems will need to be made.
- Parklands and access to water are critical open areas for public use, even if that use is at a very low intensity, such as access to fishing streams.
- Existing communities and areas near them should be used for recreational facilities involving local residents as well as nonresidents when desired. Economic improvement of those communities may result, the needed public services are located there, and resident population is concentrated there.

Community Pools

Lycoming County has eight community pools. The Pulizzi Pool in Muncy is operated by a citizen run association and is the oldest community pool in the County. It is in fair to moderate condition. Both the Jersey Shore and South Williamsport community pools have undergone extensive modifications and improvements during 2003/2004 with grant assistance from DCNR. Both pools will undergo additional improvements in 2004/2005.

The Montoursville Pool is in imminent need of improvements. The Borough received a 2004 grant to conduct a feasibility study / master plan for the pool. Williamsport has three public pools (East End, Memorial, and Shower's pools) that are in need of upgrades and/or

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

improvements. The City has applied for a grant to conduct a recreation feasibility study / master plan which will identify needed pool facility improvements and assist in determining the future use of the pools. The study will address concerns that residents have regarding the pools based on the results of the Lycoming County Recreation Survey. Loyalsock Township recently added a liner to their concrete community pool and plans to add a water slide and a children's spray area.

Community pools are rarely self supportive and require grant assistance to keep current with



regulations and features to attract users. In addition to grants, pools receive most of their support from the host communities. It should be noted that community pools provide service to County residents that reside outside the boundaries of host communities. The latest trend in pools has been to add zero depth entrance to meet handicap standards and to add water features and slides.

Community pools provide a significant role in swimming instruction and safety. Although a great deal of swimming occurs in favorite swimming holes in the river

and creeks, the basics are learned at the community pools. These community pools also support excellent amateur swimming teams.

Indoor swimming is available at the Jersey Shore and Williamsport high schools and at the Williamsport YMCA and YWCA.

Key Issues:

- Water Quality. Lycoming County has several exceptional value (EV) and numerous high quality – cold water fisheries (HQ-CWF) streams and watersheds. Numerous initiatives in the past two decades have improved the quality of water in our water courses. This improvement of water quality needs to be maintained and continued.
- Water Safety. Water safety issues include individual education and training, identification of hazards, and communication of safety warnings and information.
- Access to the watercourses. Much of the available property along popular stretches of the River and creeks is in private ownership. Public perception is that State agency trends have been to restrict access, rather than improve it.
- Whitewater course. Whitewater courses and parks are being built as social and economic catalysts for communities around the world. Preliminary site investigation at the Hepburn Street dam in Williamsport indicates the potential for a whitewater course.
- Youth and handicap fishing areas. There is a need to develop areas specifically identified and reserved for fishing for youth (12 and under) or persons with physical challenges. Groups and clubs hold some special events for youth.



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Public facilities. There is a need to increase public facilities associated with water related activities, to include: parking areas, picnicking areas, camping areas, drinking water, restrooms, and trash receptacles. Developing these facilities would also have an impact on maintaining the natural beauty of our rural areas. This would also lessen the adverse impact that outdoor recreation tourism has on the rights of private property owners.
- User Conflicts. As recreational use of our waterways continues to increase, conflict between user groups will continue to arise. State Agencies will have the primary role of resolving these conflicts. The County should play a role resolving these conflicts before they happen through land use planning and fostering cooperative efforts between State agencies, user groups, private landowners, and local agencies and government.

The implications to the Community:

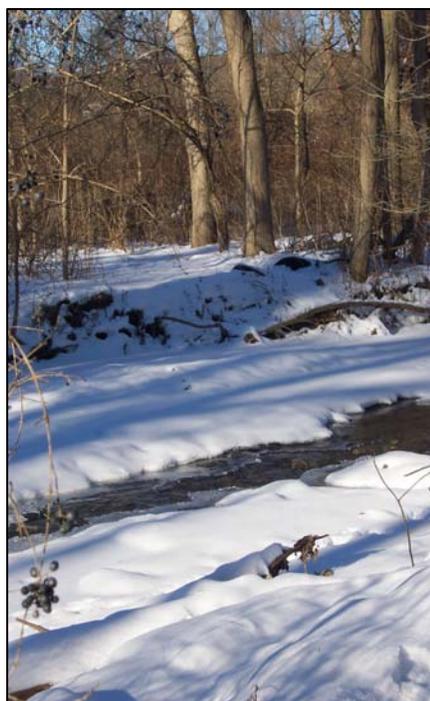
- Improved water quality will result in maintaining and improving the quality of the County fisheries.
- Individuals with proper water safety education and training are less likely to be involved in water related recreational accidents.
- Improved access and public facilities will provide equal opportunity for all residents to benefit from our water resources.
- Improved access and public facilities will also provide for increased tourism and related economic development.

Winter Recreation

Recreation Plan Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following winter recreation related issues were identified:

- Provide facilities throughout the County for equal access by residents.
- Provide better trail identification and mapping.
- Improved quality and quantity of public facilities – restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources. Avoid unnecessary duplication of services and facilities.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages.
- Environmental concerns and the impact of roadways.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Provide recreation and easy access for our transient student population.
- Be sensitive to private landowner issues.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to winter recreation issues:

- The following general comments regarding winter recreation were provided:
 - Outdoor ice skating areas with maintenance of ice, lighting, benches, and fire barrels/rings.
 - Need outdoor bathrooms.
 - Need indoor site for ice skating and ice hockey.
 - Plow paths for winter time biking and walking.
 - Public sledding areas.
- Winter sports areas/facilities should be increased, with the following priorities:
 - Ice skating areas
 - Sledding areas
 - Ice arena / rink
 - Cross-country ski areas
 - Downhill skiing and snowboarding areas

Focus Group Interviews

Focus group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A winter sports focus group was interviewed to specifically discuss winter recreation related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to winter recreation related activities as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, conservation/sportsmen's clubs, state agencies, trails, and youth and adult activities. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

- Need to promote an "active for life" approach to providing facilities and services.
- Need winter opportunities – especially for families.
- Local sledding areas have disappeared.
- No indoor or outdoor ice rinks are available. Need figure skating and ice hockey opportunities.
- Youth ages 5 to 15 are least served and have the greatest need for winter recreation. Providing local sledding areas and outdoor ice rinks will serve this need.
- Ski Sawmill and Crystal Lake offer the best winter sports facilities in the County.
- Snowmobiler's are served by 250+ miles of trails groomed and maintained in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- A connection for snowmobiles across Pine Creek and Little Pine Creek near Waterville is desired.



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- **Off—road Vehicle Use:** A demand for areas to snowmobile and ride trail bikes exists. Much of this demand is being provided for by State Forest roads and privately owned land. Evaluation of lands being used in the county reveal a number of concerns:
 - Enforcement of restriction of off-road vehicles on state owned lands is extremely difficult. Non-road areas, deep woodland areas, steep slopes, wetlands, wild areas and natural areas are poorly suited for motorized vehicle use, and enforcement of regulations should be made.
 - A number of privately owned parcels are used by motorized vehicles. The demand for large area use, as opposed to trail use, can be satisfied on private lands.
 - Areas for motorized use are in demand near developed communities. Care must be taken to locate these areas where they will not be a nuisance to existing settlement or other activities.
 - Most snowmobile demand is for long trail loops. Designated snowmobile trails in the county provide for much of this use. Additional networks of road or trail should be located where no conflicts of use will occur, and close to population centers.

Key Issues:

- Outdoor ice skating. There are not enough ice skating facilities in our area. Youth ages 5 to 15 years of age comprise 90% of the organized figure skating groups. This age group is underserved and needs additional winter recreation opportunities. Outdoor ice skating facilities are difficult to maintain and manage due to our region's winter weather conditions and frequent freeze-thaw cycles.
- Ice arena/rink. Figure skating and hockey are popular in our area but people must travel more than an hour to use an indoor facility.
- Sledding areas. Many open spaces once used for sledding now prohibit winter sports use because of liability concerns. Sledding recreation requires designated areas with controlled traffic patterns and supervision. Areas need to be available closer to housing centers to be readily accessible to our youth.
- Lack of public restrooms. A lack of public restrooms was a repeated comment from the recreation survey.
- Indoor recreation facilities. There is a deficiency of affordable indoor recreation facilities to promote "active for life" approach to recreation. Cooperation between school districts and communities will be key in improving active lifestyles winter months. Some schools are including "lifetime sports" in their curriculums, but this program is not realizing its' full potential. School districts and their recreation facilities have existing untapped potential for supplementing the public with recreation facilities.
- Increase winter recreation facilities/areas. Public input identified need to increase the number of winter recreation facilities and areas in the following priority: ice skating, sledding, ice arena/rink, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding.
- Marketing winter recreation opportunities. Existing winter recreation facilities need help promoting winter sports activities. Information about existing winter recreation opportunities is not readily available.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

The implications to the Community:

- A winter sports focus could revitalize the local economy that has suffered a decline from reduced hunting participation.
- Community outdoor areas for spontaneous winter sports like ice skating and sledding, will provide winter recreation opportunities for youth aged 5 to 15.
- Increased availability of affordable indoor recreation facilities for sports and recreation during winter months could promote an “Active for Life” approach to recreation.
- Susquehanna Health System needs indoor facilities during the winter months for their health awareness program.
- An ice arena could provide needed indoor recreation and provide eco-tourism opportunities for the region.

Youth Sports

Recreation Plan Advisory committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory Committee, the following youth sports related issues were identified:

- Provide facilities throughout the County for equal access by residents.
- Maintain public parks and public spaces.
- Assess recreational trends & interests and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs, i.e., skateboarding, growth of youth soccer, etc.
- Analyze reports from Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to youth sports issues:

- The section on group sports seems to reinforce national studies, showing a decrease in involvement with Group sports.
- Respondents feel that existing public sports facilities are adequate.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate and augment the data gathered from the survey and input from the public meetings. Representatives from the youth sports discussed issues and opportunities related to these important service delivery organizations. Other focus groups provided some input concerning the influences of youth sports and the provision of services and facilities. Contributing focus groups include: the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, adult activities, cultural arts, winter sports and youth leadership. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Key Issues:

- Participation Levels of Organized Sports. Youth sports organizations have experienced minimal growth or reduction in participation levels. Following information relates to participation:

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Little League Baseball in Lycoming County has reduced its numbers of leagues by two over the past three years. The players from the dissolved leagues were absorbed by neighboring leagues.
- Some youth are not involved in organized recreation because the cost to participate is rising.
- According to youth focus group interviews, organized recreation programs suffer from loss of participation for youth 13+ years old; youth in this age group tend to choose a single sport in which they can excel.
- Youth sports' rely heavily on volunteers to make the programs successful.



Youth Sports Participants

Youth Sports Organizations	2004	2003	2002
John Bower Basketball League	900	880	887
AYSO Soccer: Section 13, Area "Y"	2354	2303	
Balls Mills Soccer League	72	90	90
Kennedy King Youth Basketball League	86	80	46
Little League Baseball (14 - 13 Leagues)			
Little League Baseball	561		627
Softball (Includes all levels)	583		858
Senior League	132		187
Big League	0		55
Challenger	33		11
Tee-ball	671		737
Minors	671		627
Junior	209		253
Bald Eagle Swim League			
Tri-Town			
Montoursville		97	97
Loyalsock		110	100
Williamsport	90	81	96
Jersey Shore		60	100
South Williamsport		65	62

- Value of Youth Sports. More than two-thirds of America's youth are involved in organized team sports. Youth sports organizations are instrumental in teaching sports skills development and game rules and strategies to youth.



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Adequacy of Sports Facilities. Sports facilities are adequate throughout the county with the following exceptions:
 - There is a need to increase soccer practice and game facilities in the City of Williamsport, Loyalsock Twp., and other municipalities.
 - Additional facilities are needed to adequately meet organized youth recreation needs for indoor basketball.
 - Additional facilities are needed to adequately meet the needs for 13-18 years old.
 - Renovation or installation of lights at appropriate baseball fields will expand the use of these facilities.
 - The soccer dome/East Lycoming YMCA will help address these needs.
- Non-structured Youth Sports. Youth need to be given opportunities to organize their own recreation, such as sandlot ballgames in neighborhoods. More opportunities are needed for youth that are not “premium athletes”.

The implications to the Community:

- There are many organized recreation opportunities for youth in Lycoming County, and this is valued by Lycoming County residents.
- Youth ages 13-18 could be better served with additional and diversified recreational opportunities.

Youth and Adult Activities

This section considers other youth and adult activities that have not been addressed in the previous sections of this chapter.

Recreation Plan Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following youth and adult activities related issues were identified:

- Provide facilities throughout the County for improved access by residents.
- Resolve conflicts of users and resources.
- Provide facilities for various interests, abilities and ages. For example consider needs of runners versus family out for a walk.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should accommodate balance challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Provide recreation and easy access for our transient student population.
- Assess recreational trends & interests and develop mechanisms to address these identified needs, i.e., skateboarding, growth of youth soccer, etc.
- Analyze reports from Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to trail issues:

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- There is a strong interest in individual sports especially: bicycling, miniature golf, skate boarding and shooting ranges. Our Survey supports national trends that demonstrate the complexity of the American lifestyle. While the amount of leisure time available remains fairly constant, convenience is one of the chief motivating factors.
- The Elm Park Association has seen a decrease in adult softball participation.
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing Viewing and Learning Activities opportunities:
 - Wildlife areas
 - Natural areas
 - Community gardens
 - Environmental education Areas
 - Heritage parks and historical Sites
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing Group Sports opportunities:
 - Practice fields
 - Volleyball courts
 - Youth basketball courts
 - Youth soccer fields
 - Adult basketball courts
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing individual sports opportunities:
 - Miniature golf
 - Bicycling
 - Skateboarding / rollerblading
 - Shooting at ranges
 - Tennis
- The following are the top five priorities for improving or increasing social activity opportunities:
 - Picnicking
 - Sitting / passive Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Community recreation centers
 - Dog parks
- The following are the top ten activities that respondents are most likely to participate in during the next year:
 - Walking / fitness
 - Concerts
 - Fishing
 - Cultural arts
 - Arts and crafts
 - Hunting
 - Photography
 - Canoeing, boating and sailing lessons
 - Children's activities
 - Bird watching
- Respondents feel that their outdoor recreation will increase during the next 5 years.
- Outdoor public / individualized activities and facilities that involve interaction with nature or natural areas are highly valued in Lycoming County.



CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Indoor recreation will play a significant role in our county in the future, providing opportunities for users to socialize, increase knowledge and strive for higher individual performance both mentally and physically.
- There is an adequate amount of organized activities for children. Children need opportunities to organize their own recreation and play in unstructured environments, such as kickball and sandlot baseball games.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A youth and adult activities focus group and a youth leadership focus group were interviewed to specifically discuss youth and adult activity related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to youth and adult activities as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; recreation commissions, committees and authorities; conservation/sportsman's clubs; State agencies; and trails. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Activities which are not highly structured (i.e. team sports) are needed to broaden an appeal and involvement of many individuals who could gain a great deal through program assistance.
- While team sports are often offered, individual orientation, group activities and environmental orientation are seldom offered, and usually to a small population segment.
- Many programs are conducted in the summer, but other times of the year are neglected. While school activities fill much of this need, a greater variety is needed for a larger population group.
- A large interest exists for hiking and walking. Nationally more people backpack, birdwatch and primitive camp than hunt. The landscape and environmental specialty areas such as wild areas, scenic areas and natural areas in the County show an outstanding suitability for this activity.
- A great interest exists for cross country bicycling.
- A great need exists for a variety of activities, including pleasure walking, bicycling, and jogging within neighborhood areas and to outlying recreation sites or rural hiking and bicycling trails.
- Horseback riding is done primarily by individuals with their own horses. Opportunity for individuals who do not own horses is very poor.
- Areas for motorized use (snowmobiles, ATVs and motorcycles) are in demand near developed communities. Youngsters with minibikes, in particular, often ride illegally on public roads and through private property.
- Pleasure driving is done by many people. Country roads through the county are used to varying extents for this. Due to the great number of miles of road in the county, and due to the high scenic quality of most of these, new roads are not needed for recreational

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

driving. However, State Forest roads serve an important role for scenic pleasure drives and should be kept open where practical.

- Recreation opportunities should be available to all segments of the population. Programming of areas, and facilities development should be directed toward the provision of those services considered to be critical needs of the community. For example, in light of the aging population of the County, special attention should be given to the recreational needs of the elderly.

Key Issues:

- Non-structured Recreation and Social Opportunity. Our youth need places to go where they can socialize with friends, without structured activity. An appropriate balance of supervision needs to be achieved. Youth perceive that they are over supervised. They want places where they can “hang-out” and share a sense of belonging.
- Level of Service for Interests, Age Groups, and Abilities. Adolescents ages 13 to 18 are the least served. At this age participation in organized sports is limited to the more talented. The provision of other activities is limited.
- Access to Viewing and Learning Activities. Learning is a lifelong activity. Additional viewing and learning activities need to be provided.
- Elderly Activities. Our aging population will create new and increased demands for recreation activities for seniors.
- Transportation. Transportation to recreational and social activities is a great concern especially in the rural communities in Lycoming County.
- Indoor Recreation. Youth would like to see an increase of indoor recreation activities including: movie theaters, bowling, billiards (pool), table tennis (ping-pong), table games (air hockey, etc) and video arcades.
- Skate Board Parks. Skate boarding, rollerblading, and other related extreme activities have been a growing trend for our youth. There has been significant conflict between our youth, elders and community officials over this type of activity. There is a deficiency of facilities for this activity throughout the County.



Implications to the Community:

- Across the county, youth are in need of recreation services which help to build their decision-making and leadership skills.
- Expansion of indoor recreation facilities and opportunities is needed
- Expanding the hours of operation at existing public recreation facilities would increase opportunities for use and promote a better use of the tax dollars.
- The Lycoming County Housing Authority offers unique, free to low-cost recreation programs and facilities designed to engage the County’s youth in a variety of structured activities and develop leadership and life skills. Program has shown growth and success during its three-year existence. Program potential is limited because: of the
 - Inadequate funding,

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- limited staffing
- lack of appropriate indoor facilities

Recreation Activities Visions

Vision 9: Residents of the County will have improved access to arts and entertainment performances, displays, and events. Local artists, performing artists, and entertainers will have more opportunities for performances and exhibits to reach residents of the County.

Goals:

- Provide alternatives and more access for viewing movies.
- Assist art & entertainment individuals, groups, and organizations in promoting performances and exhibitions.
- Develop a facility for arts exhibitions and performances.
- Increase outdoor performing art events and art displays.
- Improve and increase local garden and arboretum viewing opportunities.

Objectives:

- Establish public use facilities for viewing first run movies.
- Identify low cost exhibit space for display of art work done by local artists
- Identify low cost alternate studio space to promote the arts in our community.
- Establish gardens and arboretums in community parks

Vision 10: Lycoming County becomes the hub and destination for cultural events, performances and exhibitions in Northcentral Pennsylvania. Arts and entertainment become a source of increased tourism and economic development. Access to and availability of arts and entertainment is a strong quality of life asset that helps attract people and business, and retain our youth in the area after graduation.

Goals:

- Provide a centralized and coordinated marketing forum for arts and entertainment events and opportunities.
- Enhance working partnerships between local governments, agencies, institutions and cultural organizations that link cultural, economic and educational development strategies.
- Update the 1991 cultural action plan.

Objectives:

- Include facilities for arts and entertainment as a priority for Williamsport downtown revitalization.
- Establish an organization to provide centralized oversight of development and marketing for arts and entertainment.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Develop a calendar of events with broad distribution to help avoid or minimize event schedule conflicts.
- Prepare a long range marketing plan for arts and entertainment.

Vision 11: Lycoming County residents and tourists have access to clean water for boating, sustainable fishing, viewing abundant and diverse wildlife, and other activities.

Goals:

- Maintain and improve water quality of waterways in the County.
- Provide opportunity for access to a variety of water resources to all residents of the County.
- Promote sustainable, low-impact, high economic benefit tourism in the rural areas of the County.
- Manage and protect our natural resources to protect against potential overuse and degradation.
- Promote the use of the West Branch Susquehanna Water Trail.

Objectives:

- Develop brochures and maps for water related recreation activities and supporting facilities and services.
- Encourage private enterprise facilities and services to support water related focus.
- Market quality, quantity and variety of water related activity opportunities available in Lycoming County.
- Carefully plan and manage special events and festivities in appropriate areas with infrastructure, such as river towns, to increase awareness of existing facilities and resources and promote tourism potential.
- Recreation activities in rural resource areas should be marketed and developed in a manner which promotes stewardship of the resource and a conservation ethic.

Vision 12: Communities have established outdoor recreation areas that provide a safe place for our youth to participate in water related activities.

Goals:

- Provide community pools that meet the recreation and education requirements of the residents of the community and surrounding areas.
- Establish improved access to water resources to provide equal opportunity to a variety of water related activities.
- Evaluate construction of a whitewater course at the Hepburn Street dam.
- Provide adequate facilities in proximity to water related activity areas.

Objectives:

- Keep community pool facilities up-to-date with current standards and latest trends in pool recreation.
- Improve conditions at current access points and construct additional access points.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Construct additional facilities to support water related activities, such as parking areas, picnicking areas, camping areas, drinking water, restrooms, and trash receptacles
- Educate property and facility owners regarding limiting liability for public recreation uses. The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) bars civil liability against owners and easement holders of unimproved land who open the tract for public recreational use without charging an admission fee.
- Keep community recreational facilities up-to-date and in good condition.

Vision 13: Lycoming County will be recognized as a premier winter recreation destination, serving the needs of a variety of users, including families, for an extended stay. Available activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, ice boating, hunting, hiking, and scenic views. An indoor ice facility could be a central area attraction.

Goals:

- Establish Lycoming County as an extended stay winter recreation area.
- Re-establish strong tourism economy for rural areas of the County by marketing a variety of winter recreation activities.
- Support private construction of an indoor multi-purpose arena, to include ice skating, in the Williamsport area.

Objectives:

- Develop brochures and maps for winter recreation activities and supporting facilities and services.
- Encourage private enterprise for facilities and services to support winter recreation focus.
- Market quality, quantity and variety of winter recreation opportunities available in Lycoming County.
- Plan special winter sports events and festivities to increase awareness of existing facilities and promote tourism potential.

Vision 14: Communities have established outdoor recreation areas that provide a safe place for our youth to participate in winter activities.

Goals:

- Provide easily accessible and safe areas for youth ages 5 to 15 to participate in winter recreation activities.

Objectives:

- Establish an outdoor ice skating area in or near each community.
- Establish outdoor sledding areas in or near each community.
- Educate property and facility owners regarding limiting liability for public recreation uses. The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) bars civil liability against owners

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

and easement holders of unimproved land who open the tract for public recreational use without charging an admission fee.

- Encourage public and private land owners to permit sledding recreation areas where appropriate; develop traffic flow patterns and volunteer programs for supervision of activities.

Vision 15: School districts and local communities have established a partnership to provide affordable indoor recreation opportunities for recreation activities during the winter months.

Goals:

- Provide the youth of Lycoming County with better access and expanded opportunities to participate in lifetime sports activities.
- Utilize school recreation facilities to their fullest potential, establish a hub of community activity, and provide public winter recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- Encourage schools to make their gyms and pools available to the public for recreation purposes.
- Generate user fees to offset operation costs.

Vision 16: Every child in Lycoming County can participate in activity/activities of their choice in a fun and safe environment.

Goals:

- To expand recreational opportunities and facilities within the county
- To explore ways to lower costs of organized sports recreation participation.
- To promote more diversified recreation programs, including non-athletic activities.

Objectives:

- Make recreation opportunities accessible to all youth in Lycoming County.
- Encourage youth and volunteers to participate in recreation activities.
- Promote cooperation between the owners of public and private lands to secure recreation facilities to meet the needs of recreation programs.

Vision 17: Youth sports in Lycoming County provide opportunities to learn and develop sport skills and knowledge, while teaching participants the value of good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Goals:

- To promote self-esteem through encouragement and exemplary conduct
- To work with youth sports organizations to promote good coaching skills which support the development of self-esteem and good sportsmanship.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Objectives:

- Review and emphasize the established codes of conduct by each youth sport organization.
- Encourage youth sports organizations to train all volunteer coaches in methods of communicating skills and knowledge that encourages players to grow and develop in positive directions.
- Promote cooperation between adults, coaches and players.
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles.

Vision 18: Athletic fields and /or courts used by all organized sports are in excellent condition, constructed and maintained in accordance with industry standards.

Goals:

- To promote safe play and minimize injuries to players.
- Provide appropriate spaces for practices and competitions.

Objectives:

- Continually review the participation levels of youth sports organizations and try to match with appropriate competition and practice spaces.
- Construct and maintain all sports facilities in accordance with industry standards.
- Support the establishment of multi-sport, multi-field facilities for regional and State soccer tournaments and other sporting events.
- Support the expanded use of baseball and softball fields by the addition or renovation of lighting systems.

Vision 19: Lycoming County offers a variety of safe recreational and social opportunities and facilities that serves the needs of various interests, ages, and skill levels.

Goals:

- Public spaces and parks in Lycoming County are safe and welcoming.
- Public cooperation with for profit and not-for-profit entities to expand recreation facilities and services that are designed to meet the needs of our County's citizens.
- Recreation services are easily accessed.
- Recreation trends and interests are being met.

Objectives:

- Improve the parks and public space in Lycoming County.
- Expand recreational services and facilities within the county.
- Promote cooperation between governments, businesses and youth serving agencies.

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Vision 20: Lycoming County offers a variety of safe recreational and social opportunities that benefit the economic and social health of communities

Goals:

- Public sports facilities are well designed and maintained.
- Encourage the development of youth and adult sports tournaments.
- Increase outdoor recreation opportunities that encourage tourism.
- Work with tourist promotion agencies to market availability of outstanding recreation opportunities within the county.

Objectives:

- Promote cooperation between governments, businesses and amateur and youth sports organizations.
- Improve the parks and public space in Lycoming County.
- Expand recreational services and facilities within the county.

Recreation Activities Implementation Strategies:

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-1. Continue and enhance a centralized and coordinated approach to arts and entertainment.	Form multi-dimensional councils and cooperative agreements.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council, community service agencies, school districts.	DCED, PA Council of the Arts, First Community Foundation, private donations.
Strategic Action		Notes	
1a. Establish an organization for centralized oversight and coordination.		Establish County-wide arts and entertainment council.	
		Alternatively, the role of the Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council could be expanded.	
1b. Develop a calendar of events with broad distribution.		Expand the existing calendars published on the internet and in newspaper inserts.	
1c. Develop a Cultural Action Plan.		Update the 1991 Cultural Action Plan.	
1d. Prepare a long range marketing plan for arts and entertainment.		There is a tremendous opportunity to increase and broaden the audiences for local artists, performing artists, and entertainers, to include outside the	

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

	<p>County.</p> <p>Improved facilities will also provide the opportunity to expand the arts and entertainment market and establish Lycoming County as the central destination for events within Northcentral Pennsylvania.</p>
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Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-2. Improve arts and entertainment facilities.	Identify underused facilities, develop cooperative agreements, and encourage and support private development.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council, community service agencies, school districts.	DCED, First Community Foundation, private development.
Strategic Action		Notes	
2a. Include arts and entertainment facilities in downtown re-vitalization efforts.		Plans to re-vitalize downtown should capitalize on multitude of arts and entertainment groups and organizations.	
2b. Increase use of public school facilities for arts and entertainment.		Public school auditoriums could be used for performing arts events.	
		Public school auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias and other spaces could be used for art exhibit space for local artists.	
		Consider using high school football stadiums for community concerts in the summer.	
2c. Rehabilitate community parks to improve performing art and entertainment facilities.		Renovate the Brandon Park bandshell and other park facilities.	
		Re-institute the summer outdoor movie program in community parks.	
2d. Develop gardens and arboretums in community parks and open space.		Provide support to local garden clubs and encourage cooperative efforts with municipalities.	
2e. Develop community gardens on municipal open space and underutilized lands, such as flood buyout properties, throughout Lycoming County.		Support groups who are starting community garden initiatives.	

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-3. Increase water related activities for residents and tourists.	Marketing plans, brochures and maps.	DCNR, PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, County and local government, and private entrepreneurs.	DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
3a. Develop improved information maps for water related activities.		<p>Maps for boaters and canoeists should show water trails, location of water obstructions, portage trails, access points, camping sites, support facilities, and points of interest.</p> <p>Other outdoor recreation maps should provide information on locations for water related activities and support facilities and services.</p> <p>A cooperative effort between state agencies and County GIS is needed to upgrade level of mapping.</p> <p>Encourage private enterprise for preparing comprehensive maps and related services.</p>	
3b. Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of water related activities that are available.		<p>Cooperative effort between Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, businesses, and private enterprise.</p> <p>Establish places to stay, eat, and recreate.</p>	
3c. Establish special events to showcase water related activity resources.		<p>Re-vitalize "Put Your Fanny in the Susquehanny" event.</p> <p>Increase canoe race events.</p> <p>Conduct fishing derbies and competitions.</p>	
3d. Prepare a long range marketing plan.			

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-4. Evaluate additional public facilities for water related activities as part of an updated Williamsport Revitalization Plan.		County & local government, and private entrepreneurs.	Federal, DCED, First Community Foundation, County & local government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
4a. Evaluate a public access boat dock / marina on the River.		Would include docking and launching facilities, refueling and rental.	
4b. Evaluate a white water course at the Hepburn Street dam.		A feasibility study should be conducted to gather existing engineering and economic information, determine engineering feasibility of a whitewater course and related infrastructure, define the level of risk of the project, tie the whitewater course into the City visually and with access and parking, develop a cost estimate and business/marketing plan, and assess economic benefits and opportunities to the City and County.	
4c. Evaluate a floating stage or amphitheatre along the Susquehanna River Walk.			
4d. Evaluate a family oriented picnic area with access to the River.		Could also include restrooms, play areas, fishing docks.	
4e. Construct additional public boat and canoe access facilities where needed.			

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-5. Increase winter recreation opportunities for residents and tourists.	Marketing plans. Brochures and maps.	DCNR, PA Game Commission, County and local government, and private entrepreneurs.	DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
5a. Develop improved information maps of snowmobile and cross country ski trails.		<p>A cooperative effort between state agencies and County GIS is needed to upgrade level of mapping for snowmobile and cross country ski trails within the County.</p> <p>Encourage private enterprise for preparing comprehensive maps and related services.</p> <p>Cooperative effort between Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, businesses, and private enterprise.</p> <p>Establish places to stay, eat, and recreate.</p>	
5b. Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of winter recreation.			
5c. Prepare a long range marketing plan.			

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-6. Support private development of an indoor multi-purpose arena in the Williamsport area.	Downtown revitalization plan.	County & local government, and private entrepreneurs.	Federal, First Community Lycoming Foundation, County & local government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
6a. Finalize downtown revitalization plan and vision.			
6b. Develop funding.			

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-7. Develop winter recreation areas in each community.			
Strategic Action		Notes	
7a. Conduct public education on the Recreation Use of Land and Water Act (RUA).		Provide education to property owners on the liability protection available under the RUA.	
7b. Develop an outdoor ice skating area in each community or region.			
7c. Develop a sledding area in each community or region.			

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-8. Maximize the use of private and public recreation facilities to meet the needs of youth sports and recreation.	Studies and planning tools.	All sports organizations and recreation facility owners.	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, private entities and National youth sports organizations.
Strategic Action		Notes	
8a. Establish communication between sports organizations and recreation facility and services planners		Public recreation organizations should meet with sports organizations annually to assess needs and participation levels. Utilize a County recreation council to promote coordination.	
8b. Evaluate availability of areas for various youth sports.		This should be a cooperative effort between sports organizations and the facility providers.	
8c. Work with local school districts, churches, colleges, businesses and industries to expand availability of indoor and outdoor spaces youth and amateur adult sports.		This is being done in basketball, and soccer.	

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-9. Develop programs to help families participate in organized sports activities.	Studies and planning tools.	All sports organizations and recreation facility owners and service providers.	First Community Foundation, local government, private entities and National youth sports organizations.
Strategic Action		Notes	
9a. Families volunteer services in exchange for sports participation fees.		Public recreation organizations should meet with sports organizations annually to assess needs and participation levels.	
9b. Organize a community “swap-meet” to assist families in obtaining used sports equipment at low costs.		This should be a cooperative effort between sports organizations and the facility and service providers.	

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-10. Provide outstanding athletic facilities for team and individual sports.	Studies and planning tools.	School Districts, amateur sports organizations, Recreation services and facility providers.	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, school districts and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
10a. Identify and assess the availability and condition of sports facilities within the County.			
10b. Evaluate potential for a variety of tournaments and competitions.			
10c. Expand the use of recreation facilities			

CHAPTER 6 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
6-11. Provide increased opportunities for extreme sports type activities.	Studies and planning tools.	Teens, local governments, school districts, businesses	DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, local government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
11a. Establish a teen committee for each community.			
11b. Evaluate availability of areas for various youth activities.			
	<p>The Lycoming Housing Authority skate park is closed. The City should investigate providing area(s) to meet the heavy demand. Montgomery has developed a skate park utilizing grant funding. Jersey Shore is planning a skate park as part of the Thompson Street recreation area improvements. All communities/regions should plan for these areas.</p>		
11c. Establish new extreme sports parks.			

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Overview

The greenway component of the Lycoming County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is developed based on strategic guidelines set forth in the PA DCNR *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections (Action Plan)*. This publication provides a “greenprint” for communities, governments and the private sector to work as partners in developing a statewide network of greenways. The process involves identifying “hubs” (destinations or areas of activities) and “spokes” (connecting corridors) to define a county wide network of significant natural and man-made features- the green and grey infrastructure - of this county.

A County Greenway Plan will serve as a tool to promote land stewardship values, and direct patterns of land development toward sustainable communities’ initiatives. The overall concept for the Lycoming County greenway draws upon the apparent physiography manifested by the seven major watersheds. Each of these watersheds/greenways has their own character, influenced by the landscape form, regional nodes of interest, and hubs of activity. Developing connections within and between these watersheds will provide a valuable network of resources providing resource conservation, uninterrupted open space for wildlife habitats, and recreation opportunities close-to-home for residents.

What is a Greenway?

“A Greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land – or- water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops; or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized craft. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural and scenic resources; provide recreational benefits; enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities; and stimulate economic development opportunities.”

- Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission

The Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission (PGPC) was established in 1998 by the governor and prepared *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections (Action Plan)* in September 2001. The Action Plan lays out a 20-year plan for establishing greenways following the 12 Implementation Strategies.

1. Hubs and spokes- establish a statewide network.
2. Greenway plans- need to be developed for each County.
3. Places for all people- increase opportunities for diverse populations to enjoy greenways.
4. Pennsylvania wellness - actively involve health community in greenway development.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

5. Alternative transportation – develop trails system as part of inter-modal transportation to reduce automobile dependence.
6. Natural resource protection – protect Pennsylvania’s natural resources and environmental quality with greenways.
7. Greenways organization structure – DCNR as lead agency.
8. Greenways funding – Assemble public and private funds for greenway planning and development.
9. Greenways toolbox – develop technical resources for greenway implementation.
10. Greenways education and training – for greenway partners, and strategy to integrate greenways into school curriculums.
11. Greenways promotional campaign – marketing campaign featuring greenways for enhancing Pennsylvania’s economy and tourism.
12. The greenways volunteer network – Adopt a greenway program to maintain and promote local greenways.

The PGPC has since reconfigured into the “Greenways Program Advisory Group”, and is providing program guidance through broad base representation of greenways-related organizations; Lycoming County is represented in the group.

DCNR is a lead agency for implementing the state greenways program, and has given priority to developing County Greenways within the County Greenways and Open Space Network Program; Lycoming County is one of the initial counties seeking assistance under this program.

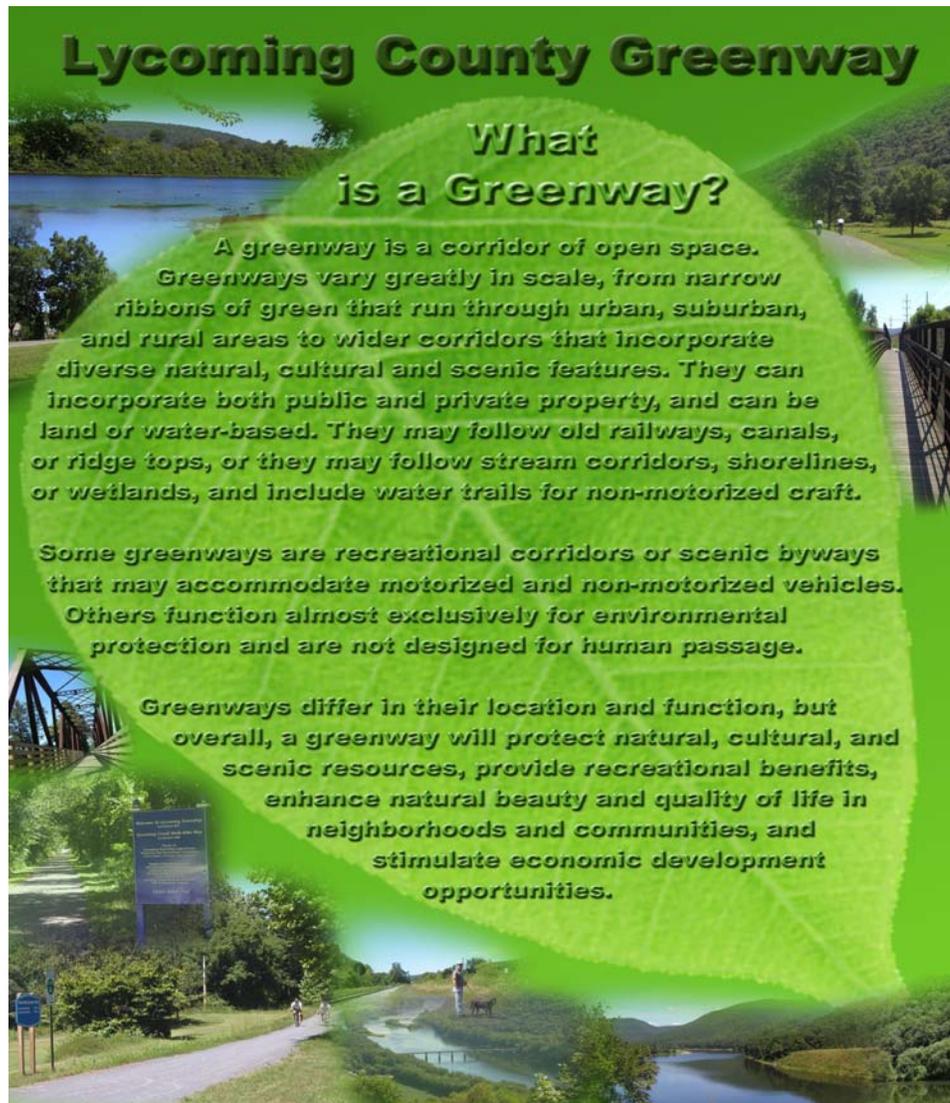
In November 2003, DCNR prepared a “white paper” on greenways and trails which presents the current state of greenways and trails in Pennsylvania as it relates to DCNR, the key issues and challenges, and options for the future. In this narrative, DCNR indicates that one of its initiatives is to better communicate the greenway concept. The term “greenway” has caused some confusion with the general public, primarily because there are different types of greenways that can serve different functions. DCNR has developed a strong education and marketing approach to educate the public that “all trails are greenways but not all greenways are trails”.

Greenways accomplish multiple objectives for both people and natural ecosystems, and improve the quality of life. In general, greenways provide “green” connections for people and wildlife between hubs (destinations) and natural resources, and preserve “green infrastructure” for future generations. The “green infrastructure” concept best emphasizes the ecological importance of greenways which is discussed in the inventory section of this chapter.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Benefits of a Greenway

Greenways are created through local and regional initiatives, public and private partnerships, grassroots and professional efforts which bring diversified groups of people together and unite them to work for a common cause. This type of planning is generally more widely accepted by the public because it reflects a consensus of the needs and interests of each community. When



links are made across multiple jurisdictions, “a statewide system of interconnected greenways emerges, becoming a large scale economic, environmental and recreational asset for Pennsylvania.” (“Pennsylvania’s Greenways are Creating Connections”, p.7, PA Recreation & Parks, Third Quarter 2003.)

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

This greenway portion of the *Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, and Open Space/Greenway Plan* exemplifies the type of project that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is promoting as a key land use strategy for developing sustainable communities. It has been developed to provide all of the greenway benefits as cited in the statewide Action Plan:

- Greenways enhance the sense of place in a community or region.
- Greenways accentuate the scenic beauty and majesty of our state.
- Greenways protect our state's water resources by buffering non-point source pollution.
- Greenways provide opportunities to protect and manage wildlife, forests and ecological systems.
- Greenways provide recreation opportunities for families and individuals of all ages and abilities.
- Greenways provide alternatives to automotive transportation, reducing traffic congestion.
- Greenways add positively to our economic climate.
- Greenways are a core component of strategies to foster health and wellness- especially as our population ages.

- *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections*, June 2001

Greenway development is a key strategy in 'Smart Growth' planning in Pennsylvania as our communities are losing open space to land development at an increasing rate. In response to recent 'Smart Growth' initiatives, many counties and municipalities are including greenway projects in their comprehensive plans, as inclusion in a comprehensive plan allows greenway projects to be eligible for certain government funding programs for which they may not otherwise be eligible. Development of greenways is of statewide importance for three key reasons:

1. Non-motorized transportation alternatives are needed in Pennsylvania to reduce traffic congestion and maintain clean air, which will contribute to an overall improvement in the quality of life.
2. Pennsylvania cannot afford to expand the capacity of roadway infrastructure that will be demanded with the projected growth in travel.
3. Increasing health care costs are related to the alarming and dramatic increase in health problems – especially in youth. Center for Disease Control studies correlate incidence of these diseases with auto-dominant vs. walkable communities.

Conservation Benefits

No other conservation initiative provides so many ecological, economic, and quality of life benefits to the communities that create them. Greenways not only protect environmentally important lands and native plants and animals, they also link people with the natural world and outdoor educational opportunities. Greenways can also:

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- *Help preserve the biological diversity of plant and animal species by maintaining the connections between natural communities.*
- *Improve air quality by preserving trees that produce oxygen.*
- *Reduced noise and thermal pollution.*
- *Help protect the quantity and quality of water, a natural resource vital to people, plants and wildlife.*
- *Prevent soil erosion and filter pollution caused by agricultural and road runoff, by protecting land along rivers and streams.*
- *Direct development and growth away from important natural resource areas.*
- *Act as outdoor classrooms.*

Economic Benefits

Pennsylvania is associated with a rich history and rural landscapes of scenic beauty, which contribute to tourism being the second largest industry in the State. Greenways can be used as an element for guiding sound land use and sustainable development that preserves these valued resources and thereby protects the tourism industry. Additionally, greenways can increase tourism and create opportunities for local businesses to provide products and services to support recreation greenway users. The following is a list of economic benefits of Greenways as developed by the Conservation Fund's "American Greenways Program" (adapted from the National Park Service's "Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, Greenway Corridors.")

- *Many studies demonstrate that parks, greenways and trails increase nearby property values.*
- *Spending by local residents on greenway related activities helps support recreation oriented business and employment, as well as other businesses which are patronized by greenway and trail users.*
- *Greenways often provide business opportunities, locations and resources for commercial activities such as recreation equipment rentals and sales, lessons, and other related businesses.*
- *Greenways are often major tourist attractions which generate expenditures on lodging, food, and recreation oriented services. Greenways also help improve the overall appeal of a community to perspective tourists and new residents.*
- *The agency responsible for managing a river, trail, or greenway can help support local businesses by purchasing supplies and services. Jobs created by the managing agency may also help increase local employment opportunities.*
- *Evidence shows that the quality of life of a community is an increasingly important factor in corporate relocation decisions. Greenways are often cited as important contributors to a quality of life.*
- *The conservation of rivers, trails, and greenways can help local governments and other public agencies reduce costs resulting from flooding and other natural hazards.*

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- *While greenways have many economic benefits it is important to remember the intrinsic environments and recreational value of preserving rivers, trails, and other open space corridors.*

Additional economic benefits can be realized as recreation/trails greenways promote alternative transportation. In this capacity greenways provide opportunities to reduce transportation infrastructure costs, roadway congestion and environmental pollution, according to -“*PennPlan*”, Pennsylvania’s long-range modal integration plan.

Recreational Benefits

Recreation/Trails Greenways provide communities more than just green surroundings, they provide health and fitness opportunities to people of all ages and abilities. Health trends in America show alarming and dramatic increases in obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular health problems, especially in youth. The federal government has recognized the need to move from a treatment –oriented to a prevention-oriented society. While obesity is the fastest-growing killer of Americans – it can be prevented. Recreation trails/greenways are one of the ways to get Americans moving and encourage less reliance on the car for transportation. By creating links and connections, residents of Lycoming County could potentially move seamlessly -on foot or by bike-through a network of trails from their homes to work, school and recreation.

Environmental benefits

Conservation Greenways provide environmental and conservation benefits, protecting natural resources and open spaces. More specifically the benefits of greenways are:

- Promoting land development in accordance with land stewardship and sustainable communities values. “Land use will be Pennsylvania’s most critical issue in the new millennium” according to the *21st Century Environmental Commission Report*.
- Providing habitat for plant and animal communities. A greenway’s ability to provide habitat will depend on size, location, and the site specific characteristic needed by native species.
- Acting as a conduit for plants, animals, water, sediment, and chemicals, by connecting linear, fragmented or isolated parts of the landscape. These will act as wildlife connecting corridors, providing access between the necessary elements of their habitat and connecting wildlife populations. Greenways can also increase the size of the habitat by connecting several smaller areas, improving the sustainability of healthy populations.
- Protecting riparian ecosystems by protecting vegetation that acts as a sink for trapping sediment, toxins, or nutrients. Greenways can maintain functions which are associated with riparian zones, such as providing food and habitat for aquatic communities, moderating flow, temperature reduction through shading of the water, reduction of NPS pollution through nutrient and sediment filtration, and bank stabilization. Greenways can be used as a tool to link and protect significant natural areas, notably threatened and endangered plant or animal species.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Types of Greenways

A system of connected open space conservation greenways combined with a system of connected recreation / trails greenways creates a powerful greenways network, supporting conservation, recreation, and “alternative” transportation. Any segment in the combined system can be considered a greenway that forms a link in the system. The types of greenways can be viewed as a continuum from undeveloped and protected land at one extreme to on-road bicycle facilities on the other.

A CONTINUUM OF GREENWAY CONNECTIONS

		Facility Type	Facility Function	Typical Context
1	Open Space Hub/Corridor	Natural area - no public access	Conservation	Natural area protecting unique habitat, species, water resources, or geologic feature
2	Open Space Hub/Corridor	Natural area - public access gravel or natural surface	Conservation /Recreation	Natural area or park that includes public recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, etc.
3	Open Space Hub/Corridor	Natural area - public access hard surface	Conservation/ Recreation/ Transportation	Natural or open space area/corridor (utility corridor, stream buffer, etc.) that has a hard surface multi-use trail
4	Off-Road Corridor/Connector	Multi-use path – hard surface	Recreation/Transportation	Off road multi-use path in a developed area without a significant natural or open space surrounding/buffer; usually suburban or urban context
5	On-Road Connector	Shared use roadway/ bike lane/sidewalks	Recreation/Transportation	On-road bicycle facility and/or sidewalk system

Considered as “stand alone” facilities, on-road bicycle facilities, as one example, do not fit the image that many people have of a greenway. However, roadways can sometimes form the only possible linkages in a greenway system, allowing people to enjoy access to parks, open space and natural areas. People can then move through the developed and undeveloped landscapes “seamlessly” along a continuum of pathways.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

The system of natural areas has at one end of the spectrum protected areas that may recommend prohibiting access. These may be connected to other less restricted natural areas where trails invite people to enjoy the natural context. The continuum extends into areas where the only undeveloped land may be found in places like utility corridors and neighborhood parks.

Both trails and open space benefit from their connection to a larger network. These two networks are closely related, their connection most clearly seen in pictures of rail trails or hiking trails located in lovely natural settings. Trails often provide a powerful incentive for protecting natural areas – and natural areas often lend themselves to recreational activities and trails. There is great value in considering these networks in combination, under a single umbrella concept: the greenways system - creating connections across the landscape. Those who advocate connections that serve natural systems may also provide the context for trail systems – and vice versa. The model of the Lycoming County Greenway is based on this system of connectors and hubs, in conjunction with the conservation and recreational greenways.

The *conservation greenways* include habitat protection areas and wildlife corridors or conduits for travel.

The *recreational/ trails greenways* include three types:

- Motorized: ATV'ing, snowmobiling
- Non-motorized: hiking, /walking, cross county skiing, horseback riding, off and on road biking
- Water: motor or non-motor boating, water skiing

The conservation greenway can be made up of connectors or “spokes”, and nodes, “hubs” that can also link to recreation greenways. A hub can be a significant natural, historical or cultural resources node such as an old lumber town with a general store along the creek; they can also be a large hub such as a state park where several types of greenways - such as a bike trail, water trail and conservation greenway – have potential to converge.

Step/Process for the Development of the Conceptual Lycoming County Greenway Plan

The process of developing the conceptual Lycoming County Greenway Plan was based in part on the *Action Plan* developed by DCNR. These steps are as follows:

- Inventory potential greenway network components, including both green and gray infrastructure.
- Analyze the inventory to create a graphic of potential greenway corridors as well as destinations and resources that could benefit from protection within greenway corridors.
- Evaluate potential greenway corridors and destinations to identify a potential network by locating intersections and closing gaps between potential greenway corridors and destinations where possible.
- Prepare a Greenways Concept Plan illustrating the framework of the desired greenway network and identifying broad corridors for the future development of specific greenway implementation.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- Establish criteria for prioritizing greenway opportunities.

Greenway Analysis

Potential demand and use of Greenways

The greenway survey results produced during the development of the *Action Plan* revealed that there is strong support in the Commonwealth for the creation of more greenways. More than 80% of those surveyed said that they have used a greenway and 93% support creation of new greenways. Furthermore, in the current update of the Pennsylvania Recreation Plan, new survey data indicates that there is “strong agreement that greenways should link neighborhoods, parks and communities throughout the state. Greenways were recognized by 66% of the respondents as having a positive affect on property values.

Similarly, the results of the 2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey indicated a highly favorable response towards expansion of the existing greenways and trail systems. Most respondents agreed that it is important to protect open space such as streams, woodlands and fields; 65 % think it is very important followed by 28% who think it is important. Over 97% of respondents think it is important to maintain forestland for ecological and recreational purposes as well as to protect natural plant buffers along stream corridors. More than 85 % think it is important to keep forestland available for timber production, and only 20% of the respondents think outdoor recreation opportunities for tourism should be not be expanded and enhanced.

With regard to recreation the 2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey indicated that walking and fitness was the most popular activity, with 86% of respondents considering their communities a safe place to walk and ride a bike. Priority needs were identified for cross country, bicycling trails, local walking and biking trails in populated areas with links to open space, schools and neighborhoods. Additionally, the participation in the following activities was indicated as likely to increase, producing a demand for additional facilities: ATV riding, bicycling, hiking, horseback riding. Respondents to the survey indicated support for trail development following these priorities: Walking/hiking trails, off road family biking, ADA / Handicap Accessible Trails, cross-country ski trails, water trails, off road mountain- biking, horseback riding trails, rollerblading / inline skating, on road biking, ATV Trails and snowmobile Trails. In development of recreation/greenway trails, bikeways should respect the following principles:

- Complement efforts to develop community bikeways and an interconnecting County-wide and regional bikeway system.
- Connect the major residential areas with employment centers and recreational facilities to ensure optimal usage as an intermodal strategy
- Provide an outstanding recreational experience and a non-motorized vehicle transportation alternative to reduce traffic congestion and maintain clean air which will contribute to an overall improvement in the quality of life in Lycoming County.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Inventory

Development may be necessary for economic growth, however, development can respect land stewardship values to promote sustainable growth for future generations. A balance between growth and preservation of natural resources is what we need today, as planners, developers, landscape architects, and engineers make attempts to mitigate or protect these resources. As the first step, an inventory of natural and cultural resources was performed to determine hubs and nodes within the County. This chapter provides a general description of natural resources at a countywide scale, followed by the inventory of some of the prominent cultural resources in Lycoming County.

The data developed for the inventory of the potential greenway network is derived from existing documents and GIS data. Lycoming County GIS database overlay maps were created, showing the following features:

- Green Infrastructure – Public park and recreation areas, streams, floodways, floodplains, wetlands, water supply areas, carbonate geology, Natural/Wild Areas, Agricultural lands, Natural Areas Inventory sites, conservation easement areas, flood buyout properties, scenic vistas, State Forest and Game Lands, historic sites, schools, and scenic areas.
- Grey Infrastructure – Communities, schools, roads, railroad and utility corridors, hunting camps, campgrounds, State Trails, Rail Trail, and existing bike paths.

The grey and green network (environmental and man made resources) interact and subsequently influence the process for the connection of a greenway throughout communities. More specific to greenways development are the historic and cultural resources, recreation facilities and parkland, scenic resources, farmland and large areas of open space and forests that create hubs within the system, and may need some level of protection or enhancement for use by wildlife or as public recreation.

Of the 67 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lycoming County is the largest in land area, encompassing 1215.5 square miles or 777,920 acres. This area has a wealth of natural, historic and cultural resources which enrich the lives of residents and attract tourists, and the county's mountains, woodlands, wildlife, vegetation, water and scenic resources are the foundation of a rich cultural heritage. As the rate of land development grows faster than population increases, problems related to land development becomes more apparent. Changes to the land create new patterns of land use which can threaten the ecological functioning. The more drastic changes in the ratio between the natural and developed land can result in habitat fragmentation, low biodiversity, degradation of water quality and the decreased ability for the ecosystem to respond to change. Greenways can reverse some of these impacts by protecting and buttressing the natural resource systems and connecting them as discussed in the environmental benefits section of this report.

Natural Resources

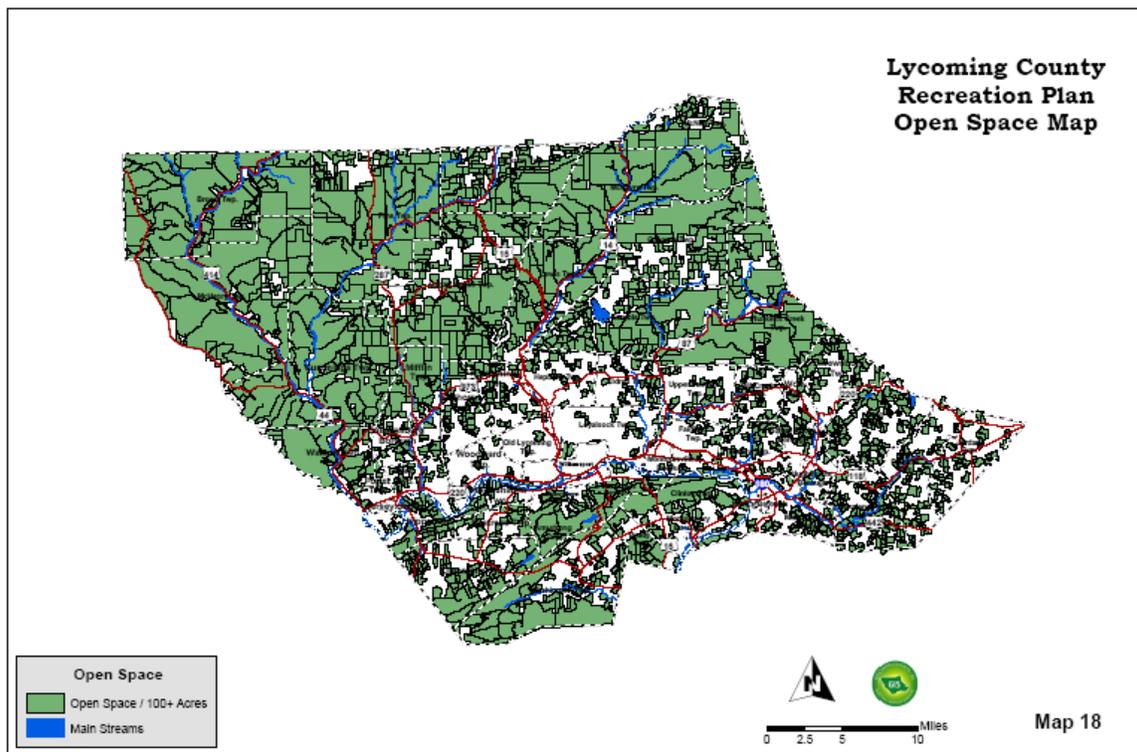
Lycoming County is a county rich in scenic and natural resources, including mountains, woodlands, wildlife, vegetation, and water sources. These resources form unique and scenic landscapes. In this report, natural resources found in the county are divided into two broad categories: water resources and land resources. Water resources include rivers and streams,

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

wetlands, and groundwater. Land resources include topography and forests. Information described in this section is derived from the 2006 amended *Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan* and *A Natural Areas Inventory of Lycoming County* (1993). A Natural Resources Protection Area Map is included in the Map Book.

Open Space

The major development centers of the county are located along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. An abundance of open lands exist adjacent to developed communities as well as within the floodplain. The water resource of the river is the largest in the county by a wide margin, and prime scenic areas and farmlands are found along much of the river frontage.



Major open areas adjacent to the river create a scenic corridor - as seen from the river- that gives the visual appearance of being in a remote area. The Open Space Map shows that there is a significant percentage of open space remaining in the County.

The Muncy Creek area has much open space and flood prone land; excellent farmland is also found throughout the valley. In general, this area is under increasing development pressure, with the stream corridor from the river at Muncy upstream to Tivoli undergoing a significant amount of residential development.

A large concentration of State Forest land is located along the ridges and mountainsides of Bald Eagle, North White Deer and South White Deer Mountains. This state land, in fact, can be followed without interruption for many miles to the southwest - almost to the Raystown Reservoir in the Huntingdon area. The Mid-state trail provides a linkage from the southwest into

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Lycoming County. The area has major significance to our county as well as other counties to the south, as it is a swath of primitive forestland and expansive ridge tops with developing lands very nearby. Much of this area is of scenic value, with high quality streams throughout.

The Loyalsock Creek and tributary basins from Loyalsockville north are of very high natural quality. The high basin area of Rose and Beech Valley is among the most scenic and unique landscapes in the county and region, and is undergoing an increase in residential development—as permitted by current land use ordinances. The lower reach of Loyalsock Creek is moderately undeveloped in character, offering valuable opportunities for open space preservation and use. Prime farmland is located over much of the gently sloped flood plain, and wooded areas cover steep slopes that drop directly to the creek in some places. Residential development is growing near the creek, with increasing development pressures in the area from Loyalsockville (Rt. 973) to the Susquehanna River. Land in the Borough of Montoursville, and at the mouth of the creek, includes very natural environment, and offers community value since it is nearly surrounded by urbanized lands.

The Lycoming Creek watershed from Trout Run Village north is exceptional in natural, scenic and recreational character. Water quality is high and vast amounts of State land exist. Farmland or meadow land is found in much of the valley, with the rest of the areas being in forest cover. While a great conglomeration of commercial, industrial and residential land use is located along the Lycoming Creek Road, much of the creek frontage itself is not heavily developed. Several large parcels of open space remain; however, population through much of this area is high and development pressures are increasing. Residential areas near the creek house many people and rapid growth is extending from the creek into the adjacent hills. Demand exists, and will grow, for open areas, recreational space, and linkage from one developed area to another. Much flood plain is found, as are steep slopes rising from the creek in some places. Recent acquisition of land from the flood buyout program has increased open space areas within the floodplain.

Larry's Creek watershed is characterized as a gently sloping stream valley with large forested areas, agricultural fields in the rolling hills, and sparse development throughout. There are large land holdings by private fishing and hunting clubs in the mountains to the north; many of these properties are in the clean and green program for conservation. An additional large area of land is owned by the Jersey Shore Joint Water Authority (JSJWA), and serves as a public water supply.

The Pine Creek Valley and watershed is one of the most unique in the state, falling within the parameters of Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. Steep slopes rise 800 feet above the valley floor. Water of relatively high quality flows through a region where state ownership includes over half of the land. Wilderness areas remain on many tributaries through Pine and Little Pine Creek in a concentration greater than any other areas of the county. The valleys of Pine and Little Pine are rated as the most scenic landscapes of the county and provide valuable recreation areas for hunters, fishermen, hikers and campers.

Natural Areas Inventory

A Natural Areas Inventory of Lycoming County (NAI) was prepared by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1993. It contains information on the locations of rare, threatened and endangered species and of the highest quality of the natural areas in the county. TNC provided rankings for

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

the top five sites that are most critical to protect to maintain biological diversity into the future. The top five sites, Crystal Lake Camp Wetlands, Sand Spring Barren, Eiswert Cave and Eiswert Limestone Glade, Clay Mine Swamp, and Mohn Mill Ponds, will be discussed in more detail in the greenway development section as they impact the conservation greenway strategy in each watershed.

Water Resources

Rivers and Streams

Lycoming County is completely situated within the Susquehanna River Basin. The major water body, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, runs almost horizontally through the county for a distance of 33 miles. This river collects all the water from numerous tributaries (total of 2200 miles in length) formed within the surrounding mountains. Major tributaries include Pine Creek, Little Pine Creek, Larry's Creek, Lycoming Creek, Loyalsock Creek, and Muncy Creek. Lycoming County waters support various fish species. Rainbow, brook and brown trout, panfish, large and small mouth bass, and muskellunge live in rivers, streams, and lakes throughout the county, and are highly valued by fisherman throughout the region. For a more detailed discussion of specific streams refer to Priority Greenway Corridors. A Watershed Map and a Special Protection Watersheds Map are included in the Map Book.

Wetlands

Wetlands are important habitats necessary to the survival of a host of aquatic and terrestrial species and integral parts of the hydrologic system necessary for the maintenance of water supplies, water quality and flood control. Three indications for wetlands include hydric soils, plants adapted to life in wet environments, and the presence of water during the growing season. Lycoming County encompasses 4,645 acres of wetlands. The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) areas have been identified, and wetlands identified as part of the NAI should be included as part of an open space protection plan due to their impacts on water quality. NWI maps are general indicators of wetlands in the County; site specific determinations of wetlands should be conducted as part of implementation plans for specific greenway segments.

Groundwater

Groundwater begins with surface water seeping into the ground. Below the surface, the water moves along two paths; some is taken up by the soil, and some is drawn by gravity to greater depths. The glacial lake and stream deposits are the most productive sources of ground water in Lycoming County. These deposits underlay the majority of the industrial areas in the County and have been exploited for large supplies of water at numerous locations. Much of Lycoming County relies on groundwater as a source of drinking water, therefore protection of this resource is essential to preserve the quality of life in the county.

Stormwater Management

A number of watersheds within the county are experiencing stormwater management problems, some of which are severe. This contributes to flood damages, degraded water quality, and a reduction in the biodiversity. Design of controls for managing stormwater should incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs), and infiltration to improve the quality of discharges and runoff. The County has completed an Act 167 Comprehensive Watershed Stormwater Plan for Grafius/Miller's/McClures run watershed, and is in the process of developing a Lycoming Creek

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Plan. This Plan will be implemented through a comprehensive Stormwater Management Ordinance. A County-wide model Stormwater Ordinance is also being developed. Floodplain Map and Special Protection Watersheds Map are included in the Map Book.

Land Resources

Topography

Lycoming County is located within two geomorphic provinces, the Appalachian Plateau Province and the Valley and Ridge Province. The Appalachian Plateau, differentiated by rolling hills deeply dissected by steep stream valleys, is found the north of the Susquehanna River. The Allegheny Front, the distinctive wall of mountains north of Williamsport, separates the two provinces. The Ridge and Valley Province, a series of sharp-crested ridges and narrow valleys, is found south of the Susquehanna River, extending in an arc from southwest to northeast across the central part of the state. Areas of steep slope mainly follow stream valleys, especially in the northern region beyond the Allegheny Front. A Slope Percentage Map is included in the Map Book.

Forest

Woodlands play a functional role in the landscape, helping to control runoff, soil erosion, slope stability, microclimate, and noise. They also provide recreational benefits and food for numerous species of wild life. Game species include deer, black bear, turkey, grouse, pheasant, mink, and coyote. Non-game species like otter, bobcat, mountain lion, elk, herons, bald eagle, osprey, fishers and various hawks and owls are also found in the county.

In Lycoming County, more than 70 percent of land is forested. The Existing Land Use Map shows the dramatic presence of forest within the County. Much of forest falls within the Mixed Oak Forest Region, the most common forest type in Pennsylvania. One of the most common forest types in Lycoming County is the Chestnut Oak community that is characteristic of dry ridge tops and rocky slopes. The northern half of the county is in the Allegheny Section of the Hemlock-White Pine-Northern Hardwood Region that extends from Canada south into Pennsylvania with small isolated pockets occurring farther south.

The significant natural, historic, cultural, and community features within each of the watersheds form the hubs or nodes. (For detailed descriptions refer to Priority Greenway Corridors). Parks, schools, commercial areas, community centers, transportation support facilities, significant views, historic/cultural sites have been identified by watershed to be integrated into the larger Lycoming County greenways network.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

A Watershed Approach to Greenways

A watershed is an area of land where all of the underground and surface water goes into the particular place, such as a lake or river. When surface waters run downhill, they carry all kinds of non-point source pollution (NPS), sediments and other materials into our hydrologic system depositing in streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. EPA has identified NPS pollution as one of the most significant contributing factors in the decline of watersheds and water quality. The West Branch Susquehanna River is a watershed that is impaired by NPS pollution, primarily as a result of farming, disturbed riparian buffers, and land development.

It is imperative to maintain a healthy watershed, as it directly impacts our quality of life. It provides us with essential drinking water, recreational resources including boating, fishing and swimming, scenic beauty, and hydrologic resources for irrigation of cropland, and economic development. It is recognized that the best way to protect the vital natural resources of an area is to understand and manage them on a watershed basis.

The natural major drainage patterns in Lycoming County are generally north to south flowing perpendicular into the West Branch Susquehanna River, collecting the waters of Pine Creek, Larrys Creek, Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming Creek and Muncy Creek. Many of the early towns were developed along the creeks and the roads subsequently developed around and through the towns. The streams have always been the arteries of our region, providing natural connections between diversified watersheds and communities. Because of the prominence of this development pattern, a watershed approach to planning the Lycoming County Greenway is the most pragmatic approach.

Most of land in Lycoming County falls within six watersheds. The table below shows what portion of land in each watershed lies within Lycoming County.

Watershed	Acres	% of Watershed within Lycoming Co
Pine Creek	633,867	33.8%
Larrys Creek	56,958	100%
Lycoming Creek	173,079	81%
Loyalsock Creek	317,689	33.1%
West Branch Susqueha	270,783	1.54%
Muncy Creek	131,179	64.9%

Each watershed is a complex network of natural resources – topography, water, soil, flora, fauna, etc. Each of the county's major watersheds has its own identity based on the different combinations of natural resources and human activities; logging, hunting, fishing and tourism have all shaped these watershed identities. The landscape of Lycoming County is the result of continued interaction between human activities and natural resources; as society needs natural resources for economic development.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Greenway Connections

The second phase in establishing the Lycoming County Greenway network is to analyze the comprehensive inventory of resources and create a conceptual graphic plan of potential greenway corridors for recreation and protection within the county. Appendix I lists existing hubs and nodes by Greenway Watershed Areas. Locally known and used trail systems, and the larger DCNR classification of “Greenways of Statewide Significance,” were also studied and mapped. DCNR classifies “Greenways of Statewide Significance” as passing through two or more counties, at least 50 miles in length, and are recognized in an official planning document. There are several of these greenways traversing Lycoming County - the Pine Creek Trail, Mid-State Trail, the Susquehanna Greenway, West Branch Susquehanna Water Trail and the Loyalsock Trail. The main spine or connector of the Lycoming County Greenway network will be the West Branch of the Susquehanna River as the creeks and majority of highways run north to south and intersect the west to east flowing West Branch Susquehanna River. The West Branch Susquehanna River Greenway, which is currently under development, is considered a major greenway corridor by DCNR.

Potential links and nodes related to existing and proposed recreational facilities and trail networks as well as linkages to existing trail systems, were studied. Additionally, High Quality and Exceptional Value streams were identified as priority areas for the creation/enhancement of riparian forested buffers, in conjunction with the conservation aspect of greenways.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership was formed in June 2001 by the adoption of the Susquehanna Greenway Charter. The Partnership was established through the Susquehanna Greenway Charter as an organizational foundation for public-private action and regional cooperation in the 22 Pennsylvania counties that comprise the project study area. The Lycoming County Planning Commission and the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy signed the Charter in 2001. The Lower West Branch River Conservation Plan was completed by the Conservancy in 2002. The plan covers a 77 mile study corridor from Lick Run to Sunbury, including the river and land within 1 mile of the banks. The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is the lead agency for implementation of the plan for the entire West Branch (Cambria, Indiana, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Union, Northumberland, and Lycoming Counties), with the Lycoming County Planning Commission as a major partner. Recommendations and implementation strategies pertinent to Lycoming County have been included in this plan.

Pennsylvania Wilds

Within the twelve county PA Wilds region in north central Pennsylvania there are over 6.5 million acres and only about 660,000 residents. More than two million acres is public land, including some of the most wild and scenic areas in the northeast. The Commonwealth is developing a strategy to encourage the growth of outdoor tourism and related businesses in the PA Wilds area. The goal is to enhance the visitor experience in this region, while protecting and conserving these treasured natural and



CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

cultural resources. The Initiatives include improvements to the infrastructure and services of the region. Lycoming County is included within the “Wilds”, and the Pine Creek Valley in Lycoming and Tioga Counties has been identified as one of twelve priority corridors for early implementation projects.

Land Use Compatibility

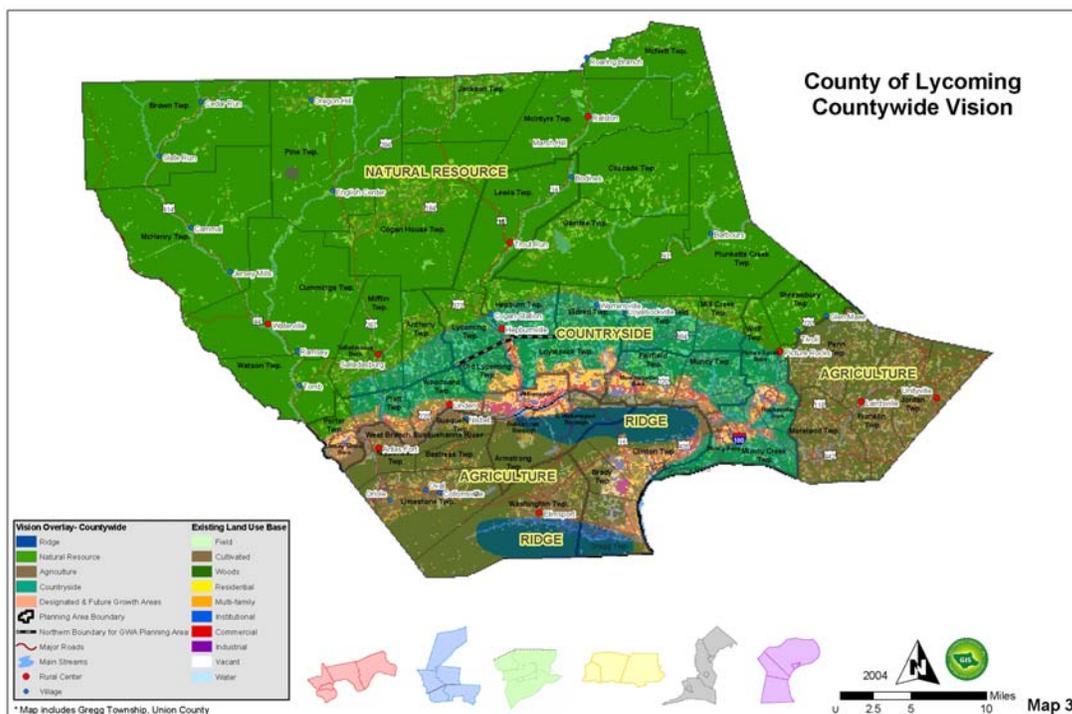
In planning how to connect to key points of interest, it was essential to understand what are, or could be, the hubs or key points or places to connect people, and evaluate significant resources and open spaces that need additional protection. The significant natural resources have been identified within each watershed from County GIS database and the NAI. These were evaluated to determine the desired level of protection needed to conserve the resource, and recommendations were made relative to the area becoming a conservation greenway.

As part of the analysis of potential greenway corridors the following questions were asked for evaluating what areas should be considered for greenways:

- Does this greenway provide opportunities for human recreation, socialization and alternative transportation without compromising the integrity of the resource?
- Will the greenway maintain or improve an important water source or natural resource?
- Does the corridor protect an important natural community, plant or wildlife habitat area?
- Does the corridor provide a strategic connection for linkage between greenways?

Land use compatibility and considerations were developed by evaluating the current land use. Refer to the Land Use Map. Additionally, the vision for countywide future land use as described in the Comprehensive Plan for Lycoming County and illustrated below, was analyzed for compatibility of existing and potential Greenway hubs, nodes, and links.

The County is and should remain characterized by five major landscape types.



CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

The Agricultural landscape is most prominent in the eastern and southern regions of the County. Here, soils readily support crop production and pasturing.

The Countryside landscape reflects the value that many residents have for a rural home setting. Development in this area will be predominantly residential with other small scale uses and some services. Public and private green spaces, such as larger parks, woodlots, and meadows, should be conserved to protect the rural character of this area. Open space in this area can also support the urban growth areas with properly preserved connections.

The Natural Resource region, i.e. forested landscape, covers the northern region of the County. The state forest and state park lands are located in this region and accompanied by thousands of acres of private forest land. This region contains the majority of County open space that supports recreation for County residents and tourists from outside the County. Agricultural uses are compatible in portions of this region, particularly in the Cogan House area.

The Ridge landscape highlights the scenic qualities of Bald Eagle Mountain, visible from the northern river bank, and the White Deer Mountains, framing the County's southern border. These are special forested areas along the ridgelines and upper slopes. Steep slopes here and in other landscape types need special protection from development and its impacts.

The Growth Areas are characterized by areas that offer readily available public services and utilities for future development. Development in the areas is encouraged. Open Space must be planned to support this development and preserved through planning and zoning techniques.

Priority Greenway Corridors

Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Greenway

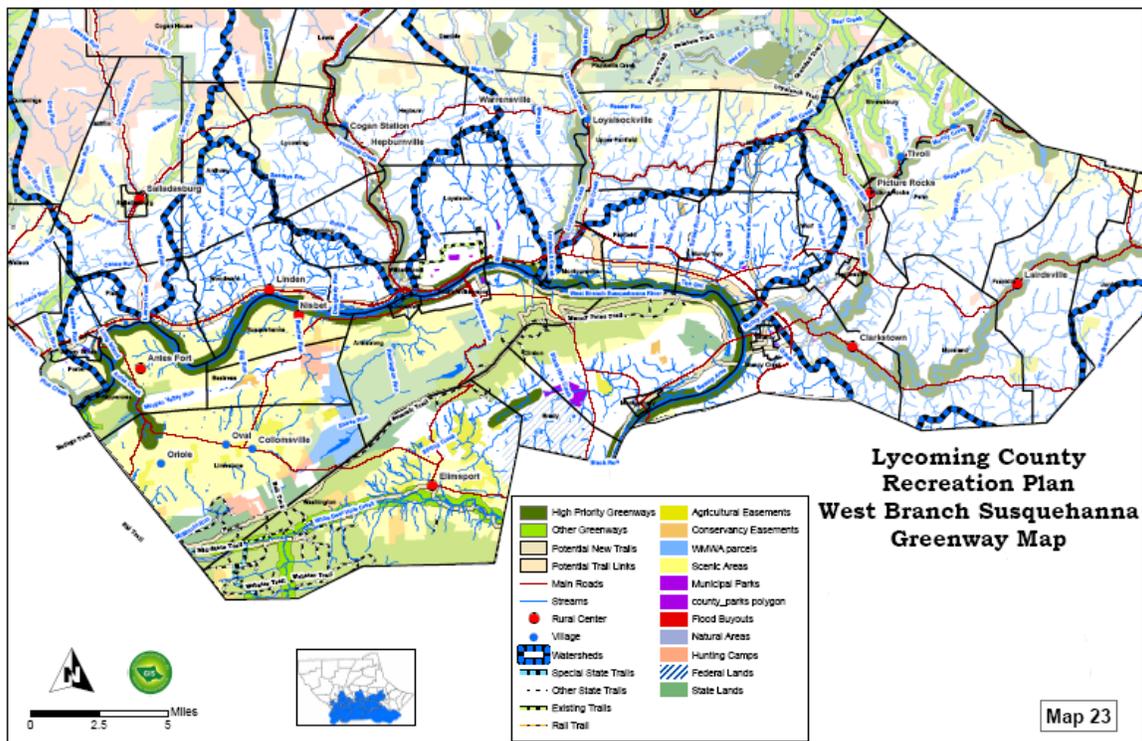
Landscape Character/Features

This region is characterized as a large river valley with farmlands and communities embraced by the Bald Eagle Ridge on the south and gently rolling hills to the north. The Bald Eagle Ridge is a prominent landscape feature, providing a connecting corridor for wildlife habitat from Williamsport southwest into Blair County; this ridge is designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. The West Branch Susquehanna River and its associated islands and floodplain forests are well worth considering in any conservation plan for the county. Small remnants of floodplain forest still exist on some of the islands and in narrow bands along the river edge. Although all have been disturbed, they still serve as migratory bird habitat and help stabilize banks and capture eroded soil during flood stages on the river.

The major development centers of the county are located along the river. An abundance of open lands exist adjacent to developed communities as well as within the floodplain. The water resource of the river is the largest in the county by a wide margin, and prime scenic areas and farmlands are found along much of the river frontage. Major open areas adjacent to the river create a scenic corridor - as seen from the river- that gives the visual appearance of being in a remote area.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Development in this valley has historically been related to the river; the mighty Susquehanna provided transportation, an abundant food and water supply, and fertile floodplains for farming. The surrounding forestlands provided timber resources for building and excellent habitat for hunting wildlife. Because of man's long period of settlement here, the region is rich in historical sites and structures. While communities were historically located along the river, recent history has seen much development in the neighboring township, as land development sprawls across the landscape. This more scattered pattern of development has resulted in loss of agricultural lands and reduction in connected wildlife habitat area. Major cities of the region acting as hubs for activities include Jersey Shore, Williamsport, South Williamsport, Montoursville, Muncy, and Montgomery, with the river and the West Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail acting as the connector between them.



Williamsport is the major hub of this valley, connecting the Lycoming Creek Valley to the West Branch Susquehanna Valley. This city offers a historic district, shopping, restaurants, lodging, Cultural Arts Center, movie theatre, Thomas Taber Historical Museum, Historic Bowman Field ('A' Division Baseball), and the Original Little League Baseball Field. There are many recreation facilities in this city, including various municipal parks, connection to the Susquehanna Trail, and a link to the Lycoming Creek Bikeway, with access to the River at Susquehanna State Park.

Jersey Shore is a hub and a gateway community, connecting the Pine Creek Valley to the West Branch Susquehanna River Valley. This Borough is rich with historic structures - including remnants of a canal, there is also a post office, restaurants, shopping, and lodging. In addition to municipal parks there is access to the following trails: trailhead for the Pine Creek Trail (connecting segment under construction), Susquehanna Trail (in the planning stages), and river access (private) at the Jersey Shore Boat Club.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Montoursville is hub that serves as a gateway connecting the Loyalsock Creek Valley to the West Branch Susquehanna River Valley. This community provides an airport, lodging, restaurants, shopping (including bicycles, skiing and camping stores), ski and boat rentals. Various recreation facilities include Indian Park, Susquehanna Trail, and a Susquehanna River boat launch.

Muncy is a hub community rich with historical sites and structures including a canal and towpath, a historic district, shopping (including nearby Lycoming Mall), restaurants, lodging, a movie theater, and river access. A new YMCA facility is being planned for this community, making it a future hub for recreation as well. Small remnants of floodplain forest still exist on some of the islands and in narrow bands along the river edge. Although all have been disturbed, they still serve as migratory bird habitat and help stabilize banks and capture eroded soil during flood stages on the river.

Montgomery is a small community that acts as a hub for the southern valley region, providing shopping, recreation areas and access to the river.

Smaller communities along the river provide various nodes of interest. Loyalsock Township offers lodging, restaurants, shopping, recreation facilities including boat launch / access points to the river, River Park, and West Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail. South Williamsport is the home of the Little League Baseball Museum and International Headquarters, a recreation complex, shopping, restaurants, lodging and access to the Susquehanna Trail.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Locally significant environments:

Williamsport City Watershed, which serves as the water supply for the city of Williamsport, but can also provide a large expanse of open space for wildlife.

BLACK HOLE CREEK NATURE AREA just south of Montgomery.

MONTGOMERY CLIFFS (a calcareous shale cliff along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River). The Montgomery Cliffs provide great views of the river and the valley below and is a great hawk-watching spot. This site may have potential as a park similar to Shikellamy State Park if no significant hazards or other problems are present.

GRAMPIAN HILLS WOODS - A small but diverse woodland supporting wildflowers is being threatened by encroaching development and logging. With its proximity to Williamsport, this area could provide an ideal undeveloped woodland park or wildflower preserve.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Upper Susquehanna Scenic Area:

Broad floodplains of one mile in width occur through this area near Pine Creek, Antes Fort and Level Corners. "Table-top" flatness, with the 100 foot rise of Bald Eagle Mountain in the background creates exceptional views. Bald Eagle is the first mountain in the Ridge and Valley Geologic province of Pennsylvania – a geographical area that extends south through Pennsylvania and Maryland. Most of the flood plain lands are farmed, being class I agricultural soil, and thick river bottom woodlands often occur along the water's edge. This area is unique with its extreme flatness and sharply contrasting rise of Bald Eagle Mountain.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Lower Susquehanna Scenic Area:

Between Montoursville and Muncy the banks of the West Branch are relatively primitive, with only the railroad and one cabin being visible from the water. This degree of wildness is very unusual for a stream as large as the Susquehanna. Many riffles and islands are found, with remote high water channels and wetland areas. The magnitude of this area does not compare with the Upper Susquehanna, however, not having the extensive flood plain reaches.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation Greenways for habitat protection.

- Black Hole Creek Nature Area, Montgomery Cliffs, and Grampian Hills Woods.

Conservation greenway for wildlife corridor, habitat connection and riparian buffers

- Bald Eagle Ridge
- West Branch Susquehanna River and its associated islands and floodplain forests.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection and riparian buffers

- Along Nichols Run.

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

A recreation greenway for non-motorized vehicles is recommended to connect points of interest, schools, historic sites, and open space and recreation areas to communities. Development of the Susquehanna Trail (planning stages) will provide this region with a trail of statewide significance; it is planned to connect Jersey Shore (gateway to Pine Creek Valley) to Montgomery, and extend south to the Union County line. The proposed corridor is as follows: travel along railroad right-of-way from the County boundary through the Borough of Montgomery. Follow existing secondary roads south of the river and connect to an old forest road, thence along an alignment along of an old forest road to the south of the rail road line, and through the Borough of South Williamsport along secondary roads. This segment of trail provides a link to the Bald Eagle highland Skyline Drive trail, and non-motorized access to the Little League International® Headquarters in South Williamsport. The "South Williamsport River Walk and Bike Trail"- is a section that includes connections across both Market Street Bridge and Maynard Street Bridge, with potential for a connection to view fish passage at the Hepburn Street Dam. "Williamsport River Walk and Bike Trail" is a section that provides connections across both Market Street Bridge and Maynard Street Bridge, following shared use local roads, potentially to include gravel roads adjacent to river lots. Alignment along SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority right-of-way may be necessary for short sections. Continuing along secondary roads and streets, this section should provide a link or links to the Jersey Shore Trail Head located just west of Jersey Shore, the southern terminus of the Pine Creek Trail. Located just west of Jersey Shore, the trailhead includes parking and comfort facilities.

Potential link trails include a corridor from Montgomery to Muncy, following the railroad right of way from this point and cross the Susquehanna River on the railroad bridge. From Muncy

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

potential trails link to the east to Lime Bluff Recreation Area, and north to the Loyalsock Greenway via Middle Road and Quaker Church Road.

The Muncy Heritage Park and Nature Trail is proposed as a development of 11 acres of historical and environmentally significant property along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. This trail will allow Muncy to showcase the history and natural beauty of Port Penn, a commercial center and residential area that grew out of and around the bustling West Branch Canal industry of the 1800s. This area includes a ½ mile section of the old canal. This proposed project is sponsored by the Muncy Historical Society and Museum of History.

A potential link trail westward connects Muncy to the Lycoming Mall and Montoursville following this proposed corridor: North on North Main Street (Muncy), west on John Brady Drive, following Lycoming Mall Road west into Montoursville, turning north onto Fairview Drive passing McCall Middle School and recreation complex, and connecting to the Susquehanna Bikeway at Indian Park in Montoursville. From this point a potential trail extends north along Route 87, connecting the Susquehanna Greenway to the Loyalsock Greenway.

Muncy Creek /Little Muncy Creek Greenway

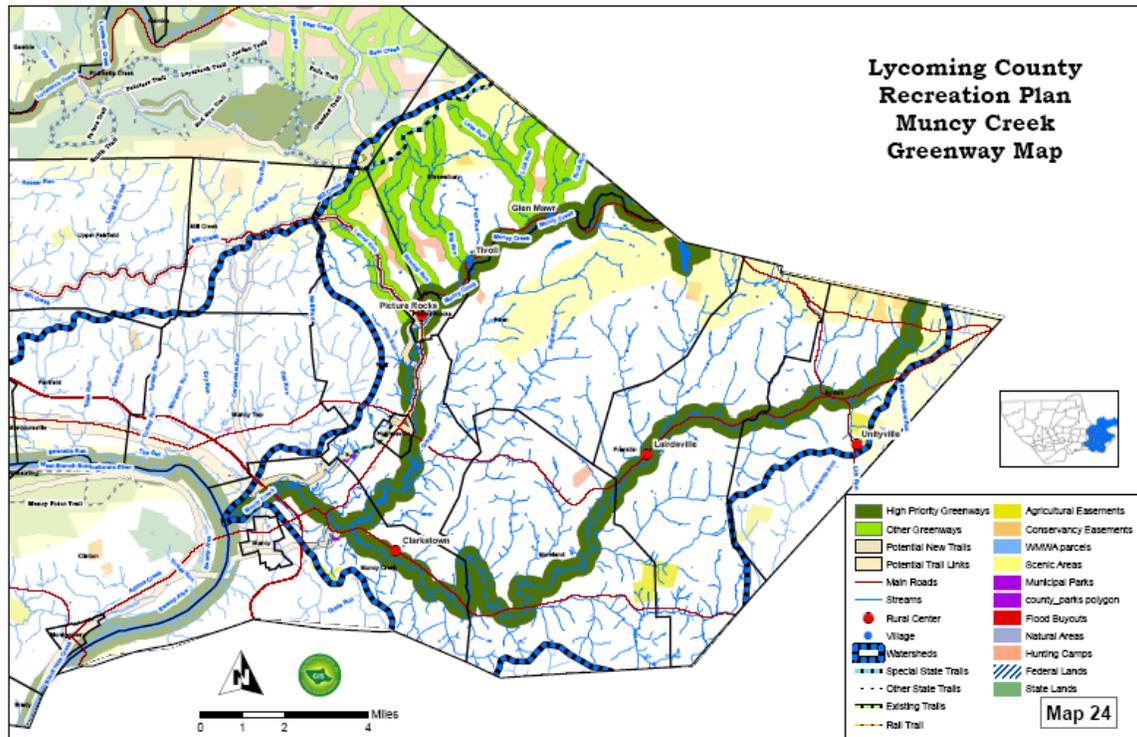
Landscape Character / Features

This region is characterized as gently sloping, active farmland, much of which is in the agricultural security district and the Clean and Green Program. The land is largely zoned for agriculture and large lot residential development. The glaciated plain of this area has wide open valley with rolling hills with scattered development and small communities throughout. North Mountain is a defining landscape feature, separating the Muncy Creek and Little Muncy Creek watersheds. With the exception of several scattered large-land tracts owned by private sporting clubs, the land is privately controlled. Generally, the creeks are low gradient streams, laden with sediment.

The Muncy Creek area has much open space and flood prone land; excellent farmland is also found throughout the valley. In general, this area is under increasing development pressure, with the stream corridor from the river at Muncy upstream to Tivoli undergoing a significant amount of residential development.

The sparse development throughout these valleys consists of small communities, with Hughesville acting as a hub. Hughesville offers shopping, restaurants, lodging, churches, County Fairgrounds, recreation complexes. There is an existing bikeway between the community, school and Lime Bluff Recreation Area. There is a planned connection bikeway from Lime Bluff Recreation Area to Muncy, with potential corridor from Muncy to Hughesville and Picture Rocks, and a general connection to Lycoming Mall to be included. Picture Rocks is another hub in this region with a Hardware/General Store, churches, borough recreation area, a sense of community with architectural integrity retained, and The Rocks – Native American Indian painted rocks. Clarkstown is a hub within the Little Muncy Creek watershed with a shopping center and gas station. Recreational hubs include Lime Bluff Recreation Area in Wolf Township, and Van Rensselaer Park in Picture Rocks.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS



Smaller communities in the area include Lairdsville which offers a CE Campground, restaurant, and groceries, Biggertown has gas, food and a carwash, Unityville has a post office and gas store, and Lungerville has Swisher's General Store (historic) located on the scenic Route 42 corridor. In addition to these small towns there are the following nodes of interest in this region. The Brock Estate, a large land holding (+/- 1000 acres) with a historical cluster of buildings including mansion houses, a colonial farmhouse and cemetery in Halls Station. Pennsdale - a community with retained historical integrity with a Quaker Meeting House, Country Store Meat Market and auction house, and Hughesville Raceway and Keiss Park. In the northeastern area of this watershed there is a quaint country store in Strawbridge, and Beaver Lake, which has a portion of the lake shoreline developed with seasonal and permanent residences and is primarily used for recreation.

Good fishing opportunities exist on Muncy Creek, Big Run, Laurel Run, Roaring Run, Rock Run, and Lick Run.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Habitats for species of concern:

A healthy population of a PA-Endangered aquatic plant was found in Beaver Lake; although lake drawdown and herbicide application to control aquatic plants are potential threats to the persistence. Additionally, a PA - Animal of Concern has been observed in the lake; drawdown of the lake, development of the lakeshore, and poor water quality of the lake are threats to this animal species.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Eastern Lycoming Scenic Area:

This rolling farmland offers views with a unique perspective of the county. One can look both up and down the Susquehanna River Valley and across the shale hills belt to the Allegheny Front. The entire eastern end of Bald Eagle Mountain is seen, as well as much of the Washington Valley between North and South White Deer Mountains. The lack of exceptional relief or water within this scenic area causes it to be lower in magnitude than other areas. Throughout the eastern portion of Lycoming County, many hilltop sites offer exceptional views. The area selected is higher than other similar places, and it is closer to the Allegheny Front and Bald Eagle Mountain.

Allegheny Front Scenic Area:

Being the longest of the areas mapped, this follows the Allegheny mountain range from Pine Creek in the west to North Mountain at the Sullivan County line. The area holds much geographic importance, being the break or escarpment between the Allegheny Plateau and the Ridge and Valley Province – two major landform areas of the state. The Front marks an abrupt rise in elevation from 500 to over 1000 feet through the county. Major stream valleys have cut through the Front at places such as at Tomb (Pine Creek), Powys (Lycoming Creek) and just north of Loyalsockville (Loyalsock Creek). The Front is a background to rolling farmland, making an exceptionally scenic area. The area can be seen from many high locations in the county, as it is the major mountain range north of the river.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation greenway for habitat protection and riparian buffers.

- Big Run, Laurel Run, Lick Run, Roaring Run, Rock Run and tributaries to the first order.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection.

- Beaver Lake and its shoreline.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection. Type 2- limited access.

- Spring Run.

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

A recreation/trail greenway for non-motorized vehicles is recommended to connect points of interest, schools, historic sites, and open space and recreation areas to communities. This proposed greenway would connect to the Susquehanna Trail and follow East Lime Bluff Road, then an abandoned railroad grade through East Lycoming Recreation Area and the Ashkar Elementary School in Hughesville, where it would follow SR 0220 to Picture Rocks. A link trail on Route 864 would connect this greenway to the Susquehanna Greenway. An additional link is recommended to connect Muncy Creek Township's Keiss Park to Muncy and the Susquehanna Trail.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

There is also potential for an inter-county trail / recreation greenway extending a link from Picture Rocks to Eagles Mere. Eagles Mere is a resort community in Sullivan County, with recreation opportunities including a golf course, trails, and annual bobsled run. An abandoned railroad grade connects these areas, but has since reverted to private ownership.

Nippenose Valley – Elimsport Greenway

Landscape Character / Features

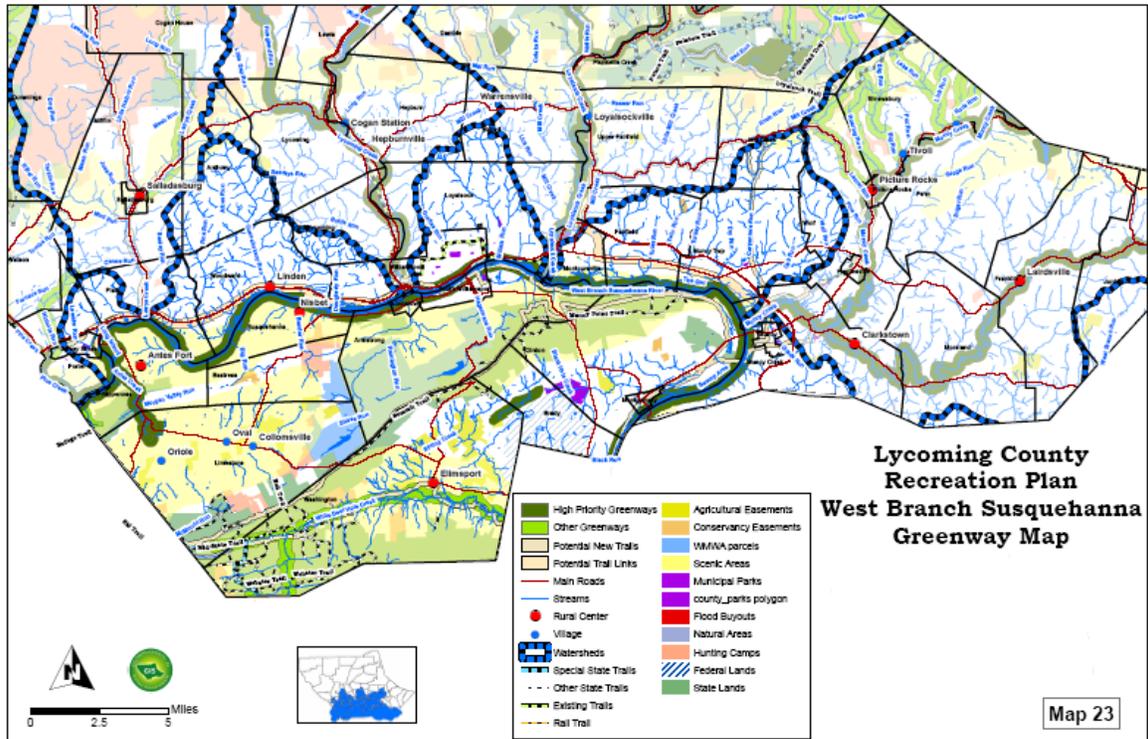
This area is the northern edge of Pennsylvania's Ridge and Valley Province; folded geology produces a landscape character of steep sided mountains alternating with broad limestone valleys. These forested mountain contain spring-fed streams that provide excellent habitat as trout production waters. This stream flow combined with the rich valley soils produce a region of prime agricultural lands of scenic beauty, with sparse development throughout the valleys. The small communities scattered throughout the valley are residential in nature.

The mountains are primarily forested, with large tracts of the mountain land owned by the PA Bureau of Forestry and the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority (this serves as a municipal water supply). The limestone geology of the valley provides excellent aquifer recharge, but this represents a sensitive area that deserves protection in order to maintain and improve the integrity of groundwater supplies; this is especially important in the closed limestone valley around Oval.

A large concentration of State Forest land is located along the ridges and mountainsides of Bald Eagle, North White Deer and South White Deer Mountains. This state land, in fact, can be followed without interruption for many miles to the southwest - almost to the Raystown Reservoir in the Huntington area. The Mid-state trail provides a linkage from the southwest into Lycoming County. The area has major significance to our county as well as other counties to the south, as it is a swath of primitive forestland and expansive ridgetops with developing lands very nearby. Much of this area is of scenic value, with high quality streams throughout.

Elimsport acts as a hub for this region, offering the communities an Amish tack shop, restaurant and store (which is now closed). Historical sites and structures offer nodes of interest in the region - including six pillars from the original Capitol Building in Harrisburg, dispersed throughout the community of Antes Fort. Other community nodes of interest include Alvira, a former town with historic structures, church and cemetery, and Maple Hill – with the Maple Hill Sinks that appears to be the largest and least disturbed sinkhole pond system in Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS



Recreation trails in the area include: Aughanbaugh Run Woods trails for hiking and hunting, Merrill Linn Trail at Mohn Mill Ponds for nature walks, the Mid State Trail which connects Mohn Mill Ponds to the Central Mountains Multi-use Trail, and the Williamsport Municipal Water Company Lands have gated roads allowing biking, hiking and cross-country skiing (no fishing permitted). White Deer Hole Creek is a HQ-CWF with headwaters that support native brook trout; this stream is important to the county as a recreational resource.

The communities of Bastress, Oval, Collomsville and Oriole lie within an area of geological significance as it is a “closed” limestone valley within the mountains. In addition to providing the region with good aquifer recharge, the underlying geology makes this region rich in significant natural areas.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Habitats for rare species:

EISWERT LIMESTONE GLADE is a Calcareous Rocky Summit natural community that harbors at least two rare plants and has potential for other rare plants and animals.

MOHN MILL PONDS is a vernal pond community consisting of approximately 28 woodland ponds scattered over a mile of state forest land in Lycoming and Union County. The woodland buffer is essential to maintaining the community quality and the resident rare species

Significant natural communities:

MAPLE HILL SINKS is a series of five limestone sinkholes ranging in size from 0.5 to 4 acres over a distance of 1.4 miles. The sinkholes are ringed by forest and beyond the forest boundary are agricultural fields and low-density housing development. This area provides habitat to an excellent,

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

vigorous population of a rare sedge. The area is fed by sand springs, seeps and runoff from the surrounding valley. During rainy periods, the sinkholes fill to a depth exceeding 10 feet and become connected by a small stream. Maple Hill Sinks appears to be the largest and least disturbed sinkhole pond system in Pennsylvania.

Locally significant environments:

EISWERT CAVE is one of only 30 sites known in Pennsylvania for a threatened animal (currently holds the largest concentrations in the state) and also an animal of special concern.

NIPPENOE SPRING (“Enchanted” spring) is the largest second-magnitude spring (flow 5,000 – 20,000 gals. per minute) in Pennsylvania.

NIPPENOSE VALLEY WOODS is a locally significant, diverse, mesic woodland surrounding several seasonally flooded limestone sinkholes.

ANTES CREEK is a limestone creek that is significant to this region for it's neutralizing value to the acidity of the West Branch Susquehanna River. Additionally, Aughenbaugh Run, Morgan Valley Run, McMurrin Run, White Deer Hole Creek and its tributary Spring Creek are HQ-CWF streams worthy of conservation corridors.

AUGHANBAUGH RUN WOODS is a natural area that has large (2.5 – 3' diameter) trees and clear cold streams, with trails for hiking and hunting; foot trails could be improved or expanded with no adverse effects.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Nippenose Valley Scenic Area:

The oval-shaped valley from which the Village of Oval gets its name constitutes most of this area. Much farm and open land lies in the Limestone Valley and along the rolling foothills. Bald Eagle and North White Deer Mountains form a high-forested ring around the valley. The lack of water and encroaching development cause this area to be rated lower than South White Deer, which is a similar Limestone Valley. Extensive wild lands and a more confined space are also found in the South White Deer area.

South White Deer Scenic Area:

Sometimes known as Upper Washington Valley, this area lies between the high ridges of North White Deer and South White Deer Mountains. The village of Elimsport lies within the valley, and White Deer Hole Creek drains the watershed. Steep mountain sides are heavily forested and laced with many small streams of excellent water quality. Most of the lowlands are formed. Being a limestone valley in the Ridge and Valley Province of Pennsylvania, this area is unique to the others discussed thus far. The valley's remoteness, being bounded by the two high mountain ranges, make it even more exceptional.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation greenways for habitat protection and riparian buffers.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Along Antes Creek, Aughenbaugh Run, Morgan Valley Run, McMurrin Run, White Deer Hole Creek and it's tributary Spring Creek - and tributaries to the first order.

Conservation Greenways for habitat protection

Aughanbaugh Run Woods.

Conservation Greenways for habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 – no access.

Eiswert Cave, Eiswert Limestone Glade, Nippenoe Spring, Nippenose Valley Woods, Maple Hill Sinks

Conservation Greenways for habitat protection/riparian buffer. Type 2 – limited access.

Mohn Mill Ponds,

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

A recreation greenway for non-motorized vehicles is recommended to connect points of interest, schools, historic sites, and open space and recreation areas to communities. This proposed greenway would begin at the intersection of the (planned) Susquehanna Trail and Armstrong Road, following Armstrong Road to (and crossing) Route 15 to Skyline Drive through the Williamsport Water Company lands to Route 44. Crossing Route 44 to Vandyke Road, and traveling into Clinton County to connect to the Central Mountain Trail and Mid State Trail, then following Cove Road to the hub of ElimSPORT, and taking Back Road as a connection to the Susquehanna Trail south of Montgomery. The Susquehanna Trail is a planned, inter-county trail.

Loyalsock Creek Greenway

Landscape Character / Features

This watershed has three distinct landscape characters. The upper reach is a narrow, moderate gradient, glaciated creek valley surrounded by forested mountains with flat tops and steep side slopes. The Loyalsock State Forest in this region is designated as Important Bird Areas by the Audubon Society. The central reach has a wider stream and floodplain, with fertile agricultural land surrounded by moderate rolling hills with scattered development dispersed amidst agricultural fields. The lower reach is a lower gradient stream, passing through the gently sloped floodplain of the West Branch Susquehanna River. Loyalsock Creek is excellent for canoeing in high water and has good quality for swimming.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

The southern edge of the Allegheny Ridge is a defining landscape feature, meeting the northern edge of rolling shale hills located near the community of Farragut.

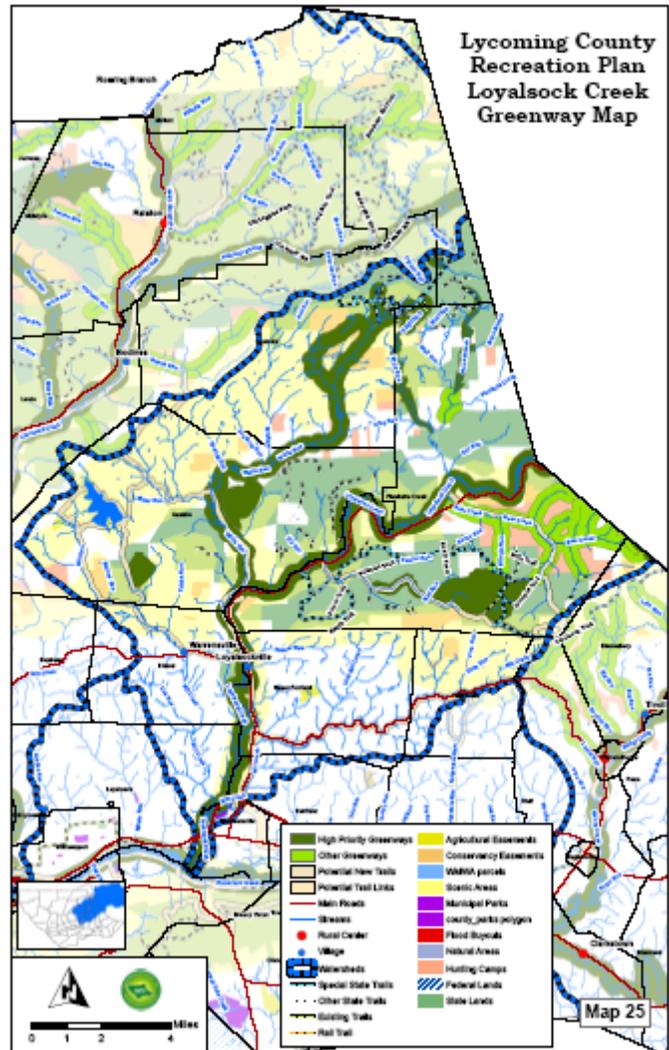
The Loyalsock Creek and tributary basins from Loyalsockville north are of very high natural quality. The high basin area of Rose and Beech Valley is among the most scenic and unique landscapes in the county and region, and is undergoing an increase in residential development– as permitted by current land use ordinances.

The lower reach of Loyalsock Creek is moderately undeveloped in character, offering valuable opportunities for open space preservation and use. Prime farmland is located over much of the gently sloped flood plain, and wooded areas cover steep slopes that drop directly to the creek in some places. Residential development is growing near the creek, with increasing development pressures in the area from

Loyalsockville (Rt. 973) to the Susquehanna River. Land in the Borough of Montoursville, and at the mouth of the creek, includes very natural environment, and offers community value since it is nearly surrounded by urbanized lands.

Montoursville is hub that serves as a gateway connecting the Loyalsock Creek Valley to the West Branch Susquehanna River Valley. This community provides an airport, lodging, restaurants, shopping (including bicycles, skiing and camping stores), ski and boat rentals. Various recreation facilities include Indian Park, Susquehanna Bikeway, and a Susquehanna River boat launch.

Farragut is a hub in this region; accessed by the Route 87 shared use bikeway it offers Eder's dairy / ice cream shop, a church and a connection to eastern greenways via Route 864. Rider Park is a private land holding with a pavilion and hiking trails that offer views across the West Branch Susquehanna River Valley and across the Loyalsock Valley from a prominent point on the Allegheny Ridge. The other hubs in this region are Warrensville, which provides the area with a tackle shop and Loyalsockville. Loyalsockville has a General Store, beer distributor, restaurant, recycling center, Route 87 shared use bikeway, access to the Loyalsock Trail (approximately 3 miles north along Route 87). Recreational hubs in this watershed include



CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Rose Valley Lake, Crystal Lake Recreation Area, Indian Park in Montoursville and Riverfront Park in Loyalsock Township.

Nodes of interest in this watershed include Camp Genesee is a privately owned old logging village located with a prominent view across the region; there are historic structures throughout this village. Proctor has a General Store, bed and breakfast, and gas station. Additional nodes of interest are Barbours (with a farm, bed and breakfast), Rider Park, Consolidated Sportsmens' Club, Route 87 Speedway, and Loyalsock Valley School and playground.

Approximately 60% of the northern region is either State Forest land, State Game Land or Private Sportsmens' Clubs. These lands provide large continuous areas for wildlife habitat, and offer great opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking. The Loyalsock Trail and Old Loggers Path are both scenic trails for backpacking through this region. Excellent fishing opportunities exist on Little Bear Creek, Dry Run, the main stem of Plunketts Creek, Wallis Run, Engle Run, Noon Branch, Mock Creek, Reibsan Run, West Branch Mill Creek, King Run and Wolf Run.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Habitats for rare species:

SAND SPRING BARREN hosts rare moth species

WELLS MOUNTAIN intermittently hosts a globally-rare animal species.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMP WETLANDS supports what appears to be a healthy population of a butterfly and good populations of three dragonflies of special concern, including one that is a globally rare species.

MILL CREEK SWAMP provides habitat for a PA Rare plant.

Significant natural communities:

ENGLE RUN SITE is a natural community and a DER Exceptional Value (EV) Stream throughout its basin to its confluence with Kings Run west of Proctor. The site is very scenic with steep rock faces and waterfalls, and is the habitat for two rare plant species - the site is important as it is only one of five sites for one of these species in Pennsylvania.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMP WETLANDS is a series of open peatlands, vernal ponds and beaver ponds with an abundance of large cranberry, which support rare species.

NOON BRANCH is a High Gradient Clearwater Creek Community and DEP Exceptional Value (EV) stream throughout its basin in Lycoming and Sullivan Counties to its confluence with Wolf Run

Locally significant environments:

LITTLE BEAR CREEK RAVINE, scenic area with HQ-CWF stream and diverse vegetation.

JACOBY HOLLOW WOODS is a locally significant example of the vegetation of the Hemlock-White Pine-Northern Hardwoods Region and provides for good recreation opportunities within Tiadaghton State Forest.

CASCADE FALLS is a small waterfall and plungepool community with a hemlock overstory bordering the stream is a very scenic spot.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Loyalsock Scenic Area:

Steep valley slopes, clean waters and a great deal of wild land area make the Loyalsock an attractive scenic area. Without the “competition” for scenic values of Pine Creek, Little Pine Creek and Upper Lycoming the Loyalsock would rate higher in scenic evaluation. These other areas are similar in nature, however, with characteristics that are more outstanding. Steeper and more dramatic valley walls are found on Pine Creek, for example. More level flood plain area of Little Pine and Upper Lycoming offer views from farmland and meadowland, which are not often available on the “Sock”. As with the Pine Creek Canyon in Tioga County, the scenic values of the Loyalsock extend above Lycoming County into Sullivan County. The scenic corridor of the stream extends south through the Borough of Montoursville, where outstanding scenic and natural qualities are found adjacent to highly populated lands.

Allegheny Front Scenic Area:

Being the longest of the areas mapped, this follows the Allegheny mountain range from Pine Creek in the west to North Mountain at the Sullivan County line. The area holds much geographic importance, being the break or escarpment between the Allegheny Plateau and the Ridge and Valley Province – two major landform areas of the state. The Front marks an abrupt rise in elevation from 500 to over 1000 feet through the county. Major stream valleys have cut through the Front at places such as at Tomb (Pine Creek), Powys (Lycoming Creek) and just north of Loyalsockville (Loyalsock Creek). The Front is a background to rolling farmland, making an exceptionally scenic area. The area can be seen from many high locations in the county, as it is the major mountain range north of the river.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection / connection. Type 1 – no access.

- Wells Mountain Natural Area
- Engle Run-type 1 protection—conservation easement best or fee simple by state agency for the rare plant habitat.
- Mill Creek Swamp Natural Area

Conservation greenway for habitat protection. Type 2 – limited access.

- Crystal Lake Camp Wetlands– level 1 type to protect habitat. Environmental Education Center.
- Engle Run - for the declining plant species and Engle Run (stream).
- Noon Branch
- Sand Spring Barren Natural Area

Conservation greenway for habitat protection and riparian buffers

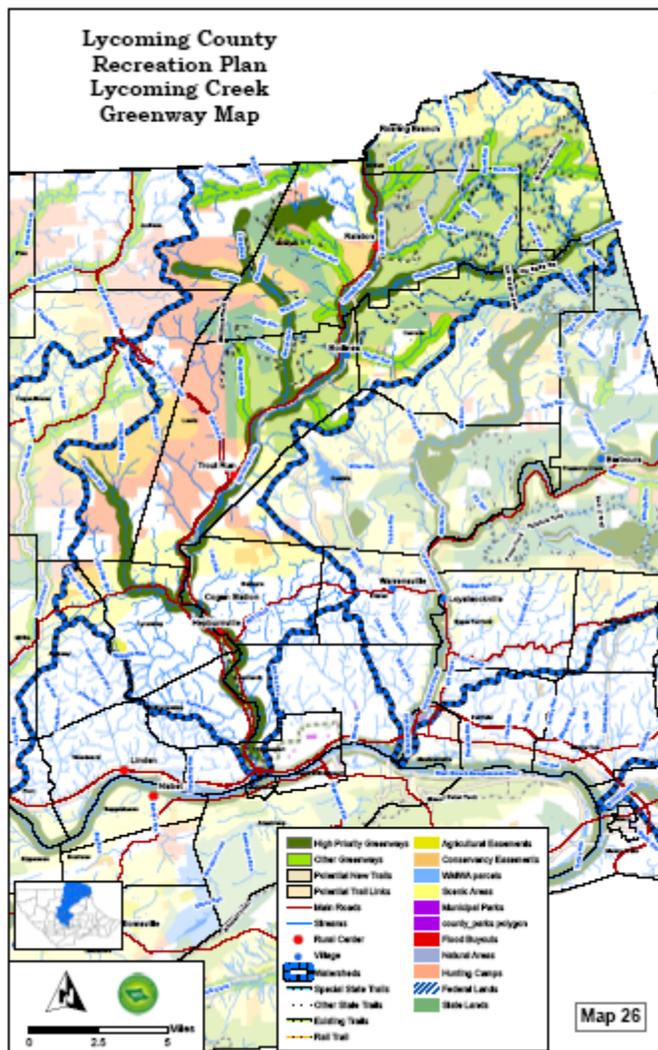
CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- Little Bear Creek Ravine- both sides of creek and tributaries to 1st order; provides connectivity to Sand Spring Barren.
- Wallis Run
- Jacoby Hollow Woods

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

A recreation greenway for non-motorized vehicles is recommended to connect points of interest, schools, and open space and recreation areas to communities. It is recommended to develop potential trail linkages to the existing Route 87 bikeway connect to Picture Rocks via 864, the West Branch Susquehanna River Bikeway via Quaker Church Road, and a loop to Rose Valley Lake and the Lycoming Creek Greenway via Wallis Run Road, Flannigan Road, and Slacks Run Road. It is recommended to develop a mountain bike loop following Little Bear Road to the top of Brushy Ridge, north on Brushy Ridge Road to Granddad Trail (logging trail across state land) to Big Bear Road to Barbour's and back to Little Bear Road via Route 87.

Lycoming Creek Greenway



Landscape Character/ Features

This scenic landscape is characterized as a narrow stream valley with steep wooded mountainsides to the north, and a broad stream valley with moderate development to the south. The northern area is primarily State-owned land and large land holdings by Sportsman's Clubs. These vast forested areas provide large undeveloped regions for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. The Loyalsock State Forest, extending to the east, is designated by the Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area. The southern reach of Lycoming Creek lies in a wider valley, with less steep mountain sides giving way to rolling hills. The Lycoming Creek valley is scenic and offers attractive seasonal canoeing. Lycoming Creek from Hepburnville to Powy's is a braided stream with a good riverine ecosystem; there are constructed wetlands at Powy's with an Audubon birding area.

The Lycoming Creek watershed from Trout Run Village north is exceptional in natural, scenic and recreational

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

character. Water quality is high and vast amounts of State land exist. Farmland or meadow land is found in much of the valley, with the rest of the areas being in forest cover. While a great conglomeration of commercial, industrial and residential land use is located along the Lycoming Creek Road, much of the creek frontage itself is not heavily developed. Several large parcels of open space remain; however, population through much of this area is high and development pressures are increasing. Residential areas near the creek house many people and rapid growth is extending from the creek into the adjacent hills. Demand exists, and will grow, for open areas, recreational space, and linkage from one developed area to another. Much flood plain is found, as are steep slopes rising from the creek in some places. Recent acquisition of land from the flood buyout program has increased open space areas within the floodplain.

Ralston is a northern hub, providing a restaurant, General Store, Post Office, park and churches. The Ralston area also provides access to the following areas of interest: Old Loggers Path, Hawkeye Cross-country Ski Trail, Cherry Ridge Trail, and Sharp Shinned Trail, Rock Run and the McIntyre Wild Area. Rock Run is a scenic granite stream just east of Ralston that has waterfalls and deep pools of clear water in a granite bed. Fishing opportunities also exist in this area.

The McIntyre Wild Area is 7,500 acres and contains the complete watersheds of four small streams that cascade in numerous waterfalls. McIntyre was the site of a 19th century mining town and contains the ruins of its buildings and facilities. Masten is a ghost town, with historic remains of the former logging town. Masten has access to the following backpacking/hiking trails: Old Loggers Path, Hawkeye Cross-country Ski Trail, Cherry Ridge Trail, and Sharp Shinned Trail. Yorktown is a small community in the eastern headwater region with access to the following backpacking/hiking trails: Old Loggers Path, Hawkeye Cross-country Ski Trail, Cherry Ridge Trail, and Sharp Shinned Trail. Ellenton is another headwater community in the eastern region; this town has a significant logging history. Walking and hiking area accessible by forest roads and an old narrow gauge railroad. Other nodes of interest in the northern region include scattered small communities with public parks and recreation areas.

The southern region has fairly dense mixed use development. Communities in this reach include Gardenview and Cogan Station with commercial areas for shopping, gas, restaurants, lodging. Trout Run provides a General store, restaurants, gas and Trout Run Park. Gray's Junction is the home of Camp Susque - a youth camp, Bodines has the Forest Inn restaurant with lodging, and the community of Marsh Hill has Sheshequin Campground, and Marsh Hill Market (general store). Recreation areas include Dayber Park, Stotz Park, Bair Park and Hepburn Park.

Communities and nodes of interest are connected by the Lycoming Creek Bikeway. This bikeway connects communities from Hepburnville to Williamsport, and also connects to the following public parks: Stotz Park, Bair Park and Hepburn Park. There is potential for an extension of this bikeway to Ralston.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Habitat for diverse communities:

DEVIL'S ELBOW STATE FOREST NATURAL AREA in Tiadaghton State Forest contains several wetlands in various stages of succession. One of the wetlands is an open, shrub and graminoid

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

peatland notable for the abundance of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*) growing in it. Although the site does not qualify as a high quality natural community, the area provides habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life.

Significant communities:

PLEASANT STREAM CLIFF is a shale cliff that parallels Pleasant Stream for several hundred feet. It is a south-facing cliff, mostly shaded, with varying degrees of wetness and dryness ranging from seeps to xeric rock outcrops. Species diversity is good reflecting the range of moisture conditions. BRANACKA LANDS WETLANDS is a cluster of several wetlands with potential for rare plants, MCINTYRE WILD AREA is 7,500 acres and contains the complete watersheds of four small streams that cascade in numerous waterfalls.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Rose and Beech Valley Scenic Area:

High rolling farmland is surrounded by mountain tops of even much greater elevation. This is very unusual, most highlands of the Allegheny Plateau being relatively flat and without the higher peaks. Deep hemlock and northern hardwood forests are scattered through the area. Steep sloped gorges and waterfalls cut through the area being tributaries to Loyalsock Creek.

Upper Lycoming Scenic Area:

From Trout Run north, Lycoming Creek Valley is relatively undeveloped with clear waters. A broad and flat flood plain in many areas offer very good views to the steep slopes and high plateau rims. Route 14 and existing development cause scenic value to be less than Little Pine Creek, which is similar in many other respects. Tributary watersheds of Rock Run and Pleasant Stream have much wild land with numerous waterfalls, marshes, and rock outcrops.

Allegheny Front Scenic Area:

Being the longest of the areas mapped, this follows the Allegheny mountain range from Pine Creek in the west to North Mountain at the Sullivan County line. The area holds much geographic importance, being the break or escarpment between the Allegheny Plateau and the Ridge and Valley Province – two major landform areas of the state. The Front marks an abrupt rise in elevation from 500 to over 1000 feet through the county. Major stream valleys have cut through the Front at places such as at Tomb (Pine Creek), Powys (Lycoming Creek) and just north of Loyalsockville (Loyalsock Creek). The Front is a background to rolling farmland, making an exceptionally scenic area. The area can be seen from many high locations in the county, as it is the major mountain range north of the river.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation greenway to protect habitat- level 1, no access.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- Schrader Creek is an Exceptional Value Stream as designated by D.E.P. throughout its basin in Lycoming County. It is further classified as a High Gradient Clearwater Creek natural community. Part of the watershed is within the Devil's Elbow SFNA.
- BRANACKA LANDS WETLANDS is a cluster of several wetlands, some of these are on State Forest lands but most are on private property. Review of air photos, aerial reconnaissance and the recommendations of county residents all indicate that these wetlands are relatively large for the county and, although there has been surface mining adjacent to several of the wetlands, some are still reasonably intact. There is some potential for rare plants in these wetlands, but a future site survey will be required to make that determination.

Conservation greenway to protect habitat level – Type 2 - limited access

- PLEASANT STREAM CLIFF is a shale cliff that parallels Pleasant Stream for several hundred feet. It is a south-facing cliff, mostly shaded, with varying degrees of wetness and dryness ranging from seeps to xeric rock outcrops. Species diversity is good reflecting the range of moisture conditions.
- MCINTYRE WILD AREA is 7,500 acres and contains the complete watersheds of four small streams that cascade in numerous waterfalls.
- DEVIL'S ELBOW STATE FOREST NATURAL AREA in Tiadaghton State Forest contains several wetlands in various stages of succession. One of the wetlands is an open, shrub and graminoid peatland notable for the abundance of pitcher plants (Sarracenia purpurea) growing in it. Although the site does not qualify as a high quality natural community, the area provides habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life.

Conservation greenway for both habitat protection and connection. Type 2- limited access.

- Frozen Run, Heylman Run, Pleasant Stream, and Rock Run.

Conservation greenway along creek- both sides and tributaries to 1st order

- Lycoming Creek, Grays Run, Hagermans Run, Long Run and Shoemaker Run, Daugherty Run, Wolf Run, Trout Run, Slacks Run, Pleasant Stream, Roaring Branch, Abbott Run, and Hoagland Run.

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

There is potential for the Lycoming Creek bikeway to be extended to Ralston. Extending from Bair Park to Hepburnville, Cogan Station, and Haleeka. Then following Powy's Road, Upper Powy's Road and Old Route 15 to Trout Run Park; from Trout Run follow Susque Road to Camp Susque, traveling north to Bodines, follow Upper Bodines Road to Ralston. Potential link trails from Ralston include Rock Run Road from Ralston to Old Loggers Path, and a loop on McIntyre Mountain Road to Band Rock. Another recommended potential trail link connects at Bodines and follows Slacks Run Road to Flanigan Road, then follows Rose Valley Road and Beech Valley Road to Calvert. This link will connect to the Lycoming Creek Greenway with the Rose Valley Lake Recreation area and the Loyalsock Recreation Greenway.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Studying the feasibility of developing a recreation area at the Red Run- Maggio reclaimed mine site is recommended.

The Lycoming Creek valley is scenic and offers attractive seasonal canoeing that has potential for a water trail.

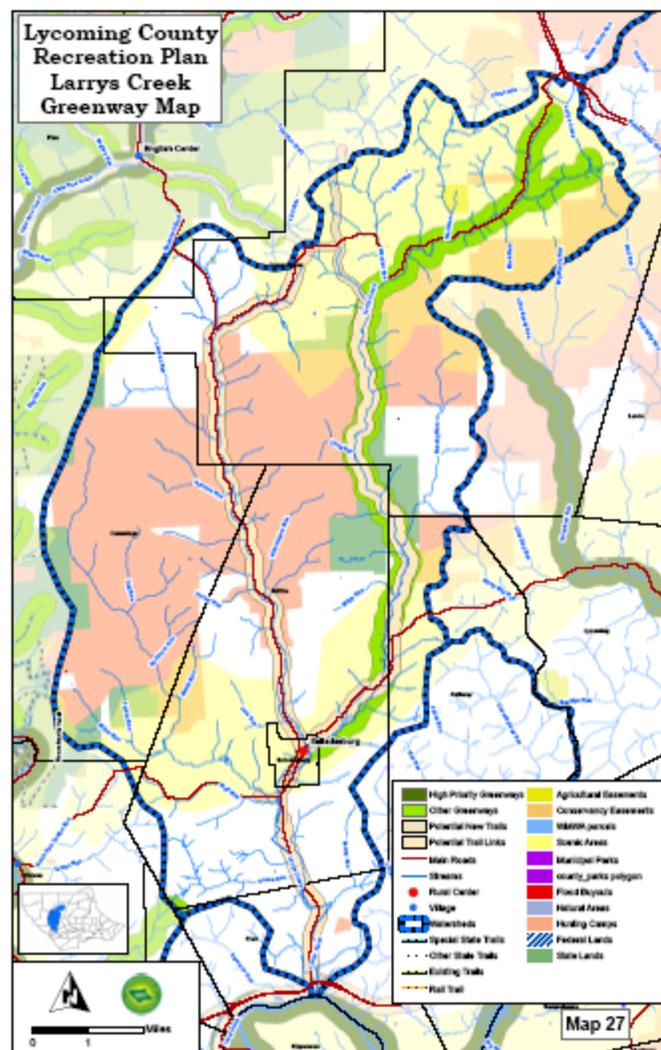
Larry's Creek Greenway

Landscape Character / Features

This region is characterized as a gently sloping stream valley with large forested areas, agricultural fields in the rolling hills, and sparse development throughout. There are large land holdings by private fishing and hunting clubs in the mountains to the north; many of these properties are in the clean and green program for conservation. An additional large area of land is owned by the Jersey Shore Joint Water Authority (JSJWA), and serves as a public water supply.

The sparse development throughout the valley consists of small communities, with Salladasburg acting as a hub. Salladasburg provides a motorcycle shop, gas station and an old-fashioned general store. Within the valley there are points of interest including Cohick's General Store, recreation areas, and historic sites and structures – including a wooden covered bridge.

Larrys Creek is a high quality stream (HQ-CWF) that provides excellent public fishing opportunities. There is a region of large forested areas in the central area of the watershed that are privately owned and managed by sportsman's clubs. This region provides important aspects of protection to the ecosystem of the valley. Tree cover in these areas shade streams and help to maintain cooler water temperatures, and



CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

the forested areas connect to state forest land on the west, providing a large corridor for wildlife habitat.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Locally significant environments:

Large area of land is owned by the Jersey Shore Joint Water Authority (JSJWA), and serves as a public water supply.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Cogan House Scenic Area:

High plateau farmland between Larry's Creek and Route 15 offers a scenic character of expansive rolling farmland. Distant mountains can be seen in many directions. While having a special character of its own, a lack of water and great vertical relief cause other areas to be rated higher.

Allegheny Front Scenic Area:

Being the longest of the areas mapped, this follows the Allegheny mountain range from Pine Creek in the west to North Mountain at the Sullivan County line. The area holds much geographic importance, being the break or escarpment between the Allegheny Plateau and the Ridge and Valley Province – two major landform areas of the state. The Front marks an abrupt rise in elevation from 500 to over 1000 feet through the county. Major stream valleys have cut through the Front at places such as at Tomb (Pine Creek), Powys (Lycoming Creek) and just north of Loyalsockville (Loyalsock Creek). The Front is a background to rolling farmland, making an exceptionally scenic area. The area can be seen from many high locations in the county, as it is the major mountain range north of the river.

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation greenway for habitat protection and riparian buffers.

- Larrys Creek, and tributaries to the first order.
- Second Fork of Larrys Creek, and tributaries to the first order.

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

A recreation greenway for non-motorized vehicles is recommended to connect points of interest, schools, historic sites, and open space and recreation areas to communities. This proposed greenway would begin at SR 0220 and follow SR 0287 through Salladasburg, continuing north to White Pine. Spurs would extend as follows: west to Mifflin Township Park, northeast

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

terminating at Cogan House Community Park, Southeast on Campbell Road to the Historic Covered bridge, and Lick Run Road provides opportunity for a connection to the Little Pine Recreation Greenway to the west. The spur ending at the covered bridge connects to the conservation greenway along Larrys Creek in the JSJWA property. This property has trails that are accessible to the public for walking and hiking. By following Water Company Road and SR 0973 as they follow Larry's Creek (at the southern end of the water company lands), you can close the loop back to Salladasburg.

Pine Creek Greenway

Landscape Character/ Features

Pine Creek, designated as a National Scenic River in the Tioga County reach, is one of the highest quality watersheds in the West Branch Susquehanna Sub-basin. The creek valley is surrounded by steep, forested mountain slopes incised by high quality streams; the majority of land in the upper reach is State Forest Land, with some large land holdings by private fishing and hunting clubs. There are smaller, privately held lands scattered throughout the length of the valley, with agricultural lands and sparse development in the lower reach. This is one of the best recreational trout fisheries in the state and one of the most scenic resources in Pennsylvania. Pine Creek is classified as a high-quality cold water fishery (with the exception of the lower reach classified as stocked trout fishery). The Audubon Society lists the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area as an Important Bird Area of national significance, with Bald eagles recorded as nesting upstream in Lycoming and Tioga Counties and utilizing the Lycoming County section of Pine Creek to fish.

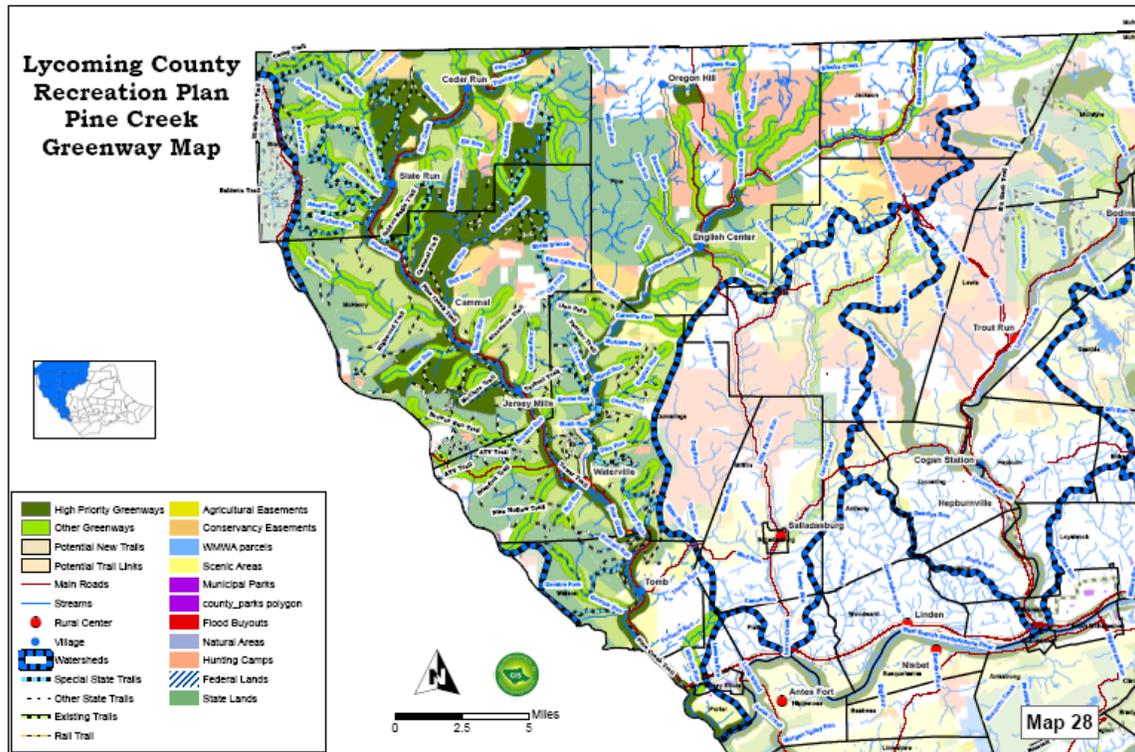
The Pine Creek Valley and watershed is one of the most unique in the state, falling within the parameters of Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. Steep slopes rise 800 feet above the valley floor. Water of relatively high quality flows through a region where state ownership includes over half of the land. Wilderness areas remain on many tributaries through Pine and Little Pine Creek in a concentration greater than any other areas of the county. The valleys of Pine and Little Pine are rated as the most scenic landscapes of the county and provide valuable recreation areas for hunters, fishermen, hikers and campers.

The Little Pine Creek watershed is a significant tributary to Pine Creek. This region is characterized as an incised stream valley with forested mountain slopes, agricultural fields in the gently sloping headwater region, and sparse development throughout. There are large land holdings by private fishing and hunting clubs in the mountains to the north; many of these properties are in the clean and green program for conservation. The lower reach of this stream is surrounded by State Forest Land. Little Pine Creek is a major tributary to Pine Creek, offering additional amenities and recreation opportunities. There is sparse residential development within this watershed, with developed recreation areas at Ski Sawmill, Pine Marsh golf course and Little Pine State Park. Little Pine State Park offers varied recreational opportunities including camping, swimming beach, archery and shooting ranges, and access to the Mid-State Trail and other local trails. Other hubs of the area include Happy Acres Campground, Carsontown, and English Center.

Many of Little Pine Creek tributaries are high quality streams (HQ-CWF) that provide excellent public fishing opportunities. There is a region of large forested areas in the central area of the watershed that are privately owned and managed by sportsman's clubs; this region provides

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

important aspects of protection to the ecosystem of the valley. Tree cover in these areas shade streams and help to maintain cooler water temperatures, and the forested areas connect to state forest land on the west, providing a large corridor for wildlife habitat.



In addition to Pine Creek, its tributaries are high quality streams (HQ-CWF) that provide excellent public fishing opportunities. State Forest land holdings provide access to these streams and are important for providing tree cover to shade streams and help to maintain cooler water temperatures. These forested areas connect to large land holdings by private fishing and hunting clubs to the east, providing a large corridor for wildlife habitat.

The Pine Creek Trail, a land-based trail, is owned and managed by DCNR and considered a “Greenway of Statewide Significance.” It was listed by US Today as “one of the top ten great places to take a bike tour.” The first segment of a four-segment development plan is built on an abandoned railroad bed at the bottom of the Pine Creek Gorge, often referred to as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. Dramatic rock outcroppings, wildlife, and rare plants are some of the significant sights along the landscape that attract an increasing population of tourists. The 60.5-mile trail will extend from the junction of Route 6 and Route 287 in Tioga County to Jersey Shore. The trail parallels and crosses Pine Creek. The second segment was opened in 2001 and extends south from Rattlesnake Rock to the village of Waterville; this additional 23 miles of the Pine Creek Trail passes through private property. Segment three opened in 2004 from Waterville to U.S. 220 just short of the borough of Jersey Shore, and was extended into Jersey Shore during 2005. A trail head park is also planned for construction in Jersey Shore. Coordination among the citizens, townships, counties and the state will be required to ensure that this Trail will be accessible for recreational users and compatible with the adjacent communities and property owners.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Hubs within this watershed consist of small communities, offering varied points of interest. Jersey Shore is located at the confluence of Pine Creek with the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, and serves as a hub and gateway to the Pine Creek Valley. This Borough is rich with historic structures - including remnants of a canal, there is also a post office, restaurants, shopping, and lodging. In addition to municipal parks there is access to the following trails: trailhead for the Pine Creek Trail, Susquehanna Bikeway (in the planning stages), and Susquehanna River Trail access (private) at the Jersey Shore Boat Club; these features provide links to the Susquehanna Greenway.

Waterville acts as a community hub, and a Gateway to Little Pine Creek and the Little Pine State Park. Waterville offers a Post Office, Village Community Center, General Store, Lodging, and Restaurant; there is parking and access to the Pine Creek Trail and access to Upper Pine Bottom State Park. This community has opportunity for economic enhancement associated with a greenway. Haneyville is a Gateway to a snowmobiling region. Points of interest include the Fin Fur Feather store/museum with lodging, and restaurants. Haneyville has opportunity for economic enhancement associated with a greenway. Cammal Village is a hub with a general store, restaurant, and access to Pine Creek-Trail restroom. The community of Slate Run offers a General Store, Post Office, premier tackle shop, restaurant, and lodging. There is access to the Black Forest Trail (northwest 0.5 mile) for hiking, parking for the Pine Creek Trail, and Pine Creek for canoeing, tubing, and fishing. The village of Cedar Run offers a General Store, Cedar Run Inn - restaurant and lodging, campground, popular swimming hole, and fishing.

Blackwell (Tioga County) is a small community hub, and the northern Gateway to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. It provides a restaurant and lodging, access to the Pine Creek Trail, the West Rim Trail, Pine Creek for canoeing, Mid-State Trail (west 0.5 mile) public restrooms, parking, and fishing.

Large vehicles may have restricted access from the north due to a small bridge.

This valley is rich with recreational opportunities; the following is a list of facilities acting as hubs for public recreation.

Jersey Shore Borough Recreation Area 19-acre area passive recreation area, adjacent to the trailhead for the Pine Creek Trail.

Upper Pine Bottom State Park provides picnicking, fishing, and access to ATV trail.

Pine Creek Valley Recreation Area -7.2 acres, with parking, baseball fields, pavilion, picnicking, and playground. A future Pine Creek boat access area is planned.

White Tail – Pine Creek Trail Access Point features an old campground with access to the Pine Creek Trail, Pine Creek for canoeing, camping, parking and public restrooms.

Slate Run provides access to the Black Forest Trail (northwest 0.5 mile), parking for the Pine Creek Trail and Pine Creek, and fishing.

Cedar Run offers a campground, popular swimming hole, and fishing,

Clark Farm / Utceter Station Access Area and Ross (Siding) both provide public parking, access to the Pine Creek Trail and Pine Creek, and the Golden Eagle Trail,

Black Walnut Bottom provides access to the Pine Creek Trail, Pine Creek, camping, parking and public restrooms.

Rattlesnake Rock provides access to Pine Creek Trail, West Rim Road Bike Trail, Pine Creek, West Rim Trail (west 0.5 mile), Mid-State Trail (east 0.5 mile) public restrooms, parking, swimming hole, and fishing.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Blackwell (Tioga County) provides access to the Pine Creek Trail, the West Rim Trail, Pine Creek, Mid-State Trail (west 0.5 mile) public restrooms, parking, and fishing. NOTE: Large vehicles may have restricted access from the north due to a small bridge.

Pine Creek COG PA Wilds Action Initiatives

The landscape of the Pine Creek Watershed is one of its most important assets. The forests have regenerated following the devastating clear cuts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Significant public investment has helped restore Babb Creek and other streams ravaged by acid mine drainage. Much State land has been acquired, preserving the scenic qualities of this special watershed. Poorly planned development on private lands constitutes a major concern threatening the quality, openness and wildness of the Pine Creek Watershed. The communities in the Pine Creek Valley and the Commonwealth, as the major land owner, share common interests and concerns related to management of the Pine Creek Valley, in particular, the opportunities posed by increased tourism and the impacts this can have on community infrastructure. These concerns have taken on added importance since the Pine Creek Valley is being highlighted as a key recreation corridor within the state's PA Wilds initiative.

The communities in the Pine Creek Valley and the State have mutual interests in addressing community impacts. For example, communities have an interest in and major challenges associated with sanitation (sewage and solid waste disposal) and additional capacity for emergency services. DCNR has a pressing need to address, in a strategic and efficient manner, trail access and signage issues as part of an overall management plan for the rail trail and surrounding state-owned recreation lands in this corridor. As interest in the corridor as a destination for outdoor recreation tourists expands, working in partnership to address these and other mutual concerns is essential for the long-term sustainability of the Valley communities and the natural resources.

In October of 2005, the Pine Creek Valley Council of Governments (COG) began pursuing a more comprehensive effort to address mutual concerns and anticipated impacts of the PA Wilds initiative on Valley communities (Brown, McHenry, Cummings and Watson Townships – Lycoming County and Morris Township – Tioga County). The foundation for the effort is the planning (e.g. Pine Creek Valley Management Plan and the Pine Creek Watershed and Rivers Conservation Plan) that has already been done in and around the Pine Creek Valley at both a county and watershed level. Many of the issues of mutual concern have been highlighted during these planning processes and now set the stage for focused implementation involving needs assessment, project feasibility and design activities.

The COG received assistance from the staff of the Lycoming County Planning Commission to further flesh out the scope of work to begin implementation activities related to mutual issues. State grant funding from DCNR and DCED has been secured to support this work.

The Pine Creek COG has begun working in partnership with DCNR, DCED, and the Lycoming & Tioga County Planning Commissions on the following projects:

Access Improvements – Develop a needs assessment and conceptual design for creating new connections to the rail trail from parking areas, businesses and other recreation facilities (e.g.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

other trails and parks, Pine Creek, etc.). A first priority for DCNR within this item is access and signage projects related specifically to the rail-trail itself. This project also involves the conveyance of access easements from property owners to the Township or other managing entity.

Park Improvements – The COG is working with DCNR to identify and plan for needed amenities at the Cummings Township Park, Mosquito Creek Park in Morris Township, and other recreation facilities.

Public Sanitation – 1) Public Restrooms: needs assessment and options evaluation for increasing public restroom capacity; and 2) Solid Waste Disposal: evaluation of the effectiveness of the existing “carry-in/carry-out” trash policy for the rail trail and identification of impacts on municipal waste disposal and measures that could be taken to address problems. This will also include evaluation of future needs and service options resulting from increased visitation and design of a public education program for residents and visitors.

Emergency Response – A specialized DCED emergency response consultant has begun working with the local fire companies to evaluate the current state of the mainly volunteer-based emergency response capabilities, identify anticipated needs due to increased visitation, research other existing models, develop a coordinated Emergency Response & Evaluation Plan for the Valley, analyze potential for support by DCNR or other state employees and assess possible value of a new Public Service/Community Center to address enhanced emergency response.

Signage – Seek consolidation of existing business signs and develop consistent signage design guidelines for the Pine Creek Valley. This will also identify areas that need new or improved signage to identify businesses and other amenities along the rail trail (e.g. parking, restrooms, etc.). This work will be coordinated with DCNR’s interpretative signage effort.

Community Character/Viewshed Protection – Evaluate existing zoning ordinance provisions to determine if they protect community character, identify scenic viewshed protection measures and include design guidelines for new development. The adequacy of ordinance provisions as they relate to properly regulating oil and gas drilling operations will also be examined. The community character and viewshed protection item also includes a corridor management plan for Routes 44 and 414 to evaluate designation as Scenic Byways, including the identification of needed structural road improvements and locations of safe pull-offs for scenic viewing.

Pine Creek Fisheries Resource Conservation & Enhancement – Municipal and County officials, representatives from the Pine Creek COG and Pine Creek Preservation Association, Trout Unlimited, and local fishing tackle outfitters are working with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and DCNR to evaluate the fisheries resources in Pine Creek and the development of any needed management provisions to protect and enhance these fisheries. The designation of thermal refuges for trout at the mouths of feeder streams is an initial consideration.

Natural Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Habitats for rare species:

ALGERINE WILD AREA and ALGERINE SWAMP is a 100-acre Boreal Conifer Swamp natural community ranked as a "B", or good example of the type in Pennsylvania. The most remarkable

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

aspect of the wetland is the carpet of sphagnum moss, sedges and other species that cover the floor of the swamp. Of these ground species, two are classified as PA-Rare and PA-Threatened, and Algerine Swamp is the best site in the state for each of them. One rare butterfly has been found at Algerine Swamp. As long as the food plant is abundant, the butterfly should continue to thrive here.

SPOOK HOLLOW SWAMP is a second-growth boreal conifer swamp, with potential for several rare plant species. This is part of a larger complex of wetlands within the Algerine Wild Area and contributes to the natural diversity of this area.

SP504, at Slate Run in Tiadaghton State Forest, is one of only five known locations for this plant in Pennsylvania and only one of two in Lycoming County. This species has been known at this site since at least 1936, but the colony appears to be declining for unknown reasons in recent years. Local land managers should be aware of the species location and work to ensure that the site remains shaded and undisturbed. The species needs to be monitored yearly to determine its long-term viability at Slate Run.

PINE CREEK provides habitat for an aquatic plant that occurs in slow-moving water in Pine Creek. Recreation and siltation could adversely impact this population. A conservation greenway will be important to protect headwaters and both sides of Pine Creek to maintain its HQ-CWF status; recommendation is for a riparian buffer of at least 75' on each side of Pine Creek. This may also improve the overall water quality in the Susquehanna over time.

Trout Run provides habitat that supports a good population of a PA-listed animal.

CLAY MINE SWAMP is a significant wetland and home to two animals of special concern. The habitat supports two rare species of dragonfly. The species should be afforded as much protection as possible through habitat protection and management.

MORRIS RUN CLIFF is a small cliff and scree slope area that provides habitat for two animals of special concern. The cliffs and caves here appear to provide excellent habitat for this species.

WOLF RUN WILD AREA is home to a PA-Threatened animal and a candidate for federal protection. Minimizing disturbance and maintaining a wooded buffer are beneficial to this species. The population should be monitored regularly by PA Game Commission biologists.

CEDAR RUN OUTCROP provides habitat for a Pennsylvania Threatened mammal and a candidate for federal protection. Minimizing disturbance and maintaining a wooded buffer are beneficial to this species. The population should be monitored regularly by PA Game Commission biologists.

WOODHOUSE LEDGES is an area inaccessible to white-tail deer, and a threatened species. This species is best secured by maintaining the woodlands on the ledges and at the base of the slope in order to prevent erosion and to maintain the cool microclimate required by this species. This site is within Tioga State Forest and State Game Lands #75.

OREGON HILL SWAMP is a natural area that hosts a poor population of a PA-Rare plant and the only known site for this species in the county; the forested remnant within the wetland should be maintained.

Significant natural communities:

BARK CABIN NATURAL AREA contains a 7-acre tract of old-growth hemlock, located approximately 5 miles north of the park on the Mid-State Trail.

TORBERT ISLAND NATURAL AREA and TORBERT WOODS is a Xeric Central Hardwoods-Conifer Forest; this may be the best example of this type in Lycoming County and does appear to be fairly rare in the county. The potential for rare plants is minimal but it has the potential to harbor rare animal species that prefer dry shaley slopes.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

RED PINE NATURAL AREA AND MILLER RUN NATURAL AREA are located above the western shore of Pine Creek, overlooking Bluestone. These areas consist of second-growth oak and northern hardwood forests.

MILL RUN is a High Gradient Clearwater Creek natural community and DER Exceptional Value stream throughout its basin from its source to Bull Run. The wooded buffer along the stream should be maintained.

Locally significant environments:

BARK CABIN NATURAL AREA. The sandstone flats on the mountain top could provide habitat for elk.

Scenic Areas Of This Region Include The Following:

Pine Creek Scenic Area:

This corridor extends the length of Pine Creek in Lycoming County, encompassing the entire valley floor and the mountain sides to the “rim”, or top of the valley. Many tributary streams are included. Character is that of a narrow valley. Undeveloped forestland, a dramatic change in elevation from valley floor to plateau, and clean water make this the highest ranking area in the county. Scattered fields from farming days add interest and diversity, as well as the combinations of riffles and pools of Pine Creek and the cascading nature of many small streams. Portions of the villages of Cedar Run and Cammal add to interest in those areas. The scenic appeal of the valley is indicated by the streams inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as one of 27 streams in the nation to be considered for the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Little Pine Scenic Area:

The “visual corridor” of this stream is included, or all the land seen from the valley floor. Little Pine has many of the qualities of Pine Creek, though the stream is much smaller than Pine Creek, and vertical relief is usually not as dramatic. Expansive flat areas within flood plain are found here, contrasting with steep sloped mountains which border them. Water quality is excellent, and many white water rapids are found.

Allegheny Front Scenic Area:

Being the longest of the areas mapped, this follows the Allegheny mountain range from Pine Creek in the west to North Mountain at the Sullivan County line. The area holds much geographic importance, being the break or escarpment between the Allegheny Plateau and the Ridge and Valley Province – two major landform areas of the state. The Front marks an abrupt rise in elevation from 500 to over 1000 feet through the county. Major stream valleys have cut through the Front at places such as at Tomb (Pine Creek), Powys (Lycoming Creek) and just north of Loyalsockville (Loyalsock Creek). The Front is a background to rolling farmland, making an exceptionally scenic area. The area can be seen from many high locations in the county, as it is the major mountain range north of the river.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Opportunities

Recommendations for the following conservation greenways:

Conservation greenway for wildlife corridor/habitat connection.

- Carsons Run Furnace Run, Gamble Run, Sulphur Run, Tombs Run, Bonnell Run, Ramsey Run, Bull Run, Dam Run, Lower Pine Bottom Run, Upper Pine Bottom Run, Callahan Run. Conservation greenway for habitat connection.

Conservation greenway for wildlife corridor.

- Browns Run, Dry Run, McClure Run.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection.

- TORBERT ISLAND NATURAL AREA AND TORBERT WOODS is a Xeric Central Hardwoods-Conifer Forest; this may be the best example of this type in Lycoming County and does appear to be fairly rare in the county. The potential for rare plants is minimal but it has the potential to harbor rare animal species that prefer dry shaley slopes.
- TROUT RUN provides habitat that supports a good population of a PA-listed animal.
- RED PINE NATURAL AREA AND MILLER RUN NATURAL AREA are located above the western shore of Pine Creek, overlooking Bluestone. These areas consist of second-growth oak and northern hardwood forests.
- BARK CABIN NATURAL AREA. The sandstone flats on the mountain top cold provide habitat for elk.
- ALGERINE WILD AREA and ALGERINE SWAMP is a 100-acre Boreal Conifer Swamp natural community ranked as a "B", or good example of the type in Pennsylvania. The most remarkable aspect of the wetland is the carpet of sphagnum moss, sedges and other species that cover the floor of the swamp. Of these ground species, two are classified as PA-Rare and PA-Threatened, and Algerine Swamp is the best site in the state for each of them. One rare butterfly has been found at Algerine Swamp. As long as the food plant is abundant, the butterfly should continue to thrive here.
- SPOOK HOLLOW SWAMP is a second-growth boreal conifer swamp, with potential for several rare plant species. This is part of a larger complex of wetlands within the Algerine Wild Area and contributes to the natural diversity of this area.
- SP504, at Slate Run in Tiadaghton State Forest, is one of only five known locations for this plant in Pennsylvania and only one of two in Lycoming County. This species has been known at this site since at least 1936, but the colony appears to be declining for unknown reasons in recent years. Local land managers should be aware of the species location and work to ensure that the site remains shaded and undisturbed. The species needs to be monitored yearly to determine its long-term viability at Slate Run.
- CLAY MINE SWAMP is a significant wetland and home to two animals of special concern. The habitat supports two rare species of dragonfly. The species should be afforded as much protection as possible through habitat protection and management.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- MORRIS RUN CLIFF is a small cliff and scree slope area that provides habitat for two animals of special concern. The cliffs and caves here appear to provide excellent habitat for this species.
- MILL RUN is a High Gradient Clearwater Creek natural community and DER Exceptional Value stream throughout its basin from its source to Bull Run. The wooded buffer along the stream should be maintained. Ev stream, High gradient clearwater creek - habitat level 2, limited access.
- WOLF RUN WILD AREA is home to a PA-Threatened animal and a candidate for federal protection. Minimizing disturbance and maintaining a wooded buffer are beneficial to this species. The population should be monitored regularly by PA Game Commission biologists.

Conservation greenway for both habitat protection and connection. Type 1- no access.

- CEDAR RUN OUTCROP provides habitat for a Pennsylvania Threatened mammal and a candidate for federal protection. Minimizing disturbance and maintaining a wooded buffer are beneficial to this species. The population should be monitored regularly by PA Game Commission biologists.
- WOODHOUSE LEDGES is an area inaccessible to white-tail deer, and a threatened species. This species is best secured by maintaining the woodlands on the ledges and at the base of the slope in order to prevent erosion and to maintain the cool microclimate required by this species. This site is within Tioga State Forest and State Game Lands #75.
- Oregon Hill Swamp (a registry agreement would be beneficial for the protection of this site).

Conservation greenway for both habitat protection and connection. Type 2- limited access.

- Big Dam Hollow, Francis Branch of Slate Run, Little Slate Run, Naval Run, Manor Fork, Morris Run, Putt Hollow, Slate Run along the main stem, Hilborn Run, Cedar Run, Elk Run, Gamble Run, Jacobs Run, Lloyd Run, Schoolhouse Run, Trout Run, and Woodhouse Run from Cedar Run in Tioga Co. to Pine Creek.

Conservation greenway for habitat protection and riparian buffers.

- PINE CREEK provides habitat for an aquatic plant that occurs in slow-moving water in Pine Creek. Recreation and siltation could adversely impact this population. A conservation greenway will be important to protect headwaters and both sides of Pine Creek to maintain its HQ-CWF status; recommendation is for a riparian buffer of at least 75' on each side of Pine Creek. This may also improve the overall water quality in the Susquehanna over time.
- Boone Run, English Run, Love Run, McKees Run, Naval Run, Panther Run, and Carsons Run, Bear Run, Flicks Run, Lick Run, Texas Creek and its tributaries Opossum Run and Rock Run, Coal Run, and Rogers Run, Bluestone Run, Miller Run within the Miller Run State Forest Natural Area, Shanty Run, Solomon Run, Truman Run, to maintain their HQ-CWF status; recommendation is for a riparian buffer of at least 50' on each side.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Recommendations for the following trails / recreation greenways:

The Pine Creek Trail extends into Jersey Shore and will connect with the planned West Branch Susquehanna River Bikeway, providing non-motorized connections between the Pine Creek Greenway and the Susquehanna Greenway. A potential trail link for non-motorized vehicles is recommended from Route 44 along Route 284, connecting the recreation hub of Little Pine State Park to Waterville, the Pine Creek Trail, and Pine Creek Water Trail. A potential new trail could continue along Route 284 linking Little Pine State Park to Carsontown. Safety improvements would be needed e.g. Carsontown blind corner. From Carsontown a trail north along English Run Road would provide connection to Oregon Hill and Ski Sawmill. Continuing northeast along Route 284 connections could be made to the communities of Jackson Corners and Buttonwood. A link trail southeast along Lick Run Road to White Pine would connect to the Larry's Creek recreation Greenway. It is recommended to develop a mountain bike loop in the Okome area, to expand recreation opportunities from Little Pine State Park.

The Pine Creek corridor has a water trail as part of a recreational greenway throughout its course through Lycoming County. This could provide linkage to the Susquehanna Water Trail in the Borough of Jersey Shore, thereby connecting the Pine Creek Water Trail to the statewide system of trails.

Financing and Managing Greenways

At the outset of any Greenway planning effort, the major issues that need to be addressed are who will own the property, how will the greenway be managed, and how will the greenway be maintained. It is not likely that greenways and greenway connections will only be on public land, so the issue of public access to private land will be raised.

According to the Rail Trail Maintenance publication, most trails are predominantly publicly-owned and managed. Often the trails are part of a larger facility budget and subsequently, the stewardship programs and expenses are combined. There are very few privately-owned and managed trails at the time of their survey that was sent to over 60 nation-wide trail advocacy groups in the mid 1990's. Currently in Lycoming County, many of the existing trails and greenways are owned by the Commonwealth. There are several alternatives to address these issues.

Discussion

Types of Greenways and Connections

Municipal. The greenway is contained entirely within a single municipality. This greenway can be a community greenway wherein it is of significance and importance primarily to the residents of the community, with little impact outside the community. This type of greenway can also be a community greenway of regional importance. Although located within one municipality, it is used by a larger population base and/or is of regional significance.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Multi-Municipal. The greenway is located in two or more municipalities. This type of greenway could be categorized as a community greenway, a county greenway, or a county greenway with regional importance. This greenway could be used primarily by the populations of those municipalities where it is located, with little significance to anyone outside that area. In this instance the greenway could be treated as a community greenway

Multi-County. The greenway is located in two or more counties. This type of greenway is normally used by a population base that extends beyond the counties where it is located and/or is of a broad regional significance.

Liability

Liability is a complex issue and should be studied on a case by case basis by competent legal counsel. In 1966, Pennsylvania enacted the Recreation Use of Land and Water Act (also known as the Recreation Use Act or "RUA"), as set forth in P.L. (1965) 1860, No. 586, as amended, 68 P.S. § 477-1 et seq. The purpose of the RUA is to encourage owners of land to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting their liability. The Act protects public and private landowners from liability for simple negligence for injuries arising out of the free recreational use of lands and waters. Current information regarding the RUA is contained in the Pennsylvania Code.

Ownership Options

Lease. A municipality, non-profit organization, authority, or county government leases a specified property for a specific period of time, directly from the landowner. This option provides some degree of protection to the landowner under the RUA. However, the degree of protection for property that is leased is untested in the courts.

Easement. A municipality, non-profit organization, authority, or county government is granted an easement through a written agreement. This easement is normally provided in perpetuity. An easement affords a higher degree of liability protection to the landowner under the RUA than does a lease. The PA Land Trust Association has developed model easements for land conservation, fishing access, trails, and riparian buffers.

Conservation Easement. This special easement has advantages in law for greenways that are primarily for conservation or preservation. In June 2001, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted the *Conservation and Preservation Easements Act* to better define the points of law related to conservation easements. The formal purpose of this Act states:

The General Assembly recognizes the importance and significant public and economic benefit of conservation and preservation easements in its ongoing efforts to protect, conserve or manage the use of natural, historic, agricultural, open-space and scenic resources of this Commonwealth.

The *Conservation and Preservation Easements Act* may reduce potential legal costs associated with enforcing easement restrictions and makes challenging these restrictions more difficult.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Right-of-way. Greenways or greenway trails can be located within an existing right-of-way. Rights-of-way may potentially be expanded to accommodate the greenway or greenway trail. In addition to street and road rights-of-way, railroad, utility rights-of-way have significant potential for greenway connections to places of residence, work, or play.

Ownership by Deed. A municipality, non-profit organization, authority, or county government can purchase the property.

Management Options

Municipal Management.

A single municipality can manage the greenway. In the case of a community greenway located within two or more municipalities, each municipality may manage that portion of the greenway within their municipality. Alternatively, two or more municipalities can manage the greenway by agreement, such as with a council of governments. Under municipal management, the municipality will need support from organizations, such as user groups or conservation organizations. A volunteer group with a specific interest, such as a snowmobile club for a snowmobile trail, could provide most of the maintenance since they have more knowledge about the maintenance standards/requirements. Local neighborhood groups often adopt a trail and provide minor routine maintenance such as trash cleanup or vegetation management.

A typical example is in Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The volunteers in the trail group, along with the township, jointly oversee the development and implementation of the trail and assistance in the ongoing maintenance. The municipality funds the greenway through taxes or by floating a bond. The municipality also applies for grants.

Advantages:

- Eligible to apply for local, State and Federal Grants.
- Potential for tax base operation budget.
- Available equipment and personnel for emergency work.
- Manned contact location (municipal office).

Disadvantages:

- Tied to municipal boundaries.
- Limited tax base.
- Less competitive for grants than multi-municipal.

Volunteer Organization. A 501 (c) (3) organization is established to manage a greenway. The non-profit, which can be composed of representatives from the respective municipalities, can manage the greenway. The non-profit organization can also be a special interest group, such as a watershed association or the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. This would be especially appropriate for a specialized greenway, such as a conservation greenway; for example, if a conservation greenway were to be located within the Muncy Creek Watershed, it could be managed by the Muncy Creek Watershed Association. For multi-municipal greenways, municipalities can fund the greenway expenses based on their percentage of land in the greenway.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Advantages:

- Members are typically users and have a vested interest in the successful management of the greenway.
- May be eligible to apply for local, State and Federal Grants.
- May or may not be tied to municipal boundaries.
- For multi-municipal greenways, option for municipalities to fund their share of the greenway expenses based on percentage of land in the greenway.

Disadvantages:

- Limited ability to obtain property.
- No tax base.
- Less competitive for grants than a governmental entity in some cases.
- Susceptible to fluctuations in membership or disbanding for lack of volunteers.
- Question of long term sustainability as a self-sufficient organization.
- Fluctuation in capability and expertise of the organization.
- Potential loss of 501 (c) (3) status, which may jeopardize grant status.

County Management.

Lycoming County can manage the greenway under a specified Department. Under County management, the County will need support from organizations, such as user groups or conservation organizations. Volunteer groups with a specific interest, such as a snowmobile club for a snowmobile trail, can provide maintenance since they have more knowledge about the maintenance standards/requirements. Local neighborhood groups or clubs can adopt a trail and provide minor routine maintenance such as trash cleanup or vegetation management. For multi-county greenways, the respective counties could manage the portion of the greenway within their county through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Advantages:

- Professional risk management and full range of insurance coverage.
- Tort immunity.
- Not tied to municipal boundaries.
- Potential for tax base operation budget. Significantly more tax options and larger base than a single municipality.
- Eligible to apply for State and Federal Grants.
- For multi-municipal greenways, option for municipalities to fund their share of the greenway expenses based on percentage of land in the greenway.
- Access to County resources/expertise for administration.
- Manned contact location (County Department).

Disadvantages:

- Tied to County boundaries.
- Less competitive for grants than multi-county.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- Competing personnel resources.
- Potential inconsistency in the level of design and maintenance practice on multi-county trails.

Greenway Authority.

A Greenway Authority could be established. The Authority could be appointed by the Lycoming County Commissioners and be responsible for managing the designated greenways within the County. The Authority will need support from organizations, such as user groups or conservation organizations. Funding for the authority could be the responsibility of the County Commissioners. The Authority could be responsible for a portion of the operating budget through donations, fund drives and user fees.

Advantages:

- Members are typically users and have a vested interest in the successful management of the greenway.
- Not tied to municipal boundaries.
- Potential for tax base operation budget. Significantly more tax options and larger base than a single municipality.
- Eligible to apply for State and Federal Grants.
- Option for municipalities to fund their share of the greenway expenses based on percentage of land in the greenway.

Disadvantages:

- Dependent on volunteer leadership.
- Limited availability of expertise and backup for administration.

Multi-County Greenway Authority

A Multi-County Greenway Authority could be established, such as the Hatfield~McCoy Regional Recreation Authority, see below. The Authority could be comprised of appointments made by the associated County Commissioners or could be appointments made at the state level. The Authority could be responsible for managing the designated greenways within the associated counties. Groups could be brought together to own and manage a greenway with kindred missions such as developing heritage trails to feature historic features, promote cultural heritage, resource conservation or economic tourism.

Lycoming County could be involved in two separate Multi-County Greenway Authorities: Central Susquehanna Valley Greenway Authority (SEDA-COG region) and Northern Tier Greenway Authority (Lumber Heritage region). The Authority will need support from organizations, such as user groups or conservation organizations. Funding could be shared amongst the member counties, with some State funding. The Authority could be responsible for a portion of the operating budget through donations, fund drives and user fees.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

Advantages:

- Members are typically users and have a vested interest in the successful management of the greenway.
- Not tied to municipal or county boundaries.
- Potential for tax base operation budget. Significantly more tax options and larger base than a single county.
- Eligible to apply for State and Federal Grants.
- Option for counties to fund their share of the greenway expenses based on percentage of land in the greenway.

Disadvantages:

- Dependent on volunteer leadership.
- Limited availability of expertise and backup for administration.

Nonprofit Corporation

A nonprofit Corporation could be established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Corporation Board of Directors could be comprised of representatives with a vested interest, such as greenway owners and County government. The Corporation could be responsible for managing and maintaining designated greenways within the County or a multi-county area. The Corporation would employ a paid staff to organize, recruit, fund and mobilize efforts.

Advantages:

- Dedicated paid staff and skilled personnel.
- Not tied to municipal or county boundaries.
- Eligible to apply for State and Federal Grants.
- Contributions from people and organizations are tax deductible.
- Option for municipalities to fund their share of the greenway expenses based on percentage of land in the greenway.
- Personal liability protection for directors, officers and members.

Disadvantages:

- Higher operating expenses.

Greenway User and Advocacy Group Role

The trend according to American Trails is to rely more on volunteers, user/advocacy groups, alternative labor/funding sources, technology and professional trail contractors. Maintenance is the highest cost of operating/managing a greenway. Annual trail maintenance for example, can be as high as 20% of the construction cost; conservation greenways have little to no cost for maintenance. Using volunteer associations or groups in fundraising, patrolling, maintenance,

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

and policing of greenways will be a key element in a successful County greenway program. Examples of Greenway User and Advocacy Groups roles are:

- Conservancy and watershed groups - monitor and maintain the water trails and conservation greenways; purchase easement/development rights to ensure protection of significant natural resources.
- User groups - assist in monitoring of road trails, signage and trash removal; State, County, and local owners would perform more of the inspections and maintenance.
- Hiking and off-road trails - groom trails, clean-up, vegetation management, build capital projects such as bridges, benches and signs.

Public/Private Partnerships

To effectively implement a user and advocacy group role one needs to establish a public-private partnership combining advocacy groups with the public sector. Gain the benefits of advocacy groups including community spirit, volunteerism, and a perception that the partnership is not just additional bureaucracy. The public sector partner contributes professional and financial resources, as well as the perception of group sustainability and long-term commitment to the project.

Advantages:

- Offers benefits of both Public and Private Sectors.
- May not be viewed as more government bureaucracy
- Combines entrepreneurial spirit of advocacy group with professional employees with practical experience of public sector
- Public agency lends credibility to the organization as it is a permanent entity
- Offers diversified funding sources

Disadvantages:

- Requires careful selection of board members to maintain integrity and reputation of the group
- Requires long-term commitment of a private group to the greenway focus and vision
- Could limit authority of public sector

Existing Greenway and Trail Management Examples

Allegheny Trails Alliance (ATA). ATA is a coalition of seven trail-building organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland whose purpose is to assure the construction, maintenance and use of the multi-purpose trail between Pittsburgh, PA, and Cumberland, MD. They also have a private foundation that provides much of their support.

- The seven trail groups, who are a 501 (c) (3) organization, work cooperatively through an MOU. As a tax-exempt organization, they can raise funds and apply for grants.
- Most of the counties own the trails, while the local trail groups provide funding for land acquisition and capital improvements, and perform the maintenance.

CHAPTER 7 ESTABLISHING GREENWAYS

- The Somerset County section of the trail is an example of a county who owns the land and does not use any taxpayer money to purchase or maintain the trail. It is the responsibility of the local ATA group.
- A volunteer county board has been appointed to oversee the county portion of the trails, conduct inspections and perform some of the maintenance.

Perkiomen Trail, Montgomery County. Owned and managed by the County.

Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority. Encompasses eight counties in West Virginia. Authority established by State Legislature and funded by the State. Funding also comes from Federal, County and private contributions, as well as fees. They currently manage and operate 400 miles of multi-use trails (hiking, biking, ATV, snowmobile, equestrian, motorcycle, and 4-wheel drive vehicles). They own no land. All land is privately owned. The Authority has agreements with all the landowners. They have been in existence for 13 years. The trails have been open only 3 years (spent 10 years putting everything together and getting agreements in place). The Board consists of one representative appointed by the County Commissioners of each County (This is typically one of the Commissioners), and one landowner from each County. www.trailsheaven.com

Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail is owned by various groups ranging from the National Parks to local municipalities. It is managed by local volunteers who accept responsibility for each section.

Tricounty Corridor Commission. Located in Peoria, Woodford and Tazewell Counties in Illinois. The 3 counties formed an Authority who own and manage the Tri-County Corridor.

Monmouth County, NJ. The County owns the trails, but solicits for local groups to “adopt” a trail section to maintain.

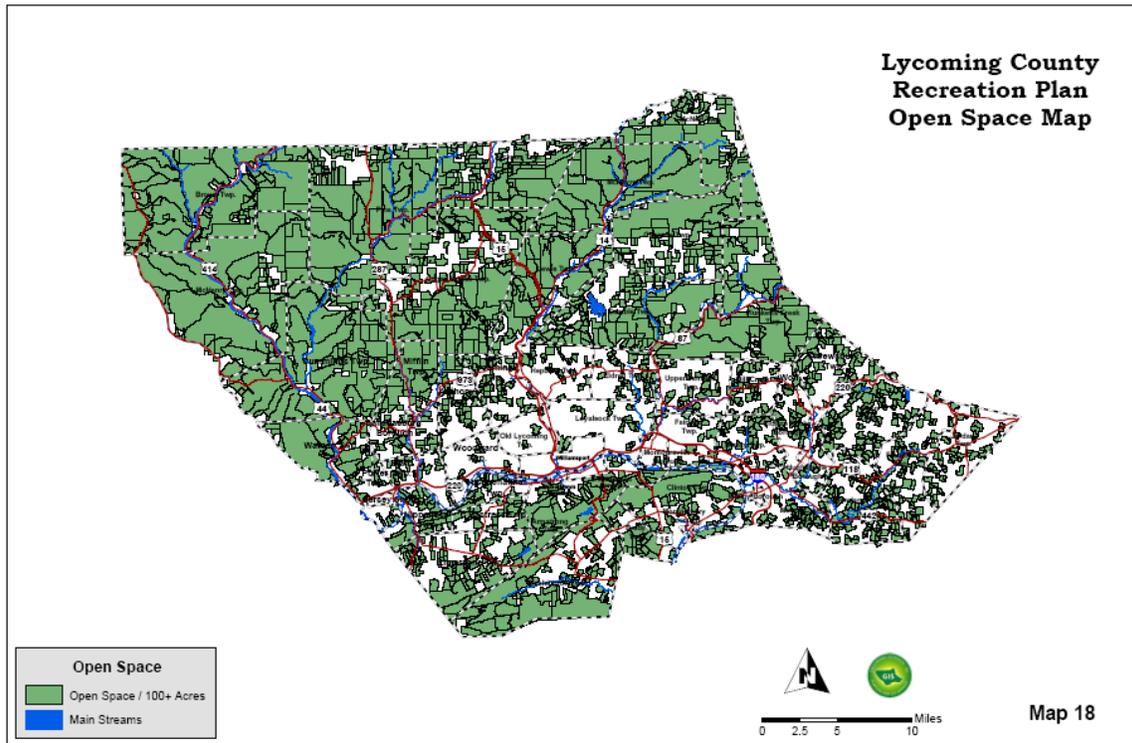
CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Open Space

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following open space related issues were identified:

- Conservation of lands, landmarks and waterways.
- Preserve open space and forestlands.
- Avoid cutting up our working forests (i.e. parcelization of harvested lumbered areas and developing subdivisions in prime forest areas).
- Provide facilities throughout the County for equal access by residents.
- Provide public access to rivers and streams.
- Protect hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Control pollution and protect natural areas.
- Consider total eco-system; they do not end at property lines.



2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to open space issues:

- Open Space was the second leading attribute that attracted people to a municipal park – just behind picnic facilities.
- Facilities that should be increased or improved include:

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- Wildlife areas (#4)
 - Natural areas (#5)
 - Environmental education areas (#9)
 - Sitting/passive areas (#10)
- The scenic quality of our region is valued by residents.
 - Protection of open space is valued by respondents
 - very important to 65%
 - important to 28%
 - Forestland availability for timber production is important (72%)
 - Maintaining forestland for ecological and recreation purposes is important (98%)
 - The regular use of a recreation area is dependent on its proximity to home.
 - 26% require <15 minutes from home
 - 23% require <30 minutes from home

2003 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held to provide the results of the Recreation Survey and provide individuals with an opportunity for additional input. Information gathered during the four meetings generally validated the results of the Recreation Survey. There were no additional issues or opportunities identified for open space.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. Although there was no focus group to specifically discuss open space, the conservation/sportsmen, trails, and State agencies focus groups all discussed open space issues. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Relevant Issues and Opportunities from Other Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Lands of special natural features which would add appeal and variety are usually not a part of community recreation systems. River access and frontage is an example of this.
- Rural areas have an abundance of open space that can be used for varying activities.
- Open space within and near neighborhood areas result in more meaningful use by residents.



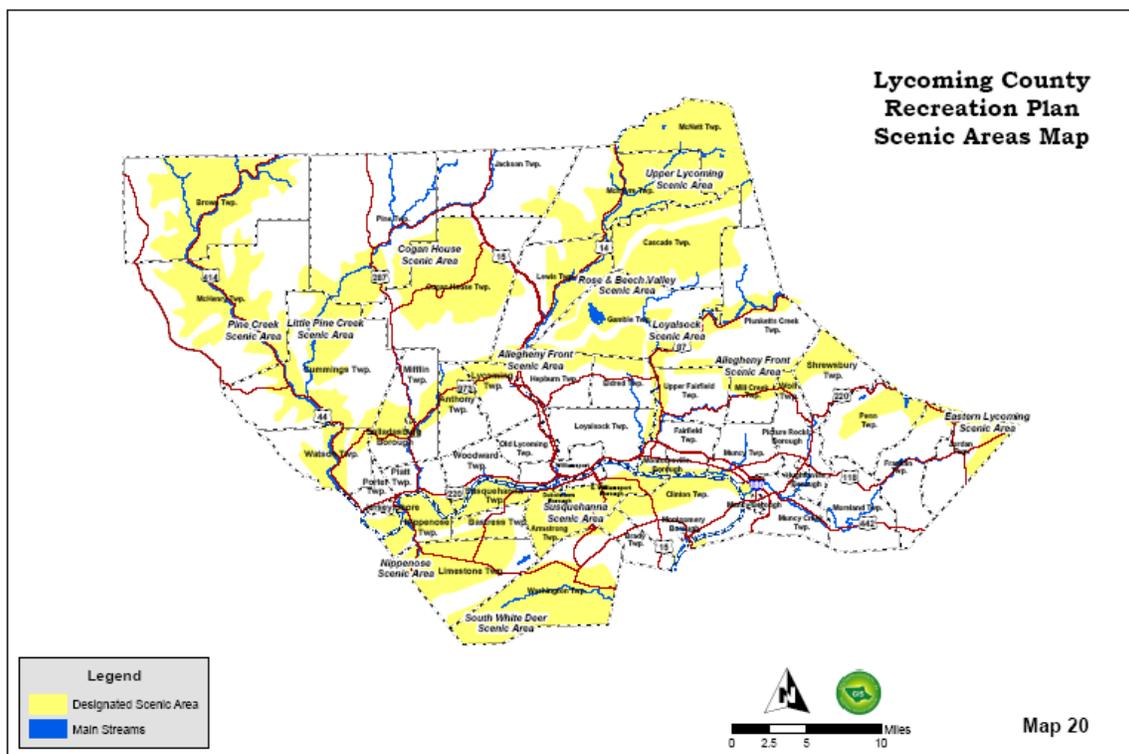
CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Community recreation will improve with open space available closer to neighborhoods and parks for integrating recreational activities.

- Open space within developing communities needs to be reserved now if it is to be available in the future.
- Open areas critical to recreation use should be protected for future use, and conflicting land use discouraged.
- Open space is a key feature of the Lycoming County landscape. It protects and preserves groundwater quality and quantity, provides habitat, and provides recreational opportunities. Development is increasingly consuming open space lands and impacting the natural ecosystem.

Scenic Areas

The Lycoming County Planning Commission prepared a Scenic Resources Study in 1973 which systematically evaluated areas in the County based on eight physical features: Vertical relief, Water, Expansive Space, Confined Space, Wilderness, Farmland, Woodland, and Specialized Development. This study identified 12 priority areas within the County which possess a high degree of scenic quality. These areas are shown on the Scenic Areas Map. The majority of sites are steep sided stream valleys, such as the Pine Creek and Loyalsock Valleys. Other



scenic areas incorporated pastoral landscapes with expansive views, such as the Cogan House and Nippenose scenic areas. These Scenic Areas have been incorporated into the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plans since the original study. It is recognized that these areas are an integral part of the character of Lycoming County, and need to be preserved and conserved. The twelve areas selected represent approximately 30% of the County, as can be seen on the Scenic Areas Map.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Open Space Preservation and Conservation Techniques

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are a widely used land protection tool. Conservation easements permanently protect the land and allow it to remain in private ownership. A conservation easement (or, perhaps more appropriately, conservation agreement) is a perpetual, legally-binding agreement between a landowner and either a non-profit land conservation organization or a government unit (such as a county) regarding the use of a property and development allowed on the landowner's property.

The easement spells out the permitted uses of a property. This includes such things as agriculture, forestry, recreation, habitat improvement, and other open space uses. The easement also spells out the residential, commercial, and industrial uses of the property. This includes such things as where additional houses may be built and the amount of sub-division that will be allowed. Once an easement is in place, the landowner can give, sell, or otherwise transfer the property. The easement follows the deed to the property binding all future owners.

Often property owners donate conservation easements, however there are some programs that provide funding to purchase conservation easements. Two of the most popular programs are the county agricultural preservation programs and the Community Conservation Partnership Program operated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy has accepted 13 donated easements within Lycoming County. The properties under easement total 973 acres as of 9/12/07. These easements prohibit further residential development on the property, while allowing the properties to remain active farms and working forests.

Conservation easements are one tool to help maintain rural character; maintain or improve water quality; and to provide resource based industries, whether forestry or agricultural, with a sustainable materials supply. When conservation easements prohibit or limit the amount of sub-division and development that can occur on a property, they are working to keep the scenic quality, the open fields and forests, in place. By limiting development, conservation easements are providing large areas of undeveloped land for ground water recharge to occur. Properties under easement also provide areas stormwater run-off to be filtered before the water enters a stream.

Properties under conservation easement will remain open space thereby allowing future generations the land base for farming activities as well as forest management. By maintaining larger tracts of land as open space, it is more cost effective to manage those properties.

Some conservation easements also provide for public access. Not all conservation easements have this provision. Often a property owner wants to ensure that future generations have access to a stream, a hiking trail, or a particular area of the property. The conservation easement can be structured to provide this permanent public access.

Although the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is mentioned in this section, it should be noted that the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy have also worked with property owners and facilitated fee simple acquisitions within the watershed. The three organizations are separate organizations.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Clean and Green Program

The Authority for the Clean and Green Program is the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974 (72 P. S. § § 5490.1—5490.13), commonly referred to as the Clean and Green Act. The act provides for land devoted to agricultural use, agricultural reserve use or forest reserve use, of 10 acres or more, to be assessed at the value it has for that use rather than at fair market value. The intent of the act is to encourage the keeping of land in one of these uses. The benefit to an owner of enrolled land is a reduced tax assessment value.

Enrolled land remains under preferential assessment for as long as it continues to meet the minimum qualifications for the program. An owner of enrolled land may not unilaterally terminate or waive the preferential assessment of enrolled land. If an owner of enrolled land changes the use of the land to something other than agricultural use, agricultural reserve or forest reserve or changes the use of the enrolled land so that it otherwise fails to meet the requirements of the program, that landowner shall be responsible for the payment of roll-back taxes and interest, for up to seven years of back taxes. The roll-back tax is the difference between the preferential assessment and the normal assessment for each year, plus simple interest at the rate of 6% per annum from each particular tax year to the present:

Agricultural Preservation

Agriculture helps preserve green space and is a compatible adjacent land use for many of the areas of interest for a Greenway. Two important programs to consider are designation of Agricultural Security Areas and purchase of conservation easements.

Agricultural Security Areas are a legally recognized geographic area formed by one or more landowners and approved by one or more government agencies, designed to keep land in agriculture. Key features of the program are:

- The program is voluntary for farmers. Petitions are submitted to township supervisors by the farmers.
- They are reviewed every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added to an established Agricultural Security Area at any time.
- An Agricultural Security Area is a minimum of 250 acres.
- Participants receive special consideration regarding:
 - Local ordinances affecting farming activities
 - Nuisance complaints
 - Review of farmland condemnation by state and local government agencies

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality farmland. Properties must be located in an Agricultural Security Area of at least 500 acres to qualify. The first easements were purchased in 1989. Counties participating in the program have appointed agricultural land preservation boards with a state board created to oversee this program.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Lycoming County has an active agricultural preservation program, operated by the County Conservation District. The program utilizes soil classification and development pressure to rank projects and determine what properties are most important to the program. The easement prohibits further residential development of the property, conserving the land for agriculture.

Prime and Important agricultural soils, Agricultural Security Areas, and Agricultural Easements are shown on the Agricultural Areas Map and Agricultural Preservation Map in the Map Book.

Conservation Design / Open Space Development

Conservation design permits higher concentration of buildings in one or more areas of a site, while allowing the remaining portion of the site to be protected as open space. The open space is protected with a conservation easement or dedication. A Conservations Lands Map is included in the Map Book.

Resource Conservation Zoning

Resource conservation zoning allows development in the more remote and mountainous areas in the County while protecting the significant and substantial resources of those areas. Of specific concern are the highly sensitive resources inherent in such areas such as view shed, watershed, plant and wildlife habitat, streams and riparian corridors. Protection of specified resources is placed ahead of economic use of the land. This zoning will allow only such development that can be achieved without adverse effect and which will be subordinate to the resources of the particular site and area.

Green Design

Green Design is the attempt to make and use new products and procedures that are more environmentally friendly. The approach is to direct attention and focus to an environmental problem or desire and implement use of materials and techniques to address the problem. Some green design considerations for Greenway trail development include: grading and clearing standards, use of screenings and buffers, using alternative pavement structures, reducing pavement widths, and using storm water best management practices.

Open Space and Trails Coordination with Development Plans

The PA Municipalities Planning Code (Section 503(11)) provides that municipalities which have a formally adopted Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, or which adopt the County Plan by reference, may require the dedication of land suitable for recreational use such as parks or trails, and upon agreement with the applicant or developer, may require the construction of recreational facilities, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, the private reservation of the land, or a combination, for park and recreation purposes. Municipalities may require a certain percentage of space to be dedicated for recreation or trails to connect to existing or planned trail networks as a condition of approval of the subdivision or land development provided that the municipal subdivision and land development ordinance includes standards for determining the proportion of a development to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu thereof.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Overlay Zoning

Overlay zoning can be used to protect sensitive environmental areas, historical areas, or other areas requiring special protection. The intent of overlay zones is to provide special criteria to protect a resource while retaining the general character and purpose of the underlying zones. Floodplain zones are examples where an overlay zone provides protection needed for the areas that frequently flood, while preserving the existing development and character of the underlying zoning district. Overlay zones can be established to protect other resources; the criteria of the overlay zone is dependent on the resource being protected.

Riparian Buffers

Riparian Buffers are vegetated strips of land that line the banks of streams, rivers, ponds and other water bodies and play an essential role in protecting water quality and preventing erosion. Natural buffers between land and water are highly productive and diverse systems that perform many functions and provide many benefits. Riparian Buffers also provide much-needed habitat for wildlife. The Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance and several Municipal Zoning Ordinances have riparian buffer retention standards.

Transfer of Development Rights

The ownership of land includes rights pertaining to minerals, timber, agriculture, riparian rights, surface and ground water, air, and development, to name the most common. Use of these rights is not absolute. Governments do have the right to constrain, to a certain extent, a property owner's use of these rights and thus the economic value that the property owner can derive from the property. The most common restraint has been on the exercise of the individual's use of development rights through zoning. Transfer of development rights (TDR's) have been used in other areas of the country for the conservation or protection of open space, natural resources, farmland, and urban areas of historical importance.

TDR programs are used to focus development in areas that can withstand more aggressive densities than normal zoning permits and to protect areas of interest. The concept is to establish sending and receiving areas:

Sending areas are designated where the community desires preservation or development limitations, such as productive farmland, environmentally sensitive areas, scenic areas, open spaces, or historic buildings and districts. TDR programs allow the transfer of future development potential from properties in sending areas. Land owners in sending areas are restricted from making maximum economic use of their properties through zoning or other regulations. The sending area land owner sells development rights and development of that property is prevented through a deed restriction or conservation easement. All other rights remain with the sending area property. Thus the sending area owners achieve some of the economic gain, which could otherwise be realized through development, through the sale of development rights.

Receiving area landowners may purchase development rights from sending area land owners. Receiving areas are designated as mapped overlays identified in land use plans as appropriate for new or additional concentrated development. They are usually in areas well served by transportation networks and public sewer and water systems. However, the

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

mapping of receiving areas in rural development areas or larger areas up to nearly an entire town is also possible.

Two general types of TDR programs are used. The most common TDR program allows the sending area landowner to sell the development rights to a developer who then uses those development rights to increase the density of houses on another piece of property in a receiving area. The second program type allows a local government to establish a TDR Bank to transfer development rights. Developers who wish to develop at a higher density than current zoning allows, purchase development rights from the local government. The local government then uses these funds to purchase development rights of properties in areas that it wants to protect.

Open Space Preservation & Conservation Techniques Summary

Preservation and Conservation Techniques	Agriculture	Countryside	Natural Resource	Ridge	Growth Areas
Conservation Easement	X	X	X	X	X
Clean and Green	X		X		
Agricultural Preservation	X		X		
Conservation Design / Open Space Development		X			X
Green Design	X	X	X	X	X
Open Space Dedication	X	X	X	X	X
Overlay Zoning	X	X	X	X	X
Riparian Buffers	X	X	X	X	X
Transfer Development Rights	X	X	X	X	X

Key Issues:

- Sprawling Development. Open space and agricultural lands in this region are being consumed by sprawling land development practices, as permitted by local land use ordinances.
- Growth Management. Investment in targeted growth areas as identified in the Comprehensive Plan will reduce pressure for development of new housing in the identified Green, Ridge, and Agriculture areas.
- Smart Growth. Completion of the Pine Creek Rail Trail, PA Wilds initiative, and the Logging Heritage initiative, will spur economic development within the County. Entrepreneurial economic development must be managed to ensure that the very qualities driving this growth does not destroy it.
- Wildlife Habitat Corridors. Large undeveloped tracts of land that greatly influence wildlife habitat are privately owned. Segmentation of these corridors through insensitive land

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

development can degrade the habitat value of these lands. Ordinances governing land use regulations offer little to no environmental protection.

- **Forest Health.** Our forests are under threat from climate change, diseases, and infestations, such as the gypsy moth and wooly ageldid. Actions are needed by appropriate parties to address these concerns.
- **Scenic Areas.** Lycoming County is well known for its natural beauty and an abundance of scenic areas where development of the landscape has not blighted those scenic values. The twelve most scenic areas identified in the Scenic Areas Map and as described in the Priority Greenways section must be protected from incompatible development and their scenic values conserved.
- **Protected Lands.** Thirty-two percent of Lycoming County is protected open space, as shown in the table below. It is imperative that the quality of these lands is conserved.
- **Semi-protected Lands.** More than two-thirds of Lycoming County has some degree of protection as open space. Additional measures should be pursued to afford a greater degree of protection for these lands. Emphasis should be placed on wildlife corridors and conservation greenways. The Open Space – Large Parcels Map shows semi-protected land parcels of 100 acres or more.

Open Space Summary

Open Space	Number of Acres	Percent of County
Protected Lands		
State Forest	202,605	25.4
State Game Lands	45,732	5.7
Agricultural Preservation	5,368	0.7
Conservation Easements	973	0.1
Semi-protected Lands		
Clean & Green	35,075	44.1
Large Hunting Camps	94,723	11.9
Flood Buy-outs	135	<1.0
Conservation Zoning	494,763	62.1

The Implications to the Community:

- Effective land use management as described in the Comprehensive Plan will allow economic growth while conserving the natural beauty and open space that makes Lycoming County a unique place.
- Protection of wildlife habitat and natural inventory areas helps to maintain a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity in our region.
- Controlled development in Growth and Countryside areas conserves the values of our Scenic Areas.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- Protection and conservation of open space within the Green, Ridge, and Agriculture areas will preserve wildlife habitat and corridors.
- Protection and conservation of open space in Growth and Countryside areas will promote establishment of healthy communities and active living.

Trails

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory committee, the following trail related issues were identified:

- Plan for improved information systems and communication on all levels.
- Provide facilities throughout the County for equal access by residents.
- Develop a variety of interpretive trails with diverse purposes.
- Provide different levels of difficulty for trails (beginners, medium, advanced).
- Better trail identification and mapping is needed.
- Maintain existing trails and keep them clear of debris. Provide special attention to protecting and maintaining heavily used areas, such as the Loyalsock Trail.
- Improve quality and quantity of public facilities e.g. restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Control pollution and protect natural areas.
- Recognize that public spaces and parks are used by many people including people with a variety of disabilities. Design should accommodate a balance for challenged individuals, as well as other physical and mental disabilities. ADA is not just wheel chair access.
- Be sensitive to private landowner issues.



2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to trail issues:

- Bikeways were high on the list of visits to most popular recreation areas. The most frequently visited bikeways in order were: Montoursville bikeway, Old Lycoming bikeway, Pine Creek trail, Loyalsock bikeway, and Williamsport bikeway.
- Fitness and jogging trails were one of the top five factors in bringing people to parks. Bike trails were also a strong drawing item for park visits.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- Walking paths and biking trails were identified as items people most like in community parks.
- The following improvements were suggested:
 - Better signs. Mark and label all trails.
 - Need public restrooms.
 - Need more walking trails.
 - Need a variety of trails with differing levels of difficulty.
 - Need more bike paths.
 - Need parking for snowmobile and ATV Trails.
 - Need connection for snowmobile and ATV Trails to parks and public businesses.
 - Put benches along walking paths.
- Cross-country ski areas should be increased (328 of 496 responses).
- Need walking, hiking and biking around population centers.
- Use STEP Community Service for trail maintenance.
- Participation in the following activities is likely to increase:
 - ATV riding.
 - Bicycling.
 - Hiking.
 - Horseback riding.
- Walking and fitness was the number one response in the activity most family members were likely to participate.
- Communities are considered a safe place to walk and ride a bike (86%).
- Support for trail development follows the following priorities:
 - Walking/hiking trails
 - Off road family biking
 - ADA / handicap accessible trails
 - Cross-country ski trails
 - Water trails
 - Off road mountain biking
 - Horseback riding trails
 - Rollerblading / inline skating
 - On road biking
 - ATV trails
 - Snowmobile trails

2003 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held to provide the results of the Recreation Survey and provide individuals with an opportunity for additional input. Information gathered during the four meetings generally validated the results of the Recreation Survey. There were no additional issues or opportunities identified for greenways.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A trails focus group and a State agencies focus group were interviewed to specifically discuss trail related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to trails as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, conservation/sportsmen,

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

winter sports, youth leadership, and youth sports focus groups. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

Information from Previous Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Maintenance of heavy use areas for trails is a concern. Increasing the number of volunteers should be a priority.
- Bikeways are identified as the highest priority recreation need in the region.
- Bikeways should complement efforts to develop community bikeways and an interconnecting County-wide and regional bikeway system.
- Bikeway development should be a key funding priority in assessing transportation enhancement needs and allocating resources now available through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.
- Bikeways should connect the major residential areas with employment centers and recreational facilities to ensure optimal usage as an intermodal strategy
- A multi-county interconnected bikeway system along the Susquehanna River should be pursued in order to provide an outstanding recreational experience and a non-motorized vehicle transportation alternative to reduce traffic congestion and maintain clean air which will contribute to an overall improvement in the quality of life in Lycoming County.
- Hiking and cross country skiing are very popular with adequate facilities available. There is concern for heavy use damage on most popular trails.
- Limited mountain bicycling or horseback riding trails are available.
- Sight seeing on scenic roads is popular.
- The Black Forest and Loyalsock Trail are most used. The Loyalsock Trail is considered to be at its maximum desired volume of usage.
- Priority need for cross country bicycling trails, local walking and biking trails in populated areas with links to open space, schools and neighborhoods, and horseback riding trails.
- County should provide seasonal labor to assist in trail construction and maintenance.
- County should design and construct the Timber Trail along a section of the Susquehanna Riverwalk as outlined in the Lumber Heritage Region Interpretation Plan.

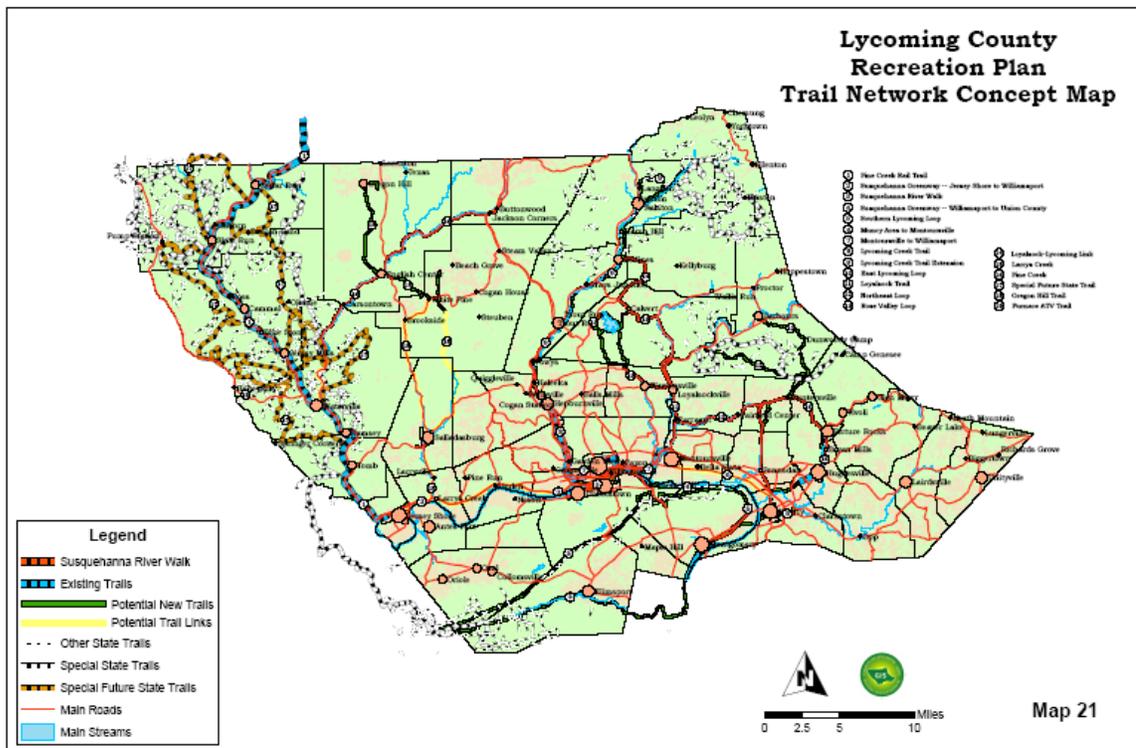
Key Issues:

- Susquehanna Trail. A multi-county interconnected bikeway system along the Susquehanna River will provide an outstanding recreational experience and a non-motorized vehicle transportation alternative to reduce traffic congestion and maintain clean air which will contribute to an overall improvement in the quality of life in Lycoming County.
- Community walking and biking trails. Safe walking and biking trails in communities that connect schools, parks, and neighborhoods remains the highest priority recreation need for this region.
- Heavy use of popular hiking trails. Some trails are experiencing maintenance issues and environmental problems from overuse. Trails of concern include the Black Forest

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Trail and the Loyalsock Trail (Little Bear Creek area). Overuse by equestrians is causing damage to Black Forest Trail and Old Loggers Path. There are numerous hiking trails that are underutilized. Other trails and utility corridors are being used in an illegal or unsafe manner. Education, signage and enforcement of proper trail use is needed.

- Maintenance of State Forest hiking trails. Maintenance is highly dependent on volunteers. This dependence does not provide a consistent program. Alternative means for providing/obtaining volunteer labor should be investigated and pursued.
- Lack of maintenance and closings of State Forest roads. Littering, problems with ATV's, and lack of manpower are cited by the Bureau of Forestry for this policy. Roads sometimes do need to be closed, such as during frost heave or high fire potential conditions. Municipality and County Planning agencies should be given the opportunity to comment on proposed forest road closures.
- Trail maps. Trail maps should be updated and maintained using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A cooperative effort should be initiated between the County GIS, Bureau of Forestry, State Parks, and Game Commission. This effort will not only



provide a valuable service, but will assist in reducing pressure on heavy use hiking trails and support marketing for tourism.

- Lack of public restrooms. A lack of public restrooms was a repeated comment from the recreation survey.
- Scenic roads program. There are numerous potential scenic routes and opportunities within the County. Skyline Drive offered tremendous scenic views prior to its closing

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

due to policing issues. Prior to its closure there were problems with littering and other illegal activities.

- Mountain biking opportunities. The Okome area was identified as a high potential for mountain biking trails.
- ATV trails. The use of ATV trails is rapidly growing with Pennsylvania. One in thirty adults in Pennsylvania own an ATV. There is significant pressure on the 14 mile trail in Lycoming County and a growing problem of illegal ATV riding.
- Equestrian trails. There is a growing demand for horseback riding. Additional trails are needed to reduce pressure on popular trails, particularly Black Forest and Old Loggers Path. This is an area for possible commercial venture.
- Winter sports. Winter sports in general have been identified as a need and significant opportunity for the County. Lycoming County has one of the strongest snowmobile trail systems in the State. Snowmobile trail connections at Waterville and between state trails in the eastern and northeastern portion of the County are an identified need, along with better access to parks and public facilities. There are also significant cross-country skiing opportunities; however, the recreation survey identified a demand for additional cross-country ski trails.
- Multi-use trails. There is an identified need to locate multi-use trails to serve the needs of multiple users and economize use of available corridors. Development of connections and trailheads for multi-use should be studied.

The Implications to the Community:

- The Susquehanna Trail will provide a link with the Pine Creek Trail. Completion of the trail will bring increased tourism and economic development opportunities.
- Our youth do not always have safe access for walking or biking to schools and community parks.
- Reduced maintenance resources and increased usage may result in degradation of the most popular hiking and equestrian trails.
- A winter sports focus could revitalize the local economy that has suffered a decline from reduced hunting participation.

Greenways

Advisory Committee Priority Issues and Opportunities

During the initial discussion of recreation issues and opportunities identified as priorities by the Advisory Committee, the following greenway related issues were identified:

- Conservation of lands, landmarks and waterways.
- Preserve open space and forestlands.
- Provide public access to rivers and streams.
- Protect hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Develop a variety of Interpretive Trails with diverse purpose.
- Improve quality and quantity of public facilities — restrooms, access to drinking water.
- Control pollution and protect natural areas.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- Be sensitive to private landowners.
- Consider total eco-system; they do not end at property lines.

2003 Lycoming County Recreation Survey

The following are highlights from the Recreation Survey completed in March of 2003 relating to greenway issues:

- The scenic quality of our region is valued by residents.
- Protection of open space is valued by respondents
 - very important to 65%
 - important to 28%
- Forestland availability for timber production is important (72%)
- Natural plant buffers along stream corridors are important to protect (97%)
- Maintaining forestland for ecological and recreation purposes is important (98%)
- Facilities that should be increased or improved include:
 - Wildlife areas (#4)
 - Natural areas (#5)
 - Bike Trails (#6)
 - Cross-country ski trails (#7)
 - Environmental education areas (#9)
 - Sitting/passive areas (#10)
- Walking and fitness was the number one response in the activity most family members were likely to participate; fishing and hunting were listed as second and fourth.
- Attributes that bring people to parks include open space (47%) and fitness and jogging trails (35%).
- The regular use of a recreation area is dependent on its proximity to home.
 - 26% require <15 minutes from home
 - 23% require <30 minutes from home

2003 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held to provide the results of the Recreation Survey and provide individuals with an opportunity for additional input. Information gathered during the four meetings generally validated the results of the Recreation Survey. There were no additional issues or opportunities identified for greenways.

Focus Group Interviews

Focus Group interviews of key persons were conducted to validate the above public input. A trails focus group and a State agencies focus group were interviewed to specifically discuss greenway / trail related issues and opportunities. Other focus groups provided some input related to trails as well; most notably the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, conservation/sportsmen, youth leadership, and youth sports focus groups. Information from these interviews is contained in the appendices.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Information from Previous Planning Efforts

The following issues and opportunities were identified in previous and related planning efforts. These issues and opportunities are currently relevant and are corroborated by the recent survey and/or public input.

- Health trends in America show alarming and dramatic increases in obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular health problems – especially in youth – that have been related to sedentary lifestyles. Center for Disease Control studies correlate these diseases with auto-dominant vs. walkable communities.
- Priority need for cross country bicycling trails, local walking and biking trails in populated areas with links to open space, schools and neighborhoods, and horseback riding trails.
- Alternative transportation opportunities are needed to reduce transportation infrastructure costs, roadway congestion and environmental pollution, according to Pennsylvania's long-range transportation plan -"PennPlan".
- Sight seeing on scenic roads is popular.
- "Land use will be Pennsylvania's most critical issue in the new millennium" according to the 21st Century Environmental Commission Report.
- Corridors for habitat protection should be established to protect wildlife ecosystems. This can also provide opportunities for man-nature connection, which improves the quality of life.

Key Issues:

- Statewide Greenways Network. Develop a county greenway plan to be adopted as part of the County Comprehensive Plan and incorporated into a statewide system of interconnected greenways.
- Susquehanna Trail. A multi-county interconnected bikeway system along the Susquehanna River will provide an outstanding recreational experience and a non-motorized vehicle transportation alternative to reduce traffic congestion and maintain clean air which will contribute to an overall improvement in the quality of life in Lycoming County.
- Community walking and biking trails. Safe walking and biking trails in communities that connect schools, parks, and neighborhoods remains the highest priority recreation need for this region.
- Scenic roads program. There are numerous potential scenic routes and opportunities within the County. Implementation of a scenic roads program is currently under study. Skyline Drive offered tremendous scenic views prior to its closing due to policing issues. Prior to its closure there were problems with littering and other illegal activities.
- Sprawling Development. Open space and agricultural lands in this region are being consumed by sprawling land development practices, as permitted by local land use ordinances. Active farm land in Lycoming County is being lost at a rate of approximately 1,000 acres per year. Most of the lost agricultural acreage has been converted to scattered residential development along the road frontages of State and township routes.
- Water Quality. A major resource of this county is the natural water system; with large aquifer recharge capacity in the limestone valleys and high-quality streams in the

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

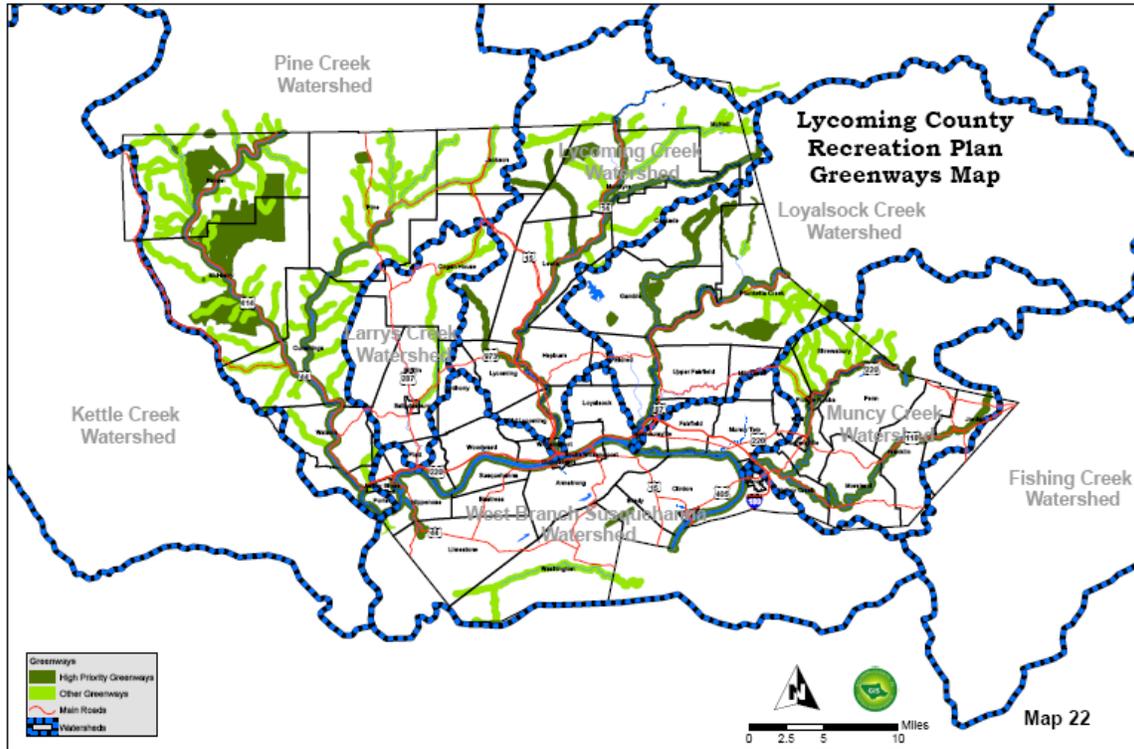
mountains. Much of the land that influences water quality is privately owned, and under governing land use regulations that offer little to no protection to the resource.

- Aquifer Recharge Areas. Regulation of land use in limestone valleys – especially around sinkholes - is critical to protecting water quality. Agricultural practices and uncontrolled ATV and dirt-bike usage are creating erosion in and around sinkhole areas and have potential to degrade water quality.
- Private Land Owner Rights. Recommended greenways traverse private land holdings which may cause concerns for loss of property rights; this concern must be addressed.
- Wildlife Habitat Corridors. Large undeveloped tracts of land that greatly influence wildlife habitat are privately owned. Segmentation of these corridors through land development can degrade the habitat value of these lands. Land Use Ordinances typically offer little to no habitat protection. Other conservation techniques, such as conservation easements or acquisition by adjoining State lands, may be applicable tools for conserving habitat areas.
- Natural Diversity Inventory Areas. Numerous areas within the county have been identified as having habitat value to species of concern, but local ordinances do not currently have provisions to protect these resources.
- River Obstructions. Migratory fish are prevented upstream access by river dams.
- Recreational Use Pressure. Increased recreation and development pressure has potential to compromise the scenic and ecological values of the region. Land use regulations need to recognize how to protect resources while allowing economic opportunity to be realized.

The Implications to the Community:

- County planning of greenways provides a comprehensive view of human resources, natural resources and their connections that transcends municipal boundaries. When integrated as part of a statewide system, this plan will network Lycoming County communities to valued resources statewide, and open opportunities for funding sources for greenway development.
- Residents value the scenic quality of our region which is threatened by sprawling land development patterns.
- By preserving or enhancing the quality of water resources we will protect drinking water supplies, fishing and recreational activities and habitats for residents, tourists and wildlife.
- Protection of wildlife habitat and natural inventory areas helps to maintain a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity in our region.
- Removal of obstructions to fish migration will protect the species affected, and provide opportunities for human observation of this natural phenomenon.
- Balancing human recreation with protection of natural ecosystems by providing a network to provide more options for outdoor recreation and relieve pressure on overused recreation areas.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS



Greenway Visions

Vision 21: The Susquehanna Trail is completed connecting the Pine Creek Valley from Tioga County to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, with a connection to Clinton County, and then along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River corridor to the Union County line. Completion of this scenic section will springboard development of the larger interconnected bikeway from New York to Maryland.

Goals:

- Provide a multi-use trail through the County connecting with the Pine Creek Trail in the western portion of the County and with Union County to the southeast.

Objectives:

- Complete a central link in a multi-county bikeway.
- Provide connections between key communities within the County.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Vision 22: Communities have a pedestrian plan with safe walking and biking paths that connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods.

Goals:

- Provide safe opportunities for our youth to travel between neighborhoods, community parks, and schools.

Objectives:

- Identify main pedestrian routes within communities.
- Improve pedestrian routes to provide safe walking and biking.
- Include trails and sidewalks in the planning stages of proposed roads and land developments to help reduce communities' dependence on motorized transportation.

Vision 23: Tourism and economic gain increase through extended visits with a variety of improved outdoor recreation opportunities and promotion of scenic views.

Goals:

- Protect valuable resources of the area.
- Preserve and conserve the scenic resources of Lycoming County.
- Increase tourism for outdoor recreation within Lycoming County.
- Plan to reduce use conflicts between residents and visitors.
- Increase both return visitors and new visitors.

Objectives:

- Promote Lycoming County as a destination for outdoor recreation.
- Encourage development that is sensitive to scenic gateways, vistas, and natural features; and protect these elements to the maximum extent possible.
- Encourage private development for services that support outdoor recreation.
- Market quality, quantity and variety of outdoor recreation available in Lycoming County.
- Identify scenic routes and scenic views.

Vision 24: Lycoming County and its municipalities adopt a greenway plan that enhances the quality of life and promotes healthy co-existence of people in their built and natural environments. When integrated as part of a statewide system, this plan will network Lycoming County communities to valued resources both county and statewide.

Goals:

- Provide a land use strategy for promoting land development patterns of stewardship that acknowledges the need for economic growth and respects the natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas, and the scenic quality of our region.
- Design non-motorized trails/recreation greenways that promote physical activity and wellness by providing opportunities for healthy lifestyles.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- Provide alternative transportation options that promote resource conservation within Lycoming County.
- Lycoming County greenways preserve and improve the region's water quality for drinking water supplies.

Objectives:

- Promote patterns of land development that are compatible with natural systems and in conjunction with Pennsylvania's Growing Smarter Initiative.
- Respect private property rights.
- Develop a system of trails for connectivity between residential areas, workplaces, schools, cultural and historical sites, recreation and open spaces. Promote trails as a viable, healthy alternative for commuting to work and school.
- Provide adequate signage for safety, direction and where feasible education.
- Where feasible and appropriate, separate non-motorized trails for a better level of safety.
- Provide "close to home" access to trails for recreation opportunities.
- Develop trails to accommodate users of different needs, abilities and interests.
- Educate landowners and municipal officials regarding the importance of sink holes as aquifer recharge areas for the region.
- Educate land owners regarding the impacts water quality has on land values, and the benefits of riparian buffers as a necessary part of water quality.
- Identify degraded water sources and riparian buffers and prioritize their need for improvement.
- Develop guidelines for land owners, to assist them with land use and management practices that protect habitat resources.
- Develop an invasive plants program to protect native healthy communities.
- Cooperate with the restoration of shad, eels, and other native fish migration within the West Branch Susquehanna River and its tributaries.

Vision 25: Lycoming County, its municipalities, and recreation/conservation agencies encourage the granting and maintenance of public access to recreational open space, while respecting the rights of landowners.

Goals:

- Maintain the passive recreation availability in existing open space.
- Preserve open space for recreation and connections throughout developing areas.

Objectives:

- Land use and planning ordinances include provisions authorized by the MPPC for dedication of land for recreation, or payments in lieu of dedication.
- Land use and planning ordinances include provisions for pedestrian traffic.
- Establish safe trails connecting downtowns, parks, and neighborhoods.

Vision 26: Lycoming County and its municipalities maintain open space and help to conserve working farms and forest lands, including provision of conservation incentives to landowners.

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Goals:

- Protect the scenic beauty and rural legacy of our County.
- Preserved Wildlife habitats and natural inventory areas, helping to maintain a balanced ecosystem and biodiversity in our region.
- Protect wildlife habitat corridors.
- Protect access and remoteness of unmapped and uncharted open space and natural areas.

Objectives:

- Establish a system to classify the level of protection needed around water sources, relative to the specific land uses proposed (or existing) around them.
- Identify large corridors of undeveloped lands to be conserved for the protection of unfragmented habitats.
- Develop guidelines for land use in sensitive areas to protect the diversity of animals and native plants that occur in natural inventory areas.
- Protect integrity of wilderness areas.

Greenway Implementation Strategies

The following strategies and strategic actions have been developed to achieve the stated visions, goals, and objectives

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-1. Develop a comprehensive pedestrian plan that supports recreation.	Studies and planning tools.	County and local government, PENNDOT,	TEA, DCNR, DCED, CDBG, PennDOT, First Community Foundation, local government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
1a. Complete planning and implementation strategy for the Susquehanna Trail.		Complete cost estimates for planned and proposed segments.	
		Prioritize construction of segments.	
1b. Evaluate main pedestrian routes within communities.		Emphasis should be given to connecting neighborhoods to community parks and schools.	
		Partner with PennDOT to further this effort.	
		Routes should be bicycle safe. Evaluate speed and volume of traffic, condition of streets and shoulders, use of bicycle safe	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

	grates, etc...
1c. Identify additional opportunities for pedestrian trails that link communities, parks, and recreation facilities.	Extend the Lycoming Creek Bikeway north to Trout Run and beyond.
	Provide a link between Loyalsock/Montoursville residential areas and Rose Valley Lake.
	Provide a link between Picture Rocks Hughesville, Muncy and the Susquehanna Trail.

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-2. Maintain and improve existing trails.		DCNR, PA Game Commission, County and local government.	DCNR, Game Commission, and volunteer efforts.
Strategic Action		Notes	
2a. Support funding of State agencies at the local level.		State legislators for Lycoming County need to provide support of local divisions of state agencies for trail and forest road maintenance budgets.	
		Local and County government need to identify impact of reduced maintenance of trails and forest roads within Lycoming County.	
2b. Develop alternatives to volunteer labor for trail maintenance.		County should provide seasonal labor to assist in trail maintenance. Consider use of pre-release.	
2c. Reduce pressure on heavy use trails.		Improve mapping, access to, and public knowledge of lesser used trails.	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-3. Increase outdoor recreation opportunities for tourists and residents while conserving the natural resources and social carrying capacity of the County.	Marketing plans. Brochures and maps.	DCNR, PA Game Commission, County and local government, and private entrepreneurs.	DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
3a. Establish and utilize a County recreation council to help coordinate tourism initiatives with resource conservation and infrastructure/service development efforts.		A single organization at the County level is needed to establish working partnerships between state agencies, local governments, and private business.	
		Coordination and communication among organizations, governmental agencies, professional staffs involved with promoting tourism and economic development, and private business is essential where resources are limited and the need for shared efforts becomes a compelling strategy.	
3b. Develop improved information maps of trails.		A cooperative effort between state agencies and County GIS is needed to upgrade level of mapping for trails within the County.	
		Encourage private enterprise for preparing comprehensive trail maps and related services.	
3c. Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of trails.		Cooperative effort between Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, businesses, and private enterprise.	
3d. Develop road tour maps.		Map scenic routes and identify scenic overlooks and views, bird watching opportunities, and points of interest.	
3e. Prepare a long range marketing plan for sustainable tourism.		Large scale special events and activities should be encouraged in appropriate areas with infrastructure and services, such as River Towns.	
3f. Promote sustainable low impact, high economic benefit tourism.		Recreation activities in rural resource areas should promote stewardship of the resource and a conservation ethic.	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-4. Develop new trails and trail links.	Feasibility studies.	DCNR, PA Game Commission, County and local government, and private entrepreneurs.	DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
4a. Inventory trails by level of difficulty.		There is a need for trails with different levels of difficulty. There is not a good inventory of the level of difficulty of existing trails, nor is this information readily available to potential trail users.	
4b. Develop interpretive trails.			
4c. Develop community trails originating in population centers.		The majority of trails in Lycoming County are on State Forest Land and State Game Lands. Connection from local communities to a larger trail network is desirable.	
4d. Establish links to connect existing trails.			
4e. Develop new ATV trails.		Encourage development by private entities. The Highland Lake Snowmobile and Outdoor Recreation Club will consider development of new ATV trails and parks as part of their 2007 feasibility study.	
4f. Develop new equestrian trails.			
		Conduct feasibility studies and develop plans to connect public trails across privately owned land. Connections must respect rights of property owners and address liability issues.	
		The Highland Lake Snowmobile and Outdoor Recreation Club was established in 2005. The club will be conducting a feasibility study and preparing a master plan in 2007, assisted by a DCNR grant, to establish links for existing trails in eastern and northern Lycoming County.	
		Provide equestrian trails that avoid user conflict and take pressure off heavy multi-use trails.	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-5. Promote development according to land stewardship and sustainable community values.	Pennsylvania's Growing Smarter Initiative, GIS, Community Assessments, Studies and planning tools.	County and local government, PENNDOT, schools and universities.	DCNR, First Community Foundation, local government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
5a. Classify and prioritize scenic or environmentally sensitive areas for the purpose of prioritizing the value of specific natural resources.	<p>Work with local colleges and universities to develop a system to quantify scenic and environmental values.</p> <p>Provide municipalities a checklist for reviewing subdivisions, land development projects and building permits relative to environmental values.</p>		
5b. Set standards for evaluating land use compatibility with classified resources.			
5c. Evaluate effectiveness of existing ordinances as they pertain to development standards for sustainable communities.	<p>State Government: Funding assistance.</p> <p>County Government: Evaluate existing ordinances using Conservation by Design funds for community assessments of Gamble Township, Nippenose Valley, and lower Muncy Creek Valley. Use GIS to analyze land use trends and impacts; compare these guidelines relative to specific trends of land use.</p> <p>Provide assistance with local ordinance updates, oriented toward sustainable communities development.</p>		
5d. Educate municipal officials and land owners and demonstrate the economic value of sustainable communities.	Provide annual smart growth training sessions for municipal officials; provide model ordinances and other tools for implementing Conservation by Design initiatives for sustainable communities.		

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

5e Educate developers and consultants to improve the design quality of development and it's compatibility with the landscape.	Sponsor training sessions on design techniques and examples.
5f. Educate youth to instill land stewardship values during early development.	Partner with schools to provide environmental education programs. Develop environmental education centers for ecological hands-on learning at Lime Bluff Recreation Area and Crystal lake Wetlands.
5g. Form a Greenway Task Force.	Form a partnership with watershed associations, health organizations, state and county agencies and individuals to promote greenways and develop n adopt-a-greenway program.

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-6. Protect the scenic beauty and rural legacy of our County through open space planning, conservation, and stewardship.	Pennsylvania's Growing Smarter Initiative, GIS, community assessments, studies and planning tools.	State, County and local government, PENNDOT, watershed organizations.	DCNR, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
6a. Minimize or avoid the extension or construction of public facilities such as roads and large sewage systems into scenic corridors that would encourage rapid growth and development, or infringe upon the character of the land.		<p>State Government: Review funding requests for proposed infrastructure relative to County Comprehensive Plan Growth Areas.</p> <p>County Government: Support growth in areas with existing infrastructure and discourage subdivision and land development plans that are not oriented toward sustainable communities development.</p>	
6b. Lands of high open space value or of fragile ecological character that are adjacent (or near) State Forest land should be incorporated,		<p>State Government: Acquisition of key open space parcels should be made.</p> <p>Work with Land Trust organizations to</p>	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

<p>by purchase, as State Forest land. Of highest importance would be ridgetops, streams and steep hillsides.</p>	<p>prioritize lands/waters to be protected.</p>
<p>6c. Farmlands near the river are in an area of Class I soil, and should remain in agricultural use. Farming visually enhances the scenic values of the river valley, and protects Pennsylvania's heritage of rural landscapes.</p>	<p>County Government: Provide assistance with local ordinance updates, oriented toward sustainable communities development.</p> <p>Programs of easement purchase or land purchase and lease-back for farming should be considered if necessary, to keep the lands in farm use.</p> <p>Local Government: agricultural zoning should be in effect here. A program for improving riparian buffers will improve flood mitigation, water quality, streambank integrity, and scenic value</p> <p>Private Action: Land use patterns of private development should not diminish the open space and farmland value of the river lands. Flood plain development should be minimized.</p>
<p>6d. Protect the high basin area of Rose and Beech Valley – one of the most scenic and unique landscapes in the county and region – from the increased residential development pressure.</p>	<p>The county should utilize Conservation by Design funds for community assessments of Gamble Township, Nippenose Valley, and lower Muncy Creek Valley. Provide smart growth training sessions for municipal officials; provide model ordinances and other tools for implementing Conservation by Design initiatives for sustainable communities.</p> <p>Local Government: Regulations to limit land development on fragile lands such as steep slopes, riparian buffers, and sinkhole regions, should be enacted and enforced.</p>
<p>6e. Only essential public service needs of water, sewer and transportation should be provided in the Pine Creek Watershed, as more than the essential needs will encourage new development in an area ill-suited to accommodate major growth – as could be associated with increased recreation pressures.</p> <p>The character of the natural landscape and of some development clusters (i.e., the Village of</p>	<p>State Government: Review funding requests for proposed infrastructure relative to County Comprehensive Plan Growth Areas. Acquisition of prime open lands should be made. Low impact recreational development should be done, not exceeding stream access areas, trails and primitive camping facilities.</p> <p>County Government: Support growth in</p>

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

<p>Cedar Run) should be maintained without encroachment of incompatible land development</p>	<p>areas with existing infrastructure and encourage sustainable community development.</p> <p>Coordination of local programs, state programs and special interest groups should be done at the county level. Enforcement of the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance should continue.</p> <p>Local Government: Enacting regulations to protect fragile areas such as flood plains and steep slopes should be done.</p> <p>Conservation Groups: The Pine Creek Preservation Association, the Pine Creek Council, and the Pine Creek COG should continue education and regional coordination programs to preserve the natural environment of Pine Creek.</p>
<p>6f. Propose an Amendment to PA's Clean and Green Program that incorporates smart growth values and results in true land conservation.</p> <p>The majority of privately owned land in Lycoming County is in Clean and Green or Ag Security Programs – while the programs are intended to maintain working farms and forests, they often promote land consumptive large lot development</p>	<p>State Government: Funding support.</p> <p>County Government: Develop an amendment that incorporates the concepts of net yield, clustered development / density bonuses, and conservation easements on land identified as important for sustaining healthy ecological functions.</p>

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
<p>8-7. Actively involve health providers in greenway development.</p>	<p>Studies and Outreach programs.</p>	<p>DCNR, PA Dept. Of Health, Regional Health Care Providers, Health Insurance Organizations, County Govt.</p>	<p>DCNR, DCED, Health Organizations, DCED, PANA.</p>
<p>Strategic Action</p>		<p>Notes</p>	
<p>7a. Develop a program to promote a greenway and healthy community initiative - to emphasize the links between greenways and healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>Partner with Susquehanna Health System, Geisinger HMO, Blue Cross, schools, and other regional health-related organizations to initiate this program.</p>		

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

	<p>Community health-care providers and health insurance companies need to re-evaluate applicable health-related funding programs to include greenway projects.</p> <p>Sponsor Health Fairs and special events such as Health Walks in parks and recreation areas. Use these as opportunities to distribute educational information promoting greenways and healthy communities initiatives.</p>
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Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-8. Pursue alternative transportation options that promote resource conservation	Feasibility Studies, maps.	DCNR, PennDOT, County and local government, utility companies, local rail service providers.	TEA, DCNR, DCED, First Community Foundation, County government, and private entities.
Strategic Action		Notes	
8a. Implement the conceptual trails/recreation greenway plan identifying potential trail routes and links.		A working partnership with PennDOT, DCNR, municipalities, and recreation user groups is needed to advance the development of recreation greenway trails in conjunction with proposed road improvements. Also refer to trails for additional strategic actions	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
8-9. Improve Water Quality.	Feasibility studies, GIS, Easements, Best Management Practices.	DCNR, Conservancies, County Conservation, County and local government, universities and private land owners.	DCNR, County government, and private entities, PaReleaf, CREPS.
Strategic Action		Notes	
9a. Develop system of prioritizing the need for protection of water resources.		<p>Work with State Agencies and local universities to develop a system to classify the level of protection needed around water sources, relative to the specific land uses proposed (or existing) around them.</p> <p>Educate land owners regarding the impacts water quality has on land values, and the benefits of riparian buffers as a necessary part of water quality.</p> <p>Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for all land disturbances.</p>	
9b. Inventory existing degraded water sources and riparian buffers, and prioritize their need for improvement within the County.		<p>Work with universities to complete the inventory and develop a quantitative system for prioritizing improvement.</p>	
9c. Protect sink holes as aquifer recharge areas for the region.		<p>Perform Community Assessment of local ordinances in the carbonate areas – with priority on the Elimsport and Nippenose Valleys.</p> <p>Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for all land uses and disturbances.</p> <p>Seek formal agreements such as conservation easements and right of first refusal to purchase lands to protect the integrity of water supplies, especially as related to sinkholes and their area of influence.</p>	

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

<p>9d. Develop incentive programs for land owner cooperation, providing additional opportunities for remaining lands if protection is offered for conservation greenways for riparian buffers.</p>	<p>Provide municipalities model ordinances utilizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Density bonuses ○ Cluster development ○ Transferable Development Rights ○ Greenways Banking option
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Strategy	Methods, Tools, and References	Partners	Funding Sources
<p>8-10. Adopt a conservation greenway plan for protection of resources and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Feasibility studies, GIS, Natural Areas Inventory, Best Management Practices.</p>	<p>DCNR, PaDEP, PA Game Commission, County Conservation, County and local government, universities and private land owners.</p>	<p>DCNR, County government, and private entities.</p>
<p>Strategic Action</p>		<p>Notes</p>	
<p>10a. Develop a quantitative ranking system for evaluating and assigning priority to wildlife corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Partner with wildlife specialists, the Nature Conservancy, PA Game Commission and local universities to develop a system to classify the level of protection needed around natural communities and habitats of concern.</p> <p>Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for all land disturbances.</p>		
<p>10b. Conserve large corridors of undeveloped lands for the protection of unfragmented habitats.</p>	<p>Partner private land owners with the PA Game Commission and State Foresters to develop a strategy for preserving large, unfragmented corridors for habitat protection.</p> <p>Identify and prioritize specific land parcels for connectivity. Protect - by easement or purchase 500 acres by the year 2010.</p> <p>Seek formal agreements such as right of first refusal and/or conservation easements to protect the integrity of high priority corridors.</p>		

CHAPTER 8 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

<p>10c. Establish sanctuary guidelines for controlling activities that will impact sensitive habitats.</p>	<p>Partner with wildlife specialists, PA Game Commission and local universities to develop parameters for human activities including land clearing, development, and heavy recreation use</p> <p>Develop site specific improvement and maintenance plans for the top 10 priority natural communities as identified in the County Comprehensive plan.</p>
<p>10d. Preserve the top 10 priority natural communities as identified in the County Comprehensive plan.</p>	<p>Seek conservation easements or land purchase to preserve these areas by the year 2010.</p> <p>Adopt and enforce the sanctuary guidelines as developed in 10c.</p> <p>Partner with land owners, State Agencies, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, watershed associations and volunteer organizations to monitor and enforce the guidelines.</p>
<p>10e. Develop an invasive plants program to protect native healthy communities.</p>	<p>Provide educational session to the public regarding the impact of invasive plants. Target the following audiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public school programs Landscape nurseries Chain stores with garden centers
<p>10f. Cooperate with the restoration of shad, eel, and other native fish migration within the West Branch Susquehanna River and it's tributaries.</p>	<p>Circumnavigate Hepburn Street Dam to restore natural fish migration in the West Branch Susquehanna River</p> <p>Design public viewing areas for human observation of this natural phenomenon.</p>
<p>10g. Develop a program to protect trout when water temperatures become warm enough that they must congregate at the mouth of cold water tributaries.</p>	<p>Work with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, DCNR, and Trout Unlimited to identify creative strategies.</p>

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION

The Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Plan will only be useful if it is regularly used and updated. For this to occur, County government, with assistance from municipal governments will need to perform the following actions:

- Annually evaluate the Strategic Actions to ensure they remain useful and viable in terms of accomplishing the goals and objectives of the visions.
- Prepare an annual written report summarizing conclusions of the evaluation. The report should include a listing of any completed actions, actions in-progress, and proposed new actions for the next year. There should also be recommendation for any changes to the Plan.
- Revisions or amendments to the Plan should be made as needed.

PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS BY LYCOMING COUNTY

In order to effectively implement the Strategic Actions identified in the Plan, County government will need to take some initial first steps as discussed in Chapter 4. The following actions are recommended:

- Create and sustain a Lycoming County Recreation Council of area recreation providers to foster working partnerships between State agencies, local governments, and private businesses.
- Expand the provision of recreation programming and project development assistance to municipalities through grant funded County or multi-municipal staff position(s), contracted services with the YMCA or other organizations, or other means.
- Consider establishing a Lycoming County Recreation Commission to promote development of recreation facilities and programs.
- Consider establishing a greenway and trail entity to manage a County trail system (other than DCNR managed trails), or partner with a regional or multi-County trail organization(s).

GREENWAY PRIORITIES

Appendix H is a matrix which provides an evaluation and priority score for potential greenways within the County. The following high rated potential projects and greenways should be considered in selecting Greenway implementation projects for the Lycoming County Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Greenways Plan:

- The number one trail priority remains connection of the Susquehanna Trail and Greenway from Pine Creek to Union County.
- The Lycoming Creek Greenway Detail Map provides the framework for implementation of that Greenway Plan. The early focus for implementing this Greenway Plan is extension of the Lycoming Creek Bikeway to Trout Run and beyond.
- The following are the top rated potential greenways:
 - Loyalsock Creek
 - Muncy Creek
 - Rose Valley Lake
 - Wallis Run
 - Little Muncy Creek

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION

- Pine Creek
- Lycoming Creek
- Nichols Run
- Antes Creek
- Bear Creek
- Engle Run
- Callahan Run
- Miller Run Natural Area
- Oregon Hill Swamp
- Bald Eagle Ridge

GREENWAY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The Hepburnville to Trout Run Greenway was selected as a greenway demonstration project. This greenway is part of the larger Lycoming Creek Greenway. For detailed information on this greenway, refer to Chapters 7 and 8, and Map Numbers 26 and 29. The following implementation actions are proposed for the Hepburnville to Trout Run Greenway:

Trails

Extend the existing Lycoming Bikeway 7.7 miles from Hepburnville to Trout Run. A shared lane bikeway could be used for 6.7 miles. A shared use section is proposed with improvements to the shoulder of the road for a 0.4 mile section. A 0.6 mile new independent trail would make up the remainder. An alternative or additional trail alignment would follow closer to Lycoming Creek, but require a new pedestrian bridge and require longer sections of independent trail to be constructed.

Riparian Buffers

Two riparian buffer areas are proposed. Riparian buffers on both sides of Lycoming Creek are proposed to conserve floodplain areas. Lycoming Creek is a Cold Water Fishery (CWF) in this section. There is significant pressure for development along this area. Establishing riparian buffers would protect the floodplain from development, provide/preserve habitat for wildlife, prevent erosion, and improve water quality.

A riparian buffer along Hoagland Run is also proposed. Hoagland Run is a High Quality – Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF). This riparian buffer will maintain the water quality and preserve habitat for wildlife.

Wetland Protection

There are numerous natural wetlands within this greenway, along with a large manmade wetlands west of Powy's curve.

Recreation

Improvements to the Trout Run Park are proposed.

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION

Floodplain

There are many properties that have been purchased through a flood buyout program following the 1996 flood. This is an ongoing program. A limited amount of improvements for recreation, access to Lycoming Creek, and fishing opportunities could occur on flood buyout properties, while preserving the floodplain.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Appendix I contains a matrix with a summary of strategic implementation actions that have been identified in this Plan. The matrix provides the action, agency responsible for implementation, and priority. Priority assigned refers to implementation in the short term (1-5 years), the medium term (6-10 years) and the long term (>10 years).

This matrix should be reviewed annually and the information should be updated to reflect the current information.

TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Appendix I also contains a matrix with a summary of trail implementation actions. The matrix provides the trail section, type of trail, length of trail, estimated probable cost, and priority. Priority assigned refers to implementation in the short term (1-5 years), the medium term (6-10 years) and the long term (>10 years). Refer to Map 21 Trail Network Concept Map for location by Trail Number.

This matrix should be reviewed annually and the information should be updated to reflect the current information.

MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PROJECTS

Appendix I contains a listing of specific municipal needs for recreation, parks and open space. This listing was developed through the public participation process as discussed in Chapter 3, with consideration for the established countywide Visions, Goals and Objectives. Municipalities should also review the Strategic Actions in Chapters 5, 6, and 8. Chapter 7 also provides opportunities and recommendations for greenways and trails that pertain to individual municipalities.

Lycoming County government will consider those needs and recommendations contained within this Plan when considering allocation of recreation funding and endorsement of grant applications. Municipal governments should review this plan annually, specifically in regard to Appendix I, and provide recommended changes. Municipal governments should include a listing of any completed actions, actions in-progress, and proposed new actions for the next year within their municipality. Recommended additions and revisions to this Plan should include an explanation as to how the need was determined; such as public input at regular municipal meetings.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Municipality	Population	2004 BUDGET YEAR					
		Total Revenue	Recreation & Cultural Revenue	Total Expenditures	Park and Recreation Expenditures	Expenditures By Population	Park and Recreation Expenditures % of Total Expenditures
Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area							
Armstrong Township	717	136,058		157,500		0.00	0.0%
Duboistown Borough	1,280	448,024		399,756	2,750	2.15	0.7%
Loyalsock Township	10,876	6,516,347	86,326	6,088,366	610,406	56.12	10.0%
Old Lycoming Township	5,508	3,692,347		2,939,264	30,232	5.49	1.0%
South Williamsport Borough	6,412	2,541,774	36,680	2,466,750	127,828	19.94	5.2%
Williamsport	30,706	19,608,246		17,555,599	396,139	12.90	2.3%
Lower Lycoming Creek Planning Area							
Hepburn Township	2,836	443,544		418,288	12,155	4.29	2.9%
Lewis Township	1,139	215,096		261,574	600	0.53	0.2%
Loyalsock Township	10,876	6,516,347	86,326	6,088,366	610,406	56.12	10.0%
Lycoming Township	1,606	259,920		271,539	87,636	54.57	32.3%
Old Lycoming Township	5,508	3,692,347		2,939,264	30,232	5.49	1.0%
Montoursville/Muncy Growth Corridor							
Fairfield Township	2,659	525,559		433,009	300	0.11	0.1%
Montoursville Borough	4,777	2,522,444	56,113	2,388,957	138,442	28.98	5.8%
Muncy Township	1,059	378,240		340,801	1,750	1.65	0.5%
Muncy Creek Planning Area							
Hughesville Borough	2,220	615,727		663,423	14,985	6.75	2.3%
Muncy Borough	2,663	882,516		843,637	6,537	2.45	0.8%
Muncy Creek Township	3,487	609,867	1,163	576,502	17,656	5.06	3.1%
Picture Rocks Borough	693	119,354		125,322	17,041	24.59	13.6%
Shrewsbury Township	433	133,278		116,734		0.00	0.0%
Wolf Township	2,707	566,621		289,376	8,834	3.26	3.1%
U.S. 15 South Planning Area							
Brady Township	494	842,421		779,789	3,043	6.16	0.4%
Clinton Township	3,947	1,333,284		1,116,531	2,083	0.53	0.2%
Montgomery Borough	1,695	916,265		885,353	140,084	82.65	15.8%
US 220/ Future I-99 Planning Area							
Jersey Shore Borough	4,482	2,189,789	41,265	1,845,396	85,138	19.00	4.6%
Piatt Township	1,259	211,316		267,158	300	0.24	0.1%
Porter Township	1,633	482,640		480,576		0.00	0.0%
Woodward Township	2,397	280,502		341,858		0.00	0.0%
Lycoming County - Rural Planning Area							

POPULATION STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Municipality	Population	2004 BUDGET YEAR					
		Total Revenue	Recreation & Cultural Revenue	Total Expenditures	Park and Recreation Expenditures	Expenditures By Population	Park and Recreation Expenditures % of Total Expenditures
Anthony Township	904	143,243		203,750	150	0.17	0.1%
Bastress Township	574	66,364		76,032		0.00	0.0%
Brown Township	111	82,467		78,714		0.00	0.0%
Cascade Township	419	89,281		70,992		0.00	0.0%
Cogan House Township	974	187,381		154,835	3,225	3.31	2.1%
Cummings Township	355	103,821		106,788	650	1.83	0.6%
Eldred Township	2,178	401,079		286,100		0.00	0.0%
Franklin Township	915	263,885		294,336		0.00	0.0%
Gamble Township	854	218,706		269,490	100	0.12	0.0%
Jackson Township	414	113,145		105,762	241	0.58	0.2%
Jordan Township	878	172,009		167,699	74	0.08	0.0%
Limestone Township	2,136	305,971		293,443	500	0.23	0.2%
McHenry Township	145	95,255		70,863		0.00	0.0%
McIntyre Township	539	208,167		203,718		0.00	0.0%
McNett Township	211	62,998		78,564		0.00	0.0%
Mifflin Township	1,145	221,770		219,967	4,058	3.54	1.8%
Mill Creek Township	572	121,433		156,446		0.00	0.0%
Moreland Township	1,036	279,244		266,406		0.00	0.0%
Nippenose Township	729	174,564	38,622	167,301	43,449	59.60	26.0%
Penn Township	900	233,127		221,742		0.00	0.0%
Pine Township	329	145,152		143,990		0.00	0.0%
Plunketts Creek Township	771	183,121		147,730	7,718	10.01	5.2%
Saladasburg Borough	260	31,010		29,027	14	0.05	0.0%
Susquehanna Township	993	194,358	370	133,275	612	0.62	0.5%
Upper Fairfield Township	1,854	453,392		385,267		0.00	0.0%
Washington Township	1,613	301,039		293,831		0.00	0.0%
Watson Township	550	108,367		102,473	1,601	2.91	1.6%

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE
4H GROUP	EVELYN SIMMONS	EXTENSION ASSISTANT
AUDOBON SOCIETY	RON BEACH	PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF STATE PARKS	GREG SASAMAN	ASSISTANT REGIONAL MANAGER
CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT	JOHN GRADO	DIRECTOR-COMMUNITY & ECON.DEV.
COUNTRY SKI & SPORTS		
DEP NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE	JOAN SATTLER	
EAST LYCOMING RECREATION AUTHORITY	JEFF BOWER	VICE CHAIRMAN
EAST LYCOMING SCHOOL DISTRICT	EDWARD HARRINGTON	SUPERINTENDENT
GREATER NIPPENOSE VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOC.	TOBY JOHNSON	CHAIRMAN
HARTMAN AGENCY	JEFF RAUFF	
HEMLOCK GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL	MARY SCRUGGS	DIRECTOR FIELD SERVICES
HEMLOCK GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL	GLORIA MCDERMOTT	
JERSEY SHORE AREA JOINT WATER AUTHORITY	MICHAEL ZELLARS	MANAGER
JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH RECREATION COMMITTEE	RAY MILLER	CHAIRMAN
JERSEY SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT	PETER UHLIG, PHD	SUPERINTENDENT
JERSEY SHORE YMCA	JERRY CLARK	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
K&L RENTALS		
LARSON DESIGN GROUP	DENNIS NORMAN	CONSULTANT PROJECT MGR
LARSON DESIGN GROUP	BONNIE MAHONEY	CONSULTANT
LCPC	JERRY S WALLS	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LCPC	KEVIN MCJUNKIN	ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INC	PATRICK WILSON	DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL OPERATIONS
LOYALSOCK CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	RONALD THOMPSON	CHAIRMAN
LOYALSOCK MENS CLUB	RICHARD LAUHLLE	REPRESENTATIVE
LOYALSOCK MENS CLUB	EDWARD DANNEKER	
LOYALSOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	NELSON WRUBLE, PHD	SUPERINTENDENT
LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP	BILL BURDETT	TOWNSHIP MANAGER
LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP PARKS	MIKE PIASKOWSKI	RECREATION COORDINATOR
LYCOMING COLLEGE	ROBERT GRIESEMER	VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER
LYCOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	TOM CORBETT	DIRECTOR
LYCOMING COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SPORTSMEN	EVAN MUMMA	
LYCOMING COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION	MARIANNE HEYDENREICH	SECRETARY
LYCOMING COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY	KEVIN DEPARLOS	CHAIRMAN
LYCOMING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	RUSS COWLES	
LYCOMING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	MIKE DITCHFIELD	CHAIRMAN
LYCOMING WOODLANDS OWNERS ASSOCIATION	JACK & SUZANNE MURRAY	
LYON CAMPING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY		
M&T BANK	JANET HARRIS	
	JANE MAHAFFEY	
MONTGOMERY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	DAVID PRICE	SUPERINTENDENT
MONTGOMERY BOROUGH COUNCIL	CHRISTINE SMITH/RICH THOMAS	PRESIDENT
MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	ALBERTJ CUNNINGHAM, PHD	SUPERINTENDENT
MUNCY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	LAWRENCE POTASH	SUPERINTENDENT
MUNCY CREEK SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION	TOM EVANS	PRESIDENT
MUNCY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	BRUCE SMAY	CHAIRMAN
NORTHCENTRAL PA CONSERVANCY	RENEE CAREY	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OCHS MICHAEL		
OUR TOWNS 2010	LAURA FLYNN	DIRECTOR
OUR TOWNS 2010	FRANK VELEZ	
PA BUREAU OF FORESTRY	JEFF PROWANT	DISTRICT FORESTER
PA DEPT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES	DIANE KRIPAS	CPRP
PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION	LARRY DVORSHOCK	
PA GAME COMMISSION	BARRY R HAMBLEY	DIRECTOR
PENN STATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	NEIL FOGEL	ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEV AGENT
PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	DR HENRYK MARCINKIEWICZ	
PINE CREEK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION	TONER HOLLICK	CHAIRMAN
PINE CREEK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION	GEORGE DURRWACHTER	
RBA GROUP	ANNETTE SCHULTZ	CONSULTANT
RBA GROUP	NANCY MINICH	CONSULTANT
SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	DANIEL B SHEAFFER	SUPERINTENDENT
SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT BOROUGH	DONNA BRINK	SECRETARY/MANAGER
SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED	TOM PERSON	
SUSQUEHANNA COUNCIL	TOM RITCHEY	CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE
SUSQUEHANNA HEALTH SYSTEM	LINDA SCHRAMM	
WILLIAMSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	PATRICIA A LOWERY, PHD	SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAMSPORT BICYCLE CLUB	BILL FAUST	
WILLIAMSPORT MOVING COMPANY	JACK MCKERNAN	
WILLIAMSPORT MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY	WALT NICHOLSON	
WILLIAMSPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT	WILLIAM J WEBER	AGENT
WILLIAMSPORT YMCA	MIKE WALDRON	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WILLIAMSPORT/LYCOMING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	JASON FINK	
YWCA	DIANE GLENWRIGHT	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LYCOMING COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY

In these first questions, we would like to learn a little about your household and participation in recreation.

1. My primary residence is: *(Please indicate: City, Borough or Township where you live?)*

2. Please indicate the number of people living in your household according to the following age ranges:

_____ Under the age of 4	_____ Ages 19 – 29	_____ Ages 50 – 59
_____ Ages 5 – 12	_____ Ages 30 – 39	_____ Ages 60 –69
_____ Ages 13 – 18	_____ Ages 40 – 49	_____ Over 70

3. How many times did the members of your family visit the following recreation areas during the past year? **(Skip if you haven't visited the area in the past year.)**

Recreation Area	1 to 4	More Than 5
Flannigan Park (Williamsport)		
Newberry Park (Williamsport)		
Brandon Park (Williamsport)		
Memorial Park (Williamsport)		
Old Lycoming Bikeway		
Shaw Place (Williamsport)		
Williamsport Bikeway		
Bruce Henry Park (Loyalsock Twp.)		
Loyalsock Bikeway		
Riverfront Park (Loyalsock Twp.)		
Short Park (Loyalsock Twp.)		
Heshbon Park (Loyalsock Twp.)		
Indian Park (Montoursville)		
Montoursville Bikeway		
Montoursville Recreation Area		
Ellmaker Access (Montoursville)		
Lime Bluff Recreation Area		
Keiss Recreation (Muncy)		
Hughesville Fairgrounds		
Jersey Shore Borough Park		
Little Pine State Park		
Montgomery Park		
Picture Rocks Park		
Pine Creek Trail		
South Williamsport Recreation Area		
State Game Lands		
Susquehanna State Park		
White Deer Golf Course		
Susquehanna Township Park		

4. What other recreation areas do you use and how frequently?

Recreation Area	1 to 4	More Than 5

5. How close must a recreation area be to your home for members of your household to use on a regular basis?

- Less Than 15 Minutes Less than 30 Minutes
 Less Than 45 Minutes Doesn't Matter

6. What attributes bring you to a municipal park?

(Check all that apply.)

- Open Space
 Picnic Facilities
 Athletic Fields
 Playground Equipment
 Fitness/Jogging Trails
 Programs and Special Events
 Other _____

7. Over the next five years, do you think your (or your families) recreational activity will increase, decrease, or remain the same?

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Increase | Decrease | About the Same |
| Indoor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. For those of you that have visited a park in Lycoming County what do you like and do you have suggestions for improvement?

Park Name	Like	Suggestions for Improvement

Please provide additional suggestions for improvement on page 4.

LYCOMING COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY

Next, we would like to know how important you think recreation facilities and recreation activities are.

9. From the following list, please check those *near where you live* that you think are adequate, should be increased, or should be improved: **(Skip item if you have no opinion.)**

	Adequate	Should Be Increased	Should Be Improved		Adequate	Should Be Increased	Should Be Improved
Viewing/Learning Activities				Individual Sports (Continued)			
Amphitheatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horseshoe Pits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arboretums (plant collection for display or education)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miniature Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auditoriums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rifle/Handgun Ranges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skateboarding/ Rollerblading Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Education Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage Parks/Historical Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter Sports			
Natural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross-Country Ski Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Performing Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Overlooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Skating Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Arena/Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group Sports				Sledding Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball Fields, Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Activities			
Baseball Fields, Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Recreation Centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts, Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts, Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Play Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football Fields, Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer Fields, Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer Fields, Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paved Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball Fields, Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sitting/Passive Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball Fields, Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Activities			
Track and Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boat Ramps/Marinas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canoeing/Boating Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practice Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming Pool Indoor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Sports				Swimming Pool Outdoor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery Ranges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other			
Bocce Ball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc Golf Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Driving Range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Handball/Racquetball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

LYCOMING COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY

Lastly, we would like your opinion on the role that the County should have in Recreation and Parks.

18. The County participates in various recreational events, providing specialized equipment and staff assistance. The County also uses pre-release prisoners and staff for construction of playgrounds and other recreational facilities, as well as planning and coordination of multi-municipal trails. In addition, the County Recreation Authority runs the White Deer Golf Course. What future role should the County have in future parks and recreation? (check all that apply.)

- No role at all – county should not provide parks and recreation services.
- Maintain present role.
- Assist local municipalities in developing recreational services.

- Develop additional facilities or program(s).
What facilities? _____

- What programs? _____

19. As the Susquehanna Greenway and Susquehanna River Trail Projects move forward from planning to development, issues of site ownership and maintenance must be addressed. There is a need for an organization to develop and maintain multi-use County-wide and Regional trails and open space within Lycoming County. What organization should own and maintain these trails and open space facilities?

- Volunteer non-profit organizations.
- County.

- Individual municipalities.
- Multi-County Trail/Open Space Authority.

20. How should expanded recreation programs, park development and greenways be supported? (Check all that apply.)

- Combination of grants & local funds
- Private/Corporate donations
- User's fees
- Recreation & Open Space Bond Issue in Lycoming County

- Local tax funds
- Program registration fees
- Volunteer time/donated materials

21. Please provide additional comments or suggestions for improvements of recreation, parks, and open space:

We welcome additional information on Lycoming County's park and recreation facilities and services. Feel free to add additional pages as required.

*** PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED SURVEY BY MID JANUARY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE ***
*** PAID PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR TO: Lycoming County Commissioners ***
c/o Lycoming County Planning Commission
330 Pine Street, Executive Plaza
Williamsport, PA 17701

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

BOATING

1. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? County could assist with the development of concession areas for fueling, boat and canoe rentals along the river. The Fish and Boat Commission representative will check about the rules and regulations for establishing a fueling concession along the river between Williamsport and Jersey Shore. Explore the possibilities of appointing volunteer river keepers along the waterways. This concept might be patterned after the PennDOT Adopt a Highway Program.
2. What do the residents within the County share? Value the beauty of the area. Independence, love of the outdoors.
3. What do you like about living here? Scenic beauty, opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor recreation: hiking, biking, fishing, boating, winter sports
4. What are the area's strongest assets? People, independent nature, centrally located, scenic beauty, variety of available uses of the waterways.
5. What are your dislikes about living here? None.
6. What are the key issues facing this area? Connecting existing Trail systems. Cost of doing business versus providing service. Improving the water quality. Need space for skulling equipment storage close to water.
7. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? Need space for skulling equipment storage close to water. Lower docks to accommodate skulling. Need full service marina, offering slip for temporary and long term water craft parking, Rental opportunities for all types of boats. Camping areas and boat launching areas close to marina. Potential locations: above Susquehanna State Park and the Loyalsock Riverfront Park. Canoe and kayak portage paths around dams.
8. What public recreation amenities should be included in your community? (ie. gymnasium, computer center, meeting rooms, pools, winter sports facilities, playgrounds, walking paths/bicycle trails, etc.)
9. Are there adequate access points to waterways in the County? Yes.
10. Does the County offer a variety of boating opportunities?
11. How can the recreational boating opportunities within the County be improved? Identify ownership of each launch site and request signage. Issue permits through local businesses.
12. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Please Explain: Cooperation between governments and businesses and non profit agencies is very beneficial to the quality of life in the community
13. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Working with local community groups and businesses can increase students

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

opportunities to participate in life-time sports as well as increase competitive sports opportunities.

14. What is your vision for the future?

- Full service Marina of floating dock with access to food as well as water sports, a connection between land activities and water activities.
- Expand skulling opportunities on the river. Need boat house (concrete slab and roof), a place to secure oars and viewing areas for public. The Skulling sport needs at least 3 feet of water depth.
- Bike paths on canal tow paths connecting for substantial distances with interesting destinations.
- Canoe / Kayak rental center – sell new and used boats but right on river with bike trail access as well as access to picnicking areas and Docks . Perhaps share with local community rowing association. Model : Charles River Canoe & Kayak in Boston.
- Develop canoe trail with maps showing camping areas, dams, portages marked clearly, water and bathroom facilities

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? The County Government must be at the table to assist in the grant applications for the development of public recreation programs, facilities and services.
2. What do you like about living here? Outdoor assets are plentiful. The quality of life – cultural assets.
3. What are the area's strongest assets? Outdoor Recreation opportunities : scenic beauty, hunting, fishing, River and Waterways. Public Pools, Hiawatha, Community arts Center, Williamsport Symphony, Civic Chorus, Pine Creek Rail Trail, Ballet & Dance, Culinary Arts, Little League Baseball, Riverfront Park, Indian Park, White Deer Golf Course, Community Theater League, Arena Theater, Bowman Field, Community Festivals: Millionaires Row Stage Race, and Riverfest.
4. What are your dislikes about living here? The lack of maintenance on parks and recreation facilities and services, especially on local public pools. Need more educated people in the Recreation Industry involved in local parks. Need to promote an “Active for Life” approach to providing facilities and services.
5. What age group is best served? Toddlers to Pre-Teens
6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Teenagers to Young Adults

Explain: Young People need to be encouraged and service organizations need to meet the needs of youth and young adults in the community. An example is Leadership Lycoming.

7. What are the key issues facing this area? Need to increase effectiveness of promotion of area's assets. Encourage a better appreciation of the area's assets. A significant amount of recreation

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

8. What are the top five attributes that industry and business look at when selecting locations to do business:
 - Ample use of the Waterway: boating, fishing, and other recreational uses.
 - Available Cultural Arts: CAC, CTL, Symphony, ... etc
 - Close proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities
 - Airport
 - Housing
 - Strong Educational Systems

9. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? Linking Communities, Scenic Roadways (PA DOT funding Scenic byways), open Skyline Drive for non-motorized recreational uses, Promote community pride. Recreation has not been an issue for losing prospective business and industry, Lunch hour recreation attractive - not a lot available.

10. What public recreation amenities should be included in your community? (ie. gymnasium, computer center, meeting rooms, pools, winter sports facilities, playgrounds, walking paths/bicycle trails, etc.) Develop more passive recreation areas. Better, safer car and non-motorized vehicle trails and roadways. Make better connection between communities, the work place and recreational facilities. Develop more facilities along the philosophy of the Montgomery Area School Districts Community Center.

11. How should these facilities be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees)
 - Use public and private grants
 - User fees
 - Community subscriptions.

12. How do you feel about intergovernmental / private enterprise cooperation and partnerships? Explain: More cooperative efforts are needed. A regional approach would be very beneficial in the development of recreational facilities and services.

13. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? School Districts should make facilities available for public use. Encourage cooperation to make best use of community's resources. Tracks should be open for public use.

14. What is your vision for the future?
 - A coordinated recreation system.
 - Instruction for all ages to get people more active.
 - Recreation assets of area are promoted.
 - An "Events Calendar."

CONSERVATION/SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

1. What interests/values do you believe the residents within the County share? Ready access to outdoors – very convenient; urban aspects accessible too (balanced). Quality of life - ruralness, hunters have mixed game sizes; fishing and boating has various waterway sizes. Cultural experiences – metro areas within 3 hours. Perfect mix.
2. What do you like about living here? Easy to get settled in – good variety of interests served. Easy to meet people of same interest group without too many people or groups to compete with, i.e. facilities are adequate to serve this population.
3. What are the area's strongest assets? Great natural variety; woods and water of varying degrees. Sense of stewardship without exploitation. There are still local places that are "wild" enough for you to get lost in. Seasonal changes. Sunsets.
4. What are your dislikes about living here? We're on the cusp of losing control of development – threat of becoming another "Poconos". Increasing lack of access – more lands posted...we haven't maintained relationships with land owners. No hunting on Sunday – youth sports conflicts, losing the opportunity for youth. This is a family tradition that is waning. Concern for family land holding/farms being developed with loss of open space. Scattered pattern of development that conflicts with outdoor sporting and hunting.
5. What age group is best served? Please Explain: 18 to adults. Many recreation opportunities require transportation to access them. Winter opportunities - especially for families - are needed.
6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? 10 – 16 years old.

Please Explain: Same as above. Plus – there are not the same facilities in town for kids. Sledding used to be behind Stevens School and Sugar bowl – now prohibited. Ice arena would really help – winters are too mild to support outdoor facilities.
7. What are the key issues facing this area? Please explain
 - Insurance and liability exposure for outdoor sports for businesses and land owners.
 - Mild winters limit wintertime outdoor recreation
 - Uncontrolled development
 - Conflicting uses on trails – is being managed with signage.
8. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? More organized recreation for kids; make them more accessible. Safe connecting linkages. Winter festivals to get people out; i.e. snowmobilers or cross-country skiers.
9. What size land holdings does your organization have? How long? Mill Run Hunting Club – past Clarkstown, 1500 acres, for 10+ years. Hunting preserve for pheasants and duck and state's wild game. Posted but not fenced. Working farm.
10. Are there any restrictions on your deed? (land use, subdividing etc.) None that participants were aware of.
11. What uses are permitted / prohibited on your land? Any by-laws? Permitted: 4 wheeling, hunting, fishing, shooting, camping (one small site). By-laws: same as game commission.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

12. Are you experiencing any changes in land use or requests from members for changes in land use? No.
13. Is your organization's membership open or closed to the general public?
If closed, how are members recruited?
 - Susquehanna Waterfowlers: 25 ea. In Lycoming and Clinton Counties, 250 total.
 - Ducks Unlimited: 175 Lycoming County
 - Trout Unlimited: 180 local.
 - Mill Run Hunting Club: Open to set membership cap of 10, with passes for guests. Recruitment by word of mouth, with invitation to visitors who appear upstanding.
14. What vision do you have for your organization? To maintain status quo – obtain more acreage if available.
15. Do you foresee a change in the size in your organization? No.
16. Do you foresee a change in use of your land holdings? No.
17. Do you feel that County involvement in recreation would help improve facilities?
If so, what type of involvement and how? Yes – leadership in planning for the development of facilities; consistency in leadership at county level. Provide broader look at all the resources. County can provide information to prospective businesses and industry for the area. Provide bridge between municipalities and help them locate funding and have projects between municipalities work together.
18. How should these facilities be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees) Grants (private and public) but communities need to spend money to have ownership in facilities
User fees: we have responsibility for what we use. Supplement with fees such as \$20 per year unlimited use fee or \$50 per year family fee for state land use. Tax on purchases for specialty sports equipment. Non-profit groups volunteering.
19. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Please Explain.
Need connections between state, county and municipal for funding and information.
20. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? Be a resource to local government; provide guidance and assistance to link communities. Should not be directing, but assisting. Recognize that outlying municipalities may not want intervention. Could benefit to get smaller municipalities to look beyond their boundaries - if you can. Provide technical assistance; grant writing etc...use this as a lead to get them to accept and benefit from County wide view. Linear, multi-municipal facilities – who would own, maintain? How to get municipalities to buy into sharing facilities? Municipalities want and need ownership.
21. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Yes – it should be there for community use - within reason. School districts should be hub of community. Some schools are more open to the public, but inconsistent throughout the County. Probably due to liability issues. Gymnasium use – boys and girls sports are Nov. through March – already in high demand.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

22. What is your vision for the future of Lycoming County?

- Urban revitalization vs. urban sprawl. Community education of environmental sensitivity; stewardship of land.
- Develop downtown, stop sprawl; develop downtown in a way that stops people from “fleeing” downtown.
- Safe, good place to raise a family, with better and more convenient housing.
- Stop attitude of people being disconnected from community...move out, get “their piece”, and then shut door to others. No unity from this.
- Access to clean water, with abundant, diverse wildlife, attitude of stewardship to keep the stream and land clean and healthy, and to support community and resources.

Notes:

- Lycoming County Day Treatment: trail maintenance crew is available, no longer over committed. Could actually build trails.
- Wildlife connecting corridors – should they be preserved and connected?
-Good concept - could be hard to do.
-People do not have good understanding. Need larger scale areas;
-better served if we avoid corridors and preserve larger areas with buffers.
- River Lots – how far will this sprawl continue?
-concerns for sanitation, debris, loss of streamside vegetation, heavy soil compaction.
-waterways completely change.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

1. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? County should be involved. Provide assistance with funding, publicity, and communication. Promote all cultural entities and become a clearing house for communicating events. Identify and pursue alternate funding sources.
2. What do you like about living here? People, Employment, Natural beauty of the area, Activities, Indian Park is well kept.
3. What are the area's strongest assets? People, a variety of quality activities, good educational resources. Bike Baths are very popular
4. What are your dislikes about living here? City Parks are very poor, aged equipment, not maintained, not safe. Brandon Park Bandshell is in very poor condition. Need restrooms at various parks and along the Bike Path.
5. What age group is best served ? Sports for all ages are very well covered.
6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Too many organized efforts, children do not go out to play unstructured activities such as a sand lot ball game or a kick ball game without adult supervision.
7. What are the key issues facing this area? Need cooperation to promote events and activities using a variety of communication efforts such as print media, the web, TV and Radio.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

8. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area?
- Need a Center for the Arts with a paid staff and studio space for lessons and exhibits.
 - Must have public ownership and affordable to use.
 - Need more access to water ways for swimming.
 - Some areas are restricted to boaters and fishermen.
 - Need ownership of public spaces especially where kids and Parents can interact with each other in a safe environment.
9. What public recreation amenities should be included in your community? (ie. gymnasium, computer center, meeting rooms, pools, winter sports facilities, playgrounds, walking paths/bicycle trails, etc.) This area needs public spaces for sledding, ice skating and cross country skiing.
10. What Cultural events are your Organization involved in? Theater, Visual Arts, Musical Performance.
11. Where do your events take place? CTL, Scottish Rite, Community Arts Center, Anywhere we can get exhibit space. Parks, Youth Orchestra, Schools, Old CTL.
12. How are your programs and initiatives funded? User fees and grants from the Pa council of the Arts and the Williamsport Lycoming Council of the Arts.
13. Do you seek partners to assist in the organization and execution of your programs and events? CTL would allow their vestibule to be used as exhibit space but security can not be guaranteed. The Symphony seeks the support of corporate sponsors to promote and fund events. Bald Eagle Art League works with WASD to use the June Baskin Gallery annual show.
14. How should this facility be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees) Need public support for the arts. Already employ users fees and donations from the community to support existing events and programs.
16. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? While some cooperation does exist additional cooperation would help to increase the quality and quantity of the cultural opportunities available here.
- Please Explain: Clearing house for resources and needs. Display location for local artists.
15. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Need more use of Schools by community. Taxpayers own these facilities.
16. What is your vision for the future? All governments and school districts should work with community organizations to improve the quality of life within the Community by expanding and enhancing the arts.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

RECREATION COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND AUTHORITIES

1. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? The County will have to provide leadership and technical assistance especially in the areas of grant writing and planning for future need. The County will also provide leadership and will be needed for administrative and maintenance services for the planned County Trail system.
2. What do the residents within the County share? Appreciation for the County's scenic beauty, pride in the area's rich historical significance, People are friendly and are always willing to give eye contact.
3. What do you like about living here? Friendly Communities, good place to raise a family, Great outdoor recreation opportunities, slower pace of life, the mountains and the river, this community has great ability to absorb outside influences and yet retain its own character, people watch out for each other, centrally located.
4. What are the area's strongest assets? People, change of seasons, Susquehanna River, the waterways and mountains, central location.
5. What are your dislikes about living here? Growing drug and substance abuse in our communities, inconsiderate motor vehicle operators, lack of parking in Williamsport, Borough policies prohibit corporate sponsorship of events.
6. What age group is best served ? Children under the age of 15.

Please Explain: There seems to be an abundance of programs and services organized for this age group.
7. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Ages 15 to 20.

Please Explain: Striving for independence and require low structured opportunities to hang out, socialize with the least amount of adult supervision.
8. What are the key issues facing this area? Facilities need a combination of activities and facilities to meet the multi-generational leisure needs. Need funding to maintain and expand facilities. Foster Active Living designs that promote healthy lifestyles.

Please Explain: Value systems are shifting
9. What Recreation Services and Facilities does your organization offer? Montoursville: Has VIP (Volunteers of Indian Park) Program. This is a vital group of volunteers who work together to provide needed services and amenities at the park. Loyalsock has a similar program and works with service organizations such as Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs.
10. Does your agency plan any improvements to your facilities? Please Explain: Most of the municipalities in attendance indicated that they have annual capital improvement plans. Old Lycoming indicated that they plan to install a volleyball court and a basketball court at their park . They have applied for a matching grant form DCNR.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

11. How will these initiatives be funded? Local fund raising, volunteer efforts and DCNR Community Partnership grants.
13. Do You have a Parks Master Plan and a capital improvement plan? See question above.
14. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? Teen or Youth Center, a YMCA in the southern part of the county, Large community center with indoor pool.
15. What public recreation amenities should be included in your community? (ie. gymnasium, computer center, meeting rooms, pools, winter sports facilities, playgrounds, walking paths/bicycle trails, etc.) Community Center with School support, implementation of county wide trail system, linking communities and recreation areas.
16. How should this facility be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees) While Tax dollars are required, user fee concepts and donations and volunteers are also needed to secure continuity. Cooperation between municipalities and School Districts would help to expand recreation and park services and would benefit the entire community.
17. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Partnerships between municipalities and County governments are necessary and will enhance and expand facilities and services. Especially needed to administer and maintain County – wide trail systems.
18. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Cooperation between Municipalities and school districts seem so natural. Example: Loyalsock School District uses Township Ballfields for athletic programs. Township provides manpower and equipment to maintain the facilities. School District allows the township's use of school facilities for recreation programs. Montgomery School District developed a gymnasium and fitness center and makes this facility available to residents of the School District for \$1.00. The development of this facility has enhanced the School District's relationship with the Senior Citizen population and provided the School District and the community with a valuable asset. The School Board is considering expanding the facility in the future.
19. What is your vision for the future? Cooperation and County Support will help to connect facilities. County could act as a liaison with the State, helping municipalities to secure State Aid in developing facilities.

STATE AGENCIES

1. What are the area's strongest assets? The amount of public land available. Abundance of wildlife and recreation resources.
2. What are the area's weakest assets? No response.
3. What resources are overused?
 - Black Forest Trail – some environmental problems in the riparian area.
 - Old Loggers Path is overused by equestrians, with impact on erodible soils.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

- Loyalsock Trail has areas that are overused, particularly in the Little Bear Creek area.
 - Black Walnut Bottom has significant pressure from canoeists.
 - This Forest District (District #12) has more miles of trails to maintain than any other District. Most maintenance done by volunteers. Volunteer resources are overused.
4. What resources are underused?
- Keystone Country Shared Use Trail. Not yet marked but mapping available. 200 mile equestrian, biking, Hiking trail in Lycoming, Clinton, Potter and Tioga Counties.
 - Okome area. A Bureau of Forestry intern laid out a 75 mile mountain biking trail – never implemented but information is at the District Office.
 - Fire Roads (Former Fire Breaks). Gates indicate no motorized vehicles, but unless posted can be used for non-motorized recreation.
 - Hunting, fishing and trapping. Except for the first 3 days, there is very little hunting pressure.
5. Are there any planned changes for Lycoming County?
- No planned Gamelands changes.
 - No planned Bureau of Forestry road closures.
 - No significant Bureau of Forestry changes.
 - Policy is no new ATV trails on State Forest Land, except the development of the Litke Tract in Clinton County.
 - Potential re-alignment of Forest Districts, which could put Lycoming County in 3 different Districts.
 - The Final Draft of the State Forest Resource Management Plan is available.
6. What can Lycoming County do to improve recreation, open space, and wildlife corridors?
- Support the Forest Legacy Program.
 - Support requests for increased personnel and operation funding.
7. Other items of discussion:
- Differences in regulations and permitted uses of State Forest Lands vs. State Game Lands, eg. No camping on SGL; walk-in overnight camping permitted on SFL. Rules and regulations not well published.
 - Could “Skyline Drive” be opened? Policing has been the problem. County could explore municipal jurisdiction, limiting time to be open, etc...
 - Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) developed by PSU for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program is working really well.
 - The County and State need to work better together to share GIS Database information. Maps for Lycoming County area could be better done.
 - Narrow Gauge Road is at a railroad grade and provides scenic moderate trip for mountain bikers from Coudersport Pike to Pine Creek.
 - Bonnell Flats (former Camp Kline) will become significant site along rail-trail. Boy Scouts will have 10 acres - Bureau of Forestry owns the remainder. New comfort station and well; primitive camping with some rough shelters. Will be accessible for hikers, bikers, and canoeists.
 - There is a 1500 acre pending natural area in Rock Run.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

TRAILS FOCUS GROUP

1. What are your impressions about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? Don't know. The County has been highly involved and proactive in the Rail-Trail planning and facilitating project development. County involvement should be limited due to lack of resource base (no land ownership). The County role should be advisory & supportive only in their jurisdiction.
2. What do you like about living here? Cultural aspects of small city, with location near undeveloped forest land. Many places are accessible by bicycle. Cultural benefits. Rural setting but close to fine restaurants and culture.
3. What do you dislike about living here? Unemployment rates. Travel distance just to see a movie. Mall vs. downtown as the commercial center – like to know the shop owners. Deterioration of downtown Williamsport. Provincial attitude against change. Loss of farmland and open space to large tract, large houses.
4. What are the area's strongest assets? Transportation network. Ruralness; good network of trails. The River (2200 miles of streams/rivers in the County).
5. What are the area's weakest assets? No response.

Answer the following questions from your perspective of trails within Lycoming County:

6. What age group is best served? All age groups are pretty well served.
Please Explain: ATV trail for 10 and older. Biking trails to satisfy all ages; rail-trail meets need of older riders (40's to 60's).
7. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? None
8. What user group is best served? Snowmobiles
Please Explain: 250+ miles of trails groomed and maintained in the Tiadaghton State Forest. Snowmobiler's would like a connection across Pine Creek and Little Pine Creek along Route 44 near Waterville. There are 120 miles of equestrian trails in southern Tiadaghton (Ravensburg).
9. What user group is least served or has the greatest need? ATV's and extreme sports for younger people.
Please Explain: 1 in 30 adults in PA own an ATV. 293 miles public access ATV Trails in PA (193 State, 100 Federal). 14 miles of ATV Trails in Lycoming County. ATV users would like more miles, scenic vistas, restrooms, access to restaurants. Younger generation likes more jumps/climbs. Pure mountain bikers have nothing specifically designated.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

10. What trails are overused? ATV, some mountain biking and some equestrian.

Please Explain: ATV trails are overused. There is a growing problem of illegal ATV riding. Mountain Bike trails at Rider Park and Williamsport Water Authority are heavily used. The Black Forest Trail is overused by equestrians.

11. What trails are underused? Most hiking trails and snowmobile trails.

Please Explain: The hiking trails up Pine Creek have little pressure. There are numerous unmarked and unmapped trails.

12. If you could accomplish one thing in regard to improving trails in Lycoming County, what would it be? Improve trail signage. Increase ATV trails. Do better job of maintaining what trails we have. User groups will have a proprietary interest in a trail if it is designated for their use.

13. What role do you think Lycoming County could or should have regarding trails? Ancillary support and encouragement unless the County owns the land. County could consider ownership of more land. Information role in providing better and variety of trail maps.

14. How should trails be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees, etc...) Users Fee. Annual permit fee. Fines. Taxes and donations. Map fees.

15. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Something needs to be done to insure long term interests. Having an authority of some kind to oversee trails is a good idea, but probably difficult to do – Good Luck.

16. What is your vision for the future? There will be more pressure on the same miles. Conflicts will decrease on multi-use trails. The Susquehanna Trail will be completed. There will be a diversity of trails, without focus on a single user group – an equality amongst users.

17. Map Review. The following information was provided during a map review of the entire County:

- Armstrong Road is a good birding area.
- The Bureau of Forestry has limited road frontage on for the old “Breining Farm.”
- Okome area needs connectivity for x-country skiing and Mountain biking. Access is from Truman Road, Schoolhouse Hollow and Boone Run.
- Historic items in Pine Creek Valley.
 - Navel Run Switchbacks – 7 RR switchbacks for logging.
 - Narrow Gauge Road. There was a dual gauge track from Cammal to the narrow gauge track (now Narrow Gauge Road).
 - Pump Station. Compressor station for Tidewater Pipeline from Bradford to Williamsport. This was the first long distance pipeline in the world.
- Gray’s Run area is full of history.
- Dutchmans, Miners and Abbotts Run are special scenic areas -- +/- 15 waterfalls.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

WINTER SPORTS

1. What interests/values do you believe the residents within the County share? This is a smaller community with access to fun, friendly, outdoor recreation. Area is accessible to metropolitan areas with outdoor recreation and open space.
2. What do you like about living here? The changing seasons, and assets of #2 above.
3. What are the area's strongest assets? Natural beauty, a lot of green space. Water resources of varying sizes.
4. What are your dislikes about living here? No ice rinks – indoor or outdoor. Figure skating and hockey opportunities are needed.
5. What age group is best served? Please Explain: People who are flexible to travel, i.e. 18-27 years old. Access to outlying areas requires transportation and knowledge of the region.
6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Please Explain: Youth ages 5 to 15. Ice skating would help fill this need, as 90% of ice skating participants are within this age range. Youth this age don't have the ability to travel on their own – there is no designated area for their ages. A greenway could help by connecting facilities. Schools don't want to participate to provide ski clubs. Pete Gstalder is a ski advocate who promotes cross-county skiing to schools.
7. What are the key issues facing this area? There are no connected facilities for roller blading. Lowered income is hurting retailers. For example Home Depot and Target store located south of this area, where incomes are higher. Facilities are missing – such as ice skating rink. Need organized activities with designated areas; supervision and controlled traffic patterns are needed.
8. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? Ice skating, sledding (needs supervision). The armory provides outdoor ice skating, but it needs supervision.
9. Do you feel that winter sports facilities are adequate? (pg. 62) If not, which sports need additional facilities? Ice rink is needed. Central guide of information needs to be available to people outside the area regarding facilities.
10. Do you feel that there is a need for Ice Skating Areas? Yes, see above. Ice Skating Arena? Yes, see above.
11. What other Ice Skating Facilities serve residents of Lycoming County? Penn Street Armory – when opened. Nicely Field – Montoursville. Crystal Lake – last year too much snow – need help promoting facility to make it worth while maintaining.

Outside Lycoming County – Ice Rinks in Sunbury, State College and Wilkes Barre.
12. What are the best winter sports facilities in the area? Ski Sawmill, Crystal Lake, Camp Susque (private).

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

13. What areas do you feel need additional facilities? Nothing specific that wasn't already mentioned above.
14. What are your feelings on how to improve winter sporting opportunities? Promote activities; recruit interns from Lock Haven Hyper School for program enhancement (need to offer them a good experience for the program to work). Take advantage of schools; promote "lifetime sports" activities.
15. Do you have concerns about recreation facilities being owned privately vs. publicly? Private (ice rink) might have higher user costs. Private ownership of Crystal Lake is important for preserving land and the uses forever.
16. Do you feel that County involvement in recreation would help improve facilities? If so, what type of involvement and how? Yes – especially promotion of recreation facilities.
17. How should these facilities be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees) Combination of these.
18. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Please Explain: The County could help organize the loosely held existing groups. Promote recreation activities i.e. Prince Farrington Race etc.; these are great for County promotion. Have events associated with these festivities, as many people come from outside the area. Public/Private Partnerships are essential.
19. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? Yes – planning bike trails (i.e. long-term, low cost maintenance costs). Yes – promotion of recreation facilities more than ownership and operations. Be there for support. No – for items with long term costs such as an ice rink.
20. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Yes – but financial restrictions will most likely prohibit this. Susquehanna Health System needs gym space for health awareness program in winter months. Possibly smaller schools could be opened for public use. Swimming pools could generate user fees with public use.
21. What is your vision for the future? Ice arena for this area. Schools promoting lifetime sports with fitness programs for health awareness. Bowman Field and Montoursville high school facilities (baseball) made available to public for certain uses. Crosscutters could promote area with interactive events such as clinics and home run derby; community support could increase from these interactions.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

1. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? Make sure that the highest priority is education. Recreation and Parks are a lower priority.
2. What do you like about living here? There are a lot of things to do. Area is very diverse. Rural areas.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

3. What are the area's strongest assets? Great Education!
4. What are your dislikes about living here? Transportation is a major concern. Distances between available activities and recreation facilities make it difficult for non-driving teenagers to participate. Roadways are too dangerous for bicycle traffic. More variety in activities are needed.
5. What age group is best served? Elementary aged students are the best served.

Explain: There are more organized youth sports, such as soccer, baseball, softball, swimming and basketball but as kids approach their teenage years, organized activities decline. Society seems to focus more on the older kids who exhibit athletic talent.
6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Adolescents ages 11 - 18

Explain: (See above) Youth are interested in low organized activities that are readily available and easily accessible. Places where they can 'Hang-Out' together. They want place where they can share a sense of belonging.
7. What are the key issues facing this area? County roads and bridges are in need of extensive repairs. There is a concern for personal safety among focus group participants. Participants expressed concerns about traveling on the "City Bus" and the distances between their home and recreational activities.
8. What types of additional recreational services would you like to see offered in your area?
 - Hang Out Areas: Areas with a lot of low organized activities
 - Field Hockey for girls
 - Need opportunities for groups to get together with very little pressure to do organized activities.
9. What public recreation amenities should be included in your community? (ie. gymnasium, computer center, meeting rooms, pools, winter sports facilities, playgrounds, walking paths/bicycle trails, etc.)
 - Shooting ranges
 - Games Rooms with Billiards, Ping Pong, Foosball, Air Hockey, and food and drink.
 - Skate Board Areas
 - Trails for bicycling and hiking: connect facilities
 - Golf
 - Miniature Golf
 - Mountain Biking Trails
 - Gymnasium
 - Sporting facilities that are available to the Community
 - Ice Skating areas.
10. How should this facility be supported (Tax dollars, donations, users fees)? Volunteers should be utilized to keep parks and recreational facilities clean. Maintenance and capital improvements should be done by qualified paid staff.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

11. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Partnerships between governments and School Districts are good.

Explain: Governments could cooperate to expand and improve recreational facilities.

12. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? School District facilities should be made available to the public based on availability and need. School activities should take priority.

13. What is your vision for the future? This County is a great place to live, however four of the students expressed reluctance to return to the County after completing their education. They expressed their concern that expanded opportunities would exist in more urban areas.

YOUTH SPORTS

1. What interests/values do you believe the residents within the County share? Volunteerism is strong; tight knit community with generational and family shared sports (provides continuity)

2. What do you like about living here? Good place to raise children.

3. What are the area's strongest assets? No response.

4. What are your dislikes about living here? Depressed economy – doesn't match increase in sports costs. Varied sports compete with each other. Winter sports – ice rink is needed.

5. What age group is best served? Explain: Elementary ages – these are under programs, with more parental control. Falloff experienced at teen years when other interests arise. Kids focus /specialize in single sports, follow winning sport. Casual athletes "fallout" some coaches discourage multi-sport participation.

6. What age group is least served or has the greatest need? Explain: 13+ years have least participation – programs suffer. Kids not premium athletes need alternative recreation forms.

7. What are the key issues facing this area? How to get kids to play "sand lot" ball? Can't seem to self-organize. Referee volunteers difficult to get; pay won't even entice them. Volunteers not available to handle the number of kids registered. Reduced incomes limiting participation.

Explain: Not enough soccer facilities; municipalities restrict use. Brandon shares big field with many other organizations. WAHS has field in West End. Pools need renovations. We need to pay attention to kids expressed needs – extreme sports are being requested, we need to keep challenging them.(note; skate park has \$2 a day fee.)

8. What types of recreational services would you like to see offered in your area? Extreme Sports – high interest – enhances self esteem. Facilities are privately owned or youth are trespassing on public land to challenge themselves. Expand on scope – i.e. hobbies.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

- rocket and remote controlled cars and airplanes. Playground organized activities – supervised by PE students. Sailing, sledding, ices skating, and winter activities.
9. Do you feel that group sports facilities are adequate? Big league fields are needed, especially in Williamsport. Soccer and basket ball are also needed. Penn College and elementary school gyms are currently used for basketball – fees are required. Need restrooms.
 10. How many users do you currently have? ...and Is this number currently increasing or decreasing? Numbers are decreasing; demographic shifts to less children per household. Youth basketball @ housing authority is 96 youth for outdoor basketball. Center – fall and winter league basketball.
 11. What are the best facilities in the area?
 - Outdoor basketball – Flanigan most accessible, but needs improvements.
 - Baseball, Little League baseball – Montoursville, South Williamsport – but become difficult to schedule.
 - Little League Baseball – Newberry and Brandon.
 - Soccer – East Lycoming behind Ashkar, but restricted to high school use only. South Williamsport.
 - Swimming – Montoursville, S. Williamsport (maintained well)
 - Indoor Basketball – Lycoming College and Penn College – can accommodate several games and parking.
 12. Where are the facilities used by your organization located? John Bower Basketball – Penn College, elementary schools, Salvation Army, Pickelner Arena. Practice facilities are difficult to find. Sport Zone (private indoor facility) in Northumberland booked solid. Good facilities are outside the population areas – requiring transportation for youth.
 13. Which facilities are located on publicly owned land and which are located on privately owned land? Bowman field – fees and restrictions make it “untouchable”. Hughesville soccer facility – restrictions
 14. How are these facilities maintained? City programming and facility maintenance. Hughesville – Booster Club. Sheridan – Soccer Boosters. Volunteers; municipalities will mow, but reconstruction and improvements by volunteers. Outdoor facilities – leagues who use them get pride and ownership sense when they maintain them.
 15. What areas do you feel need additional facilities? Soccer – Williamsport under served. Little League - facilities are adequate. Need more unified user agreement.
 16. What are your feelings on how to better utilize existing facilities? Bring community into projects to improve and give ownership to public. Better programming, especially summer playground programs.
 17. Does scheduling optimize field use? How could this be improved? Lack of centralized scheduling creates conflicts. Basketball has biggest problem; only facilities in Williamsport are schools – they are cooperative to point of not compromising school programs. Outdoor facilities are OK, restricted use of fields is the only real conflict.

FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION

18. Do you have concerns about recreation facilities on private vs. public land? Concern: support of youth sports can be discontinued without notice. User fees can be high. Private Facilities: Industrial / Reach Road soccer field, Kippers soccer field, Soccer field at Armory lost.
19. Do you feel that County involvement in recreation would help improve facilities? If so, what type of involvement and how? Lycoming County would provide structure, programs, management to steer and assist parent/volunteer groups. Provide support to ease organization of programs.
20. How should these facilities be supported? (Tax dollars, donations, users fees) Taxes and user fees.
21. How do you feel about intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships? Explain: Extremely important - especially with involving private organizations and leagues. Parents need to buy into ownership.
22. What are your feelings about Lycoming County's involvement in providing Parks and recreation services? Basketball – definitely would be beneficial to help schedule and support winter basketball league (not a national organization – needs additional local support). Organized sports – doesn't need involvement. Motocross or larger scale facility – yes, county involvement would be helpful. Playground program – yes, county could initiate. Utilize Community Service personnel for maintenance and development.
23. Should School Districts be involved with the provision of public recreation services and facilities? Yes – but will need one-on-one contact. Educational functions must come first – recreational functions are not embraced on their land.
24. What is your vision for the future?
 - Large indoor soccer facility.
 - Large indoor acoustic pool.
 - Ice rink with low fees.
 - Connected bike trail throughout County.
 - Every child in Lycoming County to participate in activity of their choice in a fair, fun and safe environment.

MUNICIPAL RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

Site Number	Park Name	Municipality	Acres	Community	Regional	State	Parking	Open Space	Public Water	Restroom	Picnic	Pavillion	Garden	Bandstand or Gazebo	Pool	Horse Shoes	Playground for Tots	Playground	Playground Paved	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Boat Launch
BR-1	Brady Township Community	Brady Township	7	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y										Y					
CH-1	Cogan House	Cogan House Township	12	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y			Y					Y	
CU-1	Cummings Township	Cummings Township	2	Y			Y				Y						Y	Y	Y		Y		Y			Y	
CU-2	Little Pine State Park	Cummings Township	2158			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y*	Y	Y	Y									Y
CU-3	Upper Pine Bottom Park	Cummings Township	1		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y															
CL-1	Clinton Township Park	Clinton Township	4.9	Y			Y			Y	Y						Y	Y					Y				
DU-1	Duboistown Borough Park	Duboistown Borough	1	Y																						Y	
HE-1	Bair Park	Hepburn Township	7.5	Y			Y				Y	Y											Y		Y		
HE-2	Hepburn Park	Hepburn Township	51	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y					Y	Y				Y	Y			Y	
HU-1	Bodine Park	Hughesville Borough	6	Y			Y		Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	y				Y				Y	
JS-1	Gazebo Lot	Jersey Shore Borough	0.5	Y									Y	Y													
JS-2	Grieco Park	Jersey Shore Borough	0.25	Y									Y														
JS-3	Jersey Shore Recreation Area	Jersey Shore Borough	11	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y				Y		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
JS-4	Nichols Run Recreation Area	Jersey Shore Borough	19	Y				Y																			
JS-5	Richmond Park	Jersey Shore Borough	0.5	Y							Y		Y														
JS-6	Veterans Park	Jersey Shore Borough	0.25	Y									Y														
LI-1	Limestone Township Park	Limestone Township	2	Y			Y											Y									
LO-1	Bruce Henry Park	Loyalsock Township	14	Y			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y					
LO-2	Faxon Circle	Loyalsock Township	2.4	Y									Y														
LO-3	Heshbon Park	Loyalsock Township	25.5	Y			Y			Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y							Y	Y	
LO-4	James E. Short Park	Loyalsock Township	14	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y			Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
LO-5	Riverfront Park	Loyalsock Township	57	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y															Y
LE-1	Trout Run Park	Lewis Township	7	Y			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y															
LY-1	Dayber Park, Metzger Field	Lycoming Township	10	Y			Y			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y				Y		Y	Y	Y	
MI-1	Ralston Park	McIntyre Township	1	Y																Y						Y	
MG-1	Montgomery Park	Montgomery Borough	24	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
MO-1	Indian Park	Montoursville Borough	80	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
MO-2	Montoursville Recreation Area	Montoursville Borough		Y																		Y					
MU-1	Muncy Park	Muncy Borough	5	Y				Y								Y						Y					
MU-2	Muncy Pool	Muncy Borough	1	Y			Y								Y												
MK-1	Kiess Memorial Park	Muncy Creek Township	18	Y			Y			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y		Y		Y			Y	Y	
MK-2	Lions Park	Muncy Creek Township		Y																							
MT-1	Pennsdale	Muncy Township	1	Y												Y											
NI-1	Antes Fort Village Park	Nippenose Township	39	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y						Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
OL-1	Stotz Park	Old Lycoming Township	10	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y		Y		Y	Y			Y	
PT-1	Piatt Township Ballfield	Piatt Township	4	Y			Y				Y												Y				
PT-2	School House Park	Piatt Township	0.5	Y																		Y					
PC-1	Barbours School Playground	Plunketts Creek Township	5	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						Y		Y		Y				Y	
PR-1	Rock Park	Picture Rocks Borough	3	Y				Y					Y														
PR-2	Van Rensselaer Park	Picture Rocks Borough	8	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y		Y	Y	Y		Y				Y	
PO-1	Porter Township Park	Porter Township	2	Y														Y							Y		
SW-1	E. 2 nd Avenue	South Williamsport	0.6	Y							Y						Y	Y									
SW-2	Louie Mack Park	South Williamsport	4	Y			Y	Y			Y						Y	Y				Y				Y	
SW-3	South Williamsport Community	South Williamsport	78	Y	Y		Y					Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y		

MUNICIPAL RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

Site Number	Park Name	Municipality	Acres	Community	Regional	State	Parking	Open Space	Public Water	Restroom	Picnic	Pavillion	Garden	Bandstand or Gazebo	Pool	Horse Shoes	Playground for Tots	Playground	Playground Paved	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Boat Launch
SU-1	Susquehanna Township Park	Susquehanna Township	10	Y				Y				Y						Y		Y							
WT-1	Pine Creek Valley Recreation	Watson Township	7.2	Y			Y				Y	Y						Y			Y						
W-1	Brandon Park	City of Williamsport	43.3	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y		Y	Y			Y	
W-2	Chatham Park	City of Williamsport		Y							Y							Y								Y	
W-3	Flanigan Park	City of Williamsport	8	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y						Y				Y				Y	
W-4	Memorial Park	City of Williamsport	81.2	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	
W-5	Newberry Park	City of Williamsport	1.9	Y				Y	Y		Y	Y						Y		Y						Y	
W-6	Shaw Place	City of Williamsport	8.1	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y			Y		Y	Y	
W-7	Ways Garden	City of Williamsport	4.4	Y									Y														
W-8	Youngs Woods	City of Williamsport	3	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y					Y	Y	Y		Y					Y	
W-9	Susquehanna State Park	City of Williamsport	20		Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y															Y
WF-1	East Lycoming Recreation Area	Wolf Township	65.4	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y										Y					
WO-1	Woodward Baseball Field	Woodward Township	8	Y																		Y					

SCHOOL AREA AND FACILITIES

Site Number	School Name	School District	Grade Level	Parking	Open Space	Restroom	Picnic	Pavillion	Pool	Playground for Tots	Playground	Playground Paved	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Track and Field
HU-2	Hughesville Jr/Sr High School	ELYC	Jr/Sr	Y	Y								Y			Y			Y
WF-2	Ashkar Elementary School	ELYC	E							Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y		
PR-3	Ferrell Elementary School	ELYC	E																
FK-1	Renn Elementary School	ELYC	E		Y									Y					
JS-7	Jersey Shore High School	JSA	Sr	Y	Y				Y				Y		Y		Y		Y
JS-8	Jersey Shore Middle School	JSA	Jr	Y	Y								Y	Y		Y		Y	Y
JS-9	Jersey Shore Elementary School	JSA	E							Y	Y	Y							
LI-2	Nippenose Valley Elementary School	JSA	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y		Y	Y				
MF-2	Salladasburg Elementary School	JSA	E							Y	Y	Y		Y					
LO-6	Loyalsock High School	LOY	Sr	Y	Y		Y					Y				Y		Y	Y
LO-7	Loyalsock Middle School	LOY	Jr	Y	Y					Y	Y								
LO-8	Becht Elementary School	LOY	E	Y	Y						Y	Y							
LO-9	Four Mile Elementary School	LOY	E	Y	Y						Y	Y						Y	
MG-2	Montgomery Jr/Sr High School	MTGY	Jr/Sr	Y	Y	Y									Y				
MG-3	Montgomery Elementary School	MTGY	E	Y	Y						Y	Y							
WA-1	Elimsport Elementary School	MTGY	E																
CL-2	Athletic Fields Montgomery School	MTGY	Sr											Y		Y			Y
MO-3	Montoursville High School	MONT	Sr	Y	Y	Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MO-4	C. E. McCall Middle School	MONT	Jr	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y							
FF-1	Loyalsock Valley Elementary School	MONT	E	Y	Y						Y	Y							
MO-5	Lyter Elementary School	MONT	E								Y	Y							
MU-3	Muncy Jr/Sr High School	MUN	Jr/Sr	Y	Y	Y		Y					Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	
MU-4	Ward L. Myers Elementary School	MUN	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y		Y	Y	
SW-4	South Williamsport Jr/Sr High School	SWMSPT	Jr/Sr	Y	Y											Y		Y	
SW-5	Central Elementary School	SWMSPT	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y							
SW-6	Rommelt Elementary	SWMSPT	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y							
W-10	Williamsport Area High School	WASD	Sr	Y	Y				Y				Y			Y			Y
W-11	Curtin Middle School	WASD	Jr		Y											Y			
W-12	Lycoming Valley Middle School	WASD	Jr	Y	Y											Y			

SCHOOL AREA AND FACILITIES

Site Number	School Name	School District	Grade Level	Parking	Open Space	Restroom	Picnic	Pavillion	Pool	Playground for Tots	Playgroundd	Playground Paved	Tennis Courts	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Track and Field	
W-13	Roosevelt Middle School	WASD	Jr	Y	Y											Y				
W-14	Cochran Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y						Y	Y	Y					Y		
HE-3	Hepburn-Lycoming Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y		Y				Y		
W-15	Jackson Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y						Y	Y						Y		
OL-2	Round Hills Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y						Y	Y						Y		
W-17	Sheridan Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y						Y	Y					Y	Y		
W-18	Stevens Elementary School	WASD	E	Y	Y						Y	Y			Y			Y		
WO-2	Williamsport Alternative School	WASD	All																	
W-19	Bishop Neuman	Private	E																	
BS-1	Immaculate Conception	Private	E																	
LO-10	St Ann's Church and School	Private	E	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y								
W-20	St Boniface	Private	E																	
W-21	St Josephs	Private	E																	
W-22	Memorial Baptist	Private	All																	
LO-11	Williamsport Christian	Private	All																	
W-23	West Branch	Private	E/Jr																	
MO-6	Fairfield Academy	Private	E																	
SW-7	Mountain View - 7th Day Adventist	Private	All																	
W-24	Williamsport School of Commerce	Private	Bus																	
W-25	Lycoming College	College	C																	
W-26	PA College of Technology	College	C																	
MO-7	PA College of Technology - Aviation	College	C																	
CL-3	PA College of Technology - Earth Science	College	C																	

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Municipality	Program Name	Targeted Age Group	Gender	Fee	Dates	Location
Montoursville Borough	Swimming Lessons	Preschool to 12	M&F	\$20.00	June to August	Pool
	Montoursville Swim Team	6 to 18	M&F	\$35. - \$30	Summer	Pool
	Fall Festival	All	M&F		October	Indian Park
Nippinose Township	Antes Fort Herrytage Days	All	M&F		3rd week Sept	Antes Fort Village Park
South Williamsport	Swimming Lessons	Preschool to 12	M&F	\$20.00	June to August	Pool
	So. Williamsport Swim Team	6 to 18	M&F	\$35. - \$30	Summer	Pool
Williamsport	Summer Recreation Program	6 to 14	M&F	0	June to August	All Parks
	Arts in the Parks Series (Concerts)	all	M&F	Free	2/25 til 9/21	Brandon Park
	Billtown Squares	Adults	M&F		Mondays	Sheridan Elementary School
	Cheerleading	8 to 17	F	\$3. / child/wk	2/16 til 3/23	Jackson Elementary School
	Cross Country Skiing	all	M & F	\$10. rental F	Jan. 12, 13	Brandon Park
	Elementary Open Gym	6 to 10	M&F	0	Jan.- Feb	Select Schools
	Fall Recreation Program	6 to 10	M&F	0	OCT - NOV	Select Schools
	Home Made Days	all	M&F		July	Brandon Park
	Hunter Safety Course	11 to 17	M&F	Free	3 X/ year	Lyco Valley Middle School
	John Bower Basketball League	6 to 17	M&F	Free	Dec - March	WASD Sites
	Men's Tennis League	Adults	M		Summer	Area Tennis Courrts
	Monstarz Ball (Halloween Party)	Family	M&F	?	October	YWCA
	Pool Rentals	all	M&F	rental fees	summer	all city pools
	Skate Swap	All	M&F	Varies	January	YWCA
	Swimming Lessons	Preschool to 12	M&F	\$20.00	June to August	Pool
	Tennis Lessons	8 to 17	M&F	\$30 - \$35	Jun and July	Brandon Park
	Williamsport Swim Team	6 to 18	M&F	\$35. - \$30	Summer	Pool
	Joel Garrison Day	6 to 18	M&F	Free	1st Wknd June	Millionaires Row
	Victorian Sunday	all	M&F	Varies	1st Wknd June	Millionaires Row
	Downtown Merchant's Holiday Parade	All	M&F	Free	1st wknd in Dec	Downtoen

RECREATION PROGRAMS

RECREATION PROGRAMS

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

PRIORITY GREENWAYS	PRIORITY VALUE								ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS
	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE	TOTAL	
									Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature
LARRYS CREEK									
Larrys Creek	17		1	2	2	2	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.
Second Fork Larry's Creek	13		2	2	2	2	8	21	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.
LWB SUSQUEHANNA RIVER									
Bald Eagle Ridge/ Highlands (*)	20		1	0	2	2	5	25	highlands, important birding area, habitat connection
Black Hole Creek Nature Area	9		0	0	2	4	6	15	natural community protection
Grampian Hills Woods	11		2	0	3	4	9	20	natural community protection
LWB Susquehanna River (*)	17		1	0	2	2	5	22	migratory area, habitat connection and riparian buffers
Montgomery Cliffs	8		0	0	2	1	3	11	scenic cliffs - landscape feature protection
LOYALSOCK									
Bear Creek (*)	22		1	0	1	2	4	26	scenic with HQ stream, habitat protection and riparian buffers, both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; provides connectivity to Sand Spring Barren and Crystal Lake Camp Wetlands.
Cascade Falls	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	scenic stream with waterfalls and plunge-pools.
Crystal Lake Camp Wetlands (*)	17		2	0	1	5	8	25	rare species, level 1,2 type to protect habitat. Environmental Education Center.
Engle Run	21	*	1	0	1	3	5	26	EV stream with rare plant, type 1 protection—conservation easement best or fee simple by state agency for the rare plant habitat.
Jacoby Hollow Woods	18		0	0	1	1	2	20	habitat protection and riparian buffers
Little Bear Creek Ravine	21		0	0	2	0	2	23	scenic with HQ stream, habitat protection and riparian buffers, both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; provides connectivity.
Loyalsock Creek (*)	23		3	2	2	3	10	33	connectivity, habitat protection and riparian buffers
Mill Creek Swamp Natural Area	17	*	1	0	1	2	4	21	rare plant habitat protection / connection. Type 1 – no access
Noon Branch	15		0	0	1	1	2	17	Ev stream, High gradient clearwater creek, habitat protection type 2, and riparian buffers
Rose Valley Lake	19		3	1	5	2	11	30	hub for recreation, connectivity, and riparian buffers
Sand Spring Barren Natural Area	21	*	0	1	1	2	4	25	rare moth, habitat protection and riparian buffers. Type 2 – limited access
Wallis Run	23		2	1	2	2	7	30	habitat protection and riparian buffers
Wells Mountain Natural Area	17	*	2	1	1	1	5	22	highland area, intermittently hosts globally rare species. habitat protection / connection. Type 1 – no access

H - 7

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

8 - H

PRIORITY GREENWAYS	PRIORITY VALUE							TOTAL	ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS
	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE		
									Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature
LYCOMING CREEK									
Abbott Run (*)	16		1	1	1	1	4	20	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Branacka Lands Wetlands	14	*	0	0	1	2	3	17	Wetland cluster with potential for rare plants. - habitat level 1, no access. Private land.
Daugherty Run	12		1	1	1	1	4	16	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Devil's Elbow SFNA	14		0	0	2	0	2	16	wetlands with diversity of species,habitat protection and riparian buffers ; headwaters of Schrader Creek and Rock Run.
Frozen Run	18		1	0	2	3	6	24	Scenic, with HQ streams, habitat connection and protection level 2, limited access.
Grays Run	21		1	0	1	2	4	25	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Hagermans Run	19		0	0	1	0	1	20	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Heylmun Run	16		0	0	1	0	1	17	Scenic, with HQ streams, habitat connection and protection level 2, limited access.
Hoagland Run	21		0	1	0	3	4	25	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Long Run	11		3	1	2	3	9	20	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Lycoming Creek (*)	20		3	1	1	3	8	28	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Lycoming Highlands	19		1	0	1	2	4	23	highlands, important birding area, habitat connection
McIntyre Wild Area	18		0	0	2	1	3	21	Scenic, with HQ streams, habitat protection level 2, limited access - and riparian buffers.
Pleasant Stream	19		2	0	1	3	6	25	Scenic, with HQ streams, habitat connection and protection level 2, limited access.
Pleasant Stream Cliff	9	*	1	0	0	2	3	12	diverse micro-climate, habitat protection level 2, limited access.
Roaring Branch (*)	15		1	0	0	3	4	19	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .
Rock Run	20		0	0	1	0	1	21	Scenic, with HQ streams, habitat connection and protection level 2, limited access.
PRIORITY GREENWAYS			PRIORITY VALUE						ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

6 - H

	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE	TOTAL	ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS	
									Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature	
LYCOMING CREEK (CONTINUED)										
Schrader Creek	18		0	0	0	3	3	21	Ev stream, High gradient clearwater creek - habitat level 1, no access. Primarily in Sullivan & Bradford Counties.	
Shoemaker Run	15		2	1	1	2	6	21	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .	
Slacks Run	15		2	1	1	3	7	22	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .	
Trout Run	13		1	1	1	1	4	17	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .	
Wolf Run	11		0	0	1	0	1	12	scenic, provides connectivity. habitat protection and riparian buffers; both sides of creek and tributaries to first order; .	
MUNCY CREEK										
Beaver Lake and its shoreline.	16	*	3	1	2	3	9	25	PA-Endangered aquatic plant was found in Beaver Lake; and a PA - Animal of Concern has been observed in the lake	
Big Run	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.	
Laurel Run	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.	
Lick Run (Shrewsbury Twp.) (*)	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.	
Little Muncy Creek	18		3	2	2	5	12	30	riparian buffers, flood control, connectivity, development pressure	
Muncy Creek	18		3	3	2	5	13	31	riparian buffers, flood control, connectivity, development pressure	
Roaring Run	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers.	
Rock Run (*)	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	tributaries to the first order for habitat protection and riparian buffers. Requires bi-county cooperation.	
Spring Run (*)	17		2	1	1	3	7	24	habitat protection level 2, limited access. Requires bi-county cooperation.	
NIPPENOSE VALLEY										
Antes Creek	19		2	1	2	3	8	27	habitat protection and riparian buffers	
Aughenbaugh Run / Woods (*)	16		1	1	1	3	6	22	habitat protection and riparian buffers	
Eiswert Cave	14	*	2	0	1	1	4	18	habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 - no access	
Eiswert Limestone Glade	13	*	2	0	1	1	4	17	habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 - no access	
Maple Hill Sinks	15		3	1	3	3	10	25	habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 - no access	
PRIORITY GREENWAYS			PRIORITY VALUE							ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

H - 10

	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE	TOTAL	Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature	
NIPPENOSE VALLEY (CONTINUED)										
McMurrin Run	7		2	2	2	1	7	14	habitat protection / riparian buffer.	
Mohn Mill Ponds (*)	15		0	0	1	1	2	17	habitat protection / riparian buffer. Type 2 - limited access.	
Morgan Valley Run	7		2	2	2	1	7	14	habitat protection / riparian buffer.	
Nippenose Spring	14	*	2	0	1	1	4	18	habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 - no access	
Nippenose Valley Woods	10	*	2	0	1	1	4	14	habitat protection/ resource conservation. Type 1 - no access	
Spring Creek	11		2	0	2	2	6	17	habitat protection and riparian buffers to the first order	
White Deer Hole Creek	20		1	0	1	2	4	24	habitat protection and riparian buffers to the first order	
PINE CREEK										
Algerine Swamp (*)	16		0	0	1	1	2	18	PA-rare and PA threatened species - habitat protection	
Algerine Wild Area	20		0	0	1	3	4	24	PA-rare and PA threatened species - habitat protection	
Bear Run	18		1	0	1	1	3	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Big Dam Hollow	17		0	0	1	0	1	18	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Bluestone Run	15		1	0	1	2	4	19	habitat protection and riparian buffers - to maintain HQ status.	
Bonnel Run (Watson Twp.)	17		0	0	1	0	1	18	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Bonnell Run (McHenryTwp.)	18		0	0	1	0	1	19	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Bonnel Run (Pine Twp.)	9		1	0	1	3	5	14	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Boone Run	17		0	0	1	0	1	18	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Browns Run	22		0	0	2	0	2	24	wildlife corridor	
Bull Run (Cummings Twp.)	16		3	1	2	2	8	24	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Bull Run (McHenry Twp.)	17		1	0	1	3	5	22	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Callahan Run (McHenry Twp.)	18		3	1	2	2	8	26	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Callahan Run (Brown Twp.)	21		0	0	2	0	2	23	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Carsons Run	18		1	0	1	3	5	23	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Cedar Run (*)	21		0	0	1	0	1	22	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Cedar Run Outcrop	11	*	0	0	1	1	2	13	PA Threatened (candidate for federal protection), habitat protection and connection. Type 1- no access, maintain buffer.	
Clay Mine Swamp	15	*	0	0	1	1	2	17	rare species of dragonfly - habitat protection and management	
Coal Run	16		1	0	1	1	3	19	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Dam Run	17		0	0	1	0	1	18	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
PRIORITY GREENWAYS			PRIORITY VALUE				ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS			

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

H - 11

	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE	TOTAL	Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature	
PINE CREEK (CONTINUED)										
Dry Run	18	0	0	1	0	1	19	19	wildlife corridor	
Elk Run	17	0	0	1	1	2	19	19	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
English Run (Pine Twp.)	19	0	0	1	0	1	20	20	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
English Run (Cummings Twp.)	17	0	0	1	0	1	18	18	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Flicks Run	18	2	1	1	3	7	25	25	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Francis Branch of Slate Run (*)	22	0	0	1	0	1	23	23	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Furnace Run	10	3	1	2	3	9	19	19	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Gamble Run (Watson Twp.)	17	0	0	1	1	2	19	19	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Gamble Run (Brown Twp.)	20	0	0	1	0	1	21	21	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Hilborn Run	15	0	0	1	0	1	16	16	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Jacobs Run	17	1	0	1	2	4	21	21	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Lick Run	18	2	1	1	2	6	24	24	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Little Pine Creek	21	1	0	2	1	4	25	25	Connectivity, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Little Slate Run	22	0	0	1	0	1	23	23	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Lloyd Run (*)	17	0	0	1	0	1	18	18	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Love Run	21	0	0	2	0	2	23	23	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Lower Pine Bottom Run	18	1	0	1	1	3	21	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Lycoming Highlands	19	1	0	1	2	4	23	23	highlands, important birding area, habitat connection	
Manor Fork	23	0	0	1	0	1	24	24	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
McClure Run (w/in Miller Run NA)	21	0	0	2	0	2	23	23	wildlife corridor	
McKees Run	14	1	0	1	2	4	18	18	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Mill Run	21	1	0	1	2	4	25	25	Ev stream, High gradient clearwater creek - habitat level 2, limited access.	
Miller Run (McHenry Twp.)	23	0	0	1	0	1	24	24	habitat protection and riparian buffers - to maintain HQ status.	
Miller Run N.A.	24	0	0	2	0	2	26	26	second-growth forest; protects roadless watershed of three streams. habitat protection	
Morris Run (*)	18	0	0	1	0	1	19	19	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.	
Morris Run Cliff	11	*	0	0	1	1	2	13	rare species - habitat protection	
Naval Run (Cummings Twp.)	19	0	0	2	0	2	21	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Naval Run (Brown Twp.)	19	0	0	2	0	2	21	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection	
Nichols Run	17	3	3	1	3	10	27	27	HQ stream in developed area, habitat connection and riparian buffers	
PRIORITY GREENWAYS		PRIORITY VALUE						ASSIGNED VALUES / REMARKS		

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

H - 12

	ATTRIBUTE VALUE	habitat for rare species	development pressure	designated growth area	serves public need	lacking protection	PRIORITY VALUE	TOTAL	Exceptional Attribute Value = 5 Very Important Attribute Value = 3 Important Attribute Value = 2 Moderate Attribute Value = 1 Minimal Attribute Value = 0 (*) Requires bi-county cooperation * habitat for rare or threatened species/unique landscape feature
PINE CREEK (CONTINUED)									
Oregon Hill Swamp	19	*	1	0	1	5	7	26	PA-rare plant, habitat protection and connection. Type 1- no access. Private ownership.
Panther Run	19		0	0	2	0	2	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Pine Creek	23		2	0	3	2	7	30	habitat protection and riparian buffers - 75' each side for water quality.
Putt Hollow	17		0	0	1	0	1	18	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.
Ramsey Run	20		1	0	1	1	3	23	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Red Pine N.A.	12		0	0	2	0	2	14	second-growth forest.habitat protection
Rock Run (Texas Creek Trib.)	13		1	0	1	2	4	17	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Rogers Run	16		1	0	1	3	5	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Schoolhouse Run (*)	16		0	0	1	0	1	17	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.
Shanty Run	15		1	0	1	2	4	19	habitat protection and riparian buffers - to maintain HQ status.
Slate Run (along main stem) (*)	20		0	0	1	0	1	21	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.
Slate Run SP504 Site	14	*	0	0	1	1	2	16	PA-rare plant - habitat protection within corridor for Slate Run
Solomon Run	16		0	0	1	0	1	17	habitat protection and riparian buffers - to maintain HQ status.
Sulphur Run	13		2	2	2	3	9	22	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Texas Creek (*)	15		1	0	1	2	4	19	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Tombs Run	12		2	2	2	3	9	21	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Torbert Island Natural Area/ Woods	15	*	1	1	1	2	5	20	habitat protection/Xeric Central Harwoods-Conifer forest, home to rare animal.
Trout Run (Brown Twp.)	18		0	0	1	0	1	19	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.
Trout Run (McHenry Twp.)	21		0	0	1	0	1	22	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Trout Run SA506 Site	13	*	1	1	1	1	4	17	PA-listed animal habitat protection
Truman Run	20		1	0	1	1	3	23	habitat protection and riparian buffers - to maintain HQ status.
Upper Pine Bottom Run	17		1	0	1	1	3	20	HQ waters, steep slopes -wildlife corridor/ habitat connection
Wolf Run Wild Area	23	*	0	0	1	0	1	24	PA Threatened (candidate for federal protection) - habitat level 2, limited access.
Woodhouse Ledges	11	*	0	0	1	1	2	13	rare species habitat protection. Type 1- no access, maintain woodlands, prevent erosion.
Woodhouse Run (*)	16		0	0	1	0	1	17	habitat protection and connection. Type 2 - limited access.

GREENWAY PRIORITY MATRIX

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

1. The following table provides general implementation actions that are applicable to Lycoming County as a whole. More specific information for each implementation action is contained in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 8. The implementation action number refers to the Chapter. Priorities for short term (S), medium term (M) and long term (L) are provided for planning purposes.

County Recreation Organization Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
4-1a. Expand the provision of recreation programming and project development assistance to municipalities through grant funded County or multi-municipal staff position(s), contracted services to the YMCA or other organizations, or other means.	Lycoming County Commissioners, LCP&CD, Municipalities	S
4-1b. Consider the establishment of a Lycoming County Recreation Commission to promote development of recreational facilities and programs.	Lycoming County Commissioners	S
4-2a. Consider establishing a greenway and trail entity to manage and maintain a County trail system, or partner with a regional or multi-county trail organization(s).	Lycoming County Commissioners, LCP&CD	S
4-2b. Appoint Board of Directors if a new organization is formed.	Lycoming County Commissioners	S
4-3a. Continue to upgrade the White Deer Golf Complex computer systems and software.	Lycoming County Recreation Authority	M
4-4e. Implement the priority preventive maintenance program for the White Deer Golf Complex.	Lycoming County Recreation Authority	S
4-4f. Implement the priority capital improvement program for the White Deer Golf Complex.	Lycoming County Recreation Authority	S

Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
5-1a. Establish a County recreation council.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S
5-1b. Seek representation from municipalities.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S
5-1c. Seek representation from citizen groups.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S
5-1d. Establish three youth councils within the County.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-2a. Develop a process to make priority recommendations for DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program grant applications from municipalities.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-2b. Continue to provide grant writing support from County government, River Valley YMCA, or other appropriate contractor.	LCP&CD, Lycoming County Recreation Commission, River Valley YMCA	S
5-2c. Identify funding sources to support municipal recreation providers, County recreation programs and facilities, and recreation commissions, authorities, and corporations.	Lycoming County Commissioners, LCP&CD, recreation providers	S

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Recreation Providers, Facilities and Services Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
5-2d. Encourage partnerships between municipalities and user groups.	LCPC&D, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-3a. Establish trail connections in communities, linking businesses, schools, recreation areas and residences.	Greenway corporation, municipalities	S,M,L
5-3b. Establish facilities which promote opportunities for individual and families to exercise together in a safe environment.	Recreation providers, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-3c. Establish programs which promote regular physical activity and healthy lifestyles.	Recreation providers, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-3d. Provide for open space, recreation areas, and pedestrian connectivity in growth area development.	Lycoming County Planning Commission, municipalities, private developers.	M
5-3e. Provide replacement playgrounds and open space when neighborhood schools close.	School districts, municipalities.	S,M,L
5-4a. Annually assess and evaluate the condition of every playground within the County.	Municipalities, School Districts, Recreation Authorities, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
5-4b. Establish a cost share program to upgrade and maintain safe playgrounds.	Lycoming County Commissioners, DCNR, DCED, CDBG, First Community Foundation, municipalities, recreation providers.	M

Recreation Activities Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
6-1a. Establish an organization for centralized arts and entertainment oversight and coordination.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council	M
6-1b. Develop a calendar of events with broad distribution.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council	S
6-1c. Develop/update a Cultural Action Plan.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council	M
6-1d. Prepare a long range marketing plan for arts and entertainment.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council	M
6-2a. Include arts and entertainment facilities in downtown re-vitalization efforts.	City of Williamsport	M
6-2b. Increase use of public school facilities for arts and entertainment.	Williamsport Lycoming Arts Council, school districts	M
6-2c. Rehabilitate community parks to improve performing art and entertainment facilities.	Host Community	M
6-2d. Develop gardens and arboretums in community parks and open space (e.g. wild flower area at Riverfront Park)	Host Community	M
6-2e. Develop community gardens on municipal open space and underutilized lands, such as flood buyout properties, throughout Lycoming County.	Host Community	M

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Recreation Activities Implementation Actions		Responsible for Implementation	Priority
6-3a.	Develop improved information maps for water related activities.	State agencies, Lycoming County GIS	M
6-3b.	Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of water related activities that are available.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission; Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce	M
6-3c.	Establish special events to showcase water related activity resources.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-3d.	Prepare a long range marketing plan.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-4a.	Evaluate a public access boat dock / marina on the River.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission; PA Fish and Boat Commission	L
6-4b.	Evaluate a white water course at the Hepburn Street dam.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-4c.	Evaluate a floating stage or amphitheatre along the Susquehanna River Walk.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-4d.	Evaluate a family oriented picnic area with access to the River.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-4e.	Construct additional public boat and canoe access facilities where needed.	Host Community; PA Fish & Boat Commission	L
	Add boat launch, dock at Riverfront Park	Loyalsock Township	M
	Enhance access for fishing at Riverfront Park	Loyalsock Township	M
6-5a.	Develop improved information maps of snowmobile and cross country ski trails.	LCP&CD	M
6-5b.	Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of winter recreation.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission; Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce	M
6-5d.	Prepare a long range marketing plan.	Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Lycoming County Visitors Bureau	L
6-6a.	Finalize downtown revitalization plan and vision.	City of Williamsport, Lead Partners	M
6-6b.	Develop funding.	City of Williamsport, Lead Partners	S
6-7a.	Conduct public education on the Recreation Use of Land and Water Act (RUA).	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
6-7b.	Develop an outdoor ice skating area in each community.	Host communities, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-7c.	Develop a sledding area in each community.	Host communities, Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-8a.	Establish communication between sports organizations and recreation facility and services planners	Lycoming County Recreation Council	S
6-8b.	Evaluate availability of areas for various youth sports.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S,M,L

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Recreation Activities Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
6-8c. Work with local school districts, churches, colleges, businesses and industries to expand availability of indoor and outdoor spaces for youth and amateur adult sports.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S,M,L
6-9a. Families volunteer services in exchange for sports participation fees.	Sports Leagues	M
6-9b. Organize a community "swap-meet" to assist families in obtaining used sports equipment at low costs.	Host Community	M
6-10a. Identify and assess the availability and condition of sports facilities within the County.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	M
6-10b. Evaluate potential for a variety of tournaments and competitions.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	L
6-11a. Establish a teen committee for each community.	Host Community	M
6-11b. Evaluate availability of areas for various youth activities.	Lycoming County Recreation Commission	S,M,L
6-11c. Establish new extreme sports parks.	Host Community	M

Greenway Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
8-1a. Complete planning and implementation strategy for the Susquehanna Trail.	LCP&CD	S
8-1b. Evaluate main pedestrian routes within communities.	Greenway entity	M
8-1c. Identify additional opportunities for pedestrian trails that link communities, parks, and recreation facilities.	Greenway entity	M
8-2a. Support funding by State agencies at the local level.	Lycoming County Commissioners	S
8-2b. Develop alternatives to volunteer labor for trail maintenance.	Greenway entity	M
8-2c. Reduce pressure on heavy use trails.	Greenway entity; PA DCNR	M
8-3a. Establish a County recreation council.	LCP&CD	S
8-3b. Develop improved information maps of trails.	LCP&CD	M
8-3c. Develop brochures to promote quality, quantity and variety of trails.	Greenway entity; Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce	M
8-3d. Develop road tour maps.	LCP&CD	M
8-3e. Prepare a long range marketing plan for sustainable tourism.	Greenway entity, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce	L
8-3f. Promote sustainable low impact, high economic benefit tourism.	Greenway entity, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce	L
8-4a. Inventory trails by level of difficulty.	Greenway entity	L

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Greenway Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
8-4b. Develop interpretive trails.	Greenway entity	M
8-4c. Develop community trails originating in population centers.	Greenway entity	M
8-4d. Establish links to connect existing trails.	Greenway entity	S
8-4e. Develop new ATV trails.	Private groups, DCNR	M
8-4f. Develop new equestrian trails.	Greenway entity	M
8-5a. Classify and prioritize scenic or environmentally sensitive areas for the purpose of prioritizing the value of specific natural resources.	LCP&CD	M
8-5b. Set standards for evaluating land use compatibility with classified resources.	LCP&CD	M
8-5c. Evaluate effectiveness of existing ordinances as they pertain to development standards for sustainable communities.	LCP&CD	M
8-5d. Educate municipal officials and land owners and demonstrate the economic value of sustainable communities.	LCP&CD	S
8-5e. Educate developers and consultants to improve the design quality of development and it's compatibility with the landscape.	LCP&CD	S
8-5f. Educate youth to instill land stewardship values during early development.	Lycoming County Conservation District	S
8-5g. Form a Greenway Task Force.	Greenway entity	S
8-6a. Minimize or avoid the extension or construction of public facilities such as roads and large sewage systems into scenic corridors that would encourage rapid growth and development, or infringe upon the character of the land.	LCP&CD, LCPC	S,M,L
8-6b. Lands of high open space value or of fragile ecological character that are adjacent (or near) State Forest land should be incorporated, by purchase, as State Forest land. Of highest importance would be ridgetops, streams and steep hillsides.	Greenway entity; PA DCNR	S,M,L
8-6c. Farmlands near the river that are in an area of Class I floodplain soil should remain in agricultural use. Farming visually enhances the scenic values of the river valley, and protects Pennsylvania's heritage of rural landscapes.	LCP & CD, LCPC, Municipalities, Lycoming County Conservation District,	S,M,L
8-6d. Protect the high basin area of Rose and Beech Valley – one of the most scenic and unique landscapes in the county and region – from the increased residential development pressure.	LCP&CD, LCPC, Municipalities	S,M,L

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Greenway Implementation Actions	Responsible for Implementation	Priority
8-6e. Only essential public service needs of water, sewer and transportation should be provided in the Pine Creek Watershed, as more than the essential needs will encourage new development in an area ill-suited to accommodate major growth –as could be associated with increased recreation pressures.	LCP&CD, LCPC Pine Creek Council of Governments	S,M,L
8-6f. Propose an Amendment to PA's Clean and Green Program that incorporates smart growth values and results in true land conservation.	LCP&CD	M
8-7a. Develop a program to promote a greenway and healthy community initiative - to emphasize the links between greenways and healthy lifestyles.	Greenway entity	S,M
8-8a. Develop a trails/recreation greenway plan identifying potential trail routes and links.	Greenway entity	S
8-9a. Develop system of prioritizing the need for protection of water resources.	LCP&CD, LCPC	M
8-9b. Inventory existing degraded water sources and riparian buffers, and prioritize their need for improvement within the County.	LCP&CD, LCPC	S
8-9c. Protect sink holes as aquifer recharge areas for the region.	LCP&CD, LCPC, Municipalities	S
8-9d. Develop incentive programs for land owner cooperation, providing additional opportunities for remaining lands if protection is offered for conservation greenways for riparian buffers.	Lycoming County Conservation District	M
8-10a. Develop a quantitative ranking system for evaluating and assigning priority to wildlife corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.	LCP&CD	M
8-10b. Conserve large corridors of undeveloped lands for the protection of unfragmented habitats.	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	S
8-10c. Establish sanctuary guidelines for controlling activities that will impact sensitive habitats.	LCP&CD	M
8-10d. Preserve the top 10 priority natural communities as identified in the County Comprehensive plan.	LCP&CD	M
8-10e. Develop an invasive plants program to protect native healthy communities.	EMRCD	S
8-10f. Cooperate with the restoration of shad, eel, and other native fish migration within the West Branch Susquehanna River and it's tributaries.	USFWS, PA Fish & Boat Commission	S
8-10g. Develop a program to protect trout when water temperatures become warm enough that they must congregate at the mouth of cold water tributaries.	Trout Unlimited, Watershed Associations, PCCOG	S

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

2. During the public participation process and analysis to develop County wide recreation needs, specific municipal needs for recreation, parks and open space were identified. Those specific municipal implementation projects are listed below within the designated Planning Area.

GREATER WILLIAMSPORT ALLIANCE PLANNING AREA

Loyalsock Township (see Lower Lycoming Planning Area)

Old Lycoming Township (see Lower Lycoming Planning Area)

South Williamsport Borough

- Improvements to the Recreation Area:
 - Add more restroom facilities and keep them open.
 - Need additional playground equipment, especially for toddlers.
 - Need a skate park.
 - Add an outdoor ice skating area.
 - Add lighting for parking areas and walking paths for early morning and evening.
 - Plant trees for more shade.
 - Add more walking trails and bike paths.
 - Add lights for tennis.
 - Add more facilities for elderly such as shuffleboard and bocce ball court.
 - Keep open areas - so that it doesn't become all game fields.
 - Add a concession stand.
- Evaluate and improve sidewalks and biking access to the recreation complex.

Williamsport

- Key Recommendations from the Recreation and Park Peer Advisory Team to the City of Williamsport
 - Form a new recreation department or commission and establish partnerships with this new organization
 - Diversify and expand the recreation program opportunities offered within the City
 - Develop strategies to attract dedicated funding for recreation and park services
 - Continue to maintain, refurbish, and update the existing park infrastructure
 - Promote and market recreation programs and park facilities
 - Standardize equipment/policies to improve operational efficiency, lower costs, and to minimize citizen confusion
 - Identify short and long-term planning tasks that are needed to reinvest in the City's recreation and park efforts
 - Improve the safety/security (public perception of safety) at park facilities
 - Continue to pursue professional peer consultation and utilize resources provided by PRPS, DCNR, and other Commonwealth recreation departments
- Keep Lose School area as a neighborhood park and playground
- Rehabilitation of Newberry Park to include construction of a basketball court, pavilion, play equipment, safety surfacing, walkways, internal site lighting, utilities, site amenities, landscaping, ADA access, sign and related site improvements.

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

LOWER LYCOMING CREEK PLANNING AREA

Loyalsock Township

- Add more playground equipment and shade trees at Heshbon Park.
- Improve bike trail to Montoursville.
- At Riverfront Park:
 - Add playground equipment.
 - Add another boat launching area and another dock.
 - Add more picnic areas.
 - Add more restroom facilities.
 - Increase the amount of trails.
 - Enhance access for fishing.
 - Add a wild flower area.

Old Lycoming Township

- Add more restroom facilities or port-johns along the bikeway.
- Add more benches along the bikeway.
- Ban burner barrels along the bikeway.
- Sweep the bikeway in the fall for roller bladders.
- Rehabilitate the Old Lycoming Township Park to include resurfacing tennis courts, installation of fencing, ADA access, signs and related site improvements.

MONTOURSVILLE/MUNCY GROWTH CORRIDOR

Montoursville Borough

- Add the following items to Indian Park:
 - Ice skating
 - Skateboard Area
 - Additional restroom facilities
- Make the following improvements to Indian Park
 - Add more programs and events
 - Add winter activities
 - Make the park more accessible in the winter.
 - Stock the pond so children can fish.
- Add mile markers and better area map to the bikeway.

MUNCY CREEK PLANNING AREA

Hughesville Borough

- Add more shows and special events at the Fairgrounds.

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Muncy Borough

- Develop a Master Site Plan to enhance recreational areas within the Borough.
- Rehabilitate the Green Street playground.
- Convert the FEMA/PEMA flood buyout lots to passive multi-generational recreation.
- Add an ice skating area to Keiss Recreation Park.
- Identify and organize a safe place for sledding.
- Provide walking and biking access between Muncy Borough and the River.
Inventory/evaluate the several potential corridors.
- Work with PennDOT to provide walking and biking access to the River along West Water Street. For example, curbs and sidewalks are nonexistent.
- Work with the Fish Commission to upgrade the Muncy Boat Access by reducing hazardous connecting routes and adding river facilities.
- Support the Canal Heritage Park and work to link it to other regional sites and to the Borough of Muncy.
- Encourage Muncy Borough and Muncy Creek Township Planning Commissions to begin joint work on these items.

Picture Rocks Borough

- Upgrade the playground in the park.
- Need more and better restrooms.
- Schedule more activities, such as town picnic.

Wolf Township

- Lime Bluff Recreation Area:
 - Add more restrooms and pavilions.
 - Plant more trees for shade.
 - Need a better access road.
 - Aggressively implement the rest of the plan.

U.S. 15 SOUTH PLANNING AREA

Clinton Township

- Add restroom facilities at the Township Park.

Montgomery Borough

- Identify and improve safe bike routes within the Borough.
- Improve restroom facilities.
- Add swimming area to the Park.

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

US 220/ FUTURE I-99 PLANNING AREA

Jersey Shore Borough

- Upgrade the Thompson Street Recreation Area to include more pavilions, benches, concession/pavilion, parking, performance/viewing area, picnic areas, athletic field, basketball court, playgrounds, stormwater management facility, and a skateboard park.
- Redevelopment of the Jersey Shore YMCA, including construction and related infrastructure
- Implementation of the Jersey Shore Borough Riverfront/Boat Launch Improvement and Pine Creek Rail-Trail Connector Feasibility Study to include:
 - Development of the rail with trail alignment from the DCNR trailhead, development of the existing alleyway between the at-grade rail crossing and Allegheny Street, and all off-road trail segments of the Canal Trail alignment.
 - Seminary Street & Wylie Street alignment improvements
 - Canal Trail on-road alignments
 - Boat launch improvements
 - Amphitheater development
 - Neighborhood route on-road improvements
 - Main Street improvements
- Add an outdoor ice skating area.
- Identify and organize a safe place for sledding.

Piatt Township

- Establish a safe pedestrian connection to playgrounds and baseball fields for walking and biking.

Porter Township

- Identify and improve safe walking and biking trails.

Woodward Township

- Upgrade the playground at the former Woodward Elementary School and retain as a Community Park.
- Provide walking trails at the former Woodward Elementary School.
- Establish a connection to the Susquehanna Greenway Trail from the former Woodward Elementary School.

LYCOMING COUNTY - RURAL PLANNING AREA

McIntyre Township

- Establish new playground area.

Nippenose Township

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

- Improve restroom facilities at the park.

Salladasburg Borough

- Establish a safe pedestrian connection to playgrounds and baseball fields for walking and biking.
- Establish a community park and trail for use by village residents and visitors.

Watson Township

- Add basketball court and tennis courts at the Pine Creek Recreation Area.
- Construct an access to Pine Creek at the Pine Creek Recreation Area.
- Upgrade playground equipment at the Pine Creek Recreation Area.

3. Conceptual Plan Trail Type and Cost Estimates*

* Trail alignment and design studies will be needed to refine the cost estimates.

The following table provides a listing of proposed new trails. Refer to Map 21 Trail Network Concept Map for location by Trail Number. Priorities for short term, medium term, and long term are provided for planning purposes. The trail types refer to the following:

- SL: Shared Lane. Bikers or pedestrians share the traffic lane. Signage is provided to advise motorists.
- SU: Shared Use. Bikers or pedestrians use a specific area that is immediately adjacent to a traffic lane. Lanes are widened and pavement marking is used to designate the pedestrian area. Signage is provided to advise motorists.
- IND: Independent. The trail is independent of streets, roads, and highways.

Trails Implementation Actions	Type	Length (miles)	Estimate of Probable Cost	Priority
2 Susq Greenway: JS To Wmspt	SL, IND	16.0	\$3,650,337	S
3 Susq Riverwalk	IND	5.5	\$2,234,117	S
4 Susq Greenway: Swmspt To Union Co	SL, SU, IND	18.2	\$2,639,477	S
5 Southern Lycoming Loop				M
Susq Trail To RT 880 (Skyline Drive)	IND	25.9	\$2,097,884	
Union Co. To Elimsport To RT 880	SL, IND	19.6	\$370,650	
Kiosk With Trail Maps		2	\$20,000	
6 Muncy To Montoursville				S
Montoursville To Muncy Ind Park	SL, SU	7.8	\$507,105	

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Trails Implementation Actions	Type	Length (miles)	Estimate of Probable Cost	Priority
Muncy To East Lyc Rec	SL, SU, IND	5.0	\$164,413	
Muncy To Keiss Park	SL, SU	3.6	\$25,330	
I-180 To SR864	SL	8.2	\$4,090	
Muncy To Susq Greenway	IND	1.5	\$425,282	
Kiosk With Trail Maps		4	\$40,000	
7 Montoursville To Wmspt	SU, IND		\$261,732	S
8 Lycoming Creek Trail				
Bridge Loop	IND	1.6	\$163,508	S
Kiosk With Trail Maps		1	\$10,000	
9 Lycoming Creek Trail Extension				M
Extension To Trout Run	SL, SU, IND	7.7	\$101,310	
Trout Run To Ralston	SL, IND	11.6	\$575,438	
Ralston Loop	IND	10.8	\$751,990	
Bridge	IND		\$600,000	
Kiosk With Trail Maps		3	\$30,000	
10 East Lycoming Loop	SL, SU	6.0	\$339,750	M
Kiosk With Trail Maps		2	\$20,000	
11 Loyalsock Trail	SU	6.5	\$515,080	M
Kiosk With Trail Maps		2	\$20,000	
12 Northeast Loop				L
Farragut To Picture Rocks	SL, SU	13.0	\$359,730	
SR 864 To Barbours	SL	8.6	\$4,310	
Little Bear Creek Rd	SL	8.6	\$4,290	
Kiosk With Trail Maps		4	\$40,000	
13 Rose Valley Loop	SL, IND	25.1	\$338,928	L
Kiosk With Trail Maps		2	\$20,000	
14 Loyalsock Lyco Link	SU	6.0	\$472,420	L
Kiosk With Trail Maps		2	\$20,000	
15 Larrys Creek				L
US 220 To Elementary School	SL	3.2	\$1,595	
School To Saladasburg	SL, IND	1.3	\$83,998	
School To Twp Building	SU	.5	\$37,920	
Saladasburg To Brookside	SL	10.7	\$5,335	
Brookside To English Center	SL	4.6	\$2,315	
Saladasburg To Covered Bridge	SL, IND	9.8	\$579,253	
Covered Bridge To Cogan House	SL	3.2	\$1,575	
Kiosk With Trail Maps		6	\$60,000	
16 Pine Creek				L
Buttonwood To English Center	SL, SU	11.6	\$84,320	
English Center To Little Pine Dam	SL, SU	7.1	\$82,025	
Little Pine Dam To Rail Trail	SL	4.5	\$2,260	

APPENDIX I - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Trails Implementation Actions	Type	Length (miles)	Estimate of Probable Cost	Priority
Kiosk With Trail Maps		5	\$50,000	
18 Oregon Hill Trail	SL	8.4	\$4,195	L
Kiosk With Trail Maps		1	\$10,000	