

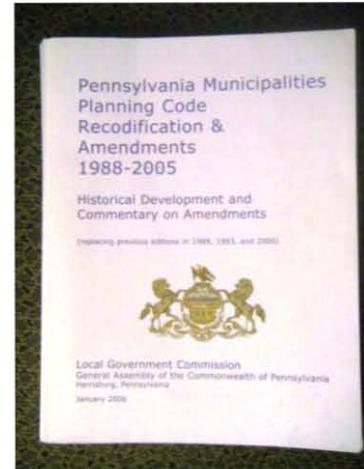
Chapter 1 – Introduction and Purpose of Planning

Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247)

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended (MPC) defines a county comprehensive plan as, “a land use and growth management plan prepared by the county planning commission which establishes broad goals and criteria for municipalities to use in preparation of their comprehensive plans and land use regulations.”

The county comprehensive plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following basic elements:

1. A statement of objectives of the county concerning its future development, including the location, character, and timing of future development.
2. A plan for land use, which includes provisions for the amount, intensity, character, and timing of land use proposed for residence, industry, business, agriculture, transit facilities, utilities, community facilities, public grounds, parks and recreation, preservation of prime agricultural lands, floodplains, and other areas of special hazards.
3. A plan to meet the housing needs of present and future residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the county.
4. A plan for the movement of people and goods.
5. A plan for community facilities and utilities.
6. A statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components, and discussion of short- and long-range plan implementation strategies.
7. A statement indicating that the existing and proposed development is compatible with existing and proposed development and plans of contiguous municipalities.
8. A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by federal or state law.
9. Identification of land uses as they relate to important natural resources and appropriate utilization of existing minerals.
10. Identification of current and proposed land use which have a regional impact and significance, such as large shopping centers, major industrial parks, mines and related activities, office parks, storage facilities, large residential developments, regional entertainment and recreational complexes, hospitals, airports and port facilities.



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11. Development of a plan for the preservation and enhancement of prime agricultural land and encouraging compatibility of land use regulations with existing agricultural operations.
12. Development of a plan for historic preservation.
13. A plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses, and limitations, including provisions adequate to protect water supply sources.

Section 301.1 of the MPC permits, as an option, the development of an energy conservation plan to promote energy conservation and the effective utilization of renewable energy sources.

Comprehensive community planning is not required for local municipalities; however, the MPC mandates that all counties in Pennsylvania prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan that establishes broad goals and criteria for municipalities to use in preparation of their plan and land use regulations. Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan shall be reviewed at least every ten years.

Section 304 of the MPC requires that following the adoption of the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan, any proposed action of the governing body of a municipality or school district, its departments, agencies and appointed authorities shall be submitted to the Juniata County Planning Commission for its recommendation at least forty-five days prior to the execution of such proposed action if the proposed action relates to:

1. The location, opening, vacating, widening, narrowing, or enlargement any street, public street, pierhead or watercourse.
2. The location, erection, demolition, removal, or sale of any public structures located within the municipality.
3. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of any comprehensive plan, official map, subdivision or land development ordinance, zoning ordinance or provisions for planned residential development.
4. The construction, extension, or abandonment of any water line, sewer line or sewage treatment facility.
5. Location, demolition, removal, sale, or lease of any school district structure or land.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires the comprehensive plan to include a plan for the protection of Natural and Historic Resources to the extent not preempted by federal or state law. The Natural and Historic Preservation Plan shall be consistent with and may not exceed those requirements imposed under the following:

1. Clean Streams Law
2. Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act
3. The Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act

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4. The Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act
5. Oil and Gas Act
6. Non-coal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act
7. Agricultural Security Act
8. An Act Protecting Agricultural Operations from Nuisance Suits and Ordinances Under Certain Circumstances
9. Nutrient Management Act

The recommendations in the Natural and Water Resources Plan, and Community Facilities and Historic Resources Plan are consistent with and do not exceed those requirements imposed by the above referenced acts.

Previous County Planning Activities



Juniata County's previous comprehensive plan dates back to 1974. According to the Pennsylvania State Data Center over the last 30 years the county's population has grown 38.6% from 16,712 residents in 1970 to an estimated 23,168 residents in 2007. Compared to other counties in central Pennsylvania, this growth rate is moderate and may not seem excessive. Juniata County is nestled between two large metropolitan centers, Harrisburg to the southeast, and State College and Lewistown to the northwest. These regions are connected to Juniata County by U.S. 22/322. **Map 1-1** graphically shows the geographic location of Juniata County. Over the past 30 years these regions had sufficient land area and infrastructure to absorb the new growth; however, as the availability of undeveloped land decreased and more stringent development regulations were adopted to protect the remaining available land in these regions, developers began looking for land elsewhere, including Juniata County. In the truest sense, Juniata County is a rural county with a strong sense of family and guiding values, and is also home to some of the most pristine environments in central Pennsylvania. Additional demographic and socioeconomic analysis on the county can be found in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Compounding the growth issue is the fact that Juniata County is the last of the state's 67 counties to adopt a modern comprehensive plan. A review of the 1974 plan revealed that although the plan has served its purpose, it is outdated in form and function. It is important that Juniata County has a set of mutually supportive policies that will guide the county through the next decade. This plan should not be considered an update of the 1974 plan since the strategies and recommendations presented in this plan are representative of the county today, and have been developed around input received from county residents through a series of focus group meetings and surveys.

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In addition to the 1974 comprehensive plan, the following major planning studies have occurred:

Juniata County Comprehensive Area-Wide Water & Sewer Plan - November, 1969

With an expanding population and intensive land use by that population, municipalities have become concerned with the future of having adequate water supply and sewer coverage for Juniata County. This report represents a comprehensive plan for water and sewer services to meet the future needs of the county with the exception of concentrated urban areas.

The first part of the study presents information from subject matter that is pertinent to water and sewer facilities, including population, economic environment, existing public utilities, natural resources, agricultural patterns and trends, and water resources.

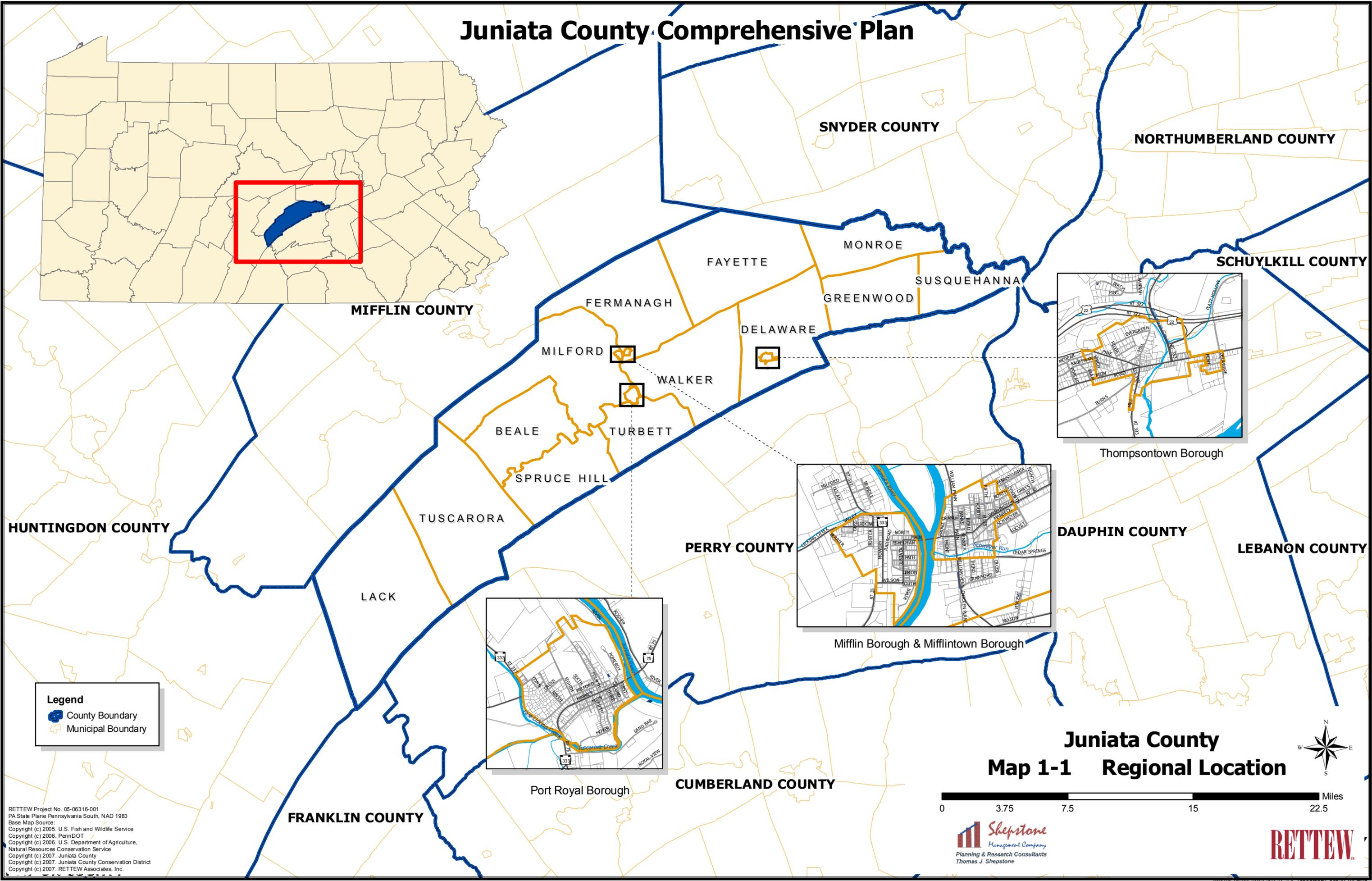
The second part of the study contains several maps that outline the study area and the topography, soil structure, existing land uses, and existing water and sewer facilities in the county. The water and sewer facilities map showed that public water services were located in the Boroughs of Mifflintown, Mifflin, Thompsettown, and Port Royal and in the villages of McAlisterville, and Richfield. The only two public sewer facilities existing at this time were Twin Borough Sanitary Authority and Port Royal Municipal Sewer System. The East Juniata Junior/Senior High School was the only facility to have a private sewer system.

The third part of the study presents several proposals for specific water and sewer systems, a priority listing of their development, and coordination and development methods for these systems. The methodology used included population projections, the selection of systems based on their proximity to areas of concentrated development, and economic feasibility using existing and projected rental fees for public facilities. A priority listing of facilities needed to meet the needs of the county in 1970 included Mexico (water and sewer) and McAlisterville (water). The priority listing for the time period between 1970 and 1980 included Richfield (sewer), Thompsettown (sewer), East Salem (water and sewer), and McAlisterville (sewer). With respect to coordinating efforts, six goals were outlined and recommended to the planning commission. These goals include:

1. Adoption by the Juniata County Board of Commissioners of the Comprehensive Plan Area-Wide Water and Sewer Plan as the official plan for Juniata County, with administrative review by the Juniata County Planning Commission.
2. Selection of an engineer to advise and assist the planning commission.
3. Appoint committees to represent each area in which a facility is proposed. Request annual reports from each committee indicating the water and/or sewer situation within each area. Also indicate what programs, studies, etc., are underway.
4. Appoint a committee within the planning commission to review state and federal legislation concerning public works projects and ascertain the effect of legislation on local projects.

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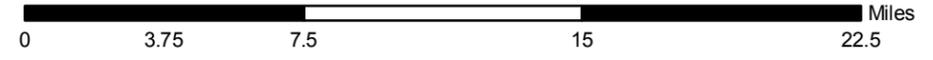
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Legend

- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary

Juniata County
Map 1-1 Regional Location



Shepstone
 Management Company
 Planning & Research Consultants
 Thomas J. Shepstone

RETTEW

RETTEW Project No. 05-06316-001
 PA State Plane, Pennsylvania South, NAD 1983
 Base Map Source:
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5. Keep the public aware of the activities of the planning commission through news releases.
6. Update the official water and sewer plan annually to reflect local changes.

Planning Standards and the Regional Concept Development Plan, Mifflin-Juniata Planning Commission - September, 1970

To ensure that development and redevelopment will not be plagued by traffic congestion, poor water and sewer facilities, and lack of amenities, the Mifflin-Juniata Planning Commission proposed the consideration and adoption of standards that will guide new growth, development, redevelopment, and changes so that they take place in a desirable manner. The plan outlines uniform standards for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, recreational areas, public facilities and utilities, and schools.

The plan outlines several planning objectives with respect to land resources, regional concept, community facilities and public utilities, transportation, and implementation. The plan proposed to delineate areas into major categories:

1. High Intensity Development
2. Low Intensity Development (rural residential, moderate residential, and agriculture)
3. Conservation Sector (areas along water features, steep slopes, and significant topography)

Comprehensive Studies for Mifflin and Juniata Counties, Mifflin and Juniata Planning Commission - 1971

On March 5, 1971 the Mifflin-Juniata Planning Commission submitted to the County Commissioners of each County the Comprehensive Studies for Mifflin and Juniata Counties. The submission of the study to the county commissioners culminated a twenty-one month task to fulfill the need to assemble in one source general information about both Mifflin and Juniata Counties. The Comprehensive Study was to be used as a basic reference of general background information for use by the general public and elected officials in making decisions towards the development of both counties. In addition, the Study would form the foundation for the formulation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The preparation of the Comprehensive Studies was prepared by a joint planning commission known as the Mifflin-Juniata Planning Commission. The joint commission worked together from May, 1966 to June, 1973.

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Comprehensive Development Plan Background Studies, Central Juniata Planning Council - 1974



The Central Juniata Planning Council, which is comprised of Thompsontown Borough and Delaware, Fermanagh, and Walker Townships, had this document written with the intent of guiding future growth and development in the Central Juniata Region and to provide for the public interest. This comprehensive plan also addresses the history, physiography, current land uses, transportation network, population, housing, economy, and community services and facilities of the Central Juniata Region. The Central Juniata Planning Council proposed the following list of objectives:

1. To preserve and enhance an aesthetically-pleasing, high quality environment for all residents by guiding the location and design of future development and ensuring that varying land uses will compliment one another
2. To protect the natural environment
 - a. Promoting the conservation of earth resources
 - b. Protecting watercourses from pollution and impeded flow
 - c. Seeking to minimize noise and air pollution
 - d. Discouraging excessive alteration of the landscape
 - e. Encouraging the preservation of the natural beauty
3. To provide for a variety of housing types to meet the needs of all residents of the region – emphasizing newly-formed households, growing families, and senior citizens
4. To protect the quality and character of the neighborhood and village centers by establishing realistic densities
5. To expand and improve community services and facilities giving special consideration to utilities, recreation, health provisions, highway maintenance, police protection, cultural needs, and provisions for the elderly
6. To protect and encourage agricultural activities in those areas of the region where soils and prevailing land use characteristics permit
7. To anticipate and actively plan for growth
8. To stimulate the local economy by encouraging and promoting controlled commercial, industrial, residential, recreational growth which will create local employment, shopping, and recreational opportunities leading to a strong local tax base

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9. To assume the responsibility of communicating proposed plans and policies through mass media and encouraging individual and group participation in the decision making process at all public meetings of municipal boards, authorities and commission
10. To ensure that the worth of the individual is foremost in the planning program
11. To strive for the coordination of policies, plans, and programs both within the municipalities and on a regional level through intergovernmental cooperation among school, borough, township, and county officials and special interest groups
12. To activate a continuing planning program that will serve to continually update and revise planning objectives and the operational tools necessary for implementation, in light of new data and experiences

A citizen attitude survey was conducted to assess the needs and interests of the residents of the Central Juniata Region. The responses were then ordered and grouped by the major areas of the municipal official's responsibilities so that the analysis would be more meaningful. The groupings included protection of persons and property, health and sanitation, highways, general government, and miscellaneous. The top five problems listed by the respondents of the survey, in order of importance, were 1) sewer system, 2) road maintenance, 3) planning and zoning, 4) enforcement of ordinances, and 5) parks and recreation.

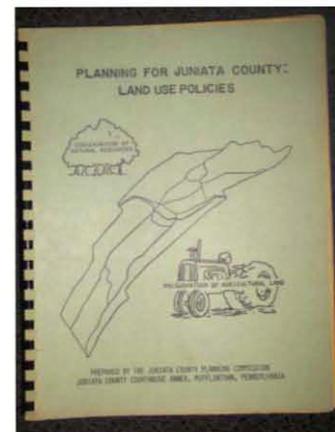
The respondents of the survey also identified some services that they felt were adequate in the Central Juniata Region, such as:

1. Fire protection
2. Water supply
3. Human services

Planning for Juniata County: Land Use Policies, Prepared by the Juniata County Planning Commission - 1974

The plan states that through surveys, it was determined that, "the ultimate goal of the people of Juniata County is to retain the rural character of Juniata County, its social mores and the aesthetic grandeur of open fields, clean streams, and steep forested slopes." The following goals and objectives are contained in the plan.

1. Conservation of Land and Resources: It has been evidenced that growth is desired within Juniata County. It has been, however; clearly and irrevocably declared that both present and future citizens of this county have a responsibility to conserve agriculturally-productive lands, conserve steep slopes through selective timbering practices, and to recognize the wetlands and flood plains as critical land areas.



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Urgent Objectives

- a. Map all agriculturally productive soils
- b. Prepare transparent overlays of proposed transfers occurring as changes from agriculturally productive activities to non-agricultural uses.
- c. Expand county subdivision review functions
- d. Prepare model subdivision standards.
- e. Develop detailed conservation strategies.

Continuing Objectives

- f. Encourage county municipalities to prepare local comprehensive plans and land use controls to zone for agricultural or open space use areas.
 - g. In the review of subdivision and other development proposals, monitor and oppose development which will encroach on productive farmlands.
 - h. Expand the Agri-Business Committee's functions
 - i. Assist should the state provide enabling legislation in the creation of Agricultural Districts wherein tax levels will encourage residents to maintain their land in agricultural use.
 - j. Prepare model PRD and PUD ordinances
2. Perpetuation of Natural Environment: Protect flood plains, steep slopes, wet or shallow and unstable soils and other environmentally critical areas.

Urgent Objectives

- a. Maintain up to date information including maps, and monitor uses on areas within the 100 year flood plain, wet or shallow soils, slopes of 18% or greater, and water table recharge areas.
- b. Prepare steep slope development standards.
- c. In the review of subdivision and other development proposals, oppose development which will encroach on these environmentally sensitive areas.
- d. Prepare detailed soil maps for all municipalities
- e. Assist owners of agriculturally and forest resource productive lands in the implementation of Clean and Green tax legislation already in effect.
- f. Require all public agencies and utility companies to select alternative sites to environmentally sensitive lands through implementation of A-95 and other review and approval processes at the county planning commission level.

Continuing Objectives

- g. Prepare open space zoning standards
- h. Encourage and assist state and local governments and private concerns to acquire and develop these environmentally sensitive areas for recreation and open space uses.
- i. Urge the creation of agricultural development
- j. Develop a local Agricultural Promotional Agency
- k. Expand Juniata County Planning Commission's Agribusiness Committee

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- l. Urge state adoption of Agri districting legislation
 - m. Enact local legislation (zoning and flood control) precluding other than agricultural pursuits in agriculturally and critical natural resource areas.
3. Enhance County's Community Facilities: Enhance overall community facilities through the expansion of public utilities, the expansion of the educational system to serve the youth and adults of the county, and through the expansion of recreational facilities to serve all peoples.

Urgent Objectives

- a. On an annual basis, identify improvements needed to the county's highway systems and other capital projects.
- b. In the review of subdivisions and other development proposals, oppose highway strip development, development in areas not suitable for on-lot sewage and not served by a sewage system, and the development of facilities and utilities which will result in undesirable economic, social, and environmental costs during development and operation.
- c. Prepare a community facilities plan identifying the location and extent of public water and sewer facilities.
- d. Prepare a public and quasi-public buildings and facilities inventory including a needs program for rehabilitation, expansion, demolition, and new construction.
- e. Prepare multi-purpose plans for watersheds

Continuing Objectives

- f. Update and monitor water and sewer facilities plans
 - g. Endorse and promote the extension of water and sewer lines as proposed in the sewer and water plan with emphasis on extensions to serve areas near existing urban centers designated for growth on the land use map and plan.
 - h. Develop a program of wide range cultural opportunities which can be made available to all citizens within the county including an identification of craftsmen, the execution of a school-park agreement, and the establishment of a center for the arts.
 - i. Develop an open space and recreational program
4. Provision of Housing for All Income Groups within their Economic Means: the provision of safe, sanitary and decent housing for all residents, concentrating on the conservation of existing housing.

Urgent Objectives

- a. Identify and encourage county municipalities during the preparation of comprehensive plans and land use controls to zone appropriate sites for PRD, PUD, and other cluster type developments thereby conserving agriculturally productive lands.
- b. Attempt to obtain rehab and conservation financing
- c. Encourage and assist municipalities to adopt building, housing, health and other codes so as to safeguard or conserve existing housing from deterioration.

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- d. Identify, by political subdivision, existing structurally sound but deteriorating homes owned by absentee landlords.
- e. Prepare a housing assistance plan directed primarily toward low and moderate income families.
- f. Prepare a housing rehabilitation program directed to elderly and physically or mentally handicapped through the preparation of charts, maps, photographs, sketches and other documents which can be used by public agencies as well as private contractors.
- g. Identify sites suitable for planned unit developments and/or cluster housing as a means of preserving the rural character of the county and as a means of conserving agriculturally productive lands.

Continuing Objectives

- h. Maintain structural conditions maps
- i. Maintain subdivision development maps
- j. Prepare and update model housing codes
- k. Create centralized code enforcement bureau
- l. Map all flood prone areas
- m. Create resource reference bureau
- n. Assist communities in applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies

5. Establish and Expand a Strong Economic Base

Urgent Objectives

- a. Expand job development program
- b. Reserve lands for commercial/industrial use
- c. Implement coordination proposals
- d. Expand public water/sewer facilities
- e. Create financial aid bureau
- f. Expand industrial financing pool

Continuing Objectives

- g. Expand tourist promotional agency
- h. Develop Agricultural Homesteading Program
- i. Prepare industrial site maps

6. Societal: Perpetuation of a Socially Responsible Citizenry

Urgent Objectives

- a. Create Youth Advisory Council
- b. Establish Foster Grandparents Program
- c. Update social agencies directory
- d. Assist in expanding medical services program

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Continuing Objectives

- e. Annual updating of social agencies directory
- f. Assist youth-oriented agencies
- g. Utilize news media to inform and educate
- h. Maintain Juniata directory
- i. Prepare updated goals and objectives statement

Planning for Juniata County: Housing - 1974

This document discusses the development of a housing program by the Juniata County Planning Commission. Two main sources that the Planning Commission draws impetus from are (1) the clear identification of housing as a problem of major proportion for the county through past reports, studies, census statistics and through ongoing discussions, and (2) the requirement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the preparation of an initial housing element as a part of the overall work program undertaken by the Juniata County Planning Commission.

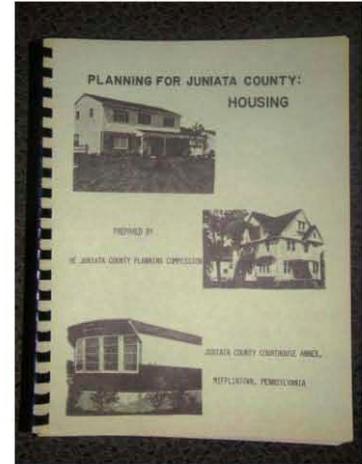
The document also lists a series of preliminary goals and objectives that relate to the county's housing needs. These goals and objectives include the following:

- Goal #1- Provide Adequate Housing for People of Various Income Levels within their Economic Means
- Goal #2 - Restore deteriorating housing to safe, sanitary, and decent standards
- Goal #3 - Provide help in attempting to lower the cost of maintaining a home
- Goal #4 - Provide a mixture of quality rental housing

The plan also outlines a three year work program that relates directly to the county's housing needs:

Year 1

- 1-1 Develop a program which can assist private residential developers in expanding the housing market
- 1-2 Rehabilitate 53 existing owner-occupied homes for low-income and elderly families
- 1-3 Construct 26 single family new housing units for low-income and elderly purchase
- 1-4 Construct 13 new rental units for low-income and elderly families
- 1-5 Publish a newsletter
- 1-6 Update the County Housing Assistance Plan
- 1-7 Coordinate housing planning activities with other planning activities and agencies
- 1-8 Identify by political subdivision existing structurally sound but deteriorating homes owned by absentee landlords



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- 1-9 Prepare a listing of construction firms available and willing to perform housing rehabilitation
- 1-10 Establish centralized code enforcement and reporting procedures by political subdivision
- 1-11 Identify potential housing sites which either possess or are in close proximity to community facilities and essential services
- 1-12 Develop a method which can refine initial housing policies for the county
- 1-13 Create a Housing Advisory Council to assist in expanding housing programs for county residents
- 1-14 Provide technical assistance upon request of local planning agencies
- 1-15 Assist property owners in obtaining tax rebates through the state tax rebate program

Year 2

- 2-1 Develop a system of collection and dissemination of information on housing needs and resources, for agencies and individuals both within and outside the county. Add information on private resources
- 2-2 Rehabilitate 53 existing owner-occupied homes for low-income and elderly families
- 2-3 Construct 26 single family new housing units for low-income and elderly purchase
- 2-4 Construct 13 new rental units for low-income and elderly families
- 2-5 Obtain citizen views concerning publication of a newsletter
- 2-6 Prepare specific housing reports on request
- 2-7 Coordinate housing planning activities with development of a county land use management plan
- 2-8 Revise and update housing policies
- 2-9 Review housing proposals on basis of national and local housing policies
- 2-10 Provide technical assistance upon request
- 2-11 Update the previously prepared housing sites inventory

Year 3

- 3-1 Maintain the system of collection and dissemination of housing information, including public and private resources
- 3-2 Rehabilitate 53 existing owner-occupied homes for low-income and elderly families
- 3-3 Construct 26 single family new housing units for low-income and elderly purchase
- 3-4 Construct 13 new rental units for low-income and elderly families
- 3-5 Continue publication of the newsletter
- 3-6 Prepare specific reports on request
- 3-7 Coordinate housing proposals on basis of national and local policies
- 3-8 Review housing proposals on basis of national and local policies
- 3-9 Reevaluate local housing conditions and produce a new housing study in conjunction with the 1980 census
- 3-10 Provide technical assistance on request
- 3-11 Conduct housing workshops and seminars

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Summary Overall Economic Development Program for Juniata County, Pennsylvania - 1974

This report was designed to address the economic situation in Juniata County, including a look at population, population growth, area resources, income distribution, and the unemployment rate. At this time, Juniata County was ranked 60 out of 67 in population of Pennsylvania counties. The employment situation reflected that which was not unlike the rest of the region with a 9.6% unemployment rate. The demand for labor was at a low level, vacillating at irregular intervals, much like that of the nation.

The report identifies problems and deficiencies, that when added together, become contributing factors that impede growth and development in Juniata County. These problems and deficiencies include:

1. Inadequate supply and pressure of water; lack of available sewage facilities
2. Absence of housing for sale and rental accommodations; inadequate housing for executive personnel as well as inadequate housing for employees from low to moderate income families that is curtailing business or industrial expansion
3. Absence of public transportation, such as bus and taxi service
4. The limited ability for educational attainment; problem of inadequate education serves as a contributing factor to limited economic development

The report also set forth goals that could hopefully reflect the achievements of an economically aggressive society within Juniata County:

1. Jobs
2. Water and sewer service
3. Community appearance
4. Tourism development and promotion
5. Housing
6. Expanded educational program
7. Industrial site development
8. Comprehensive planning program
9. Development of financial aids program
10. Human resources development program
11. Community recreation, cultural and civic development program
12. Establishment of agri-business development program

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13. Expansion of existing industries
14. Development of industrial financing pool
15. Expansion of the construction industry

The report lists several action programs that the Juniata Board of County Commissioners have established to realize immediate success in an otherwise long-range economic development program:

1. Job development program
2. Water and sewer service expansion program
3. Rural rehabilitation housing program
4. Tourism development
5. Industrial site development
6. Comprehensive planning program
7. Industrial development

SEDA-COG Regional Flood Recovery Plan - August, 1975

The purpose of this report was to seek out measures that will truly reduce the impact of future flood events on the citizens and the economy of the SEDA-COG, which includes 10 counties in Central Pennsylvania: Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union. The purpose also states a need to reduce flood hazards through more appropriate uses of the floodplain.

According to the document, Juniata County had 6,374 acres flooded during Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, and 57 families were placed in temporary disaster housing as a result.

The plan recommendations section has identified six problem areas pertinent to flood hazards: mobile home parks, storage of hazardous material, hydrologic problems, bridge replacement or rehabilitation, planned sewer service on floodplains, and developing areas in floodplains. Some recommendations made by the plan include intensive floodplain management, and the inclusion of streams into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

Water Quality and Biological Survey of the Juniata River Subbasin - July, 1986

The purpose of this survey was to assess the water quality of the Juniata River and its tributaries, assess the biological condition of the Juniata River and its tributaries, and identify pollution sources and length of stream impacted, and establish historical trends by documenting changes in water quality and biological condition.

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The survey analyzes water quality in the Juniata River Sub-basin, including the river itself and its major tributaries. The survey, which was conducted in July and August 1985, established 47 stations that were sampled for water samples, field chemistry, macroinvertebrates, and fish.

With respect to Juniata County, at Mifflintown, the pH level in the Juniata River exceeded water quality standards, 28 taxa of invertebrates were collected, identifying 10 mayfly genera and 7 caddisfly genera. An exceptional macroinvertebrate community is indicated by the diversity index of 4.02. Tuscarora Creek, a major tributary of the Juniata River in Juniata County, was sampled for water quality and was found to have exceeded water quality standards in iron and fecal coliform, and the creek had healthy biological conditions. Twenty-eight taxa of invertebrates were collected and 17 species of fish were observed.

The survey concludes that most of the streams in the Juniata River sub-basin support healthy biological communities. The sub-basin supports an abundant and diverse group of aquatic life, including insects, various aquatic invertebrates (crustaceans, mites, gastropods, annelids, and flatworms), and fish.

Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan for Juniata County, Pennsylvania - March, 1991

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988 (Act 101) requires counties to prepare municipal waste management plans to (1) ensure that each county has sufficient processing and disposal capacity that will be required for the municipal waste that will be generated within the county for at least ten years; (2) ensure a full, fair and open discussion of alternative methods of municipal waste processing and disposal, and (3) ensure maximum recycling of municipal waste or source separated recyclable material.

The study stated that Juniata County is a predominantly rural county in south central Pennsylvania with an estimated 1990 population of 20,440 people in approximately 7,000 households in an area of 388 square miles. Between 37 tons per day and 43 tons per day of municipal waste was generated in the county.

Juniata County proposed a three-pronged approach to effective solid waste management:

1. Encouragement of waste minimization efforts by residents and businesses through educational and promotional programs;
2. Encouragement of waste reduction, including recycling, composting and reuse, through financial and technical assistance, educational and promotional programs; and
3. Arrangements for proper disposal of unrecycled municipal waste at state-of-the-art landfills located outside of the county.

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The county will employ a recycling/solid waste coordinator who will be responsible for administering and enforcing the county municipal waste management plan and providing technical assistance to municipalities in complying with the plan.

Juniata County recommends that densely-populated municipalities implement voluntary source-separation recycling programs with curbside collection and that less densely-populated municipalities institute source-separation recycling programs with potentially recyclable materials taken to drop-off boxes at convenient locations throughout the county.

Juniata County presently requires that all unrecycled waste be directed to the Mifflin County Landfill for disposal. The Mifflin County Landfill has a current estimated life of about 2 years, until approximately July, 1992, and has submitted a permit application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources for two successive seven years expansions. Should the Mifflin County Landfill become unavailable for disposal of Juniata County's waste, the waste will be directed to Mountainview Reclamation Landfill in Franklin County, Pennsylvania or Modern Landfill in York County, Pennsylvania.

Final Small Water Systems Regionalization Study for Juniata County, Pennsylvania - August, 1998

The purpose of this regionalization study was to assess the feasibility of a physical, operational or administrative consolidation or regionalization of water systems. The study area is comprised of 13 community water systems and 30 non-community and private water systems in Juniata County. The contents of the small water systems regionalization study include the following:

1. Identification of all community water systems (CWSs) and their service areas in the study.
2. Inventory of the water systems including, but not limited to, a description of sources and facilities, and a water quality and quantity analysis.
3. Identification of water allocation issues and their impact on the proposed regionalization alternative(s).
4. Identification of regionalization alternatives examined and cost estimates related to each alternative.
5. The capability of the water systems in the study area to remain in compliance with minimum safe drinking water requirements under each proposed regionalization alternative.
6. A preliminary implementation plan for alternatives that are determined to be feasible.
7. The impact of each regionalization alternative on the operational, administrative, and managerial viability of the system.

The study identifies each of the 13 community water systems in the county, the watershed that each water system is located in, and the deficiencies with each community water system. The community water systems and their corresponding watershed areas include:

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1. Benner's Mobile Home Park, Juniata River Valley
2. Berry's Personal Care Center, Lost Creek
3. Brookline Manor, Lost Creek
4. Brookline Retirement Village, Lost Creek
5. Juniata Haven MHP, Juniata River Valley
6. Locust Grove Retirement Home, Juniata River Valley
7. Mifflintown Municipal Authority, Juniata River Valley
8. Port Royal Municipal Authority, Tuscarora Creek
9. Thompsontown Municipal Authority, Juniata River Valley
10. Meribah Water Company, Juniata River Valley
11. Orchard Hills Apartments, Juniata River Valley
12. McAlisterville Area Joint Authority, Lost Creek
13. Richfield Area Joint Authority, West Branch Mahantango Creek

The study also makes recommendations regarding each community water system, such as dividing the county into 6 planning districts by watershed region that could potentially increase the amount of awards grants and interconnecting several of the community water systems together, and where each water system could possibly expand to with cost considerations.

The Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program, Juniata Watershed Management Plan, Juniata Clean Water Partnership, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania - September, 2000

This watershed plan completes a crucial planning phase for the Juniata River watershed and for the Juniata Clean Water Partnership program, and the completed plan will serve as a catalyst for watershed restoration and protection projects that will provide watershed residents with a clean and healthy future.

The Juniata River watershed encompasses 12 counties and 200 municipalities, including 17 municipalities in Juniata County: Mifflin, Mifflintown, Port Royal, and Thompsontown Boroughs, and Beale, Delaware, Fayette, Fermanagh, Greenwood, Lack, Milford, Monroe, Spruce Hill, Susquehanna, Turbett, Tuscarora, and Walker Townships. With respect to the watershed, Juniata County contains two outstanding and unique scenic features: Hawstone Overlook and Concord Narrows.

Two Juniata County agencies, the Juniata County Conservation District and the Juniata County Planning Commission, partnered with Juniata Clean Water Partnership to develop the plan.

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The overview of the plan is structured into two major sections, resource chapters and recommended actions. Resource chapters include a general description of the watershed, and the land, water, biological, and cultural resources of the watershed. The other major section includes chapters on recommended actions and projects that will address the concerns of the watershed.

The plan, under the recommended actions section, prioritizes issues and sets a timetable in which these issues should be addressed. Some of the top issues presented in this section include land use planning, stormwater management, water monitoring, erosion and sedimentation/non-point source pollution, forestry, large scale/intensive livestock operations, funding, and government coordination.

Under the implementation strategy heading on Page VIII-93, there is a recommended action for Juniata County to complete or update county comprehensive plans to provide a model for municipalities (Juniata County lacks an approved county comprehensive plan).

Update of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan - November, 2003

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1998 (Act 101) requires counties to prepare municipal waste management plans to (1) ensure that each county has sufficient processing and disposal capacity that will be required for the municipal waste that will be generated within the county for at least ten years; (2) ensure a full, fair and open discussion of alternative methods of municipal waste processing and disposal, and (3) ensure maximum recycling of municipal waste or source separated recyclable material.

Juniata County is a predominantly rural county in south central Pennsylvania with an estimated 2001 population of 22,640 people in approximately 8,413 households in an area of 388 square miles. Based on historical data (1993-1999) approximately 32 tons per day of municipal waste was generated in the county and disposed through the Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority's facilities. This quantity does not include source separated and recycled material.

Juniata County employs a three-pronged approach to effective solid waste management:

1. Encouragement of waste minimization efforts by residents and businesses through educational and promotional programs;
2. Encouragement of waste reduction, including recycling, composting and reuse, through financial and technical assistance, educational and promotional campaigns; and
3. Arrangements for proper disposal of unrecycled municipal waste at state-of-the-art landfills.

Juniata County has several municipalities that have implemented voluntary source-separation recycling programs with curbside collection programs: Port Royal, Thompsontown, Mifflin and Mifflintown Boroughs. The county has three recycling drop-off points: Cocalamus Creek Disposal Service, Kramer's Recycling, and Dunn's Recycling.

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Juniata County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – July, 2008

The goal of Juniata County’s Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is to make residents, businesses, property owners, operators of critical infrastructure, and municipalities less susceptible to the effects of future disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the County and its municipalities. After suffering the effects of severe winter weather, flooding, drought, and other natural and manmade hazards, the Juniata County Board of Commissioners, in coordination with the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners and the Perry County Board of Commissioners, initiated a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning effort. This process identified the hazards that affect each individual County and prioritized mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property damage from those hazards. This process results in each County having its own Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The planning process for this HMP involved a variety of key decision makers and stakeholders within Juniata County as early as October 2007. The planners were able to customize the process to meet the needs of the municipalities as well as the County. The process was developed around the requirements laid out in FEMA’s *Local Hazard Mitigation Crosswalk*, referenced throughout this plan, as well as numerous other guidance documents including, but not limited to: FEMA’s State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to Guide series of documents (FEMA 386-series) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs.

The following goal statements denote long-term objectives to reduce or avoid vulnerabilities to flooding and other natural, manmade, and technological hazards profiled.

- Strengthen County and local capabilities to reduce the potential impacts of flooding on existing and future public/private assets, including structures, critical facilities, and infrastructure.
- Increase intergovernmental cooperation and build public/private partnerships to implement activities that will reduce the impact of natural, manmade, and technological hazards.
- Enhance planning and emergency response efforts among state, county, and local emergency management personnel to protect public health and safety.
- Build Juniata County’s spatial information resources to strengthen public and private hazard mitigation planning and decision-support capabilities.
- Increase public awareness of both the potential impacts of natural hazards and activities to reduce those impacts.

Juniata County Natural Areas inventory - 2008



To provide the information necessary to plan for conservation of biodiversity at the species, community, and ecosystem levels, natural heritage sites were designated in the county and ranked for their ecological significance. These sites, as well as areas identified from the Important Mammal Area and Important Bird Area Projects, are mapped and described in this report. A natural heritage site is an area containing plants or animals of special concern at state or federal levels, exemplary natural communities, or exceptional native diversity. Sites are mapped to include both the immediate habitat and surrounding lands that are important in the support of these special elements. Sites are mapped according to their sensitivity to human activities. Core habitat areas delineate essential habitat that cannot absorb significant levels of activity without substantial impact to the elements of concern. The supporting

natural landscape includes areas that maintain vital ecological processes or secondary habitat that may be able to accommodate some types of low-impact activities.

Juniata County has a number of groups pursuing the protection of natural areas within the county. The following are general recommendations for protecting the biological diversity of Juniata County.

- Consider conservation initiatives for natural areas on private land.
- Prepare management plans that address species of special concern and natural communities.
- Protect bodies of water.
- Provide for buffers around natural areas.
- Reduce fragmentation of surrounding landscapes.
- Encourage the formation of grassroots organizations.
- Manage for control of invasive species.
- Promote community education.
- Incorporate county Natural Heritage Inventory information into planning efforts.

This Juniata County Natural Areas Inventory is discussed further in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Objectives of the 2009 Plan

The steering committee for the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan established the following overriding objective of the plan:

“Comprehensively Enrich, Protect, Develop, and Preserve Juniata County”

Secondary objectives of the plan as stated by the steering committee are:

1. Preparing and maintaining a uniform set of subdivision and land development regulations and consistency in zoning definitions and districts.
2. Establishing sound land use strategies that preserve the county’s natural environment and resources and promote coordinated residential and non-residential growth.
3. Ensuring a fundamentally sound transportation network for both motor vehicles and pedestrians.
4. Establishing an increased spirit of cooperation among the county’s seventeen municipalities, school district, and the county itself.
5. Maintaining data vital to forecasting and recommendations made regarding transportation improvements, economic development activity, demographics, community facilities, and land development.
6. Identifying opportunities for multi-municipal planning based on similarities, such as transportation, land use, economic development, and community facilities.

Elements of the Plan

As part of the county’s selection process, the county developed a request for proposal which outlined the project’s scope of work. This process was extremely important to ensure consistency with the vision of the project and establish a schedule for completion. The planning process associated with this plan involved several important steps including:

- Reviewing existing planning documents
- Conducting a road tour of the county
- Citizen participation
- Creation of a vision statement and goals and objectives
- Preparation of a historic preservation plan
- Preparation of a natural resources plan
- Population and demographic analysis

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- Preparation of a housing plan
- Development of a future land use plan
- Preparation of a transportation plan
- Preparation of a community facilities/utilities plan
- A plan for the reliable supply of water
- Development of implementation strategies

Public Participation

Juniata County recognized the importance of public participation by taking a proactive approach to engaging the public. A community survey was distributed to 2,000 resident households in the county during the fall of 2007. In addition to the survey, two public participation meetings were conducted in October of 2007. The results of the survey and community forums will form the foundation for the plan's land use strategies and ultimately, the future land use plan.

However, it is not always easy to get people involved in community activities, especially in the time period of digital technology and the ever-declining amount of available leisure time afforded to all individuals. Additionally, every community will have people or organizations that will not participate for any number of reasons. In an effort to overcome such obstacles, the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (Steering Committee) implemented, in addition to the community survey and public meeting forums, the following methods to ensure continued engagement of the public:

- All steering committee meetings on the plan were open to the public
- County-wide road tour
- Key Stakeholder Interviews
- Project-specific web site http://www.co.juniata.pa.us/comprehensive_plan.php

Public Participation Initiatives

Community Survey

The citizen survey provided an opportunity for county residents to participate directly in the comprehensive plan process without leaving their home. All survey questions were reviewed and developed by the commission. Questions were designed to poll residents on their attitudes, both subjectively and objectively. Approximately 2,000 surveys were mailed to the residents throughout the county. In total, 475 surveys were returned for a return rate of 24%. The tabulated results of the survey are located in Appendix I.

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Results from the 2007 comprehensive plan survey were compared with results from previous surveys to determine similarities and differences in residents' attitudes. The comprehensive plan survey was compared with the 1997 public survey and the 2004-2005 human needs survey. The 1997 public survey was an initiative of the Penn State Cooperative Extension and Juniata County Government and was undertaken to give residents an opportunity to express their views on a wide range of issues that affect them, and to assist the county, local government agencies, and service organizations to gain a better understanding of how residents feel about a wide variety of service provisions, growth, and quality of life issues in the county. In addition to the 1997 survey, the Mifflin-Juniata County Human Service Needs Assessment Project survey results were also considered. The project began in 2004 to identify critical areas where the assistance of the Human Services Department would be most beneficial for individuals, families, and the community. A random-sample general population survey was conducted as part of the assessment.

- Juniata County remains a “very desirable” place to live. In the 1997 survey 66.8% of respondents found that Juniata County was a “very desirable” place to live. The percentage did fall slightly in the 2007 survey to 56.9% of respondents but it remains the majority.
- The affordability of living in Juniata County was ranked as being good in the 1997 survey and continues to rank high in the 2007 survey. It ranked among one of the top reasons residents choose to live in Juniata County.
- Major problems that were consistent in all three surveys are drug and alcohol abuse, lack of employment training, lack of youth programs, quality of educational facilities, lack of post-secondary educational facilities, illegal trash dumping, and access to healthcare facilities.
- Several issues that were ranked as being among the highest priorities in all three surveys are as follows: preservation of agricultural lands, economic development, public school system improvements, providing post secondary educational opportunities, and providing job training.
- In both the 1997 and 2007 surveys a majority of respondents felt that “growth is inevitable but it should be planned and controlled to limit impacts.”
- A lack of public transportation was ranked as a “severe problem” in the 1997 survey but in the 2007 survey only 22% of the respondents felt that a lack of public transportation was a “severe problem.” The majority of respondents fell into the “minor problem” or “no problem” categories.
- In the 2004-2005 Human Service Needs survey, affordable housing for the elderly, affordable housing for moderate income households, affordable housing for low income households and rent/mortgage assistance all ranked as being of the highest priority for improvement. However, the 2007 survey shows that residents were satisfied with the availability of subsidized senior housing, market rate senior housing, workforce housing, subsidized housing and the availability of rentals in the county.
- While some of the improvement priorities remained the same between the three surveys there were a few that changed in the 2007 survey. The issues that received high priority rankings are as follows:
 - *Business Retention/Expansion and Small Business Development:* The increased priority for business retention/expansion and small business development could be in part due to

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the number of respondents that have to travel outside of Juniata County to have their commercial needs met. Residents may not want to travel very far to be able to shop or receive services.

- *Recycling Programs:* Based on historical data (1993-1999) from the 2003 Solid Waste Management Plan updates, approximately 32 tons per day of municipal waste was generated in the county and disposed through the Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority’s facilities. This quantity does not include source separated and recycled material. The County has several municipalities that have implemented voluntary source-separation recycling programs with curbside collection programs: Port Royal, Thompsontown, Mifflin and Mifflintown Boroughs. The county has three recycling drop-off points: Cocolamus Creek Disposal Service, Kramer’s Recycling, and Dunn’s Recycling.
- *Police, Fire and Ambulance/EMS Services:* Respondents to the 2007 survey show that expanding and improving these services are a high priority for the county.
- *Open Space Protection:* Open Space Protection ranked as a high priority item in the 2007 survey. With development occurring, residents want to protect the rural, natural beauty of the county, which is the number one reason according to the 2007 survey results as to why residents chose to locate within the county.

Community Public Meeting

Two community public meetings were conducted in October of 2007 to encourage residents to provide input into the comprehensive plan process. The meetings were held in Delaware Township and Honey Grove to give residents of the county two opportunities to attend. Residents that attended were asked to identify things that they considered to be strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, or threats that were having an impact on or influencing Juniata County. Results from the meetings are shown in **Table 9-1** and **Table 9-2**.

Table 9-1: Public Meeting Results – October 22, 2007, Honey Grove

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
rural nature	distance people are required to travel for daily services	opportunity to grow volunteer fire companies - need to incentivize	groundwater quality and quantity
personality of the people / friendly atmosphere	lack of decent paying jobs - people need to commute for work	tourism	lack of zoning and control over what can go where
reasonable taxes	proximity to Harrisburg	land development	Juniata County should stand on its own
natural resources	hunting is overplayed	keystone opportunity zone (KOZ) in the industrial park	sprawl
low crime rate	school system is outdated in terms of programs and facilities	addressing project	loss of prime farmland
quality school system - no crime	lack of recreation for young people - no skate parks	Broad creek fairgrounds - would bring people in and offer recreational opportunities	problem with overregulation
proximity to Harrisburg	lack of higher education and training institutions	farmers' markets	people coming in want everything the way it was in the big city - people coming in want to change the way things are here / the way of life - and they want to build anything they want

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Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
good social services - AAA, United Way	lack of cultural opportunities (in general and in the schools)	Chesapeake Bay Initiative - some of it's good because it can help with groundwater recharge	people making decisions at the state level too often take a 'one size fits all' approach - they don't check with this county/municipalities to see if it would work here
good church base	lack of emergency services preparedness		people making decisions in Harrisburg are too geared towards Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh
affordable housing	lack of police protection - state police coverage is sparse		threat of unemployment rates spiking - diversification of the economic base is critical - if a large employer were to shut down, it would have large impacts
Port Royal speedway and broad acres fairgrounds	spotty / poor cell phone coverage - affects 911 communications		tourism
Great food in Juniata County - farmers markets	lack of high speed internet		too many foreign products
	no cable		stormwater / wastewater regulations - Chesapeake Bay initiative
	lack of public transportation		

Table 9-2: Public Meeting Results – October 25, 2007, Delaware Township

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Education at the high school level and higher education - Penn State connection	flooding	Tourism recreation - need to get together and preserve the green strip from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg and bring people to the county	The Highlands Initiative may impose overregulation on private property owners
rural atmosphere	hard for emergency services to get volunteers - volunteers need to be asked!	railroad	impacts of development on school system
Strong family values	Isolation from health services / hospitals	need to go further into the future with the school system - more training and specialized skills development for higher tech jobs	difficult for farmers to compete in an international market - larger operations may result in odor complaints from nearby residents
Great outdoor recreation - fishing/hunting	police coverage is poor - there is a growing drug problem and there are no police to address the problem	potential community college - would be a good place for specialized skills	the plan itself - need more public input in the planning process
safe - low crime rate	property tax problem - hasn't been reevaluated for 35 years	Penn State offers classes in Mifflin County	losing farmland to development
Population with a strong work ethic	high taxes	need an industrial park to partner with a community college - get highly trained people that will stay because jobs are available and students will acquire skills to fill positions with those employers	losing young people

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Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
highway system - access to 322 and well maintained housing	overregulation by state government - Pennsylvania is not a business friendly state	need to encourage more home based businesses and entrepreneurships	very dependent on jobs outside the area - energy costs going up will impact people leaving the county - will encourage more people to leave the county
assisted living / life care for seniors	lack of broadband internet		need to focus on teaching English before Spanish in the schools
railroad	need more jobs in the county - a lot of people work in Snyder County or other areas for employment		if big business or an industrial park were to come into the county, there will be an influx of people, and an increase in development which will impact roads, infrastructure, and services
historical assets - canal, railroad, industrial and agricultural settlement			do we have the intellectual resources in our population to support high tech industries?
emergency services			be fair with taxation
agriculture			if you bring big businesses in, we will lose the small businesses. Why do we just look at money??
forested ridges and natural resources/open space help to keep air clean			what's wrong with the way we are growing now?
			threat to private property rights
			threat of hazardous waste or hazardous materials that accompany some businesses
			mother nature can be a threat. The county needs to be prepared to deal with natural hazards and focus on water resources.

Summary of Public Outreach Initiatives

In addition to the community survey and community public meetings, this steering committee also sought input from a select group of individuals. Several people in the county were identified to be on the steering committee for the plan, and these individuals met regularly as a group to guide the development of the plan. All of the steering committee meetings were open to the public. Additionally, the steering committee identified fifteen individuals whom they considered to be key stakeholders in the community. These individuals were interviewed to gain an understanding of their views items that are considered influential to Juniata County. The following themes have emerged, after analyzing the results from the various public participation initiatives.

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Assets

- *Location:*
 - Open space and recreational opportunities
 - Environment (air, water)
 - Proximity to other trading areas
 - Central location and proximity to Harrisburg, State College, and Selinsgrove
 - US 22/322 bisecting the county
 - Industrial park /Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ)
 - River access

- *Setting and Rural Character:*
 - Rural nature of county (*Number one reason that people chose to locate within Juniata County according to community survey results*)
 - Natural setting
 - Beautiful landscape
 - Natural beauty with combination of mountains, rivers, streams, and wildlife
 - Scenery
 - Forest land
 - Recreation opportunities- hunting, fishing, birding, biking, hiking, boating
 - State game lands

- *Community:*
 - Sense of community
 - Small community values
 - Strong community flavor in small populated areas
 - Slower pace
 - The people
 - Work ethics
 - Lack of developments
 - Faith communities
 - Large number of churches
 - The people with their religious-based sense of helping others
 - Farmland and wildlife
 - Good public and private education system
 - Amish community
 - Strong family values

- *Financial and Economic:*
 - Affordability
 - Relative low cost of living
 - Local tax base is low compared to surrounding counties
 - Inexpensive land relative to area
 - Low tax rates

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- Affordable housing
- *Agriculture:*
 - Agriculture and farming
 - Great farmers markets
- *Various:*
 - One of the fastest growing counties in population
 - Clean water and current updates to Act 537 plans (sewage)
 - Safe place
 - Low crime rate
 - Long-term care facilities
 - Quality school system
 - Great social services (AAA, United Way...etc.)
 - Assisted living and life care for seniors
 - Historical assets (railroad, canal, industrial and agricultural settlement...etc.)
 - Emergency services

Challenges

- *Environmental:*
 - Trash dumping
 - Stream and river pollution (lack of riparian buffer zone)
 - Stormwater runoff
 - Air quality
 - Trash collection
 - Flooding
 - Need a recycling program
- *Education:*
 - Quality of education
 - Educational facilities
 - Lack of training and schooling for adults locally
 - Lack of post-secondary educational opportunities within a close distance
 - Lack of employment training
 - Run down school infrastructure
- *Community issues:*
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Crime- police
 - Growing population/central proximity to Harrisburg, State College, and Selinsgrove
 - “Rural” nature of county/small community
 - Infrastructure – water and sewer
 - Land use

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- Lack of cultural opportunities/events
- Distinguishing Juniata County from the rest of rural Pennsylvania
- Bring Juniata County into the 21st century without causing to changes of the 20th
- Not enough development in rural areas (agriculture excluded)
- Deteriorating communities – reinvestment
- Center of industry, education
- Large aging population
- Little upkeep – decline in boroughs and downtown
- No professional planning office
- Growth and change
- Planning and preserving farm lands
- Lack of recreational opportunities for younger people (i.e. skate parks)

- *Roads:*
 - Road and highway congestion
 - Secondary highway issues; repaves
 - Developing and maintaining infrastructure

- *Employment:*
 - Not enough employment opportunities
 - Limited employment opportunities, low wage employees
 - Vocational opportunities
 - Jobs and opportunities for handicapped
 - Lack of competitive business

- *Services:*
 - Limited services (police, medical, dental, etc.)
 - A lot of money spent “out of county” (limited shopping/restaurants, etc.)
 - Lack of shopping
 - Technology issues
 - Internet connectivity lacking
 - Lack of connection of groups (townships, planning commission)
 - Local hospital
 - Lacking medical professionals
 - Lack of cultural community
 - Lack of public transportation
 - Public services
 - Programs for youth
 - Local food co-op
 - Updating community services to accommodate growth in population
 - Need more public parks for our youth
 - Distance people have to travel for services
 - Emergency services-lack of preparedness
 - State police coverage is sparse

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- Poor cell phone coverage
- Need more volunteers for emergency services
- Need more small business development

- *Financial:*
 - State tax credit for industry and business development
 - Not enough local tax money for increased programs and services
 - Low school taxes results in low revenues to spend on education
 - Lack of revenue for projects
 - Unfunded mandates from state and federal governments
 - Economic development
 - Funding at all levels (boroughs and townships) for increased demand for services
 - Finding new and innovative means to entice new business into our county
 - Finding the best way to utilize tax revenue
 - Property tax problems

- *Various:*
 - Overregulation by state government
 - Threats to private property rights
 - Need more public input in planning process
 - Losing young people to other areas
 - Develop additional English language skills programs

Open Steering Committee Meetings

The Juniata County Board of Commissioners saw the advantage of utilizing a steering committee to oversee the project. The steering committee consists of eighteen members appointed by the board of commissioners. Members reside in all areas of the county and represented a cross section of business owners, school district representatives, real estate professionals, and retirees to name a few. The role of the committee was to provide guidance and insight to the project consultant. These meetings were open to the public.

County-Wide Road Tour

A road tour of Juniata County was conducted on July 23, 2007 with members of the steering committee and the consultant. The purpose of this tour was to provide an opportunity to inventory and identify concerns, and to gain an understanding of the natural environment and physical development patterns of the county. The road tour included the following sites of interest. Comments pertaining to a specific site are listed where applicable.

- Tuscarora State Forest
- Karl B. Guss Picnic Area in Licking Creek
- The Indian Mound and the Academia Covered Bridge

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- The new canal house restoration
- Cedar Spring Road and Cross Street intersection in Mifflintown
- Road across from the Tuscarora Junior High School onto SR 3002
- Route 35 through Mifflintown
- Mifflin Heights / Mifflin Flats – Mifflin Flats flooded with Hurricane Agnes, 1972
- Cedar Spring Road and Industrial Park Road – high accident location
- Licking Creek Valley – scenic view
- Jericho Mills in Fermanagh Township – one of the three oldest continuous businesses in the county (est. 1843)
- Empire Kosher Poultry Processing Plant – top employer in the county
- Boroughs of the county
- Industrial Park
- Mifflintown Borough Park
- Fermanagh-Mifflintown Elementary School
- Mifflintown Borough – conversions are a problem in Mifflintown Borough. The banks are buying a lot of old homes.
- Cocolamus Creek Recycling Center
- Central Juniata Park – the only public pool in the county is located at this park. The sewage treatment plant is located near the park.
- Active Railroad – Could the train station in Mifflin Borough be refurbished and used as a train stop for passenger rail service in the county?
- Old Zook’s Dam – located along Licking Creek and owned by Milford Township.
- Milford Conservation Area – owned by Milford Township
- Licking Creek – is a high quality trout stream. There is open fishing and people understand that respecting the land is a priority.
- Licking Creek Valley Reservoir – the reservoir is owned by the Mifflintown Municipal Authority. Water is piped to Mifflin and Mifflintown Boroughs.
- Licking Creek Boy Scout Camp – located in the Tuscarora State Forest
- Village of Walnut – has a community lagoon system
- Old location of the Girls Academy
- Academia Covered Bridge – more of a walking/biking facility than for motorized vehicles
- Peru Village and the Patterson Country Store

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- Waterloo Country Store – was part of the Tuscarora Railroad
- SR 74 – a store operates on a horseshoe turn on SR 74. This road is heavily traveled to Carlisle.
- Port Royal – the borough has reduced property taxes due to the entertainment tax generated from the Juniata Fairgrounds
- Juniata County Fairgrounds – owned by the Juniata County Agricultural Society
- East Salem Sewer System

In addition to the sites listed above, the following general discussions occurred during the preparation for the road tour and on the actual tour.

- The plan should recommend an old barn tour.
- There are no county-owned bridges. All of the bridges in the county are owned by the state or the local municipalities.
- High speed internet access is available in the eastern part of the county, except for McAlisterville.
- There are currently no revitalization programs or Main Street Programs in effect in the county.
- The first white settlement in the county was in Mexico.
- There is public boat access in Mexico near the private campgrounds.
- SR 3002/322 in Walker Township has a large concentration of Amish population.
- The wood industry is very big in the county.
- Thompsontown area cannot expand until water and sewer system improvements are made.
- There needs to be a formally designated park and ride lot.
- Education and the infrastructure of school building facilities is a concern.

Project Specific Website

Juniata County took advantage of the World Wide Web in an effort to increase communication with residents and initiate public participation throughout the comprehensive plan process. The county launched a link from the official Juniata County web site to a page detailing the comprehensive plan. On this project-specific page, the residents were able to educate themselves on the comprehensive plan process, track key project submission and meeting dates, and review text versions of the plan and maps.

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By using this technology, the county provided another channel for its residents who were unable to attend a meeting due to other schedule conflicts to have their voices heard.

http://www.co.juniata.pa.us/comprehensive_plan.php

Mission Statement

The Juniata County Comprehensive Plan Mission Statement should accurately explain why the plan exists and what it hopes to achieve in the future. It articulates the county's essential nature, its values, and its work. An effective mission statement must resonate with the public, staff, and elected and appointed officials that work for and work with the Juniata County Board of Commissioners and the Juniata County Planning Commission. The mission statement appears at the bottom of every page of this plan. Simply stated, it is the mission of the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan to:

Comprehensively enrich, protect, develop, and preserve Juniata County

Vision Statement

An important by-product of the public participation program is the development of a vision statement. The vision statement must reflect the varied perspectives within the county, built through careful dialogue and thought, and based upon accurate understanding of current conditions. The vision statement must be supported by plans implementing and maintaining the vision and it must have follow through. A vision statement is the framework around which implementable goals and objectives are developed. Without a strong vision guiding the county there will be no follow through. The following vision statement was developed around the results of the public participation process. The vision statement is the mental image generated by the county of the way it should appear and function in the future.

Imagine...ten to twenty years from now, Juniata County will be described as follows:

Juniata County maintains and preserves the natural beauty of the landscape and rural lifestyle that many residents say is one of the main reasons they located within the county. The air and water quality have been maintained and kept free from pollution. The agricultural lands and open space have also been well preserved over the years.

The infrastructure of the county is able to keep up with the steadily growing population. The school facilities are up to date and there are several opportunities within the county for continuing education after high school. There are also job training and educational opportunities for adults available throughout the county. Police coverage throughout Juniata County is excellent and because of this crime rates are very low. Police are prepared to respond quickly to any call they receive. Other emergency services throughout the county are equally as prepared for any emergency situation that may arise. They are

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well staffed and their equipment is up to date. Healthcare and medical services are available to residents within the county so they do not have to travel far for these services. Due to the additional healthcare facilities located within the county there are more professional employment positions available for residents.

There are more employment opportunities for people of all skill levels. With the healthcare and educational facilities within the county there are more skilled positions available. There are also plenty of other employment opportunities within Juniata County so that residents do not have to travel outside of the county to work.

Throughout Juniata there is a wide range of shopping opportunities and restaurant facilities. Residents have many options in terms of recreational activities as well. There are state game lands, state forests, parks, and greenways available as well as privately owned recreational opportunities.

The county, boroughs and townships work well together to maintain the roadways and infrastructure throughout the county; as well as maintaining the quality of life for all residents.

Goals to Achieve the County's Vision

A goal identifies what the county intends to accomplish. A goal should be broad, not identifying specific activities. It is oriented to achieving the vision of Juniata County. One goal cannot be implemented and others discarded; they all must complement each other in order to achieve the vision of the county. Objectives to implement these goals are discussed in Chapter 9 of this plan. Juniata County has established the following goals:

1. Community Character

Protect, enhance, and promote those characteristics in Juniata County that make it a distinctive place, including its strong sense of community built around small populated areas, and the county's many family oriented organizations.

2. Community Facilities and Utilities

Ensure community services are adequate to meet the needs of existing and future residents and businesses of the county, and guide future development within well defined growth areas that are adequately served by necessary community services, including access to high speed internet.

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3. Economic Development

Achieve and promote a healthy and complimentary business partnership between the boroughs and other commercial areas developing in the U.S. 22/322 and U.S. 11/15 corridors to ensure positive economic growth countywide. Identify strategies to nurture the rural/agricultural economy that will encourage private preservation of the region's agricultural resources, and implement the recommendations identified in the tourism plan.

4. Natural and Historic Preservation

Sustain and enhance the region's natural and scenic resources and important agricultural lands for the benefit of current and future generations by guiding growth to designated growth areas. Identify and protect the region's historic resources and promote the preservation of those resources through ordinances or integration of historic resources into proposed developments.

5. Housing

Continue to provide for a wide range of housing types at various densities and affordability levels that will meet the future housing needs of the county. New development in the county should retain open space and be designed in such a way to maintain the rural character of the county. Encourage infill and redevelopment in the boroughs and other developed areas of the county, and recognize the important role that boroughs and other designated growth areas in the county play in meeting housing needs for all individuals at all income levels.

6. Land Use

Preserve and enhance the diversified mix of rural and natural environments coupled with built-up and developed areas within the county. Recognize the role of boroughs as an attractive destination providing a mix of neighborhood businesses in close proximity to housing that provide specialty items such as coffee shops, bakeries, gift shops, and high quality restaurants. Large scale commercial and industrial development projects should be guided to areas of the county that have been properly planned for such activity, such as the county's industrial park. Rural undeveloped and agricultural areas of the county are non-renewable resources and shall be retained for agricultural uses, groundwater infiltration, wildlife habitat, and protection of natural resources and sensitive environmental features.

7. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Implement the recommendations of the Juniata/Mifflin Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan.

8. Planning and Coordination

Achieve a high level of intergovernmental cooperation and public-private cooperation between the Juniata School District, local business owners, municipal and county offices, and residents of the county.

9. Transportation

Ensure a safe and adequate multi-modal transportation network throughout the county, serving both existing and anticipated transportation needs, and retaining both functional attributes and scenic qualities of roadways as new development and improvements occur within designated growth areas.

The Need for County Community Planning

The comprehensive plan is a policy guide for decisions and for the orderly development of the municipalities within Juniata County. The plan's primary mission is to promote and improve the quality of life, health, safety, and conveniences for county residents. It is intended to organize and coordinate the interrelated collection of people, ideas, land facilities, services, infrastructure, land uses, and environmental elements that comprise the county as a whole. Thus, the term "comprehensive" is used to express the scope of the plan content.

The plan charts the course for growth and change by:

- Expressing the aims and ambitions of the county's residents and businesses
- Being responsive to change
- Providing a framework for continual review and revision
- Delineating the region's form and the character it seeks to achieve

Planning as a Concept

The comprehensive plan is not a solution for all the problems and concerns of the community, nor is it a finished project only to be reviewed and updated every decade or so. Rather, it is an on-going process which municipal governments may use as a roadmap or blueprint to guide them through future decisions. It should be noted that when changes and conditions evolve within the county, the comprehensive plan should be modified to address these changes and demands.

In part, the comprehensive plan is a factual report that examines how the past has led to the present; it is a report that can be used to chart the county's future, as well as a report of the plans and actions necessary to achieve its objectives in the future. Often the value in a community's comprehensive plan is in the **process** of preparing and implementing the plan.

Juniata County Planning Commission

The Juniata County Planning Commission is a nine member commission created by the Juniata County Board of Commissioners. Members of the commission are residents of the county and are appointed by the Board of Commissioners to represent the Commissioners in dealings of land use. Day to day operation of the commission is currently managed through a shared services agreement with Mifflin County whereby the Mifflin County Associate Planner staffs the Juniata County

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Planning Office. The Planning Commission meets on a monthly basis to conduct business, which includes subdivision and land development plan review and in cases where a municipality does not have a local subdivision and land development ordinance the commission acts as the approving agency, sewage planning review, and administration of the county's comprehensive plan. **Table 1-1** lists the commission members and expiration terms.

Table 1-1: Planning Commission Members and Term

Planning Commission Member	Expiration of Term
Harry J. Becker, III, Chairman	2010
George L. Hackenberger, Vice Chairman	2009
Harry F. Leach, Secretary	2010
Barbara A. Foster	2011
William D. Fulton	2009
John M. Hepner	2009
John F. Shirk	2012
James S. G. Thompson	2012
Christopher Snyder	2011

Source: Juniata County Board of Commissioners