

## **Chapter 9 – Goals and Objectives**

The purpose of this plan is to develop a set of broad objectives that will guide the County over the next ten years and to give the local municipalities a common set of strategies that can be used to assist in developing their own plans. To bridge this purpose the following goals and corresponding objectives have been established.

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. Juniata County has established the following goals:

### **Goals to Achieve the County’s Vision**

#### **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.

#### **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

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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.

## **Objectives for Action**

In order to create a practical and implementable comprehensive plan for Juniata County it is necessary to establish acceptable objectives. The objectives presented in this chapter have been developed around the results of the public participation initiatives and input from the committee making this Plan a "publicly driven Plan." They will serve a major function in directing future Planning Department activity and will be used in all Planning Commission review activities, including subdivision and land development reviews, ordinance reviews, comprehensive plan reviews, sewer plan reviews, and other related activities.

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### **1. Community Character**

**Goal:** 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.

#### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 1.1:** The Juniata County Planning Department will be available to work with and provide guidance to local municipalities that do not have a comprehensive plan or growth strategy in developing a plan or strategy to preserve the rural lifestyle of the county.
- **Objective 1.2:** Promote energy efficient and Green Development in the county.
  - Action 1.2.1: The County should develop a green plan for its buildings and facilities.
  - Action 1.2.2: Promote energy efficient new construction in the county.
  - Action 1.2.3: Host a summit in the county to discuss and promote energy reducing techniques.
- **Objective 1.3:** A Hispanic outreach program should be considered by the County to ensure the needs of the growing Hispanic community are being met.

### **2. Community Facilities and Utilities**

**Goal:** 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.

#### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 2.1:** The Juniata County Planning Department should consider establishing information sharing protocol with the school districts to ensure that district officials are aware of new development and changing growth patterns.
- **Objective 2.2:** Coordinate and share resources with the Juniata County School District and the Greenwood School District for the betterment of education.
- **Objective 2.3:** Support the surrounding institutes of higher education and encourage these institutions to offer classes or programs in Juniata County to make them more accessible to residents.
  - Action 2.3.1: Work with businesses and higher educational institutions to match educational resources with local business needs.
- **Objective 2.4:** Support the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 in its attempt to successfully establish the Tuscarora Regional Community College.
  - Action 2.4.1: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should continue to support the efforts of the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11.

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- **Objective 2.5:** Ensure that businesses and residents in the county have access to the latest advances in communications technologies.
  - Action 2.5.1: Support local municipalities, especially those identified in the growth areas, in efforts to have broadband internet extended into their municipalities.
  - Action 2.5.2: Contact internet service providers and encourage the expansion of broadband internet into the growth areas of the county.
  - Action 2.5.3: Support improvements in cell phone coverage in those areas of the county where coverage is lacking. Consider integrating cell towers into the community by allowing antennas on existing structures or encouraging them to take the form of a tree, silo, etc...
- **Objective 2.6:** Monitor existing water and sewer infrastructure to ensure that high quality services continue to be provided to current and future residents in existing and planned service areas.
  - Action 2.6.1: Prepare a detailed sewer plan based upon municipalities Act 537 Plan.
  - Action 2.6.2: Create an up to date data base of Act 537 Plans and utilize those plans during the review of subdivision and land development plans.
  - Action 2.6.3: Support local municipalities, especially the ones within the growth areas, in updating their Act 537 Plan.
  - Action 2.6.4: Support the expansion of public water and sewer service only to designated growth areas, or to areas that requires water and sewer due to a public health issue.
  - Action 2.6.5: Support the upgrade of public infrastructure in the core-communities of the county.
- **Objective 2.7:** Encourage proper solid waste disposal and an increase in the volume of recycled materials by residents and businesses in the county.
  - Action 2.7.1: Expand the existing volunteer county wide recycling program to supplement recycling efforts being performed by local trash haulers.
  - Action 2.7.2: Reach out to adjoining counties to discuss their recycling success and failures, and potential partnering opportunities.
  - Action 2.7.3: Support the development of an outreach program or educational tool to inform residents recycling opportunities in the county.
- **Objective 2.8:** The County should continue to support the efforts of the library to ensure that it continues to provide high quality and modern educational and resource material.
- **Objective 2.9:** The Juniata County Department of Emergency Services and local emergency services providers should encourage volunteerism through public service announcements and volunteer recognition programs.
- **Objective 2.10:** Support the recommendation of the Juniata County Emergency Management Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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- **Objective 2.11:** Support the Lewistown Hospital and encourage the location of a satellite medical center in Juniata County to better serve Juniata residents.
- **Objective 2.12:** Continue to support the Pennsylvania State Police as the primary responder for police services while continuously monitoring the demand for services and adequacy of response to determine whether there is a need for local or regional police services in certain areas of the county.
  - 2.12.1: Convene a meeting of local municipalities that utilize the Pennsylvania State Police for police coverage to determine the adequacy of the services.
- **Objective 2.13:** Support the goals and objectives of the Juniata/Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan.
- **Objective 2.14:** Help ensure the groundwater and surface water resources of the county are protected from overuse or degradation.
  - Action 2.14.1: Develop a model hydrological ordinance that would be adopted by the local municipalities to ensure there is sufficient groundwater resources for a proposed development and that the development will not be adversely impacting adjoining wells.
  - Identify significant aquifer recharge areas and develop an ordinance to protect and preserve those areas most critical to groundwater supply.
- **Objective 2.15:** The County should build upon this plan by initiating specific studies on county facilities and infrastructure to ensure the needs of the growing population are being met. .

### **3. Economic Development**

**Goal:** 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.

#### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 3.1:** Aggressively market the county’s competitive advantages as a means of attracting new business and industry that will make more jobs available locally so as to not require out-of-county commutation.
  - Action 3.1.1: Work with adjoining counties to advertise and, through public relations programs, promote the region’s marketable competitive advantages, including but not limited to; (a) affordability of housing, labor and taxes, (b) outdoor recreation and rural environment, (c) highway transportation system, (d) industrial site availability, (e) good schools, (f) low crime and taxes, and (g) family values and work ethic.

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- Action 3.1.2: Develop a Juniata County website to promote these marketable competitive advantages while also sharing industrial site availability data and detailed information on labor rates and other quantifications of advantages.
- Action 3.1.3: Aggressively market the county as quality place to reside, using this as a means of ensuring a growing labor force and a vital population that supports the school system, which is itself a major economic asset.
- **Objective 3.2:** Maintain an effective business retention and expansion program to support the growth of existing business and industry.
  - Action 3.2.1: Expand employment training programs tailored to the needs of existing businesses.
  - Action 3.2.2: Ensure land use regulations are user-friendly for business expansion.
  - Action 3.2.3: Develop financial incentives and programs designed to benefit small and existing businesses with the potential to grow.
- **Objective 3.3:** Recognize, promote and support the county’s large manufacturing sector as a special opportunity for clusters of related businesses.
  - Action 3.3.1: Work closely with existing manufacturers to identify specific employment training, infrastructure and service needs and respond accordingly in cooperation with local economic development organizations.
  - Action 3.3.2: Identify opportunities and use financial and other incentives to recruit related businesses that will help to develop effective business clusters.
- **Objective 3.4:** Strengthen the county’s centers and linkages of those centers to the U.S. 22/322 and U.S. 11/15 corridors, Harrisburg and State College.
  - Action 3.4.1: Create Main Street revitalization programs for major boroughs within the county to create local jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities.
  - Action 3.4.2: Use zoning regulations as a way to encourage higher densities and maximum flexibility of land use within centers and near major corridors.
  - Action 3.4.3: Develop and promote economic, educational and cultural relationships with Harrisburg and State College as a way to highlight Juniata County’s unique role and opportunities with respect to the broader region.
  - Action 3.4.4: Continue the development of transportation infrastructure that more effectively links the county to Harrisburg, State College and points beyond.
- **Objective 3.5:** Further develop the tourism industry of Juniata County by working cooperatively with Mifflin County to establish the “Juniata River Valley” as a distinctive tourist attraction.
  - Action 3.5.1: Continue to implement the recommendations of the Juniata Valley Regional Tourism Plan.
  - Action 3.5.2: Develop additional relationships with surrounding counties (e.g., Perry County) to broaden the Juniata River Valley branding program and tap larger pools of potential visitors.

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- Action 3.5.3: Strengthen cultural and tourism linkages with Harrisburg and State College as a means of attracting more visitors from those areas and accentuating the value of the U.S. 22/322 corridor.
- **Objective 3.6:** Promote niche and other agricultural development as economic opportunities.
  - Action 3.6.1: Work with available agricultural agencies in the county to identify and promote niche agricultural opportunities with significant income potential.
  - Action 3.6.2: Promote niche agricultural products (e.g., wineries, farm markets) using trails and tours that multiply the value of these attractions and create spillover benefits.
  - Action 3.6.3: Ensure all land use regulations are farm-friendly for both niche agricultural endeavors and expansion of commodity based agricultural enterprises.
- **Objective 3.7:** Employ the county’s aging demographics and associated health care infrastructure as an asset for the development of other health care enterprises.
  - Action 3.7.1: Work with health care providers to encourage specialization in elder care enterprises and promote them as a Juniata County advantage.
  - Action 3.7.2: Develop model zoning provisions that encourage the expansion and further development of health care enterprises and senior housing.
  - Action 3.7.3: Develop elder care training programs to reinforce the branding of the county as a place to seek such services and locate such businesses.

## **4. Natural and Historic Preservation**

**Goal:** 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.

### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 4.1:** Protect sensitive environmental land, such as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, wooded areas, and scenic views throughout the county.
  - Action 4.1.1: Encourage municipalities to protect sensitive environmental features by means of an environmental assessment in a subdivision and land development ordinance, or overlay districts in a zoning ordinance.
- **Objective 4.2:** Support the activities of the Juniata County Conservation District.
  - Action 4.2.1: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners and The Juniata County Planning Department shall support and advance, when possible, the Juniata County Conservation District’s mission and long term goals to address the district’s identified areas of concern.

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- Action 4.2.2: The Juniata County Planning Department should co-sponsor educational events and participate in workshops and educational events sponsored by the district.
- Action 4.2.3: The Juniata County Planning Department and the conservation district should meet on a yearly basis to discuss upcoming programs and educational events.
- **Objective 4.3:** The Juniata County Planning Department should support the goals and actions of the Juniata Clean Water Partnership for the Juniata River watershed.
  - Action 4.3.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should review all subdivision and land development plans and earth moving activity that are located in the Juniata River watershed against strategies identified in the Juniata Watershed Management Plan.
- **Objective 4.4:** Encourage developers to incorporate environmental strategies for innovative approaches to stormwater management.
- **Objective 4.5:** Support the conservation of prime agricultural soils through the Agricultural Security Area and Agricultural Conservation Easement programs.
- **Objective 4.6:** Protect the county’s important aquifer areas by discouraging dense or high intensity development over those aquifers.
  - Action 4.6.1: Guide development away from areas of the county classified as exceptional value watersheds, and guide higher intensity and denser development away from areas that have been identified to have geologic formations that support high quality groundwater resources.
- **Objective 4.7:** Encourage the adoption of wellhead protection ordinances by local municipalities to protect potable water resources.
- **Objective 4.8:** Encourage local municipalities to plan by watershed to protect high quality streams and groundwater resources from degradation.
- **Objective 4.9:** Encourage townships to develop an open space subdivision option in the subdivision and land development ordinance as an option to the standard subdivision.
- **Objective 4.10:** Ensure that all municipalities have updated their floodplain management ordinances with the new floodplain regulations.
- **Objective 4.11:** When possible, assist local watershed advisory groups in preparing watershed protection plans.
- **Objective 4.12:** Recognize the forest land of the county as an asset and contributor to the county’s economic vitality, and encourage responsible sustainable harvesting of timber.
  - Action 4.12.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should consider developing a model timbering harvesting ordinance that can be utilized by the local municipalities.
  - Action 4.12.2: The county should encourage those municipalities, with watersheds that supply public water systems, to adopt the ordinance.
  - Action 4.12.3: In addition to standard erosion and sedimentation control requirements, Best Management Practices (BMP) should be incorporated into the ordinance.

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- **Objective 4.13:** Recognize the natural resources of the county as an asset and contributor to the county’s economic vitality, and encourage responsible mining, timbering, and retrieval of such resources.
  - Action 4.13.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should consider developing a model mineral extraction ordinance that can be utilized by the local municipalities.
- **Objective 4.14:** Utilize the environmental limitations map as an initial review tool to identify any environmental impacts that development may have on a parcel and the county.
- **Objective 4.15:** Encourage and assist local municipalities in preparing county-wide Act 167 stormwater management plans, especially in watersheds that are part of the county’s growth areas.
- **Objective 4.16:** Review all subdivision and land development plans against strategies and recommendations in applicable stormwater management plans and watershed plans.
- **Objective 4.17:** Work with the Juniata County Historical Society which oversees the historic resources in the county.
  - Action 4.17.1: Work closely with the state and local historical societies to identify new resources that may not have been previously identified.
  - Action 4.17.2: Consider developing a model historic preservation ordinance that can be adopted by local municipalities.
  - Action 4.17.3: Continue to build upon the inventory of historic resources identified in this plan.
  - Action 4.17.4: Support historic preservation organizations in their efforts to identify, document, and preserve historic resources and landscapes.
  - Action 4.17.5: Encourage the preservation of the character of and history behind the county’s historic and scenic roads, bridges, streamscapes, and landscapes in order to preserve the more than just the structures themselves.
  - Action 4.17.6: Educate residents and local government officials thoroughly and often on historic preservation tools and the need to protect these resources.
  - Action 4.17.7: Promote original/present use of historic properties where appropriate but recognize the need for and encourage adaptive re-use, which is changing the use of a building beyond its original intent, where the original or present use is no longer feasible.
  - Action 4.17.8: Encourage the incorporation of historic resources into the design of the layout of new developments.
  - Action 4.17.9: Work with landowners and public and private agencies to encourage the preservation, acquisition, and maintenance of endangered historic properties. This may include providing technical assistance and guidance in application processes, providing educational materials, and providing a funding information clearinghouse for residents.
- **Objective 4.18:** Enhance historic properties
  - Action 4.18.1: Adopt and/or revise local ordinances as needed to encourage historic resources preservation.

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- Action 4.18.3: Protect historic landscapes and streetscapes through the application of scenic roadway overlays, vegetation, and woodland management ordinances and other appropriate regulation.
- Action 4.18.4: Integrate non-motorized transportation links into historic districts or properties.
- **Objective 4.19:** Promote the appreciation of historic properties and increase participation in preservation efforts
  - Action 4.19.1: Make the inventory of historical sites in the county, including photographs and maps, available to the general public.
  - Action 4.19.2: Work with property owners to develop a comprehensive signage system to inform the public regarding historically significant sites in the community.
  - Action 4.19.3: Educate the public on tax advantages associated with having a property designated as a historic resource.
  - Action 4.19.4: Utilize the recommendations and strategies identified in the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Plan.
- **Objective 4.20:** Create a self-guided road tour of all historic structures in the county.
  - Action 4.20.1: Build upon the existing historic bridge self-guided tour.
  - Action 4.20.2: Consider developing a self-guided barn tour similar to the historic bridge self-guided tour.
  - Action 4.20.3: Consider the recommendations in the Juniata Valley Tourism Plan before initiating tourism related decisions.
- **Objective 4.21:** Encourage environmental education programs that raise awareness of the natural resource assets that are available in the county.
- **Objective 4.22:** Chapter 102 and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) reviews should be reviewed by the Conservation District in cooperation with local municipalities.

## **5. Housing**

**Goal:** 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 region play in meeting housing needs for all individuals at all income levels.

### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 5.1:** The Juniata County Planning Department should consider developing a program to assist local municipalities with technical guidance and grant preparation to

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prepare local or multi-municipal comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that build upon the county's housing plan with specific local strategies that ensure that the housing needs of the locality or region are met.

- Action 5.1.1: Encourage the municipalities that are located in the high growth and rural growth areas to prepare comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.
- **Objective 5.2:** Direct high and medium density residential development, including senior housing, to the high growth and rural growth areas that are served by public water and public sewer.
  - Action 5.2.1: Continue to update and refine the community services chapter and map to accurately reflect the water and sewer capacity and service areas.
  - Action 5.2.2: Develop model high and medium density zoning language that consists of common terms that can be incorporated into a local zoning ordinance.
  - Action 5.2.3: Encourage local and regional developers to construct high and medium density housing developments in the high growth and rural growth areas of the county.
  - Action 5.2.4: Promote compact growth in Mifflintown, Mifflin, Port Royal, and Thompsontown Boroughs.
  - Action 5.2.5: Support mixed use development consisting of commercial and residential uses in the designated growth areas.
- **Objective 5.3:** The Juniata County Planning Department should work with SEDA-COG to promote conservation and rehabilitation of existing housing.
  - Action 5.3.1: Assist local municipalities with identification of substandard housing and improvement programs, and notify local residents of available housing improvement programs such as SEDA-COG's weatherization program and the Community Development Block Grant Home Program.
  - Action 5.3.2: Encourage public and private sector programs to upgrade existing housing quality and increase value, including rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, as well as the construction of in-fill housing.
  - Action 5.3.3: Support public and private sector emergency housing needs, provided they are not used for permanent housing.
  - Action 5.3.4: Develop a workshop regarding housing assistance and rehabilitation programs to eliminate substandard housing throughout the county.
- **Objective 5.4:** The Juniata County Planning Department should continue to monitor the need for elderly housing and assisted living facilities.
  - Action 5.4.1: The housing element of the plan shall be updated on a regular basis to accurately reflect elderly housing opportunities.
  - Action 5.4.2: Elderly housing facilities should be located in or near the county's developed boroughs and should be within walking distance to health services, human resources, and commercial activity.

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- **Objective 5.5:** A variety of housing types consisting of single-family detached dwellings, townhouses, and multi-family dwellings that attract various age groups and people of varying income levels should be promoted by all municipalities in the county.
  - Action 5.5.1: Encourage the development of all housing types at appropriate densities; including manufactured homes in areas of the county that are in the path of development and do not currently provide a variety of housing.
  - Action 5.5.2: Recommended solutions to the identified barriers to affordable housing should be reviewed by the appropriate organizations and applicable solutions implemented.
  - Action 5.5.3: Encourage compliance with federal fair housing laws which prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of housing by adopting the Fair Housing Resolution as part of its CDBG program.
  - Action 5.5.4: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should consider, at the appropriate time, the creation of a Housing Authority.
  - Action 5.5.5: Consider initiating a detailed housing assessment study that builds upon the housing data, with or without an adjoining county, for use with current or future housing programs.
- **Objective 5.6:** The Juniata County Planning Department should work with the Mifflin-Juniata County Human Services Department, Snyder County Housing Authority, and private organizations to identify all available housing programs in the county.
  - Action 5.6.1: The Juniata County Planning Department shall maintain a listing of all housing programs and see that this information is made readily available to the public.
- **Objective 5.7:** The conversion of seasonal and recreational structures to full time residences shall include compliance with the uniform construction code and applicable on-lot septic system improvements.
  - Action 5.7.1: Building permits and occupancy permits shall be secured and issued prior to construction, improvements, and occupancy of the structure.
  - Action 5.7.2: The sewage enforcement officer shall ensure the existing septic system is functioning properly or a new system is installed prior to occupancy.
- **Objective 5.8:** The Juniata County Planning Department should work with surrounding counties to promote the Rural Development Office's Single-Family Guaranteed Housing to assist low and moderate income, credit-worthy families and individuals with purchasing an existing home, modifying a dwelling, or building new homes in rural areas.
  - Action 5.8.1: Establish a relationship with the Rural Development Office.
  - Action 5.8.2: The Juniata County Planning Department should make itself available as a depository for housing information..

## **6. Land Use**

**Goal:** 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.

### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 6.1:** The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should adopt the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan upon completion of the public meetings.
- **Objective 6.2:** The Juniata County Planning Department should be appropriately staffed to support the Juniata County Planning Commission and implementation of this Plan.
  - Action 6.2.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should encourage consistency between county and municipal planning programs.
  - Action 6.2.2: The Juniata County Planning Department should make itself available to provide professional guidance to municipal officials and community leaders.
  - Action 6.2.3: The Juniata County Planning Department will be responsible for maintaining and implementation of the County Comprehensive Plan.
- **Objective 6.3:** Encourage and support the development of local and joint comprehensive plans and land use ordinances based on boundaries indentified in the Land Use Plan.
  - Action 6.3.1: Promote coordinated land use patterns along municipal borders.
  - Action 6.3.2: Encourage the development of mixed-use districts that encourage a combination of light commercial/industrial and higher density residential.
  - Action 6.3.3: Direct growth to logical areas where critical environmental resources will not be compromised and community services can be made available in a cost efficient manner.
  - Action 6.3.4: Maintain the rural character of areas with a predominance of open space and farming, and gauge public support for open space and farmland preservation strategies and programs.
  - Action 6.3.5: Encourage and support those municipalities that are designated for high and rural growth to prepare a comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and a subdivision and land development ordinance.
- **Objective 6.4:** The Juniata County Planning Department should encourage municipalities to create or update their subdivision and land development ordinances to be consistent with the strategies proposed in this plan.

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- Action 6.4.1: Ensure that all lots have a suitable area for an on-lot septic system including lots for seasonal and full time residences.
- **Objective 6.5:** The Juniata County Planning Department should encourage the use of consistent land use terminology and regulations throughout the county.
- **Objective 6.6:** The Juniata County Planning Department should be available to answer questions and provide data to local municipalities on topics regarding subdivision and land development, zoning, grants, and other community planning strategies.
- **Objective 6.7:** The Juniata County Planning Department should act as the lead agency in coordinating land use training sessions for local officials.
  - Action 6.7.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should develop a county-based local government assistance program to distribute model ordinances, identify funding sources, and provide grant writing assistance.
- **Objective 6.8:** The Juniata County Planning Department should maintain an up-to-date listing of all plans submitted and prepare a yearly report on the effectiveness of the growth strategies proposed in this plan.
- **Objective 6.9:** The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should consider appointing a county-wide Agricultural Task Force to promote the economic stability of agriculture.
  - Action 6.9.1: At a minimum, the task force shall be made up of individuals from the agricultural community.
  - Action 6.9.2: Prepare an overall strategy for agricultural preservation that will include goals and an action plan to sustain a healthy local farm economy.
  - Action 6.9.3: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should continue to support the Agricultural Security program throughout the entire county.
- **Objective 6.10:** The Juniata County Board of Commissioners and Planning Department shall continue to work with the Juniata Business & Industry to promote the Juniata Industrial Park.
  - Action 6.10.1: Work the Juniata Business & Industry to be identifying potential new areas for expansion of the industrial park before the remaining lots are developed.
- **Objective 6.11:** The Juniata County Planning Department shall promote the preparation of individual or coordinated downtown plans for the four boroughs.
- **Objective 6.12:** Promote and make available to local municipalities the county's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data.

## **7. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

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

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## **8. Planning and Coordination**

**Goal:** 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.

- **Objective 8.1:** The Juniata County Board of Commissioners and Juniata County Planning Department should consider establishing a municipal outreach meeting process to identify community development issues at the local level. .
  - Action 8.1.1: The Juniata County Planning Department should consider, at minimum, meeting quarterly with all municipalities in the county.
  - Action 8.1.2: The Juniata County Planning Department should should consider attending the Juniata County Township Supervisors Convention to interact with municipal officials and update them on community planning projects, plan submissions, and other community related activities.
  - Action 8.1.3: The Juniata County Planning Department should coordinate a minimum of three community planning training workshops for municipalities over the first five years of this plan.
  - Action 8.1.4: Develop a data sharing protocol with the school district and other community services organizations or offices.

## **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.

### **Objectives:**

- **Objective 9.1:** Continue to work with SEDA-COG Rural Planning Organization (RPO) to coordinate regional transportation improvement projects.
  - Action 9.1.1: Solicit input from local municipalities regarding projects that should be included in the state’s transportation improvement program.
  - Action 9.1.2: The planning commission and SEDA-COG RPO shall continue to inventory problem intersections, curves, bridges, and roadway sections, above what has already been identified in this plan, for inclusion in the state’s transportation improvement program.
- **Objective 9.2:** The Juniata County Planning Department shall take a lead role in soliciting transportation improvement projects for the state’s transportation improvement program.
  - Action 9.2.1: SEDA-COG RPO shall educate the Juniata County Planning Commission and staff on the transportation improvement program and provide staff with the necessary survey forms to solicit projects from the county’s local municipalities.

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- Action 9.2.2: The planning commission shall send letters to the county's local municipalities requesting transportation improvement projects, and actively contact those municipalities that do not respond.
- Action 9.2.3: The planning commission shall rank each submitted improvement against a standard set of guidelines developed by SEDA-COG RPO. Projects that fall within the designated growth areas will receive priority ranking.
- Action 9.2.4: The planning commission and key staff members shall actively participate in the SEDA-COG RPO in overseeing the transportation improvement program.
- **Objective 9.3:** The Juniata County Planning Department should work with local municipalities to update their subdivision and land development ordinances to provide a variety of street design standards, access management, traffic impact studies, and traffic calming provisions.
  - Action 9.3.1: PennDOT's design criteria shall be used as the minimum design criteria to ensure consistency and that new roads are accepted into the liquid fuel reimbursement program.
  - Action 9.3.2: Consideration should be given to the use of private rights-of-way that serve no more than three lots or units. These rights-of-way will be privately owned and maintained.
- **Objective 9.4:** Bridges that are identified as substandard and hinder emergency access, bridges that are on a major transportation corridor or bridges that are located in the growth areas of the county should be given priority for improvements or replacement.
  - Action 9.4.1: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should continue to contract with a private consulting firm to conduct regular bridge inspections and identify bridges that are in need of repair.
- **Objective 9.5:** Tourism and tourist related activities will play a significant economic development role in the future of Juniata County. The county should work with regional transportation providers to maintain and enhance available services.
  - Action 9.5.1: Greyhound Bus Lines and Fullington Trailways currently have bus stops within the county, but ticketing facilities are not available at these locations. The county should work with the bus companies to provide a ticketing location within the county to increase the level of convenience for residents and to make the county a destination rather than only a limited service stopping point.
  - Action 9.5.2: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should commission a study on aviation needs in the county to determine if the Mifflintown Airport adequately meets the needs of the county as a general aviation airport.
  - Action 9.5.3: Amtrak passenger rail service currently travels through Juniata County, but the closest Amtrak stop is located in Lewistown, Mifflin County. The county should work with SEDA-COG and Amtrak to determine the feasibility of locating a station at one of the boroughs in Juniata County.
  - Action 9.5.4: The Juniata County Board of Commissioners should support the recommendations in the Juniata Valley Tourism Plan (2003).

*"Comprehensively enrich, protect, develop, and preserve Juniata County"*

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- **Objective 9.6:** Transportation improvements in corridors with large percentages of truck traffic and projected new trips should be considered priority projects, especially when located within a growth area.
  - Action 9.6.1: Study freight route demands as related to area industry and home-based businesses.
  - Action 9.6.2: Continue to monitor truck traffic as major transportation projects are completed.
- **Objective 9.7:** The Juniata County Planning Department should promote Home Town Streets and Safe Routes to School programs to the boroughs that have schools and downtown areas.
- **Objective 9.8:** The Juniata County Planning Department and SEDA-COG RPO shall promote the development of adequate roadways into and out of the county. The roadways carry not only the residents of the county but also serve through-traffic.
- **Objective 9.9:** To capture the growing trend in outdoor recreation, the Juniata County Planning Department should consider supporting the expansion of bicycle, ATV, snowmobile, rails to trails, and greenways facilities.
  - Action 9.9.1: The Juniata County Planning Department shall develop model design criteria that can be provided to local municipalities for incorporation into their local subdivision and land development ordinances.
- **Objective 9.10:** The Juniata County Planning Department should encourage local municipalities to develop an official map.
- **Objective 9.11:** The Juniata County Planning Department shall support the preparation of a Park and Ride study to formally identify and construct a park and ride lot in the county.