

# 2009 Annual Report

## Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2010

### MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETED

The Planning and Development Department completed a Municipal Waste Management Plan in cooperation with Bedford and Fulton Counties in 2009. This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of July 28, 1988, and is now ready for adoption by the County Commissioners and ratification by municipalities. The staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department has spent hundreds of hours developing the Plan, starting in 2004.

This Plan provides a description of current solid waste disposal and recycling practices, analyzes alternatives and recommends methods for recycling and disposal. The County advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain the necessary disposal capacity to meet the State's ten-year requirement. The draft Plan has been reviewed and approved by the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

The Plan, in general, describes alternative waste processing and disposal systems that were evaluated for the County and discusses the basis for the selection of the proposed

alternatives. Nine landfills responded to the County's RFP for landfill disposal capacity.

Huntingdon County has a per capita waste generation rate of 4.08 pounds per day or 0.745 tons per year. Based on this rate, Huntingdon County generates approximately 93 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) per day. The MSW generation rate is taken from the 2007 PADEP Waste Generation and Recycling Annual Report.

MSW generation for the County in 2009 is estimated at 34,058 tons and is projected to increase to 35,347 tons by 2019. 9,577 tons of material were recycled in 2007. This constituted 28% of the total amount of MSW generated. Ninety-two percent of the waste is disposed at the Sandy Run Landfill in Broad Top Township, Bedford County.

Final steps in the development of the Plan include adoption by the County Commissioners and ratification by a majority of County municipalities representing a majority of residents in 2010.

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# AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

## PLANNING COMMISSION

**The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first planning director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.**

## STAFFING

The Planning and Development Department is headed by Richard Stahl, AICP, Planning Director. In addition to the Planning Director, the 2009 staff included Planner/Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; Bookkeeper, Peggy Wilson; and Secretary, Laurie Nearhood. Tori Dixon, a Juniata College Health Communications Major, and April Shaffer, a Career Link WIA participant, assisted Department staff during 2009.

Planning and Development staff frequently attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. During 2009, training activities included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, the Community Development and Housing Practitioners Annual Conference, CDBG Compliance Training, Neighborhood Stabilization Program Training, Emergency Shelter Grant Training, IDIS Training and the Greening Historic Buildings in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium.

## 2010 WORK PROGRAM

### County Assistance

Planning and Development staff will continue to assist the Board of Commissioners with managing projects such as office expansion, deployment of broadband, and information technology.

### Municipal Waste Management Plan

The Draft Municipal Waste Management Plan will be adopted by the County Commissioners and sent for ratification by municipal government in 2010. The final stage is approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

### Community Development

Staff expects to focus on obtaining additional discretionary grant funding for County projects in 2010, including applications for CDBG Competitive funds for priority water and sewer projects. Work on implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and federal stimulus programs will also be continued.

### Municipal Assistance

Assistance in obtaining funding and in developing comprehensive plans and ordinances is expected in 2010. It is expected that staff will customize model ordinances to meet municipal needs.

### Comprehensive Plan

The staff will begin the process of updating the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* in 2010, focusing on an update of the existing land use inventory and the Quality of Life Survey. The *1998 Quality of Life Survey* was a central part of the public involvement process in developing *Continuity Through Conservation II* in 2000. New aerial photography from 2007 will provide the basis for a complete update of the land use element.

## Community Improvement Awards

The fourth annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 11, 2009. Recipients of the 2008 awards were the Standing Stone Coffee Company in the Commercial Category, Broad Top Community Park in the Public/Non-profit Category, Habitat for Humanity in the Residential Category, and Huntingdon Farmers Market in the Special Merit Category.

The Standing Stone Coffee Company in Huntingdon was developed in a former laundromat by Greg and Jessie Anderson and opened for business in August 2008.

The Broad Top Community Park was rebuilt by the Greater Broad Top Park and Recreation Association. The 3.1 acre park received a new pavilion, basketball court, playground and walking track.

Habitat for Humanity was honored for their recent Mt. Union Build. Habitat subdivided a lot to construct two new dwellings and remodeled an adjacent home.

James Pingry was honored for his role in organizing the Huntingdon Farmers Market.

The Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Kish Bank.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2009, the operation of the Planning Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$112,063.00) and through several state and federal government grant programs (\$90,514.00).

The 2010 General Fund budget decreased by 2.4% from 2009; and the 2010 budget for Grants and Special Projects decreased by 1.85%. Overall, the 2010 budget is 2.17% lower than it was in 2009.

### General Fund Budget Report

	2009 Budget	2009 Expenditures	2010 Budget
Personnel	\$86,796.00	\$86,795.28	\$90,296.00
Services	\$18,407.00	\$12,871.30	\$15,050.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$2,074.13	\$2,500.00
Capital Outlay	\$5,360.00	\$1,655.39	\$1,500.00
Total	\$112,063.00	\$103,396.10	\$109,346.00

### Grants and Special Projects Budget Report \*

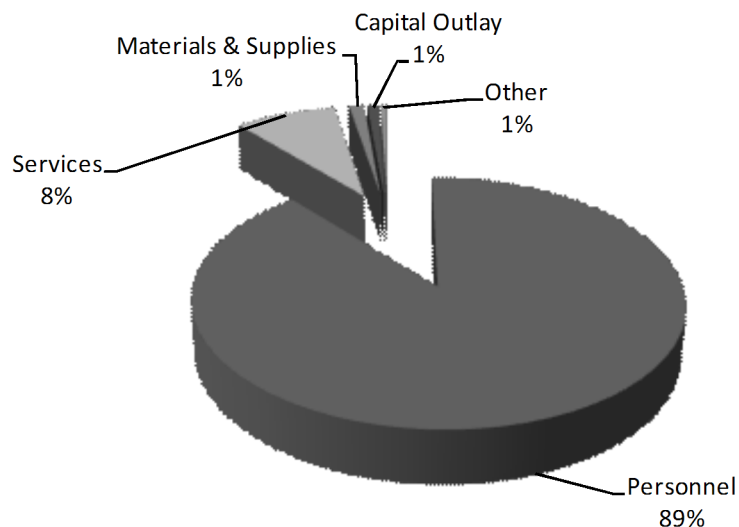
	2009 Budget	2009 Expenditures	2010 Budget
Personnel	\$76,314.00	\$77,687.40	\$80,639.00
Services	\$2,250.00	\$2,438.36	\$2,250.00
Materials & Supplies	\$450.00	\$179.30	\$450.00
Other	\$11,500.00	\$909.34	\$5,500.00
Total	\$90,514.00	\$81,214.40	\$88,839.00

### Grant & General Fund Totals

2009 Budget	2009 Expenditures	2010 Budget
\$202,577.00	\$184,610.50	\$198,185.00

\*Grants and Special Projects include Community Development Block Grant funds used for administrative purposes.

### 2009 Grant and General Fund Expenditures



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. Staff fulfills this responsibility through the various methods listed below.

### HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Planning and Development staff continued to maintain the County web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), including creation of a calendar for Courthouse activities and links for election results.

### PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke to a variety of organizations in 2009:

- ⇒ made a presentation to the Huntingdon Lions Club on infrastructure issues;
- ⇒ gave a planning presentation to a Juniata College Environmental Science class at the Raystown Field Station;
- ⇒ gave a "Local Government and Planning" presentation to a Leadership Huntingdon County Class; and
- ⇒ attended the annual Township Convention, providing information about CDBG and the Solid Waste Plan.

The Recycling Coordinator gave "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" presentations at several school districts, senior centers, and health fairs; and distributed recycling information

at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's May Fest and Healthy Harvest Festival.

### WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Department receives an average of four inquiries per day concerning:

- ⇒ Municipal Contacts and Ordinances
- ⇒ Census Data
- ⇒ Flood Plain Data
- ⇒ Planning Studies
- ⇒ Grant Availability
- ⇒ Recycling Information
- ⇒ County and Municipal Maps

Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, professional market analysts, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

### PUBLICATIONS

In 2009, the Planning and Development Department published the *2008 HCPC Annual Report* and the *2009 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

## JUNIATA COLLEGE ASSISTS COUNTY WITH MAJOR WEBSITE UPDATE

Juniata College's Innovations for Industry, or I4I, Program provided substantial support to Huntingdon County in meeting a January 2010 deadline to move all web content from Dynamic Site Framework (DSF) to Microsoft SharePoint. DSF and SharePoint are software applications used to develop websites.

For the past decade the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and many political subdivisions used software called Dynamic Site Framework or DSF to develop and manage websites. When the Commonwealth stopped supporting DSF, Huntingdon County, Huntingdon and Mount Union Boroughs, and Walker and Warriors Mark Townships were left high and dry.

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), who hosts both County and municipal websites, decided to use Microsoft SharePoint software to support the websites it hosts. CCAP staff provides assistance to member counties on technology issues.

In the absence of an IT department, the Planning and Development Department turned to Juniata College's I4I Program. The Planning Director prepared an application for assistance from the I4I Program, and the project received approval in August. Four students moved hundreds of web pages and provided software training to both County and municipal staff. The four students were supervised by IT faculty members Marlene Burkhart and Bill Thomas.



Planning and Mapping staff hosted a booth at the Raystown Home and Garden Show to present planning and mapping activities and to answer questions about both topics.

## MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services; and various planning studies.

### MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

**Carbon Township** - Staff met with the Supervisors to discuss final details of the hazard mitigation project and to offer assistance with development of a subdivision and land development ordinance.

**Cassville Borough** - Staff met with Council to discuss subdivision questions and land development ordinances.

**Dublin Township** - Staff provided model application forms for subdivision and development permits.

**Huntingdon Borough** - Staff assisted with editing the web version of the 2007 Zoning Ordinance update.

**Logan Township** - Staff customized a draft Model Subdivision Ordinance.

**Mapleton Borough** - Staff attended meetings with Council and DCNR concerning Riverside Park Improvements and assisted with submission of a grant application.

### Mapleton and Mount Union

**Boroughs** - Staff met with both Councils to discuss their participation in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a grant funded program to address foreclosed homes.

**Penn Township** - Staff continued to assist with the Infiltration and Inflow Project, conducting income verification and opening bids for an excavation contractor for eleven homes.

**Rockhill Borough** - Staff met with Council to discuss adoption of new ordinances banning the burning of recyclables and requiring residents to properly dispose of solid waste, and to discuss stormwater issues and funding.

**Shirley Township** - Staff met with the Planning Commission to discuss review procedures and model application forms for subdivisions and development permits.

**Shirleysburg Borough** - Staff provided draft development permit and subdivision and land development ordinances.

**Three Springs Borough** - Staff met with Council to discuss adoption of new ordinances banning the burning of recyclables and requiring residents to properly dispose of solid waste.

**Todd Township** - Staff facilitated a meeting between a developer and the Supervisors to resolve issues with a proposed subdivision.

**West Township** - Staff attended a meeting of the Planning Commission to discuss on-lot sewage management and Act 537 planning.

**All Municipalities** - Staff surveyed municipal officials to update a municipal contact database; provided an opportunity for participation in the County's CDBG Entitlement Program; requested financial support for a PA Council on the Arts Local Government Grant; and distributed copies of the draft Municipal Waste Management Plan for comment.

### GRANT ASSISTANCE

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various state and federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

CDBG funded activities that were substantially completed in 2009 include construction of a new interconnection between the sanitary sewer systems serving the Village of Hesston in Penn Township and the McConnellstown Area of Walker Township; and the replacement of 800 linear feet of municipal water service line along West Railroad Avenue in Mapleton Borough.

## MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLAN EXPLORED IN SPRUCE CREEK REGION

Six municipalities in the Spruce Creek Planning Region have begun exploring intergovernmental cooperation and multi-municipal planning. The six municipalities include Birmingham Borough, Franklin, Morris, Spruce Creek and Warriors Mark Townships in Huntingdon County and Tyrone Township in Blair County. These communities contain 4,652 people, according to 2000 U.S. Census figures.

Planning Director, Richard Stahl organized a workshop in April 2009 to present the concept of multi-municipal planning. Participants in the workshop included Kim Wheeler, DCED; Bob Jacobs, Centre County Planning Director; and Patrick Leary, Penns Valley Planning Commission. The 25 people who attended represented elected officials and planning commission members from the six municipalities.

The Spruce Creek Region is facing strong growth pressure from State College. The adjacent municipalities in Centre County grew by over 50% from 1990 to 2000. Warriors Mark Township has received most of this pressure to date, growing at over 20%. Recent subdivision activity in Spruce Creek and Morris Townships show that this growth is spilling over into other townships in the region. At present, none of the municipalities have a local comprehensive plan. While four of the municipalities have a subdivision and land development ordinance, only one has a zoning ordinance.

Multi-municipal planning was authorized in Pennsylvania by Acts 67 and 68 adopted in 2000. Act 67/68 allows municipalities to cooperate in both the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan. It further allows the municipalities to balance appropriate land uses among the participating jurisdictions, placing specific land uses where best suited rather than allowing all land uses in each community.

## COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

### AGENCY LIAISON

**The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.**

### Agricultural Land Preservation Board

The Planning Director serves on the Agricultural Land Preservation Board as an appointee of the County Commissioners. Planning staff works closely with the staff of the Huntingdon County Conservation District, who administer the program.

During 2009, one conservation easement totaling 173 acres was purchased. This brings the total number of easements to five farms - two in Brady Township, one in Franklin Township, and two in Warriors Mark Township. The total acres of farm easements is 589.

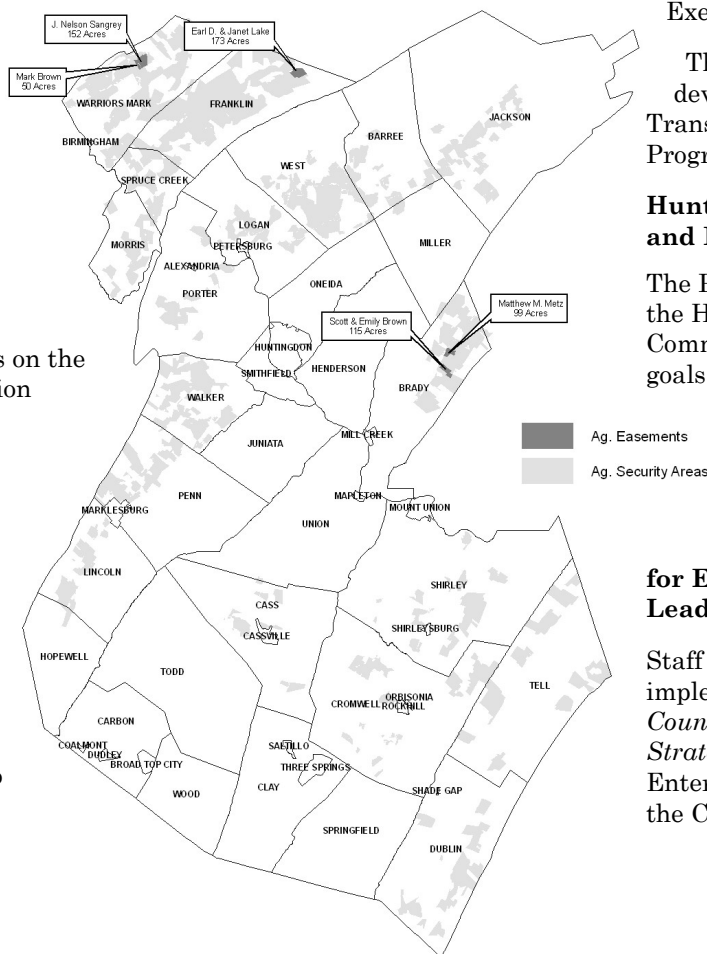
### County Planning Directors Association

The Planning Director serves as Vice Chair for the County Planning Directors Association, an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The

CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

### Boomtown Committee

The Planning Director serves on the Boomtown Committee, organized and chaired by Huntingdon Mayor Foster Ulrich. This Committee, given the task of developing a community vision for the Huntingdon Area, has become known as the Boomtown Committee.



**AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS, AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS**

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Huntingdon County Mapping Department - March 2010

The Committee was formed to implement a strategy to make Huntingdon a 'boomtown.' Jack Schultz, author of "Boomtown USA, the 7 1/2 keys to Success," spoke in

Huntingdon in the spring of 2007, encouraging the community to become a successful community, or boomtown.

### Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee.

The TTC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

### Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCBI)

The Planning Director serves on the HCBI Infrastructure Committee. One of the principle goals of this Committee is development of the Riverview Business Center and completion of Appalachian Corridor M.

### Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL)

Staff works closely with JCEL to implement the *Huntingdon County Economic Development Strategy*. JCEL serves as Enterprise Zone Coordinator for the County Commissioners and serves as staff for HCBI.

The Planning Director serves as liaison between the Commissioners and JCEL.

Juniata College has taken a proactive approach to business and community development through JCEL partnering with the County Commissioners and HCBI.

## COUNTY-MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

**Section 303 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247) gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 & 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of state funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.**

Local government and state agencies submitted 57 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2009, including 1 Municipal Waste Management Plan, 2 municipal Act 537 Plans, 2 DCNR grant applications, 1 County Comprehensive Plan review, 4 PENNVEST applications, 3 wastewater treatment plant upgrades, 1 water system improvements, 3 environmental review requests, 3 geothermal project letters of support, 1 municipal subdivision ordinance, 1 renewable energy grant application, and 35 DEP permit requests:

1. R/C Slab Bridge Replacement over Saddler Run, Brady Township
2. Shoreline Stabilization at Tatman Run Recreational Area, Lincoln Township
3. Construction of Fish Habitat Structures, Penn Township
4. Wastewater Collection System Extensions, PENNVEST application, Alexandria Borough-Porter Township Joint Sewer Authority
5. Wolf Mill Dam Removal, Warriors Mark Township
6. Huntingdon Community Center Building Project, Revised Environmental Review Record, Huntingdon Borough
7. Draft Huntingdon County Municipal Waste Management Plan
8. Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 26, Oneida Township
9. Bridge Replacements, SR 3027 and SR 3029, Todd and Union Townships
10. NPDES Permit Renewal, Seven Points Recreation Area, Penn Township
11. Stream bank Stabilization, Penn Township
12. NPDES Permit Renewal, Shirley Township
13. Bridge repair and detour, Morris Township
14. Grier School Water Supply Permit, Warriors Mark Township
15. Culvert replacements, Lincoln Township
16. Bridge repairs, road closings and detours, Tell Township
17. Bridge rehabilitation, Shirley Township
18. Drive Up ATM facility development, Shirley Township
19. Replacement of corrugated metal pipes, 4 locations within Rothrock State Forest, Jackson Township
20. Sanitary Sewer Improvements, \$972,591 PENNVEST application, Mount Union Borough
21. Fisher-Bailey Geothermal Project, Huntingdon County
22. Huntingdon County Historical Society Geothermal Project
23. Shirley Home Geothermal Project, Huntingdon County
24. Juniata County Comprehensive Plan
25. Lower Trail Erosion Protection, DCNR Grant Application, Blair and Huntingdon Counties
26. Recreation Facilities, DCNR Grant Application, Petersburg Borough
27. Construction of a 1,800 sq. ft. green building (Huntingdon Farm), PENNVEST Green Project Reserve Application, Porter Township
28. Bridge Rehabilitation, Huntingdon Borough and Porter Township
29. Coal Mining Permit Renewal, Carbon Township
30. Water Allocation Permit Application (Raystown Branch of the Juniata River Intake), Saxton Borough, Bedford County
31. Temporary road crossing, Brady Township
32. Alexandria Borough – Porter Township Joint Sewer Authority, Penn Vest Funding
33. Forcey Coal Inc., Carbon Township, Coal Mining Permit Renewal
34. Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 2023, Jackson Township
35. Logan Township Act 537 Plan
36. Cromwell Township Act 537 Plan Update
37. Cromwell Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment
38. Huntingdon Community Center Feasibility Study
39. DEP Air Quality Program State Only Operating Permit Renewal, Lincoln Township
40. DEP Air Quality Program State Only Operating Permit, Warriors Mark Township
41. Surface Coal Mining Permit Revision, Wood Township
42. Bridge demolition and pipe installation, Barree Township
43. Construction of a 12,470 square foot fire department, Brady Township
44. Renewable Energy Program Grant, Tussey Mountain School District
45. PennDOT, bridge maintenance, 22 municipalities
46. UGI-Central Penn Gas, Inc., installation of 6" steel gas line under bridge, Huntingdon Borough
47. Verizon Wireless, communication tower construction, Lincoln Township
48. Pennsylvania Game Commission, new bridge construction over Carothers Gap Run, Cromwell Township
49. Huntingdon Community Center, Environmental Assessment, Huntingdon Borough
50. Broad Top City Water System Improvements



51. Orbisonia-Rockhill Joint Municipal Authority WWTP Upgrade
52. Huntingdon Borough WWTP Upgrade
53. Westminster Woods Pump Station, Public Water Supply Permit Major Amendment, Huntingdon Borough
54. PENNDOT, bridge repairs, Dublin, Tell, Walker and Wood Townships
55. Whispering Acres Campground, NPDES Permit application, Penn Township
56. Sugar Run Campground, NPDES Permit application, Todd Township
57. Spring Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits, or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for State permits. The Commission received 37 State permit activity notices in 2009.

## FEDERAL-STATE PROJECT REVIEW

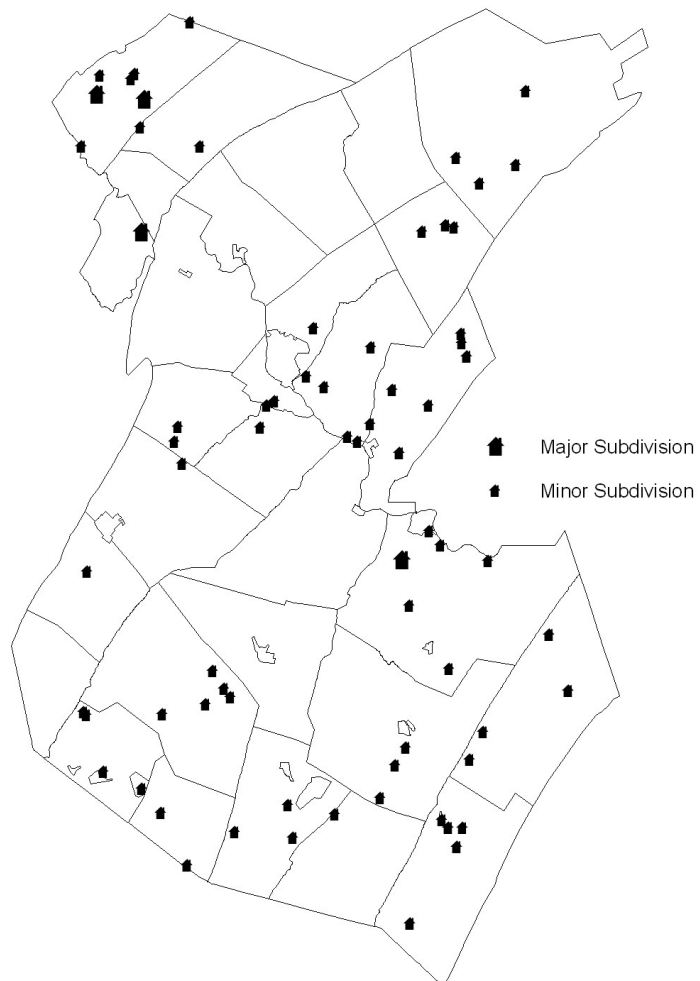
**The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the *County Comprehensive Plan*, under the authority of Executive Order #12372.**

Under the State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission reviewed the following 18 projects in 2009:

1. FFY08 Investigating the Potential Causes of Fish Tumors in Great Lakes Brown Bullhead Catfish, \$80,000.00, EPA
2. FFY09 State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate, \$11,944,000.00, EPA
3. FFY10 Nonpoint Source Implementation, \$5,680,000.00, EPA
4. FFY10 Mine Safety and Health Administration, \$533,392.00, EPA
5. Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center, \$87,000 Circuit Rider Business Assistance Program grant application

6. FFY08 Clean Water State Revolving Fund, \$155 million, EPA
7. FFY08 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, \$65 million, EPA
8. FFY 09 Norfolk Southern Railroad National Clean Diesel, \$7.5 million, EPA
9. FFY 09 PA Turnpike National Clean Diesel, \$2.0 million, EPA
10. FFY 09 Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad National Clean Diesel, \$1.6 million, EPA
11. FFY 09 Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies, \$1.5 million, EPA
12. FFY 09 Chesapeake Bay Program, \$2.2 million, EPA

13. FFY 09 Water Quality Management Planning, \$1.5 million, EPA
14. State Energy Program Formula, \$7.3 million, EPA
15. FFY Pollution Prevention, \$0.18 million, EPA
16. DEP, PA's Innovative Approach to H<sub>2</sub>O Planning, \$350,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
17. DEP, Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging: Training and Demonstration Projects, \$100,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
18. DEP, PM 2.5 Monitoring Network, \$1,190,464 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)

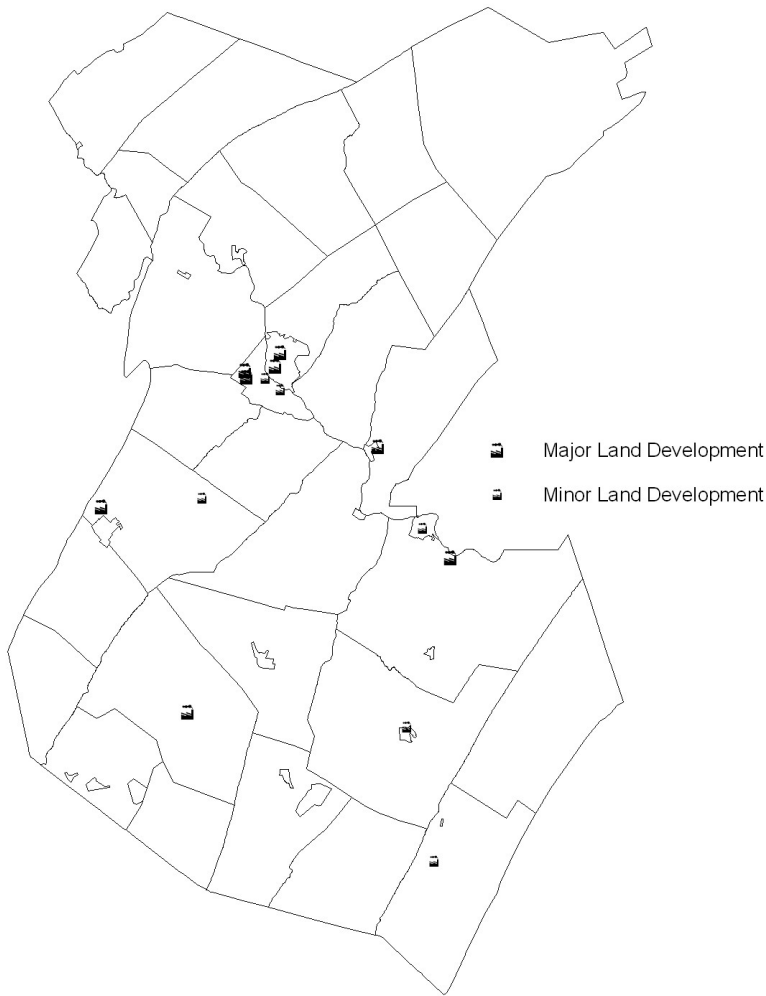


## HCPC SUBDIVISION REVIEW 2009

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Huntingdon County Mapping Department - March 2010





## HCPC LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 2009

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Huntingdon County Mapping Department - March 2010

- the Rocky Top Enterprises, LLC Subdivision with 172.55 acres and 9 lots in Warriors Mark Township.

The 8 major land development reviews conducted in 2009 included:

- Graystone Court, Smithfield Township - construction of a 5-story, 90,720 square foot, 66 unit apartment building;
- Whispering Acres Campground, Penn Township - construction of a 70 site recreational and seasonal campground and pavilion;
- Juniata College Sill Business Incubator, Smithfield Township - demolition and construction of fencing, concrete wall, parking, and building renovation;
- Mill Creek Fire Company, Brady Township - construction of a 12,470 square foot building;
- Raystown Square Phase I, Smithfield Township - construction of a 3-story, 14,400 square foot hotel and parking;
- Sugar Run Campground, Todd Township - construction of a 43 site campground with water and sewer hook up and central toilet and shower facilities;
- F & M Trust Company of Chambersburg, Shirley Township - construction of a 2,204 square foot bank and parking lot; and
- Huntingdon Area Middle School, Huntingdon Borough - demolition of existing building and construction of a 80,794 square foot building.

## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

**Section 502 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act.**

The Commission reviewed 95 subdivisions in 26 municipalities in 2009, down by 13 since 2008. These included 4 major subdivisions, 76 minor subdivisions, 8 major land

developments, and 7 minor land developments encompassing 182 lots and 2,607.9 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 8 and 9.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2009 were:

- the Liberty Heights Final Subdivision with 139.54 acres and 34 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Emily Estates Subdivision with 71.66 acres and 31 lots in Morris Township;
- the Hill Valley Green Acres Subdivision with 187.923 acres and 15 lots in Shirley Township; and

## COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are Countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally. Some activities are done to assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas. Major planning projects in 2009 included:

### ENERGY ANALYSIS

During the summer of 2009, County staff undertook an analysis of utility use in all County-owned or operated buildings. The

study was done to 'benchmark' building energy use and to identify opportunities for energy conservation and cost savings.

Electric, gas and oil bills were gathered and photocopied. They were then entered into spreadsheets for analysis. Energy use and cost have been entered into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager to assist in this analysis. Benchmarking is required for applicants for the PA Conservation Works Grant and is a recommended starting point for developing energy conservation plans. This analysis will help the County identify buildings that are underperforming in terms of energy consumption. More detailed analysis can then be conducted on each building to identify specific conservation measures.

The nine buildings covered by this report use a total of \$156,687.13 worth of energy in a year. Total electric use is 1,146,371 kilowatt hours, costing \$93,489.32.

Work on this study was done by Tori Dixon and April Shaffer, Planning Interns, and was supervised by Richard Stahl, Huntingdon County Planning Director.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Planning and Development Department continued to play a role

in developing the County's information technology infrastructure.

For the third time, election results were posted to the website. The County IT consultant, RBA, uploaded the most recent election results several times per hour. See a separate article on page 4 for information on a major update to the Huntingdon County website.

### RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

The Recycling Coordinator provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

Since 2008, SKILLS has agreed to allow residents to drop off electronics at their S. 5th Street office in Smithfield Township free of charge.

During 2009, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2009 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County recycling program marketed 867.06 tons of recyclables with only 5% contamination. Huntingdon County sites collected 381.32 tons, 44% of the total.

Querry Sanitation worked closely with the Recycling Coordinator at special events throughout the County to collect a total of 2,640 pounds.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the Fall collection bringing 7,045 pounds.

In addition to these activities, 7.97 tons of office paper was recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania

(PROP), serving on their Educational Committee; and is an active member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Huntingdon County Chapter of PA Cleanways.

### GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In 2009, the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department administered a total of \$3,191,867 in State and Federal grants, including \$459,190 in Smithfield Township Entitlement CDBG funds.

Tables on page 12 detail each miscellaneous grant awarded and CDBG usage and planned allocations.

### LEADERSHIP HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Leadership Huntingdon County (LHC) welcomed twelve new class members to the Class of 2010, the County's sixth leadership class. The Planning Director serves on the nine-member Leadership Steering Committee and manages the finances for the program. Leadership Huntingdon County was developed as a result of the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) Strategic Plan to develop leaders and support a positive vision for the County.



In addition to LHC, the Planning Director chairs the Y.O.U. Inc. Committee of the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce. Y.O.U. annually conducts a one day leadership workshop for approximately 25 high school sophomores, focusing on building teamwork, exploring local job and educational opportunities, probing leadership styles and diversity and listening to the community concerns of participants.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) developed new goals as part of a strategic planning process. These goals include:

- Create a Third Prison or Rebuild SCI Huntingdon;
- Capital Fund Drive for Business Development;
- Cell Phone/Broadband Connectivity;
- Build Secondary Education Programs to Meet Employer Needs;
- Targeted Market Campaigns – Promoted Outside the Alleghenies;
- Target Efforts to Help Grow Crossover Businesses;
- Improve Visibility of Huntingdon County in Local/Regional Media; and
- Lobby for Roadway Improvements.

The Planning Director and Secretary continued to provide support to the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) during the year. The County Commissioners chair this committee.

According to the PEP Strategic Plan: *“It is the vision of the Huntingdon County Partnership for Economic Progress to improve the economic health and the quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County”.*

## ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING

Huntingdon County received \$621,195 in federal economic stimulus funds during 2009 through three programs administered by the Department.

### Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant

Funds provided under President Bush by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 were awarded to Huntingdon County through a contract received in December of 2009 in the amount of \$301,000. This Program is intended to help Mapleton and Mount Union Boroughs address an anticipated high number of foreclosures by purchasing seven properties, rehabilitating or demolishing them and selling the properties to middle and low income homebuyers. The County is pleased to partner with Habitat for Humanity on the construction of a new “green” home through this program.

### PA Conservation Works Grant Program

In August, Huntingdon County applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for economic stimulus grants through the PA Conservation Works! Program. This new program is designed to reduce energy consumption at existing public facilities, while creating and retaining jobs and supporting the market for energy conservation products. \$250,000 was requested for a geothermal HVAC system and lighting

upgrades at the Bailey Building, and \$206,405 for energy conservation equipment, including two energy recovery units, at the Shirley Home for the Aged. The Shirley Home for the Aged proposal was fully funded. Details are provided in the article below.

### Entitlement CDBG-R

A portion of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding was routed through the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program. Huntingdon County received \$80,320 in CDBG-R funding. These funds, which needed to be encumbered expediently by January 20, 2010, were designated to replace doors and windows at the Shirley Home for the Aged and were used to match the PA Conservation Works grant. Smithfield Township received \$33,470 in CDBG-R funds that were designated for the purchase of playground equipment, made with recycled plastic in the USA.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

In cooperation with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, the Department administered a \$2,331 Local Government Grant for art activities in 2009. Matching grant contributions were made by the County and many municipalities for a \$6,586 program.

## SHIRLEY HOME BENEFITS FROM STIMULUS FUNDING

Huntingdon County targeted economic stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to improve energy efficiency at the Shirley Home for the Aged. The purpose of the work is to reduce operating costs at this 152 year old personal care facility that houses 42 very low income elderly and disabled people, and provides 27 employment positions. Funds will be used to replace windows and exterior doors, insulate the two story sunroom, install substantial energy recovery and energy saving equipment, and make modifications to the existing steam boiler system.

Huntingdon County received \$206,405 from the new PA Conservation Works! grant program. These funds are coupled with \$80,320 in FY 2009 CDBG-R funds and \$92,000 from other sources for a \$379,000 project. This investment is the latest installment in a long term commitment to the comprehensive improvement of the Shirley Home.

An additional \$580,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds was invested over the past 14 years to preserve the structure and dramatically improve living conditions. Elevator and dining room additions permit all residents to take meals in an attractive community environment. CDBG and other funds have been used to add restrooms and to replace the roof, all interior doors, and the electrical and septic systems. The two-story ramp was rehabilitated to provide accessible egress from upper floors. The apartment building, which provides additional income for facility operation, was also rehabilitated. These CDBG funded efforts, in tandem with improvements made by the Home, such as new flooring, sidewalks, furniture and interior painting, make the Shirley Home an attractive place to live and work. The energy efficiency improvements are designed to sustain the Home into the future.

# Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
New Communities Program	2008 - Enterprise Zone Basic Grant	\$50,000
HOME Investment Partnership	2008 - Housing Rehabilitation	\$306,000
Housing Preservation Grant	2009 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$60,000
PA Conservation Works!	2009 - Shirley Home Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$206,405
Emergency Shelter Grant	2009 - Huntingdon House	\$56,992
Neighborhood Stabilization Program	2009 - Mapleton and Mount Union Boroughs	\$301,000
CDBG-Recovery*	2009 - Shirley Home Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$80,320
CDBG-Recovery*	2009 - Smithfield Riverside Park	\$33,470
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	2009 - Local Government Grant - Huntingdon County Arts Council	\$2,331
GGII County Environmental Initiative	2007 - Huntingdon County Conservation and Infrastructure Projects	\$1,000,000

\*funds originating from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds)

CDBG Usage—Past Three Years	2007	2008	2009
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water Tank Replacement	\$166,807	0	0
Petersburg Sewer Pump Replacement*	\$58,000	0	0
Shirley Home for the Aged HVAC*	0	\$60,000	0
Penn Township Sewer I&I Rehabilitation*	0	\$25,000	0
Penn Township Sewer Lateral Replacements	0	\$25,000	0
Affordable Housing Sites	0	\$28,852	0
Spring Creek Sanitary Sewer*	0	\$48,828	0
Mapleton Water Line Replacement**	0	\$1,172	0
Dudley Area Water Tank Rehabilitation	0	0	\$73,500
Rockhill Borough Stormwater System Rehabilitation	0	0	\$30,000
Mount Union Borough Building Accessibility	0	0	\$80,000
Mapleton Borough Revitalization	0	0	\$39,000
<b>Past Three Years Totals</b>	<b>\$224,807</b>	<b>\$188,852</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>
** activity complete    * activity underway			
CDBG Usage - Next Three Years	2010	2011	2012
Mapleton Borough Revitalization	\$50,000	0	0
Cromwell Twp. Sewer Laterals and Tap Fees	\$85,000	0	0
Huntingdon County Facilities Accessibility	\$60,000	0	0
Porter Township Sewer Laterals and Tap Fees	\$15,000	0	0
Mount Union Borough Building Phase II Accessibility	0	\$110,000	0
Huntingdon County Library Accessibility	0	\$100,000	0
Mount Union Federal Drive	0	0	\$84,000
Mary Alexander Outreach Shelter	0	0	\$126,000
<b>Next Three Years Totals</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>

# DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

**Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes:**

- ◆ Building and Subdivision Activity
- ◆ Deed Transfers
- ◆ Municipal Contacts
- ◆ Municipal Land Use Ordinances
- ◆ Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics

## SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

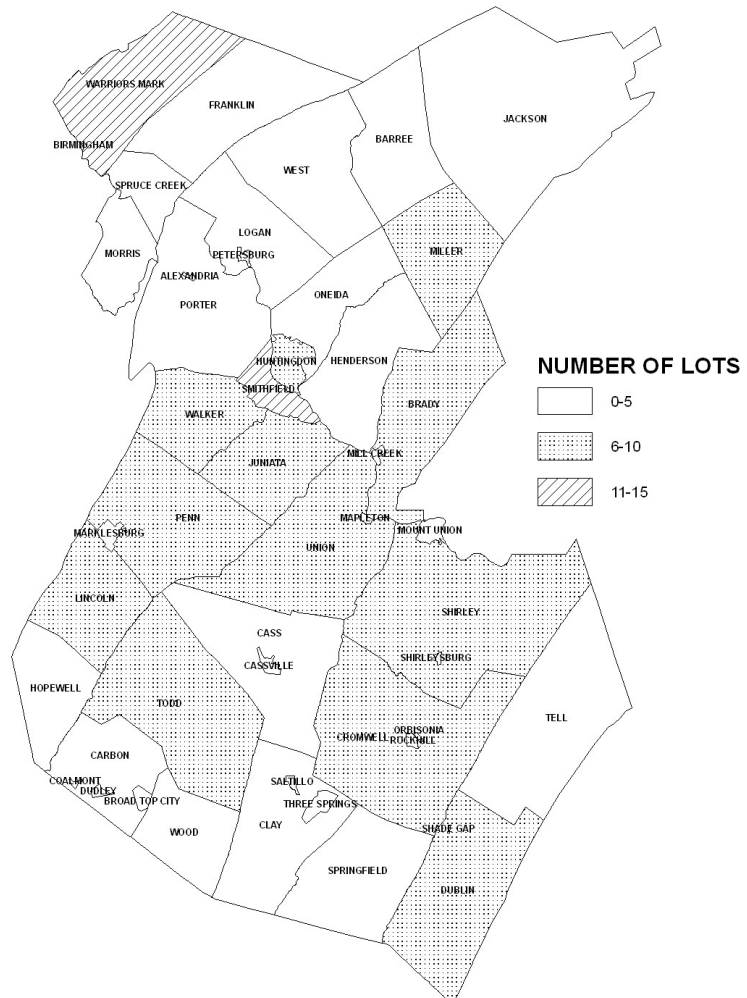
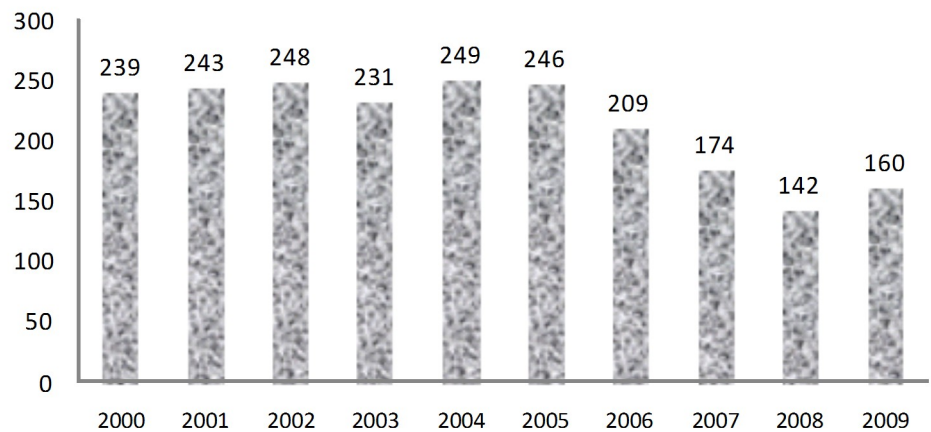
The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services. Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced in the Coordination section.

During 2009, 160 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a increase of 11.25% from the 142 lots created in 2008.

In 2009, the highest level of activity, 13 new lots, occurred in Smithfield Township. The table below shows the highest levels in 2009 and the map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2009.

Municipality	New Lots
Smithfield Township	13
Warriors Mark Township	11
Brady Township	10
Dublin Township	10
Juniata Township	9
Miller Township	9

**SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 2000 - 2009**



## SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 2009

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

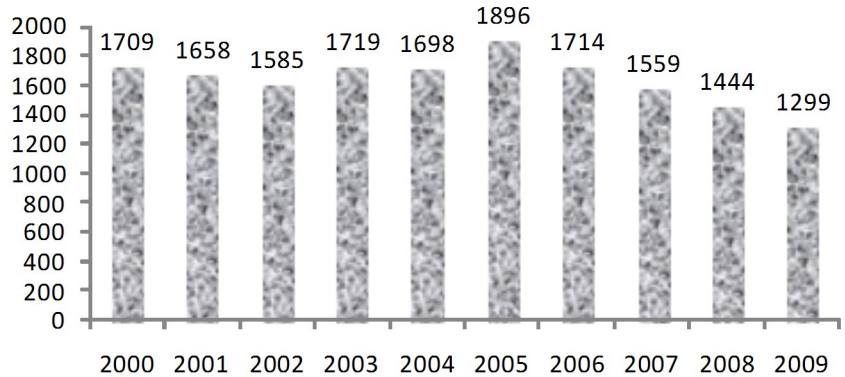
Huntingdon County Mapping Department - March 2010



## DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The chart on this page illustrates the number of deeds transferred over the past ten years.

The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2009, both existing and new, showed a 10% decrease from 1,444 in 2008 to 1,299 in 2009.

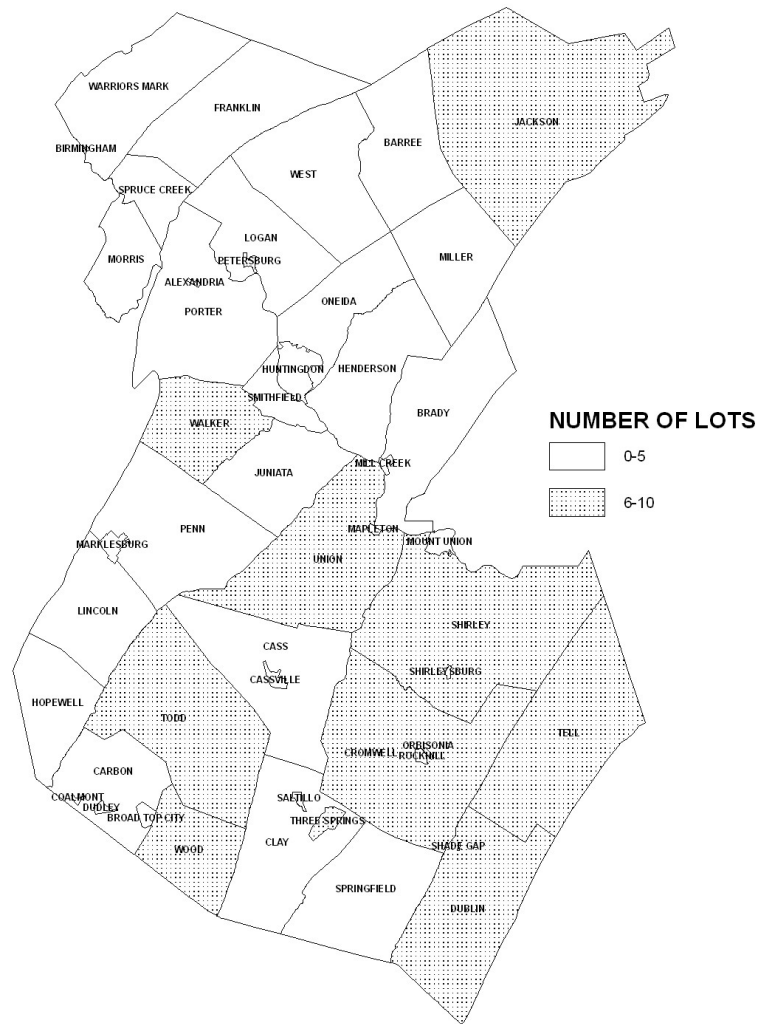


## BUILDING ACTIVITY

In 2009, the construction of new houses decreased 22.2% from 2008, with 147 versus 189 in 2008. The number of new houses constructed is estimated annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits to estimate new housing starts. Year-round housing activity decreased by 16.6%, from 144 units in 2008 to 120 units in 2009.

The map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2009. A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart on page 15. Following are the municipalities that led the County in new housing starts:

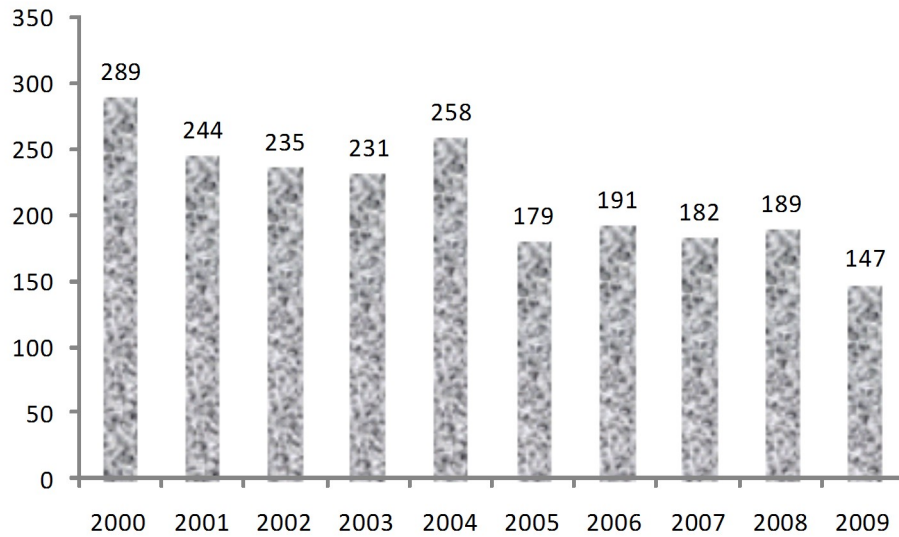
Municipality	New Homes
Dublin Township	10
Cromwell Township	9
Shirley Township	9
Union Township	9
Wood Township	9
Todd Township	8
Three Springs Borough	7
Jackson Township	6
Tell Township	6
Walker Township	6



## NEW HOUSING STARTS 2009

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Huntingdon County Mapping Department - March 2010

**New Housing Starts 2000 to 2009****SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING**

Valley Rural data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on this data, 27 units, or 18.4% of all new housing activity in 2009 involved seasonal housing. This data reveals an decrease of 40% from 45 seasonal units in 2008.

Mobile homes comprised 16%, or 13 units, of Valley Rural permits in 2009.

**Year Round Housing: Municipality****New Homes**

Dublin Township	10
Cromwell Township	9
Wood Township	9
Three Springs Borough	7
Jackson Township	6
Tell Township	6
Union Township	6
Walker Township	6

Following are the municipalities that led the County in seasonal and year-round housing starts:

<b>Seasonal Housing: Municipality</b>	<b>New Homes</b>
Shirley Township	5
Todd Township	5
Hopewell Township	4
Union Township	3



## **HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Connie Kough Pittenger, Chairman**

**William W. Hoover, Vice Chairman**

**R. Dean Fluke, Secretary**

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**Ron Rabena, Chairman**

**Carl Jaymes, Vice Chairman**

**Ginny Gill, Secretary**

**Larry Pruss\***

**Ann Kyper Reynolds**

**Earl Martin**

**Horace Mowrer**

**Larry Mutti**

**Bryan Yingling**

**James Dell**

**\*Resigned**

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**Tori Dixon,**  
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