

2001 Annual Report

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2002

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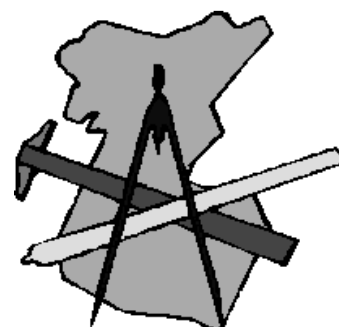
PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION - MISSION STATEMENT

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.

The Planning Commission and the Huntingdon County Planning and

Development Department assist the County in meeting these important goals.



HOUSING GROWTH OUTPACES POPULATION

Huntingdon County's 9.19% growth in total housing units was nearly triple the population growth of 3.22% over the past decade, according to recently released 2000 Census figures. According to this data, Huntingdon County now has 21,058 housing units. Housing units in the State of Pennsylvania grew by 6.3% over the decade. Both Huntingdon County and Pennsylvania lag behind the national rate of 13%.

Huntingdon County experienced the 4th fastest housing growth rate among area counties. Leading counties are Centre (15.0%), Franklin (11.0%), Fulton (10.0%), Huntingdon (9.2%), Bedford (8.0%), Mifflin (6.0%), Somerset (4.0%) and Blair (1.0%). Total housing units in Cambria County declined by 2.0%.

Change in total housing units ranged from Cromwell's 50.26% increase to Birmingham's 18.52% decrease. The top five gainers, in addition to

Cromwell, were Juniata (32.95%), Springfield (26.69%), Union (22.46%), and Warriors Mark (21.83%).

Eleven municipalities lost housing units, while 37 gained. Eight of eighteen boroughs lost housing units. However, only three townships lost housing units. The table on the following page provides complete details.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOUSING CHANGE 1990 - 2000

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS - 1990	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS - 2000	CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE 1990 - 2000
Alexandria	158	160	2	1.27%
Barree	218	247	29	13.30%
Birmingham	54	44	-10	-18.52%
Brady	399	440	41	10.28%
Broad Top	150	178	28	18.67%
Carbon	198	201	3	1.52%
Cass	517	622	105	20.31%
Cassville	83	69	-14	-16.87%
Clay	471	494	23	4.88%
Coalmont	56	55	-1	-1.79%
Cromwell	581	873	292	50.26%
Dublin	515	607	92	17.86%
Dudley	94	89	-5	-5.32%
Franklin	231	238	7	3.03%
Henderson	563	562	-1	-0.18%
Hopewell	339	384	45	13.27%
Huntingdon	2715	2817	102	3.76%
Jackson	585	675	90	15.38%
Juniata	264	351	87	32.95%
Lincoln	238	265	27	11.34%
Logan	291	315	24	8.25%
Mapleton	206	201	-5	-2.43%
Marklesburg	114	138	24	21.05%
Mill Creek	167	139	-28	-16.77%
Miller	220	239	19	8.64%
Morris	161	158	-3	-1.86%
Mount Union	1373	1288	-85	-6.19%
Oneida	502	511	9	1.79%
Orbisonia	204	217	13	6.37%
Penn	638	666	28	4.39%
Petersburg	186	193	7	3.76%
Porter	813	870	57	7.01%
Rockhill	185	186	1	0.54%
Saltillo	147	152	5	3.40%
Shade Gap	50	43	-7	-14.00%
Shirley	1126	1272	146	12.97%
Shirleysburg	69	64	-5	-7.25%
Smithfield	624	637	13	2.08%
Springfield	326	413	87	26.69%
Spruce Creek	145	146	1	0.69%
Tell	294	343	49	16.67%
Three Springs	194	217	23	11.86%
Todd	477	572	95	19.92%
Union	521	638	117	22.46%
Walker	631	735	104	16.48%
Warriors Mark	545	664	119	21.83%
West	270	287	17	6.30%
Wood	378	383	5	1.32%
TOTAL	19286	21058	1772	9.19%
Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing				

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The housing statistics reveal some interesting aspects of housing in Huntingdon County. The total number of occupied housing units increased by 7.93% (1,232), while the number of vacant units decreased by 13.66% (-177).

Owner-occupied housing grew by 9.65%, renter-occupied housing by 2.42% and seasonal housing by 29.11% between 1990 and 2000.

Looking at this another way, forty percent (717 units) of all new housing added since 1990 has been seasonal housing. Only five percent (89 units) of new housing was rental, leaving owner-occupied housing to account for the other sixty-five percent (1,143 units) of the new housing units.

The average number of persons per household in 2000 was 2.44 persons. The average persons per household was somewhat higher for owner-occupied housing (2.53) than for renter-occupied housing (2.12).

HCPC ESTIMATES

Planning and Development Department estimates of housing starts overestimated the number of County housing units in 2000 by 5.36%. The 2000 Census placed the total number of housing units at 21,058. The number of estimated housing starts from 1990 to 2000 (2,901) was added to the 1990 Census figure (19,286). The estimated 2000 total of 22,187 is 1,129 housing units greater than the official Census figure. One possible explanation for the difference, according to Planning Director, Richard Stahl, is that the Department's methodology does not estimate the number of abandonments or demolitions.

See page 17 for the estimated housing starts for 2001.

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

A major update to the Huntingdon County Web Site took place this year. Planning and Development staff worked with a local web developer, Country Systems, to incorporate detailed information about the



Planning Department in the web site.

This information includes: planning activities, community development information, GIS and mapping information, local development regulations, census and other information about the County and County and Municipal contact information. Huntingdoncounty.net was first published in March of 2000.

PUBLICATIONS

The Planning and Development Department published several items in 2001:

- ◆ *2000 HCPC Annual Report;*
- ◆ *2001 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*

◆ *Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan*

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke to the South Central Boroughs Association about proper subdivision review techniques; spoke to the Pamona Grange during the Huntingdon County Fair about agricultural land preservation; and spoke to a group of Juniata College students regarding housing and poverty.

The GIS Technician created a Powerpoint presentation about the Huntingdon County Addressing Project for a Southern Alleghenies GIS Users Group meeting.

The Planning Director coordinated Huntingdon County Government's participation in Expo 2001, sponsored by the Greater Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Business and Industry.

WORKSHOPS

The Planning Director, Planning staff, and Pennsylvania Environmental Council representatives coordinated a workshop, titled *Getting Started in Community Planning*, for municipalities interested in beginning a local planning program.

The Planning Director and staff also coordinated a municipal training workshop on Building Permits and Floodplain Management, with DCED and Centre Region COG staff as speakers; and supported a municipal training workshop on the Model Subdivision Ordinance.

Planning staff, County Conservation District staff and County Commissioners coordinated a highly successful public workshop on Agricultural Land Preservation, with Sam Hayes, Jr., Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture; Walt Whitmer, Penn State Cooperative Extension; and the County Commissioners as presenters.

2000 CENSUS

Planning Staff downloaded and analyzed the first 2000 Census population figures for Huntingdon County.

WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

Marie McClain was hired as a full-time Addressing Technician in November, after the resignation of Penny Fleming, to assist Brian Young in completing the 911 Addressing Project.

Interns continued to fulfill an important role in the Office. During the year, two interns, one unpaid and one paid, worked for the Planning and Development Department. James Durham, an international geography major attending Juniata College; and Chad Rooney, a Criminal Justice major from Central Pennsylvania College, were hired to assist with GIS updates, the 911 Addressing Project, and other Department duties.

During the year, staff participated in numerous training workshops and conferences to enhance their skills. Major conferences included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, the CDBG Annual Conference, and the GIS Annual Conference.

WORK PROGRAM

- **Comprehensive Economic Analysis**

The Planning Commission plans to complete a *Comprehensive Economic Analysis of Huntingdon County* during 2002. This Study involves an analysis of economic issues and the development of strategies for economic development. The Study will be completed by consultant, Delta Development of Mechanicsburg, PA.

The Study is funded through a \$25,000 Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance (LUPTAP) grant. This project is a direct result of the recently completed *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* and of the efforts of the Huntingdon County Economic Development Task Force.

- **Geographic Information System**

Development of GIS information for Huntingdon County will focus on development of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to fund conversion of County Tax Maps to a digital basis. Additional work will include creation of detailed maps for water and sewer systems and updating existing data. The Spatial Sciences Research Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania will continue to assist the County.

- **911 and Rural Addressing**

It is expected that new addresses will be issued for Region 2, which consists of Alexandria and Petersburg Boroughs; Barree, Jackson, Logan, Morris, Porter and West Townships. Field work will be begun for Region 3, the Huntingdon Area. Full

implementation of the *Huntingdon County Street Naming and Addressing Policy* is expected to take an additional two years.

- **Community Development**

The administration of Community Development and other grants will continue to be a major staff activity. Work expected during the year includes development of the entitlement grant application, development of a competitive grant application for the Dudley, Carbon, Coalmont Sewer System, development of a Three Year Community Development Plan and administration of numerous funded activities.

- **Municipal Waste Management Plan**

A new *Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon Municipal Waste Management Plan* will be initiated in 2002. Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties will share work on the Plan, with Bedford County as the lead county.

Pennsylvania Act 101 requires counties to revise their Plans every ten years. Funding for the new Plan will be sought from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

- **Huntingdoncounty.net**

The Planning and Development Department will work with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission to implement "Dynamic Site Framework" technology for the Huntingdon County Web Site. In order to provide current web information, staff will conduct a survey of all County departments.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2001, the operation of the Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$101,119.61) and through several state and federal government grant programs (\$147,203.01).

The 2002 General Fund budget increased by 1.26% from 2001; and the 2002 budget for Grants and Special Projects increased by 7.94%. This increase in Grants is because more money has been allocated for 911 and the Street Naming and Addressing Project. Overall, the 2002 budget is 5.63% higher than it was in 2001.

General Fund Budget Report

	2001 Budget	2001 Expenditures	2002 Budget
Personnel	\$71,730.00	\$71,730.44	\$77,641.00
Services	\$27,400.00	\$26,030.95	\$22,300.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$2,079.65	\$3,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$2,000.00	\$1,278.57	\$2,500.00
Total	\$104,130.00	\$101,119.61	\$105,441.00

Grants and Special Projects Budget Report *

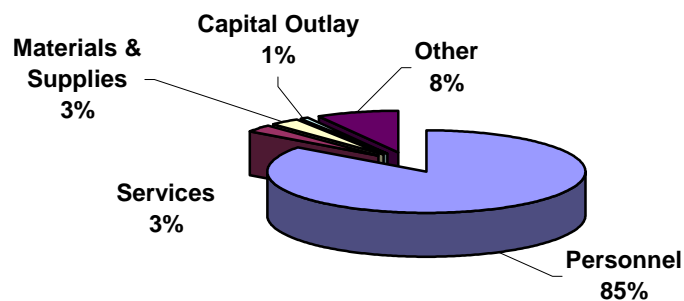
	2001 Budget	2001 Expenditures	2002 Budget
Personnel	\$95,265.00	\$98,587.03	\$115,721.00
Services	\$56,300.00	\$27,286.80	\$36,050.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,600.00	\$4,431.75	\$3,600.00
Other	\$42,400.00	\$16,897.43	\$57,874.00
Total	\$197,565.00	\$147,203.01	\$213,245.00

Grant & General Fund Totals

2001 Budget	2001 Expenditures	2002 Budget
\$301,695.00	\$248,322.62	\$318,686.00

*Grants and Special Projects include Community Development Block Grant and PA Housing and Community Development Grant funds used for administrative purposes. State Planning Assistance Program Grant Funds, PA Shared Municipal Services Grant Funds, and County Funds budgeted for mapping and recycling.

2001 Grant and General Fund Expenditures



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 Reviews.

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.

The Planning and Development staff continued to work closely with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and the new Juniata Clean Water Partnership.

Huntingdon County Conservation District

Planning staff worked closely with the Huntingdon County Conservation District and County Commissioners to develop an agricultural land preservation program, a key recommendation of the new *Comprehensive Plan*. Extensive planning meetings were held and staff gathered nominations for an Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Planning and development staff researched and wrote a *Huntingdon County Agricultural Land Preservation Program* for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Approval of the County program was received in December 2001.

Housing Advisory Committee

The Department has convened a Housing Advisory Committee comprised of bankers, real estate firms and public housing agencies. The Committee meets quarterly to share information on housing programs, particularly those that benefit low and moderate income persons.

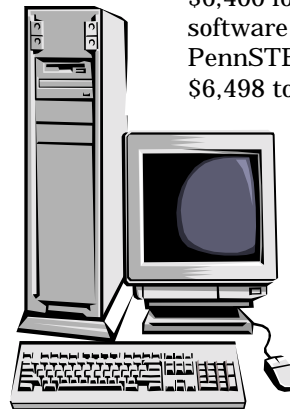
Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) provides planning, economic development and job training services to a six-county area including Huntingdon County. The Huntingdon County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee of Southern Alleghenies and the Planning Director represents the County on several committees: Planning Advisory Committee (PAC); DSF Committee; Transportation Technical Committee (TTC); and Tourism Confederation. The Planner/GIS Technician is a member of the GIS Users Group (GUG).

Major activities carried out during 2001 included: development of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and initiation of the I-99 Transportation and Community System Preservation Project (TCSP). The TCSP project provided the Department with new GIS software and training. While I-99 does not pass through Huntingdon County, the western portion of the County will be greatly impacted by the completion of I-99.

The Transportation Technical Committee met frequently during the year to develop a regional Transportation Improvement Program. Southern Alleghenies has been designated a Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the purpose of transportation planning and is responsible for prioritizing the transportation needs of the four rural counties within the region. The Transportation Improvement Program or TIP was approved by PA DOT in 2000. The TIP includes the first four years of the Twelve-Year Transportation Program.

Southern Alleghenies provided financial assistance to the County through three new programs in 2001: TSCP I-99, PennSTEP and Municipal Technology Assistance. The TSCP I-99 program provided \$6,400 for the purchase of new GIS software and staff training. The PennSTEP program provided \$6,498 to assist in surveying and prioritizing local governments to determine their need for water and sewer improvements. The MTAP program provided \$7,020 to assist in surveying and prioritizing local governments to determine their computer training needs and to create a list of municipalities to receive donated computers.



Juniata Clean Water Partnership

Planning and Development staff were heavily involved in the development of the *Juniata Watershed Management Plan*. The Juniata River was named "River of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The staff of the Planning and Development Department sits on the Partnership Steering Committee. The major focus of activities this year was the development of a Juniata River Watershed Resource Center at Juniata College.

The seven counties that participate in the Partnership are: Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry; along with regional groups, such as the Southern Alleghenies and Mid-State Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation, DCNR, Howard Heinz Endowments and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Smithfield Township Economic Development Corporation (STEDCO)

The Planning Director has been involved in a major economic development project proposed by the Smithfield Township Economic Development Corporation (STEDCO), serving on the agency's Construction Committee.

STEDCO has been working toward development of 116 acres of land formerly owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by soliciting development proposals. This land has been subdivided into three parcels for development purposes: Parcel A (67.2 acres) is proposed as a regional shopping center; Parcel B (41.76 acres) is proposed as a mixed use commercial/light industrial development; while Parcel C (6.97 acres) is proposed as a hotel site.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCB&I)

The Planning Director continues to serve on the HCB&I Industrial Development and Transportation Committees. The Grant Administrator has also been working closely with HCB&I while

developing a more dependable water source for the Mount Union Area.

Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau

The Planner/GIS Technician worked with the Visitors Bureau to develop maps for use in agency publications, while the Planning Director updated a Fact Sheet for use in the new *Visitor's Guide*.

Huntingdon County Heritage Committee

The Planning Director and Nancy Shedd, Executive Director of the Huntingdon County Historical Society, continue to co-chair the Heritage Committee. Planning staff assisted the Heritage Committee in setting up and staffing a booth at the Outdoor Discovery 2001 Fair, held at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

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.

Local government and state agencies submitted the following 22 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2001:

1. Walker Township Zoning Amendment
2. Western Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan
3. WSI Hopewell Landfill, Inc., Minor Permit Modification
4. Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
5. Mount Union Riverside Park Improvements and Little League Baseball Field Lighting
6. Smithfield Township Park Improvements
7. PA Bureau of Forestry, Tuscarora State Forest, replacement of hiking trail bridges on Bell Furnace Trail, Shirley Township
8. New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., Warriors Mark Township, Susquehanna River Basin Commission approval, 216,000 gallons per day water consumption at Tyrone Quarry
9. Alexandria Borough Water Authority, 130,000 gallon storage tank, sludge drying beds and treatment plant upgrade
10. Covert Road Bridge Replacement, Springfield Township
11. Muddy Run Improvements, Huntingdon Borough
12. Shirley Township Act 537 Plan
13. Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Act 537 Plan Amendment
14. PA 994 Bridge over North Spring Creek, Three Springs Borough
15. Wike Road Culvert Replacement, Oneida Township
16. Hartslog Courts Part 2 - DEP, Land Use Questionnaire, Porter Township
17. Huntingdon Regional Outdoor Swimming Pool, Huntingdon Borough
18. Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. Quarry Permit Application, Morris Township
19. War Vets Field Improvements, Huntingdon Borough
20. Brady Township Ag Security Area
21. Route 522 Improvements, Blacklog Narrows, Cromwell Township
22. Porter Township Act 537 Plan

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 59 state permit activity notices in 2001.

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, in cooperation with the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission.

Under the state-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission reviewed and commented on 5 projects in 2001.

1. The Progress Fund, Huntingdon County

This project involved a funding request of \$200,000 in USDA Rural Business Grant funding to add principle to the existing revolving loan fund.

2. Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Joint Municipal Authority Sewage System

This project involved a funding request to PENNVEST to begin design of a phased sewage project.

3. Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Joint Municipal Authority Water System

This project involved a PENNVEST funding request for \$165,915 in total construction funds for rehabilitation of the tank, sludge drying beds, and pressure regulating valves.

4. Cromwell Township Sewage Collection and Treatment System

This project involved a PENNVEST grant request of \$138,000 for project design and engineering.

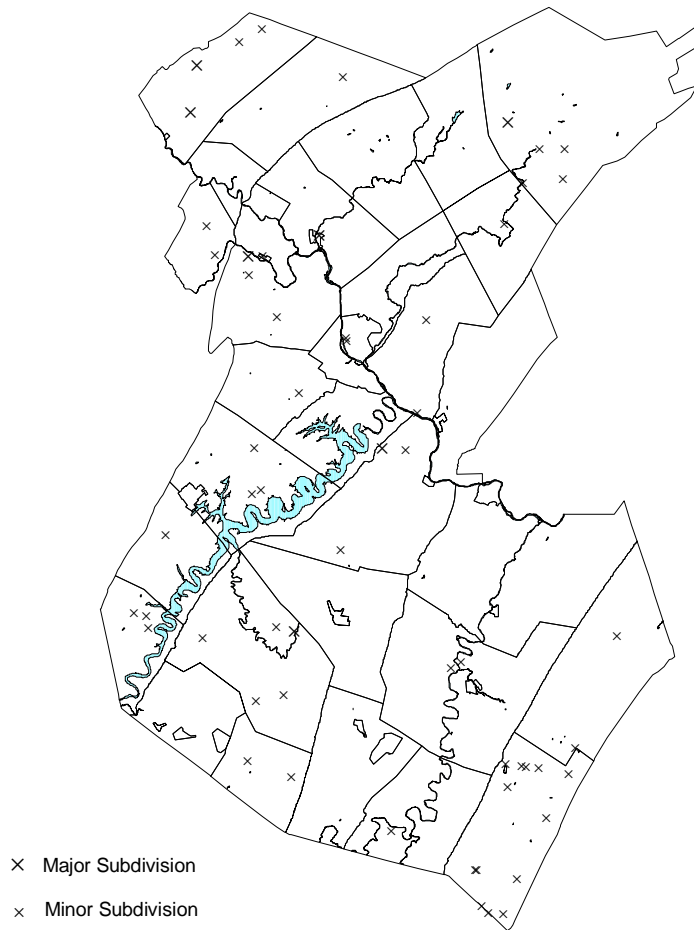
5. Porter Township Sewage Collection and Treatment System

This project involved a PENNVEST Advanced Funding request for project design.

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 66 subdivisions in 24 municipalities in 2001, up by three since last year. These included 7 major subdivisions, 52 minor subdivisions, 5 major land developments, and 2 minor land developments encompassing 185 lots and 4,615 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 8 and 9.



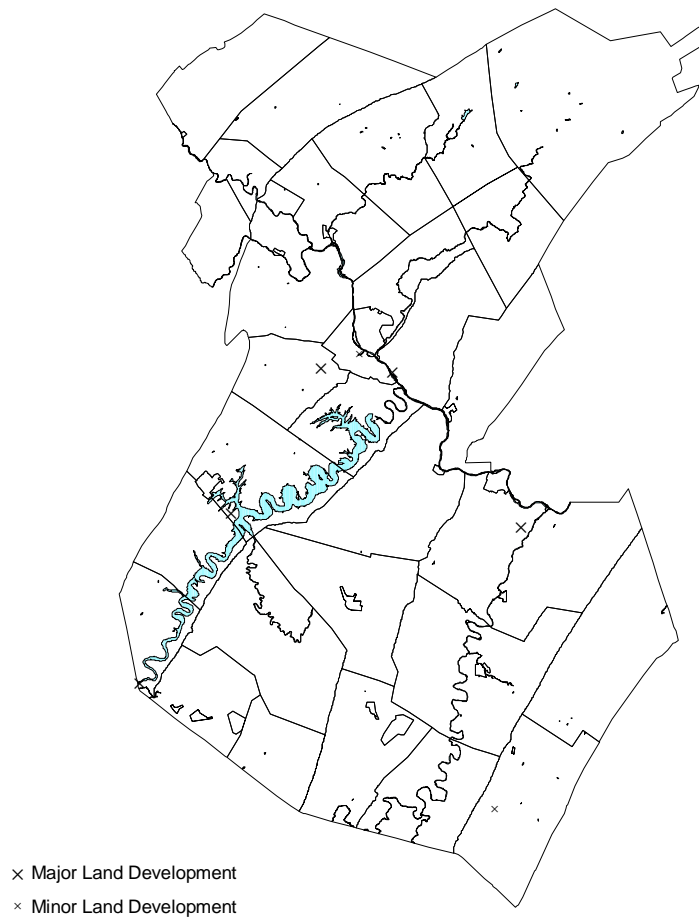
2001 Subdivision Activity

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission

3/05/01





2001 Land Development Activity

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
3/04/02



- Henderson Township Municipal Building, construction of new 2,800 square foot building;
- Heritage Cove RV Campground, Hopewell Township, construction of new 195 site seasonal campground;
- Ralph E. Park, Shirley Township, construction of new waste transfer station.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2001 were:

- the SRO Subdivision Phase II with 102.42 acres and 45 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Ferguson Valley Hardwoods Subdivision with 367.954 acres and 41 lots in Union Township;
- the Barry Parks Subdivision with 83 acres and 10 lots in Porter Township.

The major land development reviews conducted in 2001 included:

- Juniata College Raystown Field Station, Penn Township, construction of new field station, with dining hall, dormitory, sewage and water facilities; and construction of a new access road and upgrade of existing access road;
- D.W. Miller Police Barracks, Walker Township, construction of new 9,024 square foot building;

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* sets public policy for the development of land, public facilities, transportation, and other elements as authorized by the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code*. The Plan is kept current through the development of various planning studies and Plan updates. The present Plan update is the first in approximately fifteen years.

Comprehensive Plan, Phase III

2001 marked the completion of a report titled *Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan*. This phase of the Plan is focused on steps needed to implement the Plan. The *Action Plan*, part of Phase III, was funded, in part, by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and prepared by the consulting firm of Graney, Grossman, Ray, Colosimo and Associates, Inc. Phase III includes adoption of the Plan, publication of the Plan, publication of a Plan Summary, and development of an Intergovernmental Action Plan. Key components of the *Intergovernmental Action Plan* include the following: Model Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Model Sign Standards for Zoning Ordinances, Model Stormwater Management Ordinance, Model Street Tree Commission Ordinance, Model Building Permit/Floodplain Management Ordinance, Model Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, Model Driveway Ordinance, and other implementation activities.

The Report Card quoted here from the *Intergovernmental Action Plan* illustrates the numerous actions already completed in furtherance of the *Comprehensive Plan*.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, A REPORT CARD

Status - Complete = ✓

Ongoing = ★

Policies	Actions
Encourage all municipalities to adopt the County Comprehensive Plan by reference, becoming municipal partners.	1. Send resolutions to municipalities.✓ 2. Offer recognition to municipal partners.★ 3. Explore higher levels of County assistance to municipal partners.★
Promote complete coverage of Huntingdon County by Subdivision and Land Development Regulations	1. Determine which municipalities desire to become partners in preparing a model ordinance.✓ 2. Develop model ordinances.✓
Promote zoning ordinance coverage of all boroughs in Huntingdon County and select high-growth townships.	1. Support joint grant application.★ 2. Contact municipalities.★ 3. Develop library of model ordinance text.★
Upgrade the level of zoning and codes administration in Huntingdon County	1. Offer PA Municipal Planning Education Institute workshops.✓ 2. Investigate shared administration by several municipalities.★
Encourage the preparation of municipal or multi-municipal/regional comprehensive plans as a logical extension of the County Comprehensive Plan.	1. Notify communities of need and funding possibilities.★ 2. Provide assistance to communities in consultant selection and first steps.★ 3. Provide County financial incentive. 4. Provide professional review of draft Plans.★
Develop a model subdivision and zoning ordinance, which incorporates "best management principles" such as neo-traditional development and conservation subdivisions.	1. Determine municipal interest.✓ 2. Examine funding.✓ 3. Develop model ordinance.✓
Integrate the protection of environmentally sensitive areas (steep, riparian, floodplain, wetland) into local zoning and subdivision ordinances.	1. Integrate into model zoning and subdivision projects.✓ 2. Find defensible standards used by other Pennsylvania communities.✓
Improve the level of enforcement of local floodplain regulations and development of riparian buffer zones.	1. Review floodplain ordinances.✓ 2. Meet with flood-prone municipalities.✓ 3. Draft new regulations.✓ 4. Conduct municipal workshops.✓
Prepare a model sign ordinance for community use in protecting scenic corridors.	1. Include in preparation of other model ordinances.✓
Conduct a natural heritage inventory of Huntingdon County.	1. Contact Western Pennsylvania Conservancy/secure funding. ✓ 2. Begin Inventory.★
Promote a strategy for the preservation of agricultural land, which includes the addition of new Agricultural Security Areas, purchase of agricultural easements, agricultural zoning and other techniques.	1. County creates a Farmland Protection Board. ✓ 2. Designate support staff. ✓ 3. Apply for funding. ★
Include deed notation in subdivision regulations in Agricultural Security Areas.	1. Integrate into subdivision and land development ordinances.✓
Target major industrial-commercial development into 2-3 high-quality sites to be developed as true public-private partnerships.	1. Do site planning. ★ 2. Develop sites. ★
Begin an organized effort to publicize local economic development successes.	3. Convene meeting to develop a coherent PR strategy.★
Develop prison land in Smithfield Township as a high-quality retail/service center.	1. Develop standards to issue a Request for Proposals from developers.✓

Plan Summary

Several thousand copies of *Plan Summary for Continuity Through Conservation II* were published and distributed in the Spring of this year. Many of these copies were distributed as newspaper inserts to

subscribers of *The Daily News*, *The Valley Log*, and *The Broad Top Bulletin*. The Summary was developed by a Juniata College Planning Intern.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities that request it. Such assistance typically involves development of:

- ◆ subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances;
- ◆ grant applications and administration;
- ◆ requests for proposals for professional services;
- ◆ various planning studies.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

- **Model Subdivision Ordinance** - Planning and Development staff secured the cooperation of twenty-six municipalities in development of a Model Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Twenty of these communities agreed to work with staff to customize the Model for their use. Customized draft ordinances were provided to the following municipalities: Alexandria, Cassville, Saltillo and Three Springs Boroughs; Brady, Cass, Dublin, Franklin, Henderson, Juniata, Lincoln, Miller, Morris, Porter, Shirley, Springfield, Spruce Creek, Todd, Walker and Wood Townships.
- **Brady Township** - Staff developed a map of the Township's proposed Agricultural Security Areas.
- **Broad Top Area** - Staff attended monthly advisory committee meetings with Rural Development, DEP, the Rural Water Association and local authority members; and coordinated, with the EADS Group, the development of the *Broad Top Area Water Regionalization Study* for Broad Top City, the Dudley Area and Saxton. DEP approval of the completed *Regionalization Study* was received in June.
- **Planning staff assisted Broad Top Development Services, Inc.** in securing a \$10,000 grant to design water and sewer connections for the Broad Top KOEZ site.
- **Juniata Township** - Staff completed and submitted a Growing Greener Grant Application for "dirt road" improvements in cooperation with the Huntingdon County Conservation District.
- **Morris Township** - Staff met with the Township Planning Commission to review and customize the Model Subdivision Ordinance, and coordinated and attended a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance.
- **Mount Union Borough** - Staff attended a meeting between the Borough and DCNR to discuss two pending park improvement projects. Staff also assisted in placing a Shippensburg University student in an internship position with the Borough, and initiated a cooperative mapping project involving the creation of a GIS-based map and database of the former Odd Fellows Cemetery.
- **Mount Union Community Action Partnership** - Staff met with a Partnership committee to discuss issues facing the community, including youth, recreation, population loss, and economic development.
- **Three Springs Borough** - Staff attended a PennVest pre-application meeting regarding the need for a new water storage tank.
- **All Municipalities** - Staff surveyed municipal officials to update a municipal contact database; provided an opportunity

for participation in the Huntingdon County CDBG Entitlement Program; requested municipal financial support for a PA Council on the Arts Local Government Grant; invited municipal cooperation in developing a model subdivision and land development ordinance; and notified municipal officials about possible financial savings on computer equipment through the Pennsylvania Technology Investment Authority Program.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Department staff applies for state and federal grants each year for the County on behalf of Huntingdon County municipalities and non-profit groups to assist them in meeting local needs. Both staff and consultants provide grantsmanship services for the County.

CDBG activities completed during 2001 include: Bricktown Seniors Parking Lot Paving, Mapleton and Petersburg Water Line Replacements, Cassville Sewer Laterals and Tap Fees, Shirleysburg Water Meters, and Habitat for Humanity Acquisition.

As in previous years, significant municipal assistance efforts were dedicated to administration of Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Programs. The Three Year Community Development Plan shown on page 14 outlines County priorities for the coming three years.

In addition to the CDBG Program, the Planning and Development Department staff applies for and administers other grants. Grant sources include: the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, State Planning Assistance Grants, and Shared Municipal Services Grants through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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 2001 included:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Planning Director continued to serve on the Huntingdon County Economic Development Task Force, created in 2000 by the County Commissioners. With the leadership of the County Commissioners and the assistance of the Planning Director, the Task Force developed a *Strategic Plan* to address the many economic development issues facing the County. The role of the Task Force is to, "encourage economic development in Huntingdon County." Agencies represented include: Greater Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon Area Merchants, Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Mount Union Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Township Economic Development Corporation.

911 AND RURAL ADDRESSING

2001 marked the first 911 address assignments by the County Addressing staff. In August, address information was released to all residents in Address Region 1, a total of 1,344 new 911 addresses. Region 1 includes Warriors Mark Township, Franklin Township, Spruce Creek Township, Birmingham Borough and a portion of Morris Township. New addresses were issued in the Warriors Mark, Tyrone and Pennsylvania Furnace Zip Code Areas. Detailed maps and address range information were

provided to all municipalities, emergency service providers and the United States Postal Service to familiarize them with the addressing system. The County Addressing staff also coordinated with the Warriors Mark Fire Department to provide street number signs to the residents at a reduced cost.

After completing addresses for Region 1, the Addressing staff began fieldwork for address verification in Region 2, which includes Porter, Logan, West, Barree and Jackson Townships and Alexandria and Petersburg



Boroughs. Meetings were held with the municipal officials in these areas prior to beginning fieldwork to discuss the addressing project and to answer any questions. To date, 1,709 addressable structures and 888 non-addressable structures have been verified in Region 2. Completion of address verification is proposed for April 2002.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department maintains maps of over 100 features such as roads, streams and municipal boundaries (known as coverages) as part of the

Huntingdon County Geographic Information System (GIS). These maps range from county and municipal boundaries to the detailed location information used in 911 addressing. GIS work this year primarily involved maintenance of these maps. One innovative project begun this year is the Mount Union Cemetery Management System.

Spatial Sciences staff completed the first phase of a multi-phase project with Mount Union Borough. The project involves development of a GIS-based management system for the Mount Union Cemetery. First phase work included entering all of the existing paper records into a digital database and photographing each headstone. Later phases will link this data to a digital map of the cemetery and create management tools for use by Borough staff.

With the help of the Spatial Sciences Research Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Department created new map layouts or projects to display all of the 100 data coverages. The staff also created new municipal base maps for each of the County's 48 municipalities. These base maps are available to the public and are used in the 911 Addressing Project. Maps that had been prepared for the *County Comprehensive Plan* were fully integrated with the GIS.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The Planning and Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Huntingdon County Commissioners. Grant administration activities include preparing grant applications, maintaining grant files, preparing environmental assessments of project activities, conducting eligibility income surveys, enforcement of federal procurement, labor, and civil rights standards, accounting and fiscal management, and overall project direction. A detailed description of grant activities is provided on page 14.

**CDBG Distribution by
Activity Type**

7	Water
6	Sewer
2	Facilities for Elderly
2	Storm Water
3	Accessibility
2	Housing
1	Economic Development
1	Recreation
24	Total

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
GRANT - HUNTINGDON
COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

In cooperation with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, the Department administered a \$2,877 Local Government Grant for art activities in 2001. Matching grant contributions were made by the County and many municipalities for a \$6,154 program. These funds are used by the Arts Council to fund various art activities.

**RECYCLING AND SOLID
WASTE**

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 educational programs and materials, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2000 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

OTHER COUNTY ASSISTANCE

The Grant Administrator continues to serve on both the County Safety and Social Committees, and the Planning Technician and Grant Administrator continue to serve as members of the Huntingdon County Human Services Council. The Grant Administrator and Planning Technician also continue to coordinate meetings for the Huntingdon County Housing Advisory Committee, and both continue to conduct Courthouse tours for local school, church and civic groups.

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS**Pennsylvania Council on the Arts**

2001	Local Government Grant - Huntingdon County Arts Council	\$2,877
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**Pennsylvania Department of
Community and Economic
Development**

2001	Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance - Comprehensive Economic Analysis	\$25,000
2000	Competitive CDBG - Mount Union Municipal Authority	\$500,000
1999	State Planning Assistance Grant - Phase III Comprehensive Plan	\$20,750

**Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection**

1999	Small Water Systems Water Regionalization	\$33,000
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Recent Competitive CDBG Funding

1996—\$302,000 Mill Creek Sewer/Water Extension 1998—\$153,000 Mapleton Area Sewer Tap Fees
 1997—\$350,000 Cassville Sewer System 2000—\$500,000 Mount Union Well Development

CDBG Usage - Past Three Years

	1999	2000	2001
Shirleysburg Water Tank Rehab **	\$74,745	0	0
Shirley Home Electrical **	\$40,000	\$18,369	0
County Annex Elevator **	\$47,000	0	0
Cassville Sewer Laterals **	\$42,085	0	0
Cassville Tap Fees **	\$15,050	0	0
Coalmont Stormwater *	\$7,983	0	\$24,000
Shoup's Run Stormwater *	\$7,919	0	\$24,000
Mapleton Water Line **	0	\$83,000	0
Petersburg Water Line **	0	\$90,000	0
Shirleysburg Water Meters **	0	\$22,000	0
Broad Top City Water *	0	0	\$50,000
Dudley Water *	0	0	\$50,000
Habitat for Humanity **	0	0	\$19,500
Warriors Mark Seniors	0	0	\$66,000
County Accessibility	0	0	\$13,420

** activity complete * activity underway

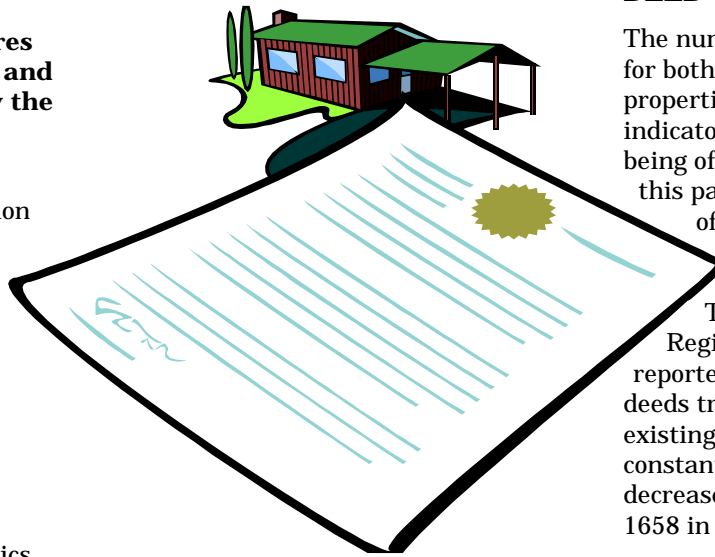
CDBG Usage - Next Three Years

	2002	2003	2004
Huntingdon County Accessibility	\$20,000	0	0
Dudley Area Sewer Laterals	\$75,553	\$108,000	0
Cromwell Township Laterals	\$50,000	\$52,000	0
Puttstown Sewer Laterals	0	\$60,000	0
Broad Top City Borough Water and Sewer Extensions to KOEZ	\$40,000	0	0
Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity	\$12,000	0	\$20,000
Mount Union Borough Elevator Feasibility Study	\$15,000	0	0
Shirley Home for the Aged	\$30,000	0	0
Alexandria Borough Water Line Replacement	0	0	\$97,000
Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority Drying Shed	0	0	\$20,000
Orbisonia-Rockhill Homecoming Assoc. Facility Improvements	0	0	\$58,000
Mount Union Borough Sidewalk Rehab	0	0	\$25,000

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

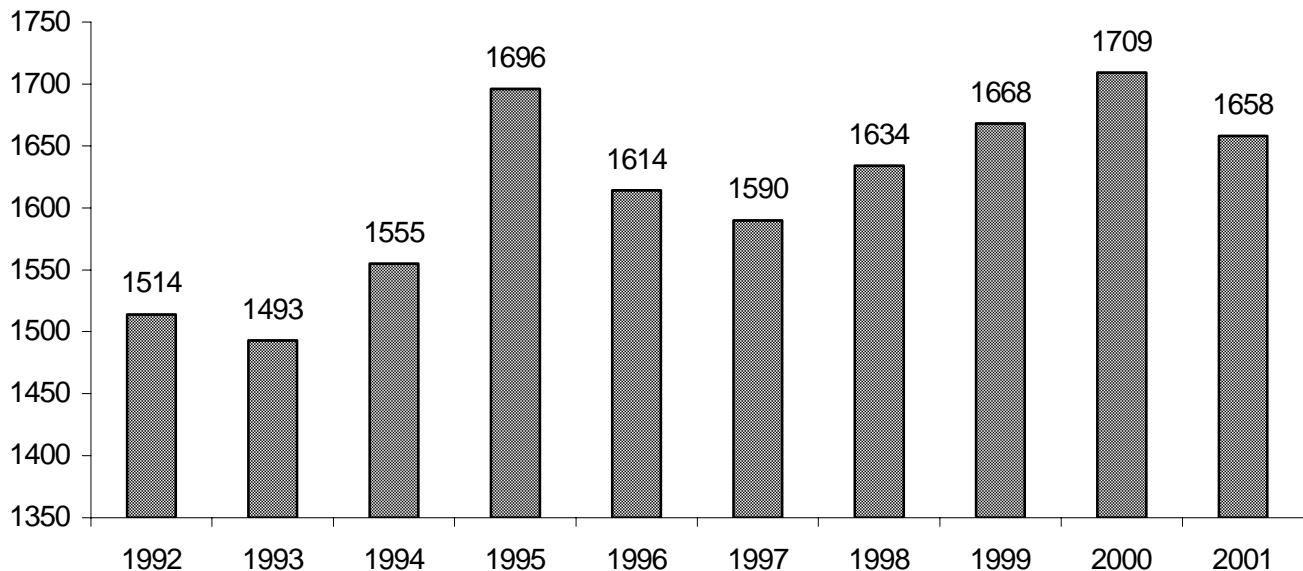


DEED TRANSFERS

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 2001, both existing and new, remained fairly constant, showing a 2.98% decrease from 1709 in 2000 to 1658 in 2001.

DEED TRANSFERS 1992 - 2001



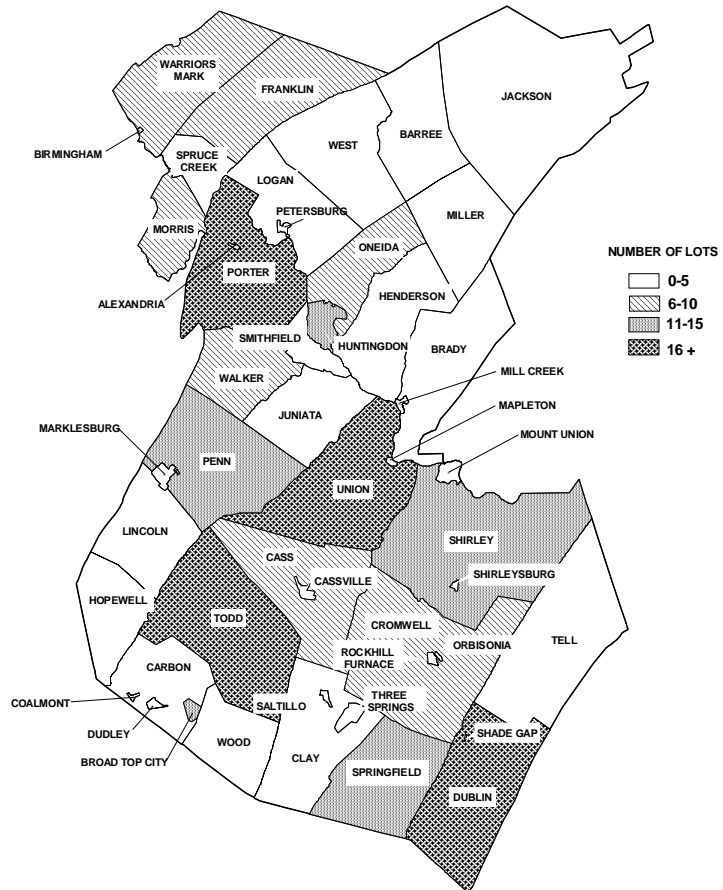
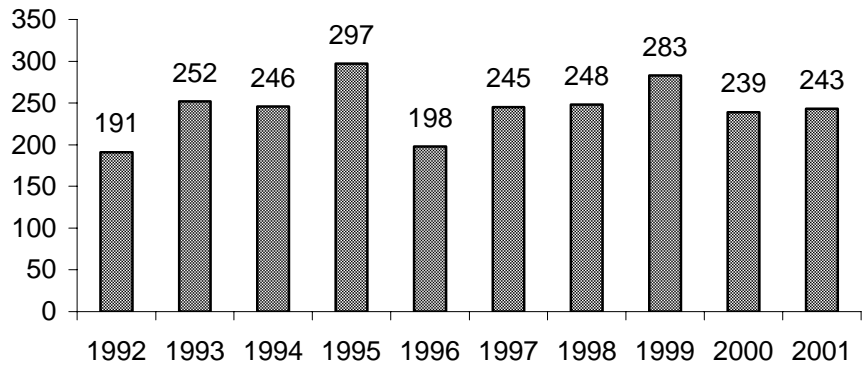
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

The number of new subdivision lots created 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 2001, 243 new lots were created in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 1.67% from the 239 lots created in 2000. A ten-year history of subdivision activity is shown on the chart opposite this summary.

The largest number of lots were created in Todd Township, 24 new lots. The next highest levels of subdivision activity occurred in Union Township, 18 new lots; Dublin Township, 17 new lots; Porter Township, 16 new lots; Huntingdon Borough, 14 new lots; Penn and Shirley Townships, 12 new lots; and Broad Top City Borough and Springfield Township, 11 new lots. In 2000, the highest level of activity occurred in Warriors Mark Township - 23 new lots. The map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2001.

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 1992 - 2001



Subdivision Activity, 2001 Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
3/01/02



BUILDING ACTIVITY

The number of new houses constructed is measured annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits, as reported to the Huntingdon County Tax Assessment Office, to estimate new housing starts.

The number of new houses constructed in Huntingdon County in 2001 (244) decreased 15.57% from the 2000 total (289).

A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart shown opposite and the map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2001.

Todd Township led all municipalities with 22 new homes, followed by Shirley and Warriors Mark Townships (16), Porter Township (14), Walker Township (13), Springfield and Union Townships (11), Cass and Dublin Townships and Huntingdon Borough (10).

SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

The housing data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on Valley Rural data, 55 units, or 22.54% of new housing activity in 2001 involved seasonal housing. This is an increase of 22.2% from 45 seasonal units in 2000. Year-round housing activity decreased by 38.18%, from 152 units in 2000 to 110 units in 2001.

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

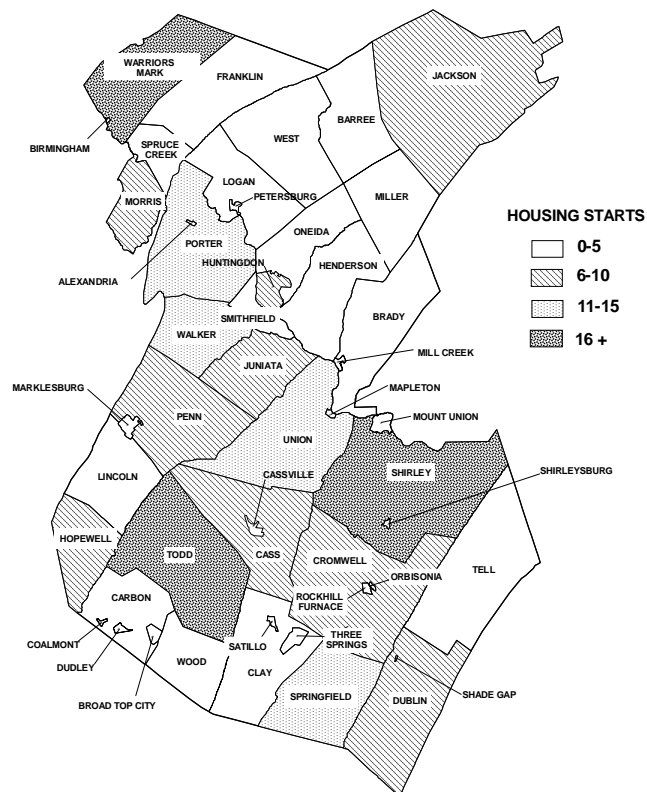
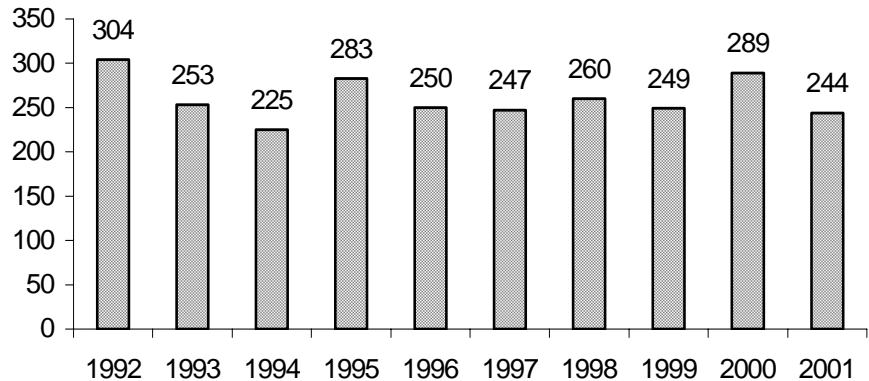
Seasonal Housing:

Todd Township (10); Union Township (8); Shirley Township (6); and Cromwell, Penn, Springfield and Tell Townships (4 each).

Year-Round Housing:

Todd Township (12); Shirley Township (10); Dublin and Morris Townships (8); Cass Township (7); Hopewell and Juniata Townships (6 each); and Oneida Township (5).

NEW HOUSING STARTS 1992 - 2001



NEW HOUSING STARTS, 2001 Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
3/01/02



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Roy E. Thomas, Secretary

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Herb Cole

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