

2007 Annual Report

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2008

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.

HCPC STAFF HONORED

Planner/Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko was honored as the recipient of the seventh annual C. Riley Stoy Community Development Award at the Pennsylvania Community Development and Housing Practitioners' Annual Conference.

Her vast experience in community development, housing, and planning have enabled her to serve those seeking housing, those who are homeless, and low and moderate income residents with various community development projects. Her efforts have helped many municipalities, authorities, other local agencies and organizations to work toward and meet community development and housing needs through the use of CDBG, HOME, ESG, DCNR and EDA funding.

During her 18 years working for the County, she has made her mark in the County and central region by applying for and receiving CDBG Competitive grants, Emergency Shelter grants, FEMA Flood Hazard Mitigation grants, Water Resources Education grants; and, in 2006, her first USDA Rural Utilities Service Community Development grant as well as successfully administrating the County's CDBG Entitlement programs in forty-seven municipalities throughout Huntingdon County. She has been active in a number of organizations at the

regional and local level, including serving as an officer on the Board of Directors of the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Huntingdon County. She is a volunteer for the Master Well Owner Network, a group of volunteers that provides technical assistance to homeowners throughout the County on ground water matters.

DCED recognized her abilities to effectively plan and successfully implement community development activities within Huntingdon County, integrating the various federal and state programs. She has excelled at integrating DCED program requirements with other agency's programs to more effectively leverage resources directed toward addressing significant local needs.

She was raised on a farm in Luzerne County, received a BS in Public Administration from Juniata College, and spent a year in Osaka, Japan as an exchange student. Her interests have led her into becoming involved locally in a variety of organizations. She is a Den Leader for the Tiger Cubs Pack 226 of the Juniata Valley Council and she is a wife and a mother of three young sons. And that alone warrants an award.

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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 2007 staff included Planner/Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; GIS Coordinator, Brian Young; Bookkeeper, Peggy Wilson; Secretary, Laurie Nearhood; and Addressing Technician, Justin Edling. Kasey Gillam, a Career Link WIA participant, assisted the Department staff during 2007.

Several significant staff changes occurred in 2007: Cinnamon Bair resigned to become the County's Chief Clerk, Brian Young was named Director of the County's Mapping Department, and Justin Edling was moved to the Mapping Department.

During 2007, major conferences included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, the Pennsylvania GIS Conference, the Community Development and Housing Practitioners Annual Conference, and the Commonwealth Housing Forum.

WORK PROGRAM

Municipal Waste Management Plan

Development of a revised solid waste management plan for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties has not yet been completed. It is anticipated that staff will coordinate with the other counties on a grant application and Plan update. Work on the Plan had been started by Gannett Fleming in 2004 but left incomplete. A DEP grant application was filed by the Bedford County Planning Commission in 2007.

Community Development

Staff expects to focus on obtaining additional discretionary grant funding for County projects in 2008, including applications for additional HOME funds for housing rehabilitation, Emergency Shelter Grant funds and CDBG Competitive funds for priority water and sewer projects. Work will involve the additional responsibilities of administering the Smithfield Township CDBG Program.

Comprehensive Plan

Planning staff expects to complete an application for Pennsylvania Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance (LUPTAP) funds to complete the Comprehensive Plan update begun in 2006. Remaining plan elements to be updated include land use, cultural and historic, and transportation.

Greenway Implementation

The staff will be looking for projects that implement the "Southern Alleghenies Open Space Network and Greenway Plan" during 2008. Work may include detailed planning for park, recreation and greenway development as well as grant assistance for construction.

Shared Municipal Services Project

As of December 31st, staff had assisted 18 municipalities in purchasing 955 new street signs as part of a Shared Municipal Services Grant. The project is designed to implement the new 911 rural addresses and to comply with new PennDOT regulations on sign size.

In March 2007, Huntingdon County received a contract for \$30,000 in grant funds from the Pennsylvania



Department of Community and Economic Development. The grant is matched with an equal amount of funds from the participating local municipalities.

Participating municipalities included: Broad Top City, Mapleton, Mill Creek, Mt. Union, Rockhill, Saltillo, Shirleysburg and Three Springs Boroughs and Brady, Cass, Clay, Cromwell, Jackson, Miller, Morris, Oneida, Penn, and West Townships.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2007, the operation of the Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$114,022.00) and through several state and federal government grant programs (\$196,359.00).

The 2008 General Fund budget increased by 11.47% from 2007; and the 2008 budget for Grants and Special Projects decreased by 55%. Overall, the 2008 budget is 30.5% lower than it was in 2007, largely due to the creation of the County Mapping Department.

General Fund Budget Report

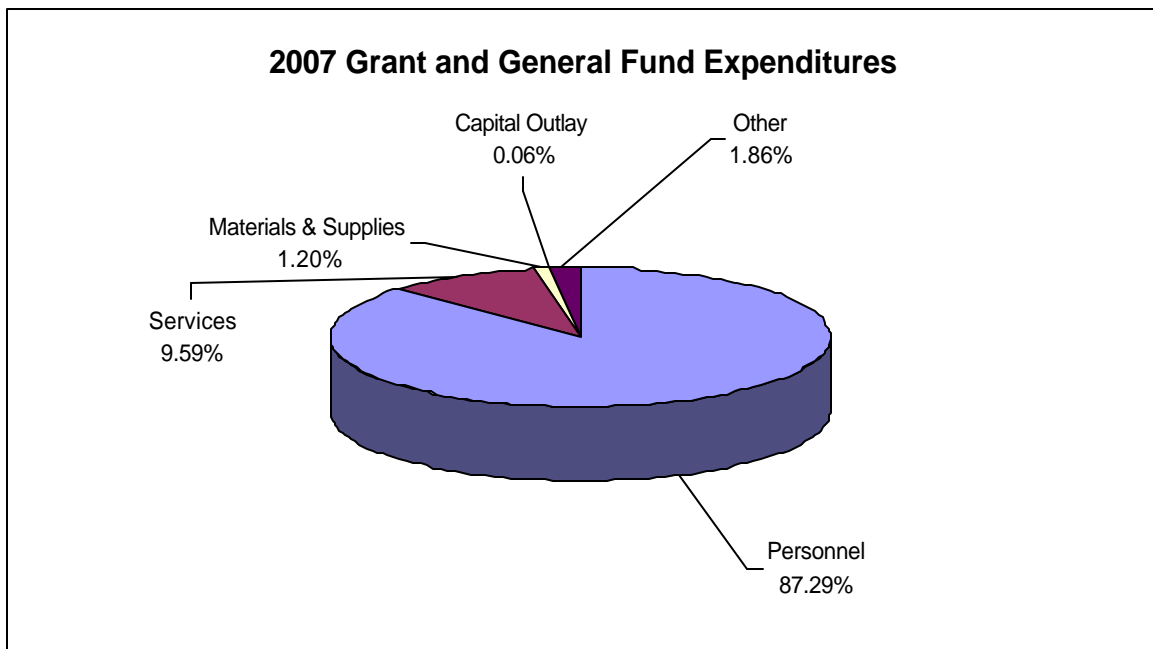
Grants and Special Projects Budget Report *

	2007 Budget	2007 Expenditures	2008 Budget		2007 Budget	2007 Expenditures	2008 Budget
Personnel	\$91,222.00	\$91,223.34	\$104,795.00	Personnel	\$112,059.00	\$118,154.83	\$71,313.00
Services	\$18,300.00	\$15,822.67	\$15,450.00	Services	\$42,200.00	\$7,172.60	\$3,650.00
Materials & Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$1,808.36	\$1,500.00	Materials & Supplies	\$2,800.00	\$1,067.27	\$450.00
Capital Outlay	\$2,000.00	\$155.58	\$5,360.00	Other	\$39,300.00	\$4,453.43	\$13,000.00
Total	\$114,022.00	\$109,009.95	\$127,105.00	Total	\$196,359.00	\$130,848.13	\$88,413.00

Grant & General Fund Totals

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

2007 Budget	2007 Expenditures	2008 Budget
\$310,381.00	\$239,858.08	\$215,518.00



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Model Zoning Ordinance Created

2007 marked the completion of a "Model Zoning Ordinance" for Huntingdon County municipalities. The Ordinance was developed by consultant Urban Research and Development Corporation in connection with the 2007 Supplement to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends adoption of municipal zoning by all boroughs and high growth townships in the County. Staff will promote the use of the new Model Ordinance by any interested municipalities.

County Environmental Initiative

Planning and Development Department staff worked with the Huntingdon County Conservation District and County Commissioners to fund 13 conservation and infrastructure projects through the County Environmental Initiative. Funding for these projects was approved by the General Assembly as part of the Growing Greener II Bond Issue and subsequent legislation. Huntingdon County received an allocated \$1,000,000.

The Commissioners approved six projects following an open application period in September 2006 and an additional seven projects in May 2007. Five of the projects are park and recreation projects, three are watershed improvements, two are sewer, and one each are stormwater, community development and farmland preservation. The table to the right summarizes these projects:

Comprehensive Plan Update Adopted

Following the County Planning Commission's October 30, 2007 recommendation, the Huntingdon County Commissioners adopted the "2007 Supplement to the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan". The Plan was developed by consultants and staff after extensive public participation, including a Plan Advisory Committee.

The Plan Update includes extensive base mapping, a land use inventory, demographic/socio-economic analysis, natural resource analysis and community facilities analysis. Revised goals and objectives, plan consistency policy, a policy on development of regional significance, and updates to the land use and community facilities sections of the Plan were also completed. Development of the Plan included a separate "Huntingdon County Infrastructure Investment Strategy & Water Supply Plan," which focused on parks and on 23 community water and 21 community wastewater systems.

Applicant	Project	Allocation
Friends of Raystown	30 mile off-road bicycle trail	\$150,000
Greater Broad Top Area Park and Recreation Association	Broad Top Community Park Improvements	\$27,195
Huntingdon Borough	Stoneridge Drive Stormwater Detention Facility	\$91,300
Huntingdon County Agricultural Preservation Board	Farmland Conservation Easement	\$90,000
Huntingdon County Commissioners	Shade Creek Fluvial Geomorphology Project	\$75,000
Juniata Township	2.7 mile crushed aggregate road surface	\$209,555
Mt. Union Borough	Riverside Park Improvements	\$40,000
Mt. Union Historical Society	Sharrar House Improvements	\$7,000
Penn Township	Infiltration and Inflow Removal Project	\$50,000
Rails to Trails of Central PA	Alfarata Trailhead Improvements	\$22,450
RWBT Volunteer Fire Company	RWBT Park Restroom	\$27,500
Rockhill Borough	Stormwater Improvements	\$50,000
Spring Creek Joint Sewer Authority	Upgrade Spring Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$150,000

Infrastructure Issues Top Priority

Huntingdon County, like the nation, is heading into an investment crisis of epic proportions. Our economic system depends on investment – both public and private. Failure to invest in infrastructure will lead to premature failure of important systems – highways, transit, water treatment, sewage treatment, libraries and community buildings for example.

During the past two years, the Planning and Development Department surveyed every municipality and municipal authority in the County to determine the need for public infrastructure within the County. This information is summarized in a report titled, “Huntingdon County Infrastructure Investment Strategy & Water Supply Plan.” Some material for this article comes from this report and from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Consider the following facts as an indication of the state of our national infrastructure:

- 27% of the nation’s 590,750 bridges are structurally deficient.
- 34% of America’s major roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- The physical condition of many of the nation’s 16,000 sewage treatment plants is poor despite a massive federal effort that has seen the investment of more than \$72 billion in Clean Water Act funds over the last 33 years.
- Combined storm/sanitary sewer overflows release 850 billion gallons of raw sewage annually into rivers, streams, lakes and oceans. In 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated we must spend \$390 billion by 2020 to remedy the problem.
- America faces a shortfall of \$11 billion annually to replace aging facilities and comply with safe drinking water regulations. Federal funding for drinking

water in 2005 remained level at \$850 million, less than 10% of the total national requirement.

Further consider the condition of Pennsylvania’s aging infrastructure:

- 42% of Pennsylvania’s 25,000 bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.
- 6% of Pennsylvania’s major roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- Vehicle travel on Pennsylvania’s highways increased 24% from 1990 to 2003. Pennsylvania’s population grew 4% between 1990 and 2003.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has a \$2.3 billion maintenance backlog for roads and an \$8 billion maintenance backlog for bridges.
- Pennsylvania has \$8.06 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs.
- Pennsylvania’s drinking water infrastructure need is \$5.26 billion over 20 years.

The recent “2007 Supplement” and “Huntingdon County Infrastructure Investment Strategy & Water Supply Plan” reveal that the County mirrors state and national trends:

- Huntingdon County has many deficient State bridges and needs \$300 million in highway investment to address only our top two highway priorities (US 22 and PA 453).
- Huntingdon County has 610 miles of State roads, 574 miles of township roads and 87 miles of borough streets, or 1,271 miles of publicly maintained roads.
- Huntingdon County has 21 community sewer systems, providing service to approximately 8,818 total customers. These systems treat 4,286,350 gallons of sewage per day.
- Our 23 water treatment systems provide water to approximately



7,050 residential customers and an additional 627 commercial and other customers. These systems have a combined average daily capacity to treat 3,837,233 gallons of water per day.

- 12 County municipalities do not have a municipal building.
- Huntingdon County has \$15 to \$20 million in short-term wastewater needs.
- Huntingdon County has over \$10 million in short-term water system needs.
- Huntingdon County has over \$5 million in park and recreation needs, not counting the implementation of the “Greenway Plan”.
- Public building needs total \$10 million including two new fire stations, a County office building and overhaul of the County Library.
- Infrastructure investment necessary to support several planned economic development projects totals \$10 million.

Community Improvement Awards

In order to promote excellence in design, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission partnered with the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce in establishing several Community Improvement Awards. Kish Bank provided financial support for the 2006 Community Improvement Awards.

The second annual awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 14, 2007. Recipients of the 2006 awards were the Mutual Benefit Corporation in the Commercial Category, Huntingdon House in the Public/Non-profit Category, and the Huntingdon County Chapter of Pennsylvania Cleanways in the Special Merit Category.



Mutual Benefit's 48,379 square foot headquarters building addition mirrors the historic fabric of the community. The Barbara S. Baxter House, the third historic structure rehabilitated by Huntingdon House as a domestic violence shelter, retains historic design features and provides five apartments and 24/7 staffing. The volunteers of the Huntingdon County Cleanways Chapter donated over 200 hours of labor to cleanup sites near the Warrior Ridge Dam and on the Alexandria Pike and held a one-day tire collection challenge with the Mifflin County Chapter.

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).

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke to a variety of organizations in 2007:

- ⇒ made a Greenway Presentation to the Huntingdon Area Board of Realtors;
- ⇒ gave a planning presentation to a Juniata College Environmental Science class at the Raystown Field Station;
- ⇒ spoke to the Huntingdon Rotary Club regarding infrastructure needs of the County;

⇒ spoke at a LUTED conference of regional planners and state agency officials at Lake Raystown Resort, reviewing the realities of planning in rural Pennsylvania;

⇒ spoke at a Centre County public meeting to kick off their greenway planning process, sharing experience gained in developing the "Southern Alleghenies Open Space Network and Greenway Plan"; and

⇒ attended the annual Township Convention, speaking about greenways and the Comprehensive Plan.

Planning staff coordinated a planning education workshop series, including a wind energy field trip, "The ABC's of Land Use Planning" and "Zoning Administration".

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:

- ⇒ 911 addresses
- ⇒ GIS Data
- ⇒ 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 2007, the Planning and Development Department published the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan 2007 Supplement*, the *Infrastructure Investment Strategy*, the *2006 HCPC Annual Report* and the *2007 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

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

Alexandria Borough - Staff met with the Borough Council to discuss funding availability for community beautification.

Barree Township - Staff met with the Township Supervisors several times to review the Model Subdivision Ordinance which the Township is considering.

Carbon Township - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funds were used to complete the flood mitigation project in the Township. The completed project resulted in the acquisition and clearance of five homes at a total cost of \$497,350 and transfer of the properties to the Township.

Coalmont Borough - Planning Department and Conservation District staff met with the Borough Council to answer questions about the Model Development Permit Ordinance.

Huntingdon Borough - After participating in ordinance development with a Borough committee, staff and URDC consultant Charlie Schmehl attended a Public Hearing on the proposed Borough Zoning Ordinance, which was adopted June 19, 2007. Staff also provided a customized draft subdivision and land development ordinance and attended meetings of the Boom Town Committee to participate in the development of a strategic vision.

Mapleton Borough - Staff attended a Council meeting to discuss Borough boundaries and to complement them on a successful reopening of their swimming pool. Staff and the Standing Stone Trail Association President also successfully met with the Council to

request endorsement of a resolution designating Mapleton as a "Trail Town".

Morris Township - Staff attended a meeting of the Township Planning Commission to discuss Sewage Facilities Planning and on lot management.

Oneida Township - Staff met with the Supervisors concerning zoning for the proposed Campus Continuum site.

Penn Township - Staff continued to provide extensive assistance with the Hesston sewage issue. Grants totaling \$1,203,000 were applied for and received by Planning and Development staff. This includes \$772,000 in Rural Utilities funds, \$381,000 in CDBG competitive funds and \$50,000 in Growing Greener Funds.

Rockhill Borough - Staff met with the Borough Secretary to review their application for Grower Greener II funds for storm sewers.

Shirley Township - Staff met with the Township Planning Commission to discuss planning goals, a possible update of their subdivision and land development ordinance, and an on-lot sewage management system.

Spring Creek Joint Municipal Authority - Staff completed an income survey for the Authority's Treatment Plant Upgrade, documenting 53% low and moderate income persons in the service area.

Three Springs Borough - Staff and the Standing Stone Trail Association President successfully met with the Council to request endorsement of a resolution designating Three Springs as a "Trail Town".

Wood Township - Staff met with the Supervisors to review several addressing issues.

West Township - Staff developed a draft driveway ordinance for the Township. This ordinance will regulate any private construction within the Township right-of-way and the design and construction of roads and driveways connecting with a Township Road.

Multi-Municipal Planning - Staff conducted a multi-municipal planning workshop with officials from Juniata, Penn and Porter Townships and Marklesburg Borough attending.

All Municipalities - Staff surveyed municipal officials to update a municipal contact database; provided an opportunity for participation in the Huntingdon County CDBG Entitlement and Growing Greener II Environmental Initiative Programs; requested municipal financial support for a PA Council on the Arts Local Government Grant; and provided assistance on responding to the Census Bureau's LUCA Program to attempt to get accurate dwelling unit addresses for the upcoming census.

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. Due to reductions in the federal CDBG budget, the Huntingdon County CDBG Entitlement declined from a high in 2004 of \$302,088, to \$274,153 in 2007. This was a loss of 9.2%, or \$27,935.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development awarded \$381,000 in competitive Community Development Block Grants to Huntingdon County on behalf of Penn Township for the purpose of replacing the existing wastewater treatment facilities in the Village of Hesston with a conveyance line and interconnection with Walker Township; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service Program funded an application prepared by Huntingdon County in the amount of \$772,000.

Substantially completed activities in 2007 included: Huntingdon County Library Entrance Accessibility, Puttstown Sewer Laterals, Mount Union Accessibility Evaluation, Mapleton Water Line Replacement on Reservoir Street, Shirley Home Ramp Rehabilitation and Habitat for Humanity Acquisition.

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.

County Planning Directors Association

The Planning Director serves as secretary 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

In May 2007, Huntingdon Mayor Foster Ulrich convened a committee of community leaders to develop a community vision for the Huntingdon Area. This group has become known as the Boomtown Committee. The Planning Director has been a part of this Committee from its inception.

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)

2007 marked the completion of the multi-county "Southern Alleghenies Open Space Network and Greenway Plan". The Plan has been adopted as part of the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Director sits on the Greenway Steering Committee. The Transportation Technical and Coordinating Committees approved a draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for submission to PennDOT.

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees: Planning Advisory Committee (PAC); Greenway Steering Committee; and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The Planner/GIS Coordinator (now Mapping Director) is a member of the GIS Users Group (GUG) and the County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee.

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce

During the year, staff coordinated efforts to develop a new Huntingdon County Transportation Map with a Chamber Committee. The County Commissioners authorized major financial support for the new map and the Department provided base maps from the County GIS.

The Planning Director participates in the Chamber's Main Street and Technology Committees.

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 HCB&I. 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 Huntingdon County Commissioners and HCB&I.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCB&I)

The Planning Director serves on the HCB&I Business Development and Infrastructure Committees. One of the principle goals of the Business Development Committee is developing the Riverview Business Center. During 2007, Bonney Forge completed a new warehouse on Riverview land.

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.

Huntingdon County Heritage Committee

The Planning Director chaired the Huntingdon County Heritage Committee. In this role he assisted in setting Committee goals, in securing a summer intern and in advancing the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan* in cooperation with the Huntingdon County Historical Society. David Barlow served as Heritage Intern.

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 43 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2007, including 7 municipal ordinances, 1 municipal Act 537 Plan, 2 surrounding county plans, 4 Agricultural Security Area additions; 2 DCNR grant applications; and 27 DEP permit renewals:

1. Shirley Township Agricultural Security Area Additions (3 submissions)
2. Rails-to-Trails of Central PA, Inc., waterless restroom installation and trail stabilization, DCNR Grant Application
3. Juniata Processing, LLC, removal of approximately 11.3 acres of abandoned coal refuse, located south of Allenport in Shirley Township
4. PennDOT, environmental review for rehabilitation of Alfarata Bridge, Porter and Morris Townships
5. Blair County Comprehensive Plan
6. PennDOT, construction of a new stockpile/roadway maintenance area, Jackson Township, DEP NPDES Permit Application
7. PennDOT, Route 26 roadway safety improvements to stabilize slide area, Miller Township, DEP Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit and NPDES Permit Applications
8. Spring Creek Joint Sewer Authority, treatment facility upgrade, DEP, NPDES Permit Renewal Application
9. Shoup Run, Green Garden Road AMD Treatment System, Carbon Township, DEP Water Obstruction and Encroachment and NPDES Permit Applications
10. Grier School, renovations to existing reservoir to repair horizontal crack, DEP Public Water Supply Permit Amendment Application
11. Franklin County Greenway and Open Space Plan
12. Cromwell Township Agricultural Security Area
13. Huntingdon Act 537 Plan Special Study, Nutrient Removal Alternatives
14. Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Joint Municipal Authority, DEP NPDES Renewal Application
15. Petersburg Borough Sewer Authority, DEP NPDES Permit Renewal Application
16. Huntingdon Borough Zoning Ordinance, May 15, 2007 Revision
17. Huntingdon Borough Uptown Playground Improvements, DCNR Grant Application (\$55,000 grant, \$55,000 match)
18. Cedar Shopping Centers, Inc., Huntingdon Plaza, flood pump station upgrade, Smithfield Township, DEP General Permit (GP-4) Application
19. Mount Union Zoning Ordinance Amendments
20. Smithfield Township Zoning Amendments (Zoning Map and Minimum Lot Size)
21. Smithfield Township Subdivision Amendment, Pavement Standards
22. PennDOT, replacement of Petersburg Bridge, Logan Township, DEP General Permit 11 for Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstruction and Encroachments Application
23. PennDOT, replacement of McAlevy's Fort Bridge No. 1, Jackson Township, DEP General Permit 11 for Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstruction and Encroachments Application
24. PennDOT, replacement of McAlevy's Fort Bridge No. 2, Jackson Township, DEP General Permit 11 for Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstruction and Encroachments Application
25. Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority, Union Township, DEP NPDES Permit Renewal Application
26. Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., construction of a stream crossing to provide access to a residence behind the Canoe Valley Quarry, Morris Township, DEP General Permit 7 Application
27. Robbie J. Love Excavating, Love No. 1 Mine, removal of shale/slate from a previously surface-mined area, Wood Township, DEP Small Non-Coal Surface Mine Permit Application
28. Revised Zoning Ordinance, Huntingdon Borough
29. Emma's Run Floodplain Restoration Project
30. Atwell-Hicks (Rite Aid), DEP NPDES Permit Application, Smithfield Township
31. Spruce Creek Township, replacement of Trout Run Lane Bridge, DEP Joint Water Obstruction and Encroachments Permit Application
32. Cedar Shopping Centers, Inc. (Huntingdon Plaza), construction of a new 1,741 sq. ft. Starbucks with drive-thru and additional 3,800 sq. ft. of retail tenant space, DEP NPDES Permit Application
33. Ferlitch Construction Company, Inc., surface mining operation, Wood Township, DEP Surface Mine Permit and Variance Application
34. PennDOT, reconstruction and widening of SR 0453, construction of an intersection at Hungry Hollow Road and construction of a truck climbing lane, Morris Township, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application
35. Tuscarora Swine, Shirley Township, DEP NPDES CAFO Permit Renewal Application

- 36. PennDOT, creation of a temporary road for use during reconstruction of bridge superstructure over Blacklog Creek, Shirley Township, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application
- 37. New Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Henderson Township
- 38. New Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Logan Township
- 39. Greene Hills Church Camp, construction of new wastewater treatment plant, Porter Township, DEP NPDES Part II Construction Permit Application
- 40. Rite Aid, construction of a 14,456 square foot commercial building, parking, and utilities, Smithfield Township, DEP NPDES Permit Application
- 41. R.R.P. Recreation Limited Partnership, Lincoln Township, DEP NPDES Permit Renewal Application

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 43 state permit activity notices in 2007.

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 1 project in 2007:

- 1. The Progress Fund,**
This project involved an \$80,000 USDA funding request to purchase the Spruce Creek Tavern (\$700,000 total project cost).

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

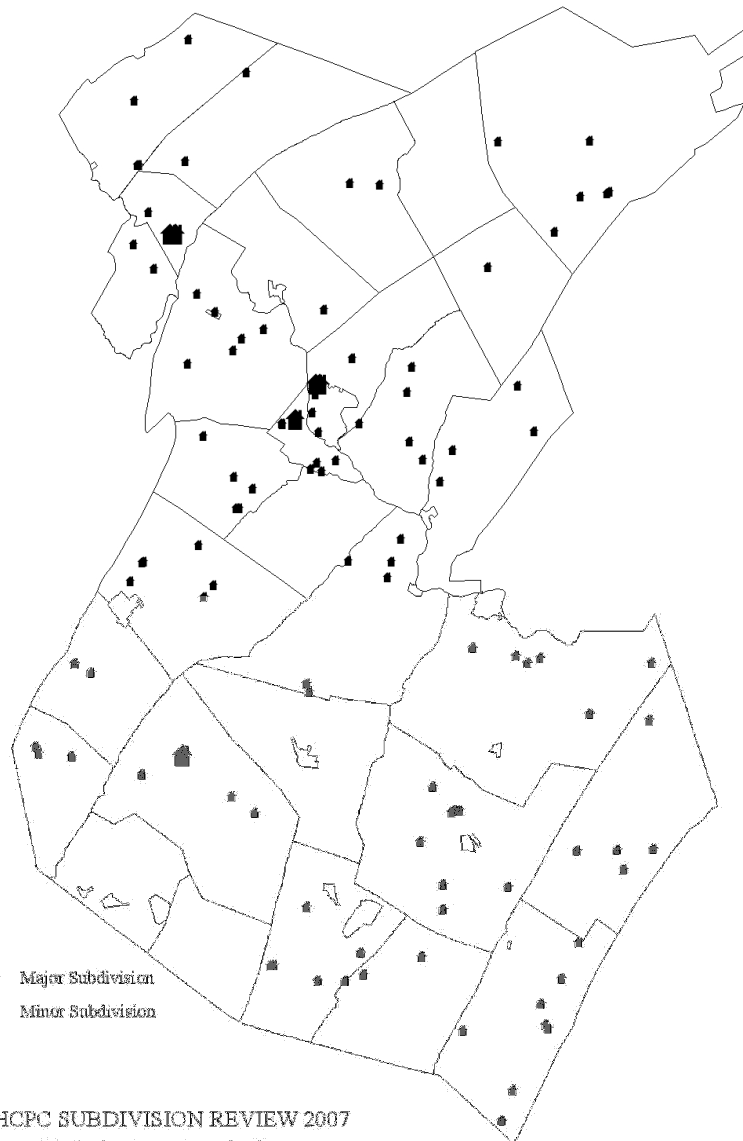
Section 502 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act.

The Commission reviewed 127 subdivisions in 27 municipalities in 2007, up by 14 since 2006. These included 6 major subdivisions, 108

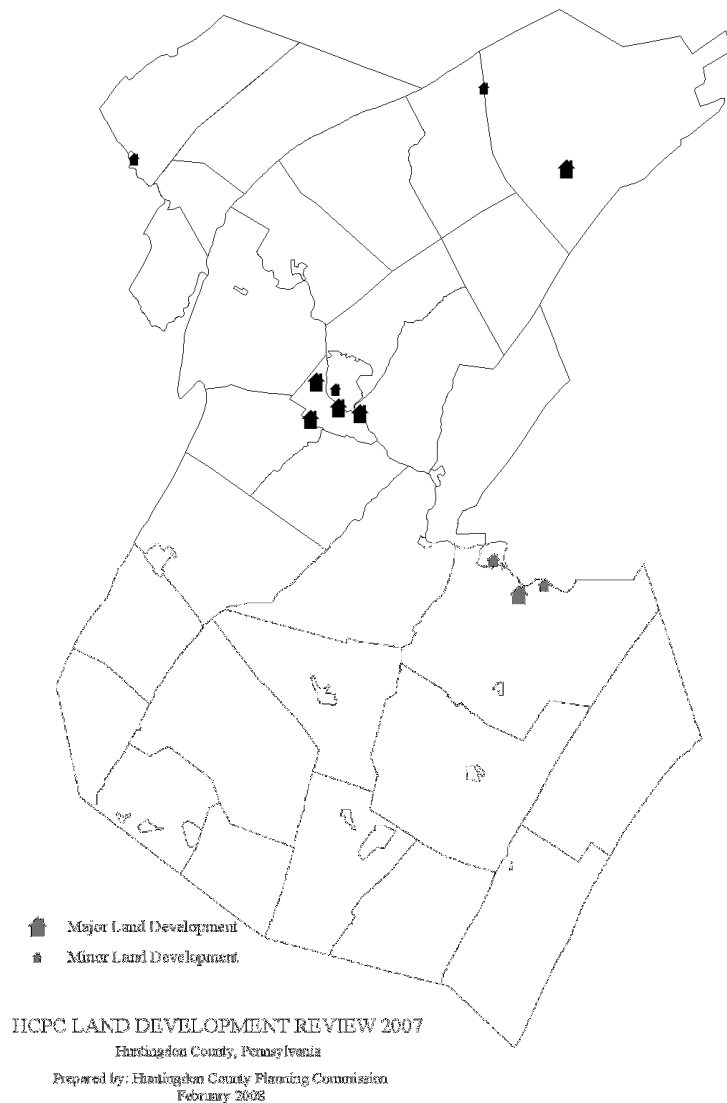
minor subdivisions, 8 major land developments, and 5 minor land developments encompassing 353 lots and 4,211 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 10 and 11.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2007 were:

- the Oneida Woods Subdivision Preliminary Plan with 79.235 acres and 129 lots, and Phase I with 17.243 acres and 36 lots (34 residential) in Huntingdon Borough;



HCP SUBDIVISION REVIEW 2007
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania
Prepared by: Huntingdon County Planning Commission
February 2008



- John M. and Mary Lou Couch, Jackson Township - construction of a 3,240 square foot store, driveway and parking area;
- Cedar Shopping Centers, Huntingdon Plaza Outparcel #2, Smithfield Township - demolition of existing restaurant and construction of a 1,741 square foot Starbucks and 3,100 square feet of additional tenant space;
- LOTRAB Recreational Vehicle Parking Facility, Henderson Township - construction of a 165 space RV parking facility; and
- Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Smithfield Township - construction of a 2,217 square foot building addition, additional parking and landscaping.

- the Biddle Family Partnership Subdivision with 179.1325 acres and 40 lots in Todd Township;
 - the Spring Ridge Club Subdivision with 128.627 acres and 12 lots in Spruce Creek Township; and
 - the Smithfield Commercial Park (Parcel B) Subdivision with 41 acres and 6 lots (5 commercial, 1 open space) in Smithfield Township.
- The 8 major land development reviews conducted in 2007 included:
- Spring Ridge Club (2 submissions), Spruce Creek Township - construction of 27 residential units (12 private, 15 club owned) and a club house/retail store;
 - Smithfield State Correctional Institution, Smithfield Township - construction of a 26,000 square foot, 240 bed, 128 cell housing unit;
 - IFC Services, Shirley Township - construction of a 6,090 square foot building, associated parking and a basketball court;

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 2007 included:

DIGITAL PARCEL MAPPING

Huntingdon County continued the digital tax parcel-mapping project in 2007. This project, which improves the positional accuracy of the current County digital parcel layer, is broken down into four regions based on County geography: Region 1 – Northwest, Region 2 – Southwest, Region 3 – Southeast, and Region 4 – Trough Creek Valley and Broad Top Area. In all, approximately 26,636 tax parcels have been mapped in a seamless GIS coverage.

Region 1, completed in 2007 using a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture and matching County funds, included twelve townships and approximately 5,966 tax parcels. Region 2, also completed in 2007, included seven townships and approximately 4,975 tax parcels. The remaining two regions will be completed in the summer of 2008.

Funding for completion of Regions 2 through 4 was provided by DCNR as part of the PA Map Project.

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.

In 2007, the following GIS mapping projects were completed: maps, including existing land use, for the

Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan 2007 Supplement; data and mapping for the Huntingdon County Transportation Map; Mount Union Borough Draft Zoning Map, and Mapleton Park and Lower Trail Extension mapping for the Juniata Clean Water Partnership.

Department staff receives many requests for GIS data from other GIS professionals, engineers, realtors, and State, regional and county agencies. Typically, the data requested includes street centerline files, tax parcels, soil mapping, land use and other files that are unique to Huntingdon County. Staff provides this digital data via CD or email. In 2007, the Huntingdon County Commissioners adopted the Huntingdon County GIS Data Sharing Policy and License Agreement, which defines the methods for data sharing and includes a data request form that outlines the data available and the purchase price.

In addition, staff prepares custom and standard maps for a variety of clients. Available map sizes range from 8.5" x 11" to 34" x 44". In 2007, the following custom projects were created: Fire Service Area maps for County emergency service providers, site maps for the Creation 2007 festival, maps for the Standing Stone Elementary School, various GIS maps for the Emergency Management Department, and a variety of other maps for the 911 addressing project.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The Department supports the Huntingdon County Agricultural Land Preservation Program by assisting with a GIS-based evaluation of each farm.

To date, Huntingdon County has purchased conservation easements on three farms totaling 265 acres. Two of these farms are in Brady Township and one is in Warriors Mark Township. A fourth farm easement is pending on a 150 acre farm in Warriors Mark Township.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

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."*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Planning and Development Department continued to play a role in developing the County's information technology infrastructure, serving on the IT Committee, coordinating efforts to connect County buildings with a fiber optic network and maintaining the County's website.

Bids were advertised early in 2007 for a high-speed fiber optic network to connect seven county buildings and the 911 Dispatch Center. The bid in the amount of \$328,815.60, from Pennsylvania Networks was awarded by the County Commissioners in December.

For the second time, election results were posted to the website. County IT consultant, Travis Cramer uploaded the most recent election results once or twice per hour allowing the public to see the most current election results available. Assistance was also given to the Huntingdon County Sheriff's Office to enable a student intern to post new content.

MAPPING DEPARTMENT

Late in 2007, the County Commissioners announced the creation of the Huntingdon County Mapping Department. County GIS Coordinator and Planning and Development staff member, Brian Young was named head of the new department. Staff members Justin Edling, Addressing Technician, and Melissa Bousum, Tax Assessment Mapper, were also named as department staff. The new Department will improve mapping and geographic information system services by combining County addressing and parcel mapping functions into one department.

According to Young, the Department will work closely with all County departments, including Planning and Development. He expects to make GIS services more available to County departments and the public through the use of tools such as web maps. Web maps will allow anyone with Internet access to create maps using highly accurate data developed by the Huntingdon County Mapping Department.

LEADERSHIP HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Leadership Huntingdon County was developed as a result of the PEP Strategic Plan to develop leaders and support a positive vision for the County. The Planning Director is a member of the Leadership Steering Committee and manages the finances for the program.

911 AND RURAL ADDRESSING

On March 9, 2007, 1,139 addresses for Address Region 4, Allensville, Mapleton, Mill Creek and Saltillo Post Offices, were released. The balance of the region, 310 addresses, was released in June 2007. These Zip Code areas include Brady Township, Mill Creek, Mapleton, and Saltillo Boroughs, and parts of Henderson, Union, Cass, and Clay Townships. On August 3, 2007, 1,010 addresses were released in the Three Springs Zip Code Area, which includes Three Springs Borough and parts of Clay, Cromwell and Springfield Townships.

There have been four previous releases of 911 addresses in Huntingdon County. These releases were known as Addressing Regions One, Two, Three and Six. Region One, Warriors Mark area, saw the release of 2,532 addresses in the northwestern end of the County during November of 2001. Region Two, which included the Alexandria and Petersburg Zip Code Areas,

witnessed the release of 4,750 new addresses during October 2003. In 2005, 2,470 addresses were released in Regions Three and Six for residents of the following municipalities: Shirley Township, Shirleysburg Borough, Cromwell Township, Rockhill Borough, Orbisonia Borough, Shade Gap Borough, Dublin Township, Tell Township and Springfield Township.

It is anticipated that physical addresses for the remaining portions of Huntingdon County will be released in the spring of 2008.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

In cooperation with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, the Department administered a \$3,281 Local Government Grant for art activities in 2007. Matching grant contributions were made by the County and many municipalities for a \$6,562 program.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

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

A new electronics recycling program was started in 2007 in cooperation with New Age Consulting. Customers may drop off computers and other electronic items at NAC in Smithfield Township at any time for a small fee. The Coordinator applied for a DEP grant to offer the service free quarterly.

During 2007, 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 2006 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County recycling program marketed 363.93 tons of recyclables with only 4% contamination. Huntingdon County sites collected 141.33 tons, 38% of the total.

The Recycling Coordinator coordinated three special events during the year: Spring and Fall Special Collections and a Fall Household Hazard Waste Collection.

The Spring and Fall collections of clear, green and brown glass, #1 and #2 plastics and cardboard resulted in the collection of 6.47 tons.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste. The Fall collection netted 7,285 pounds, including 41 auto batteries.

In addition to these activities, 7.38 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 2007, Huntingdon County entered into contracts for grants totaling \$1,223,474. Tables on page 14 detail each miscellaneous grant awarded and CDBG usage and planned allocations.

Planning and Community Development

Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
USDA Rural Utilities Service	2007 - Penn Township Sewer	\$772,000
Competitive CDBG	2007 - Penn Township Sewer	\$381,000
Emergency Shelter Grant	2007 - Huntingdon House	\$98,000
USDA Housing Preservation Grant	2007 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$36,000
Shared Municipal Services	2007 - Street Sign Project	\$30,000
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	2007 - Local Government Grant - Huntingdon County Arts Council	\$3,281
GGII County Environmental Initiative	2007 - Huntingdon County Conservation and Infrastructure Projects	\$1,000,000
Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance (LUPTAP)	2005 - Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan and Huntingdon Borough Zoning Ordinance Updates	\$48,655

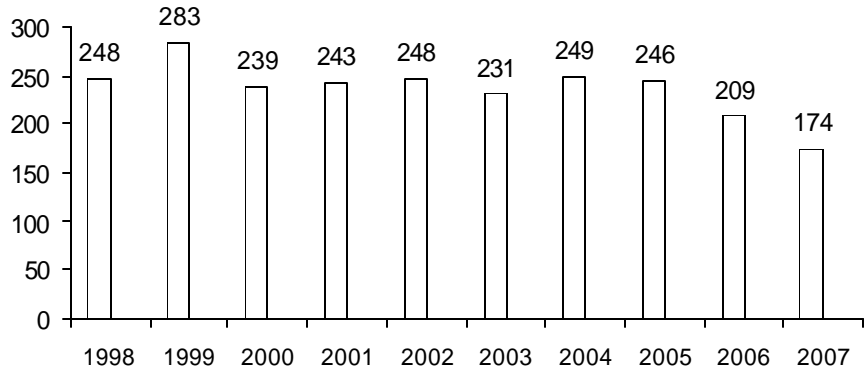
CDBG Usage—Past Three Years	2005	2006	2007
Fousetown Water & Sewer System **	\$87,500	\$2,500	0
Fousetown Water & Sewer Laterals *	\$29,500	\$27,500	0
Juniata Valley Senior Citizens Center Addition **	\$38,000	0	0
Puttstown Sewer Laterals **	\$25,000	\$9,843	0
Dudley - Carbon-Coalmont Phase II Sewer Laterals **	\$20,627	0	0
Habitat for Humanity **	\$20,000	0	0
Shirley Home for the Aged **	\$20,000	\$11,000	0
Huntingdon County Library Accessibility **	0	\$30,000	0
Petersburg Sewer Pump	0	\$47,000	0
Mapleton Water Line Replacement *	0	\$55,000	\$58,000
Huntingdon House	0	\$40,000	0
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water Tank	0	0	\$166,807
Past Three Years Totals	\$240,627	\$222,843	\$224,807
** activity complete * activity underway			
CDBG Usage - Next Three Years	2008	2009	2010
Shirley Home for the Aged Heating System Upgrade	\$60,000	0	0
Affordable Housing Sites	\$50,000	0	0
Penn Township Sewage Collection System Rehab	\$50,000	0	0
Spring Creek Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade	\$30,000	0	0
Huntingdon County Library	\$20,000	\$80,000	0
Dudley - Carbon-Coalmont Water Tank Rehabilitation	0	\$61,000	0
Rockhill Borough Stormdrain Replacements	0	\$30,000	0
Mount Union Borough Building	0	\$39,000	\$41,000
Mount Union Federal Drive	0	0	\$84,000
Cromwell Township Sewer Laterals	0	0	\$85,000
Next Three Years Totals	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000

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

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 1998 - 2007



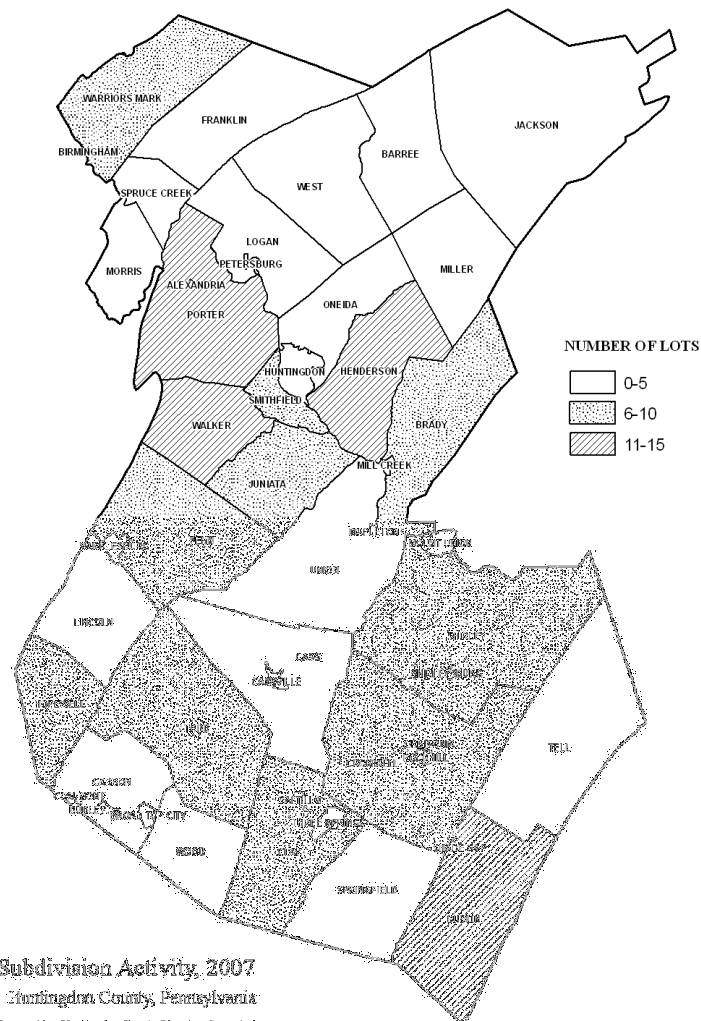
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

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 2007, 174 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 16.7% from the 209 lots created in 2006 and a ten year low.

In 2007, the highest level of activity, 15 new lots, occurred in Walker Township. The table below shows the highest levels in 2007 and the map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2007.

Municipality	New Lots
Walker Township	15
Dublin Township	14
Porter Township	13
Henderson Township	11
Warriors Mark Township	10

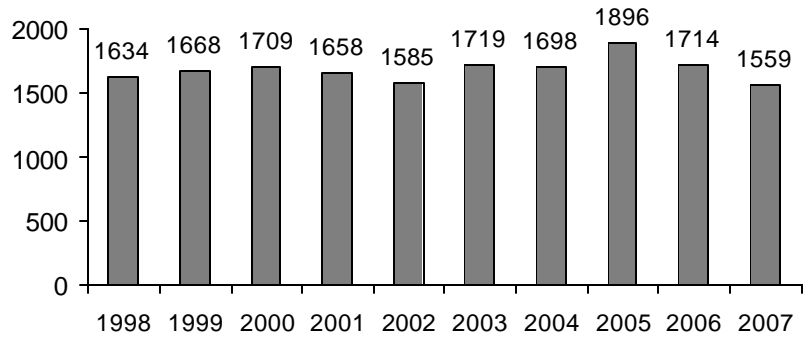


DEED TRANSFERS

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 2007, both existing and new, showed a 9.1% decrease from 1,714 in 2006 to 1,559 in 2007.

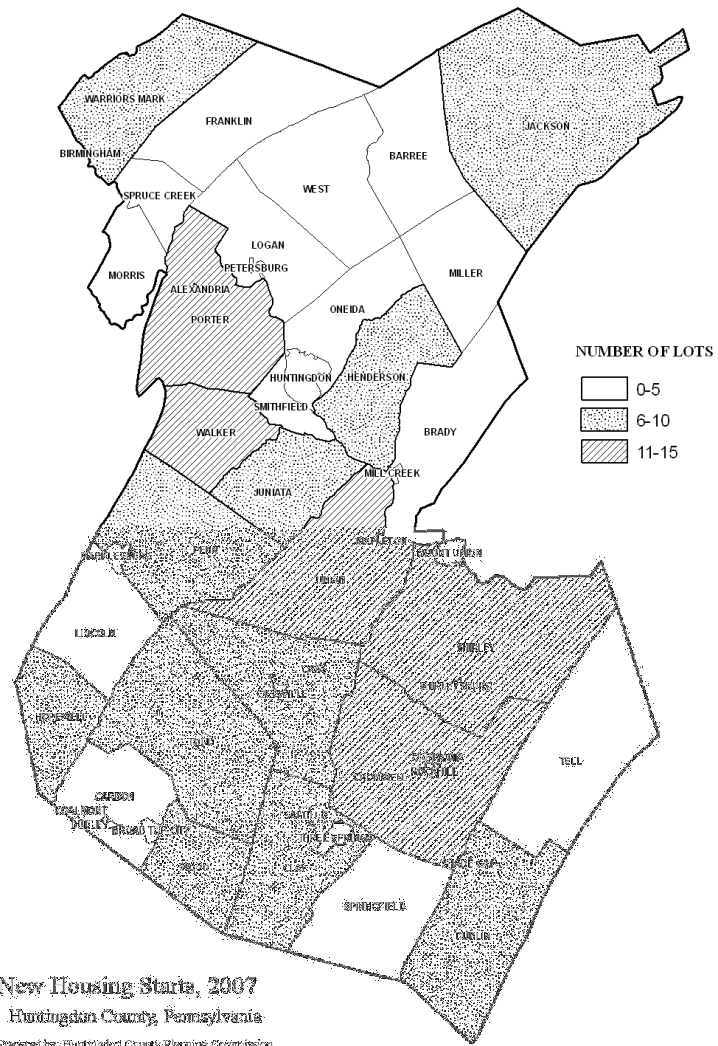
DEED TRANSFERS 1998 - 2007



BUILDING ACTIVITY

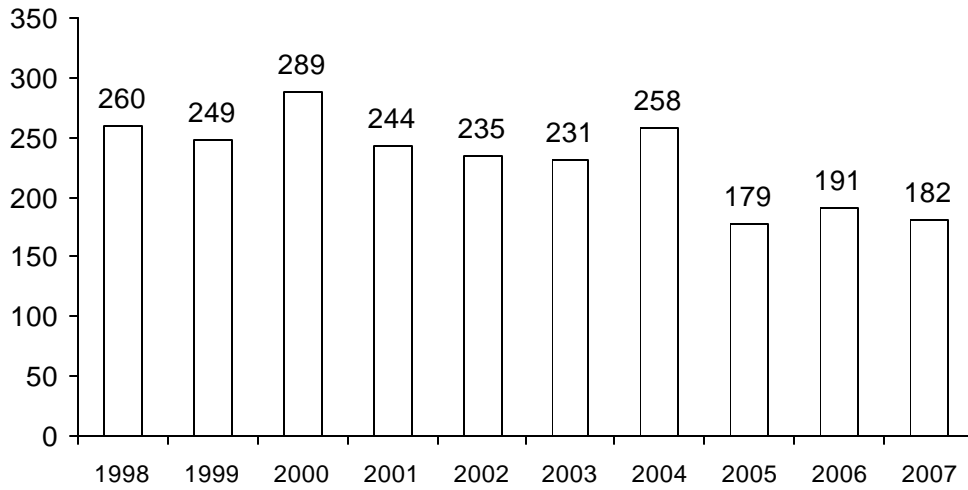
In 2007, the construction of new houses decreased 4.7% from 2006, with 182 versus 191 in 2006. The number of new houses constructed is estimated annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits to estimate new housing starts. Year-round housing activity decreased by 10.1%, from 169 units in 2006 to 152 units in 2007.

The map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2007. A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart on page 17. Following are the municipalities that led the County in new housing starts:



Municipality	New Homes
Shirley Township	13
Walker Township	13
Porter Township	12
Cromwell Township	11
Union Township	11
Cass Township	10
Dublin Township	10
Warriors Mark Township	10
Hopewell Township	8
Wood Township	8
Penn Township	7

New Housing Starts 1998 to 2007



SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

Valley Rural data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on this data, 30 units, or 30% of Valley Rural’s new housing activity in 2007 involved seasonal housing, and 20 units, or 20% of all electrical permits were for new mobile homes. This data reveals an increase of 36% from 22 seasonal units in 2006.

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

Seasonal Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Union Township	6
Cass Township	5
Dublin Township	3
Juniata Township	3
Penn Township	3

Year Round Housing: Municipality

Year Round Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Walker Township	13
Porter Township	12
Shirley Township	11
Cromwell Township	10
Warriors Mark Township	10
Wood Township	8
Dublin Township	7
Hopewell Township	6
Cass Township	5
Union Township	5
Penn Township	4

LUCA

The staff coordinated a workshop for local government officials for representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau to explain the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). The County and its municipalities have an opportunity to improve the accuracy of the census through the review of lists of addresses. This may be particularly valuable in Huntingdon County due to the release of new 911 addresses since the last decennial census in 2000. A half-dozen municipalities attended the session. The Huntingdon County Commissioners have authorized the Planning and Mapping Departments to work with municipalities and the U.S. Census Bureau on LUCA.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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William W. Hoover, Vice Chairman
Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary

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