



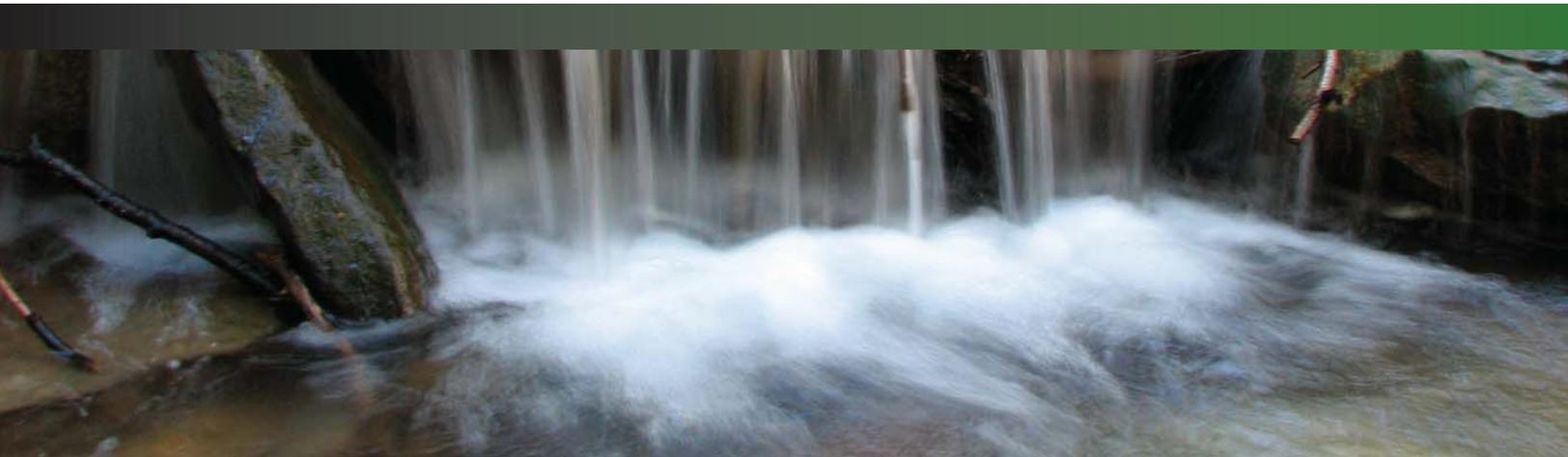
SOUTHERN VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Starting Now, Partnering Together

Participating municipalities:

- Barkeyville Borough
- Victory Township
- Clinton Township
- Clintonville Borough
- Scrubgrass Township
- Richland Township
- Emlenton Borough

June 2007



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Participating municipalities:

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Scrubgrass Township
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Emlenton, PA 16373

Richland Township
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Emlenton, PA 16373

Emlenton Borough
511 Hill Street
P.O. Box 537
Emlenton, PA 16373

This project began with listening to the people that live in the region.

- Six public visioning sessions were held, one in each community except for combining Clinton Twp. and Clintonville Borough.
- Citizens of the area voiced their concerns and knowledge of issues surrounding development and growth in their area.
- Three regional visioning sessions were held later in the process.
- In total about 150 interested citizens have spoken up and are helping to plan the present and future of their communities.
- A steering committee made up of one elected or appointed official from each municipality directed the project to meet the vision of their citizens.

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Mercer County Regional Planning Commission – Mercer County Comprehensive Plan

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

PA Bureau of Forestry

PA Department of Community and Economic Development – Land Use and Technical Assistance Program

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

PA Department of Public Welfare

PA Fish and Boat Commission

PA Game Commission

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission

Pennsylvania State Agricultural Land Preservation Board

USDI National Park Service

Venango County Assessment Office

Venango County Emergency Services/911

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Venango County Regional Planning Commission



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SECTION 1:

“WHERE ARE WE NOW?”



INTRODUCTION

Planning proactively, before change arrives, rather than reactively, after it takes on a life of its own, is the best course, the experts say. Since many of the issues municipalities deal with, (from transportation to natural resources conservation to delivery of services) cross municipal boundaries, it just makes sense to work together.

Seven communities in southern Venango County came together to plan for their future and for the economy of the region and asked the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) to coordinate the effort. Pashek Associates of Pittsburgh, a Landscape Architect and Community Planning consulting firm was also hired to assist in the planning efforts. Funding was obtained through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) with matching funds from the municipalities themselves, the VCRPC, other county offices and related agencies.

This project analyzed the background of the communities, determined the current status and conditions and resulted in a comprehensive plan for the future with specific aspects for each community as well as for the region as a whole. The plan in words, maps and pictures includes the types of development each community and the region desire to see, growth areas pinpointing where it should be, conceptual site plans, and policies for guiding development activities in each community. This comprehensive plan, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code includes the following sections:

- A future land use plan
 - Including recreation needs, open space and farmland
- A housing needs plan
- A transportation plan
- A community facilities and utilities plan
- A statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components including:
 - Environmental impacts
 - Energy conservation impacts
 - Fiscal impacts
 - Economic development impacts

It is important to look at all of these aspects of the region. Economic growth is needed in the area and the potential exists, waiting to be acted upon. The assets of the region include Interstate-80, the gateway to the county and the Oil Region Heritage Area. Natural resources abound and there is a small town community feel. Guided growth with forward thinking leadership

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY

- A proactive, action-oriented mindset and a strong private-public partnership.
- A diverse community leadership system with extensive citizen involvement.
- A strong implementation plan with specific benchmarks and measures of success.

PLANNING PROCESS

- 1) “Where are we now?”
Community Profile
Inventory and Assessment
- 2) “Where do we want to go?”
Creating the Vision for the
Communities
- 3) “How do we get there?”
Strategies for Action

is essential for sustainable growth. As a community grows, landowners with open space and farmland experience pressure to develop the land. Southern Venango County residents want to maintain the rural character of their communities, so growth areas must be designated so as to not put pressure on open space and farmland. Infrastructure needs must be assessed and built upon in order for growth to occur. A community with recreational opportunities provides a high quality of life for its residents and visitors and is very attractive to companies looking to relocate or expand their businesses. Developing a comprehensive, pro-active, community driven plan will allow the community to market to businesses that would fit well within the region, expand current businesses and at the same time protect the uniqueness of each community.

The three boroughs in the project area, Barkeyville, Clintonville and Emlenton, are the most densely developed with services such as grocery stores, banks and medical centers. The four townships, Clinton, Victory, Scrubgrass and Richland are rural, mostly residential areas with farmland, natural areas, areas of state owned land and small, privately owned businesses along some of the main routes of transportation. Seasonal dwellings account for many of the housing units in the townships. The character of the region is a small town atmosphere, with natural wild areas for hunting, fishing and recreating and also great potential for growth due to the Interstate-80 access. The region is the gateway to Venango County, the Oil Heritage Region, the nearby PA Wilds region and Northwestern Pennsylvania.

This project began with listening to the people that live in the region. The immediate goal of the project was to create a community vision for each municipality and for the region. *Visioning* is the process by which the community defines a preferred future for itself. This project will work because it is community driven and community supported – neighboring communities working together, benefiting all.

The communities of Southern Venango County seek to establish sustainable growth and prosperity for the region while maintaining the unique characteristics and small town nature of each community. While growth and jobs are desired, so is an atmosphere that encourages family living and a place for future generations to stay and raise their own families. These seven communities have come together to develop a regional approach, a bigger voice and to pool resources in a mutually supportive manner.

Six public visioning sessions were held where citizens of the area voiced their concerns and knowledge of issues surrounding development and growth in their area. Some issues were problems that need to be overcome and others were assets of the communities that can be built upon. In October 2005, three regional visioning sessions were held. Attendance was a little lower than at the first round of meetings, but in total about 150 interested citizens have spoken up and are helping to plan the present and future of their communities. The discussion at the regional sessions focused on the assets of the area and where the citizens would like to see development occur. A steering committee made up of one elected or appointed official from each municipality, directed the project to meet the vision of their citizens.

The issues brought out at these meetings are the puzzle pieces that will be put together to form the picture of Southern Venango County. As growth occurs, the puzzle pieces change. A comprehensive plan is meant to be a dynamic guide that grows with the community all the while maintaining the picture that the citizens and leaders of the community have in mind.

These seven southern Venango County communities provide a gateway to Venango County which is located in northwestern Pennsylvania approximately midway between Pittsburgh and Erie. Part of the Appalachian Plateau region, the land is composed of mountainous areas and steep sandstone ridges with deep, irregularly patterned branching streams. Large populations of game, fish and other wild food products are readily available in the area. Venango County and the surrounding region are well known as the site of the discovery of oil as well as the development of the early oil industry. Many of the historic resources associated with this event have been preserved including the historic architecture of the era.

Venango County was officially chartered by an act of the State Legislature on March 12, 1800. Its current landscape reflects its history, the legacy of the discovery of oil, and other early industrial development. Many of the downtown commercial and retail areas still include the buildings and historic facades of early eras. The municipalities involved in this project comprise a large portion of the southern end of the county and are linked together by the Interstate-80 corridor and State Route 8.

Venango County is served by four (4) major state highways that provide access to all abutting counties.

- I-80 runs through the southernmost part of the County, providing connection between Mercer and Clarion counties;
- U.S. Route 62 runs through Franklin and Oil City and provides connection between Mercer and Forest counties; Route 8 connects the southern municipalities with Route 62.
- U.S. Route 322 runs through Franklin, providing connection between Crawford and Clarion counties; Routes 8 & 38 provide southern Venango County with connectivity to Route 322.
- State Route 8, which goes through Barkeyville Borough, Victory Township, Franklin and Oil City is the primary transportation corridor connecting to Butler and Crawford counties.

The Allegheny River winds its way through the County and provides many recreational opportunities to visitors and residents alike. It provides the municipal line bordering Victory Township, Scrubgrass Township and Emlenton Borough.

This gateway to Venango County is looking to the future and, with this document, is planning the best route to take to prosperity and sustainability.

The public participation process revealed the following key issues in Venango County's southern tier:

- Infrastructure development and improvements
- Community revitalization
- Protection of existing resources
- Preservation of the existing character



Photo Courtesy of VCRPC

EARLY HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

The development of Southern Venango County can be attributed to a number of factors. These include the existence of natural resources, the ability of early settlers to tame the wilderness, the establishment of successful industrial enterprises, and the development of transportation networks connecting the area with the outside world. The current character, the appearance and ambiance of the towns and villages and resources are a direct result of this historical development. These resources play significant roles in the future educational, recreational, and economic development of the region, while adding significantly to the quality of life for the local residents.

Venango County is located in northwestern Pennsylvania in the Appalachian Plateau region. The land is composed of mountainous areas and steep sandstone ridges with deep, irregular patterned branching streams. Large populations of game, fish and other wild food products were readily available in the area. Native Americans used a network of trails and the Cornplanter and other Senecas summered in the area, hunting, fishing, and raising corn. The name “Venango” is the Indian name for what is now called French Creek.

EARLY SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

The early population of southern Venango County migrated from Philadelphia westward. The settlers looked for promising areas which would support agriculture. They cleared the land and established family farms. The broad valleys with sufficient water sources, rich soil, and a suitable climate were settled first. The Ritchey Run area of Richland Township was one of the first areas to be settled in this part of Venango County. The economy of this early period was agrarian. The natural resources found in the area were exploited and became the raw materials to support early industrial development including iron production and textile mills.

Southern Venango County includes existing and historic rural villages, rural countryside and undeveloped woods and streams. The virtues of preservation of the integrity of the villages and rural landscapes to encourage tourism and maintain the character of the region are recognized. The current landscape of the region as well as the county reflects its history, the legacy of the discovery of oil, and other early industrial development. Many of the downtown commercial and retail areas still include the buildings and historic facades of early eras.

Figure 1

Historic Population	
Year	Population
1800	1,130
1810	3,060
1820	4,915
1830	9,470
1840	17,900
1850	18,310
1860	25,044
1870	47,935

Source: History of Venango County
Pennsylvania 1879



EARLY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The early settlers in Venango County found virgin forests with large stands of white pine and hemlocks. These trees produced high quality lumber in demand for construction and the building of wooden structures. The lumber boom occurred in Pennsylvania just before the Civil War and continued for the next forty years.

Thousands of cut trees were floated downstream forming large logjams. Logs were hauled by mules to be sawed into timber. By the end of the lumber era, the virgin forest was plundered, and hemlocks and yellow and white pine gave way to the harvesting of hardwoods. At that point, large tracts of trees to support the industry were no longer available, and many lumbermen left the area.

The extraction and use of the minerals found in this area were exploited by the early settlers for commercial concerns. Early iron making was a significant part of the local economy. The availability of raw products and water, which could be used for power, sustained the industry. The ruins of several former iron furnaces can be seen today. Today, mineral extraction is still active throughout the region. Coal and gravel mining operations are still part of the economy and affect the landscape throughout several of the townships.

Native Americans collected petroleum that came to the surface. Archeologists believe that the mystery pits found in the area may have been dug to collect the substance. The Indians and settlers used this crude oil for a variety of medicinal purposes. It was not until the drilling of the first successful oil well, in Titusville north of the region, that the substance had commercial value. Subsequent publicity following the discovery of oil caused wildcatters, and speculators to rush to the area. In a very short period of time, the landscape was dotted by derricks, equipment, quickly built towns, and businesses which met the needs of this influx of workers. The area quickly developed into the world's first oil center. Activities included production, refining, marketing, sales, recordkeeping, leasing and distribution. The area still experienced the typical boom and bust cycle characteristic of the petroleum industry.

Concerns to meet the needs of the oil industry including the manufacturing of barrels, piping, industrial tools, machinery, and the like were established. Boats and railroads were built to provide the needed transportation. These supportive businesses employed many people. However, once the oil was drilled, refineries built, and the transportation system in place, fewer employees were needed, unlike coal extraction and steel manufacturing which require a continuous large labor force.

Natural gas and oil are frequently found together. At first, the important element which created wealth was oil. Natural gas became valuable as a source of home heating fuel and illumination. Today, one can see small oil and gas wells dotting the countryside.



Bullion Run Iron Furnace
(Photo by Daniel Alward)

COMMUNITY HISTORIES

Barkeyville Borough

“Barkeyville is a small community with a big heart. It is a community with great potential who looks to move forward in the 21st century.” That is how the Borough Council describes the borough today. Barkeyville was named for Henry Barkey 1810-1889 and was also once known as “The Corners”, McMurdy’s Corners and Beatty’s Corners. In 1850, Henry Barkey and Abraham Hunsberger opened a general store. Soon to follow were a shoemaker, a church, a blacksmith and even a bee-hive factory. By the 1880’s, Barkeyville was described as a healthful and pleasant village situated on the Old Stage Route between Pittsburgh and Franklin; rural and retired, free from saloons, gambling shops and other city vices. This area was originally included in what is now Irwin Township. Barkeyville became a borough in 1968.



Clinton Township

Irwin Township was one of the three original townships in Venango County. In 1854, citizens of Scrubgrass and Irwin Townships petitioned the court for a new township – Clinton. The petition was approved in 1855. Clinton Township was named for D. Clinton McKee or DeWitt Clinton, a former governor of New York. The township’s population was 901 in 1870, but by 1880 this had nearly doubled to 1,752.

The Allegheny River forms the northeastern boundary of the township. Scrubgrass Creek and its branches is the principal drainage system of the township. The creek derived its name from a course grass that grew along its banks. The grass was used by the early settlers to polish their spoons and knives, and hence the name Scrubgrass.

Early industry in the township was that of oil and gas drilling. Some wells were successful while others were not but one area became known as the Bullion District. During the height of this era a railroad was built including a bridge across the Allegheny River. It was short lived, though and was abandoned after only two years.



Clintonville Borough

This Borough dates back to about 1833. One of the earliest settlers in Clinton Township was Thomas McKee, a surveyor from Franklin County. His original tract included the site of the present-day Clintonville. McKee was one of the first merchants in the area and built one of the first saw mills. From three houses in 1835 the cross-roads hamlet had grown to the proportions of a modest village in 1843.



It became the business metropolis of the south-western part of the county at the time. There were two general stores, a drug store, grocery, etc. The town also had telegraphic communication with the outside world since 1873. The bank and civic organizations were well known.

Clintonville was incorporated into a borough in January 1878.

Emlenton

The town of Emlenton was first settled in 1810 and was a growing village by the 1830's. The economy was initially based on a number of iron furnaces in the region, using the Allegheny River for transportation. Timber and agriculture became an important basis of commerce in the mid-19th century for the small town. The discovery of oil in Titusville in 1859 soon affected Emlenton - dramatically. The first well was drilled in the area in 1867, about the same time the Allegheny Valley Railroad (AVRR) was extended north from Kittanning and Pittsburgh to Buffalo. "Black Gold Fever" soon extended to Emlenton. Early industry utilized the iron production and transportation routes to become a major supplier of oil well supplies. Oil prospectors soon drilled successful wells in the area and also found large supplies of natural gas.



The Emlenton Gas Light and Fuel Company, the first natural gas company chartered in the state and only the third in the United States, was formed in 1882 to deliver natural gas for lighting and fuel. The Emlenton Refining Company was formed in 1891 by a group of local driller/producers to refine their product locally, soon becoming a profitable company and important employer. A special oil to lubricate the hot-running Franklin air-cooled automobile was named Quaker State in 1915. By the 1930's, the Quaker State Oil Refining Corporation was formed from 19 independent companies and became the economic base of the community, claiming the largest number of millionaires per-capita of any town in the country. The bustling community had theaters, two large hardware stores, automobile and farm equipment dealers, a planing mill, numerous churches, four hotels, an outstanding (donated) school building, and truly impressive houses constructed by the wealth derived primarily from oil and gas.

Richland Township

Richland is a very rural and quiet area today, mainly consisting of farmland. Richland Township was one of the original townships formed during the sub-division of Venango County in 1806. It was one of the largest townships in the county, but by later sub-divisions of the territory, from one of the largest it has become one of the smallest. Rockland Township was first taken from it; then, in 1835, the act to create Clarion County divided the township again, giving to Clarion more than one-half of its remaining territory.



The early industries included mills built along the streams and a tannery. Two distilleries were built and "at a period when the only way of disposing of grain was to eat or drink it, the distillery was scarcely less useful than the grist mill" according to *Venango County History* published in 1890.



Scrubgrass Township

In the early history, Scrubgrass Township was designated as part of Allegheny County. It was erected into a township in the year 1806, when the county was sub-divided into townships. Among the early settlers was the pastor of the Presbyterian church, who preached in the first building erected in Venango County for religious worship.

Early industry included the typical mills and tanneries. A distillery was operated on a property where a fine spring furnished excellent water for this purpose. “The fine quality of ‘Scrubgrass whiskey’ manufactured at this still was wistfully spoken of”, according to Venango County History published in 1890.

Oil drilling was also an early industry. While no great excitement occurred around this industry it lasted the duration of the era. Coal mining also provided opportunities for land and business owners and continues to today.

Victory Township

This is the last of the organized townships of Venango County. It was organized for judicial purposes in the year 1876. It was formed from that part of Sandycreek Township lying south and west of Big Sandy Creek. Victory was settled almost as early as the western frontier of Pennsylvania became a safe place of residence.

One of the earliest settlers constructed a hotel that he ran for thirty-three years. Other hotels and stores soon followed along with the post office.

Another noteworthy industry in the township was that of iron furnaces. Remnants of them can still be seen today. The Sandy Furnace was erected in 1835 and later became known as the Castle Rock Furnace. The Victory Furnace was built in 1843 and was in operation until 1851.

Today, Victory Township still is a rural area. Much of the township is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as State Game Land and State Forest Land.

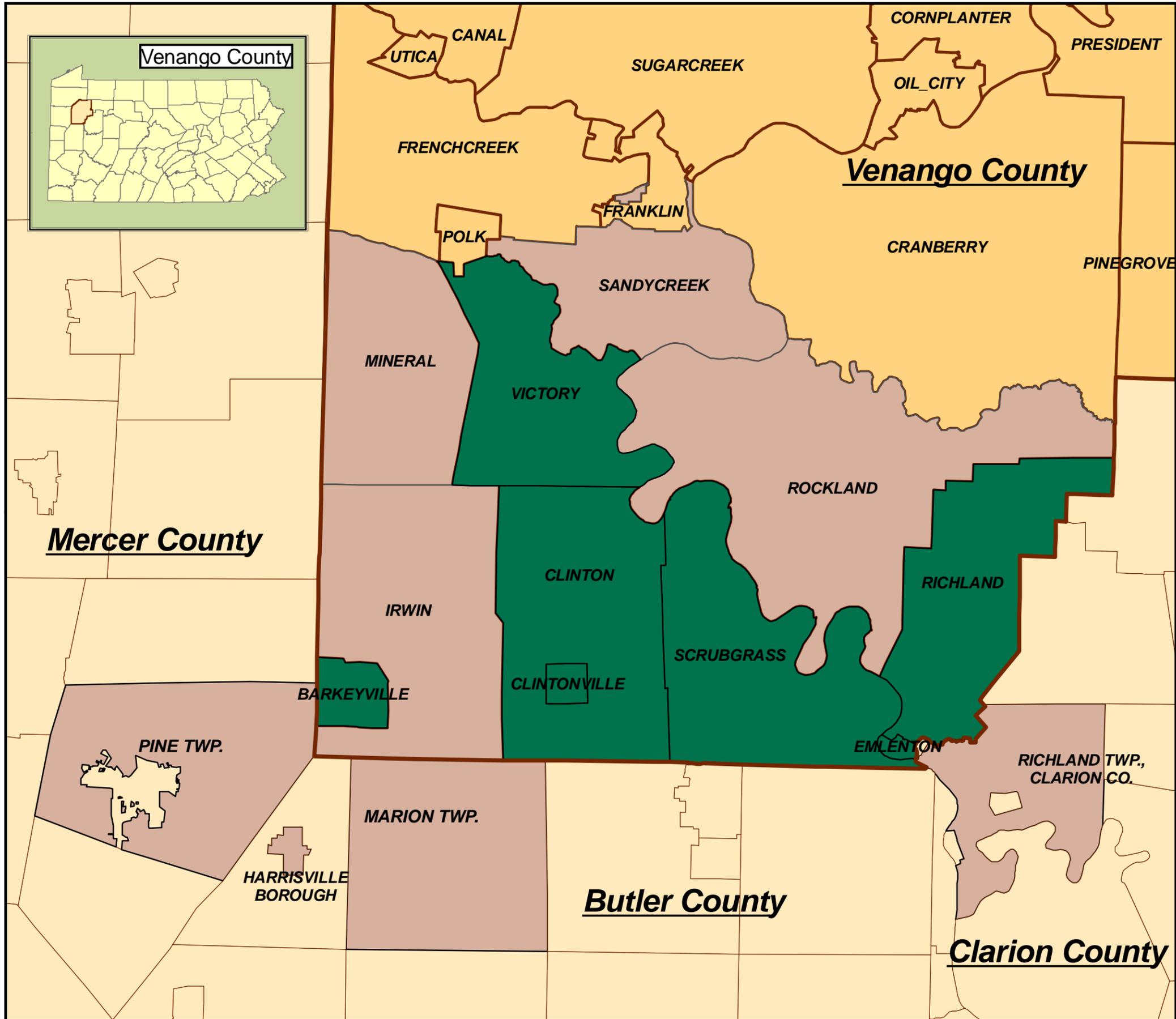


DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSING TRENDS

People are clearly the most vital resource of any region. The composition of this population, how this composition has changed in the past, and how it may continue to change in the future are important aspects to analyze. Variables such as population growth and decline, population distribution/density, age structure, gender and racial composition, education, household size and structure, and income reveal information that is essential to properly planning for the region’s future.

The purpose of this section is to provide a demographic profile of the area. This analysis is based on United States Census data from 1990 to 2000. Comparisons are made to demographic trends in the County and adjacent municipalities. The demographic analysis aids in understanding the characteristics of the community in terms of population, education, housing conditions, and the distribution of income.



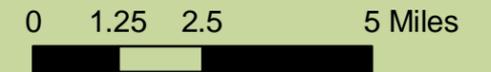


Southern Venango County Participating & Surrounding Municipalities



Map Features

- Participating Municipalities
- Venango County
- Surrounding Municipalities
- Surrounding Counties



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Prepared By:
The Venango County Regional
Planning Commission

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POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The total population of the participating southern communities according to the 2000 Census is 4,258. This represents 7.4% of the population of Venango County which is 57,565.

Figure 2

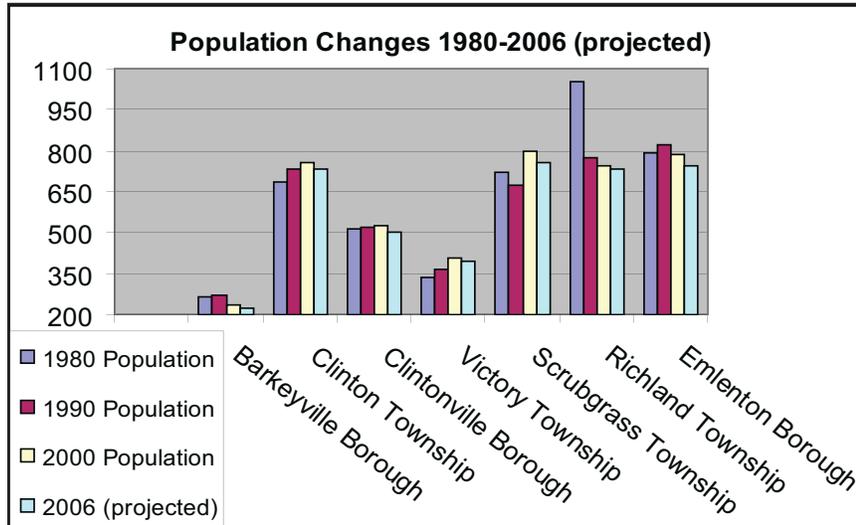


Table 1: SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES – Population Changes

Name	1980 Population	1990 Population	2000 Population	Percent Change 1980-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000	2006 (projected) Population	Percent Change (projected) 2000-2006
Barkeyville Borough	266	274	237	-10.9	-13.5	225	-5.1
Clinton Township	686	733	758	10.5	3.4	734	-3.2
Clintonville Borough	512	520	528	3.1	1.5	503	-4.7
Victory Township	335	365	408	21.8	11.8	396	-2.9
Scrubgrass Township	719	673	799	11.1	18.7	758	-5.1
Richland Township	1,055	775	744	-29.5	-4.0	735	-1.2
Emlenton Borough	794	824	784	-1.3	-4.9	746	-4.8
Total	4,367	4,164	4,258	-2.5	2.3	4,097	-3.8
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>64,444</i>	<i>59,381</i>	<i>57,565</i>	<i>-10.7</i>	<i>-3.1</i>	<i>55,928</i>	<i>-2.8</i>

Source: US Census of Population and Housing

Table 1 indicates some interesting trends.

- Victory, Clinton and Scrubgrass Townships were the fastest growing in population between 1980 and 2000.

- Richland Township with the largest population was also largest in population loss between 1980 and 2000.
- Between 1980 and 2000 the county as a whole lost approximately 10% of the total population while the southern communities lost only approximately 5% of their total population.

The municipalities that surround this region will affect and are affected by those communities that are participating in this multi-municipal plan. Table 2 shows the changes in population between 1990 and 2000.

Table 2: Surrounding Municipalities – Population Changes

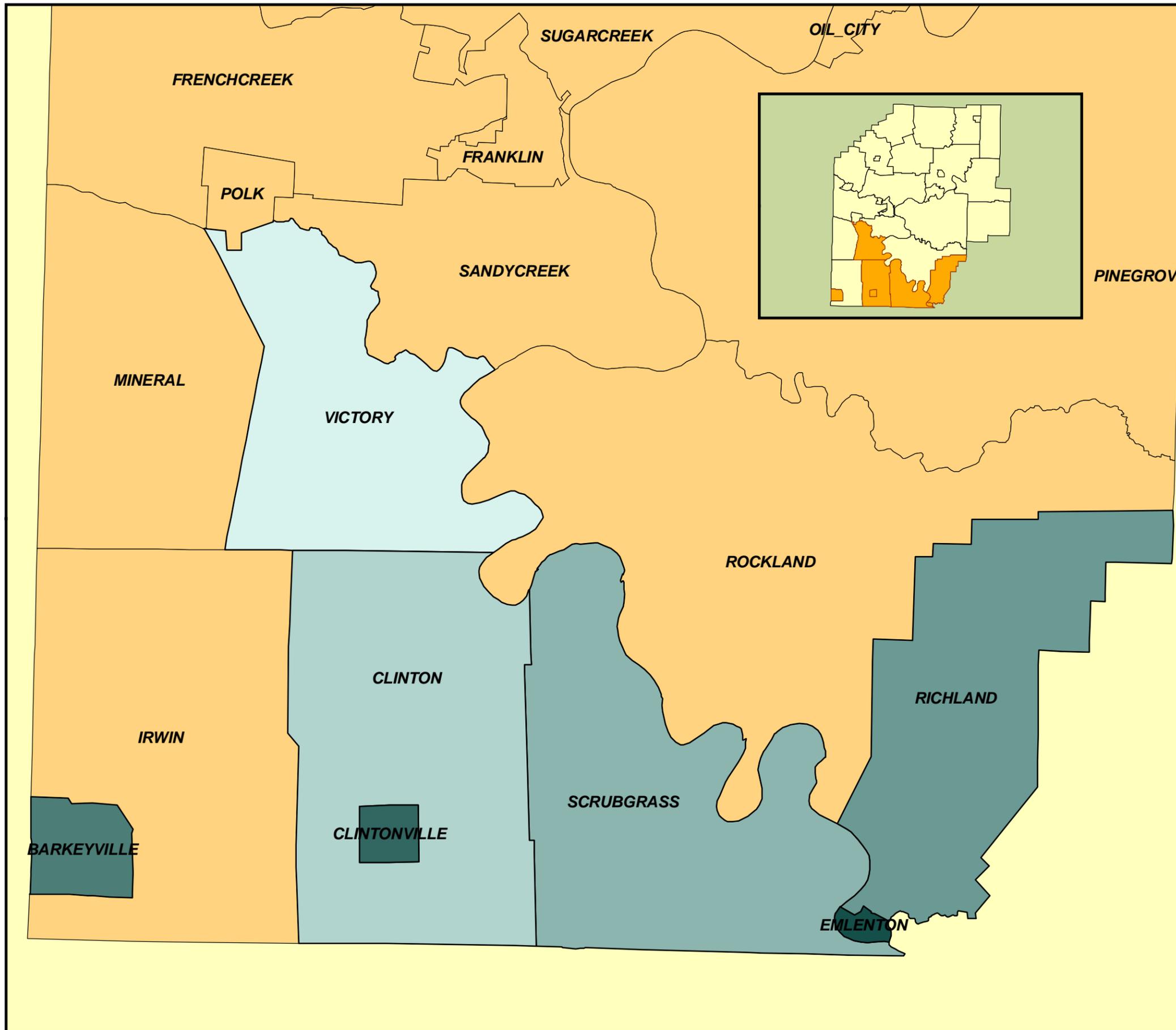
Name	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Irwin Township	1,182	1,309	127	10.7 %
Mineral Township	514	533	19	3.7 %
Rockland Township	1,320	1,346	26	2.0 %
Sandycreek Township	2,495	2,406	89	-3.6 %
Pine Twp., Mercer County	4,193	4,493	300	7.2 %
Harrisville Borough, Butler County	862	883	21	2.4 %
Marion Township, Butler County	1,113	1,330	217	19.5 %
Richland Township, Clarion County	490	553	63	12.9 %
Total	12,169	12,853	684	5.6 %

- The bordering municipalities in the surrounding counties show an increase in population during this time period. This is especially true in those to the south – Marion Twp. in Butler County and Richland Twp. in Clarion County.
- The only surrounding municipality to lose population was Sandycreek Township which is north of the project region.
- These surrounding municipalities show a 5.6% increase in population during the last decade of the century compared to a 9.8% loss for the participating communities and a 3.5% loss for Venango County itself. This indicates a move in population toward the southern region of Venango County from outside the region.

Population Density

The southern region of Venango County is very rural and has a small town welcoming atmosphere. The Boroughs, of course have the highest density of population and housing. Emlenton Borough, located along the river as towns were in the industrial past of the state, has the highest density. While Clinton Township is the largest in land area, Scrubgrass Township has the highest population and number of houses. Interstate 80 is one of the greatest assets of Venango County and runs through the center of the region. This and the low density of the region offer great opportunity for growth but with the expectation of keeping the rural nature of the region.





Southern Venango County Population Density

/

Participating Municipalities

Density

- 21 persons/sq. mile
- 27 persons/sq. mile
- 31 persons/sq. mile
- 34 persons/sq. mile
- 68 persons/sq. mile
- 464 persons/sq. mile
- 1050 persons/sq. mile
- Venango Municipalities

0 1 2 4 Miles

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Prepared By:
The Venango County Regional
Planning Commission

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Table 3: Population and Housing Density 2000

Municipality	Population	Housing Units	Total Land Area (sq. miles)	Population Density (persons/sq mile)	Housing Density (units/sq mile)
Barkeyville Borough	237	109	3.49	67.8	30.3
Clintonville Borough	528	244	1.14	463.5	212.4
Clinton Township	758	412	28.47	26.6	14.5
Victory Township	408	328	19.87	20.5	16.5
Scrubgrass Township	799	601	25.75	31.0	23.3
Richland Township	744	335	22.18	33.5	15.4
Emlenton Borough	784	356	0.74	1,049.9	482.9
Total	4,258	2,385	101.64	41.8	23.4
<i>County</i>	<i>57,565</i>	<i>26,904</i>	<i>675.04</i>	<i>85.3</i>	<i>39.9</i>

Source: United States Census

Population Race Distribution

Table 4: Population Race Distribution (%) 2000

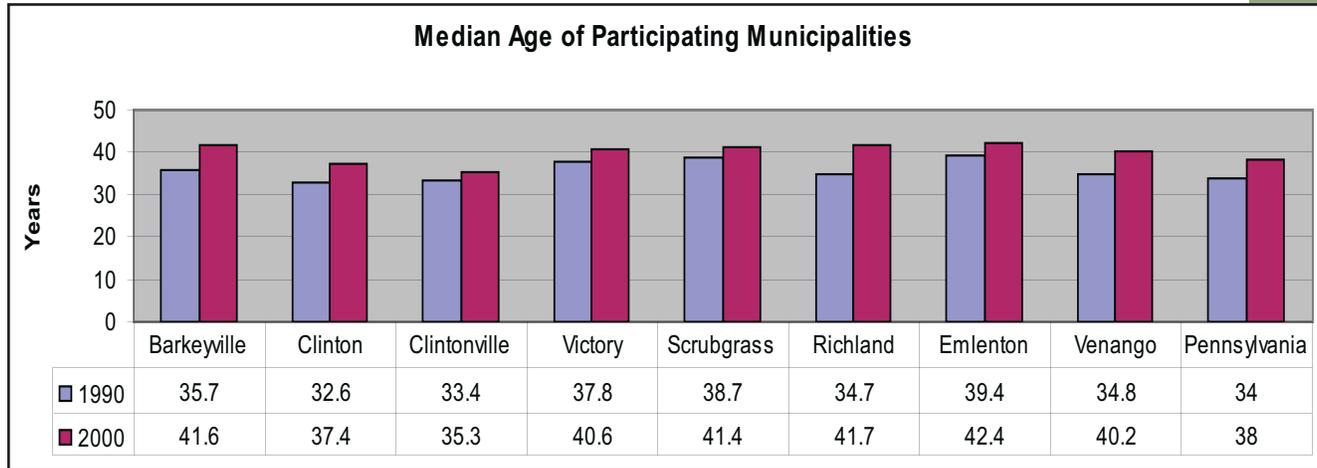
Municipality	% White	% Black or African American	% American Indian	% Asian	% Two or more Races	% Hispanic Origin
Barkeyville Borough	97.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Clintonville Borough	97.20%	1.50%	0.60%	0.00%	0.60%	0.20%
Clinton Township	97.60%	1.30%	0.00%	0.30%	0.70%	0.10%
Victory Township	98.30%	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.70%	0.00%
Scrubgrass Township	97.40%	0.90%	0.10%	0.10%	1.50%	0.00%
Richland Township	99.30%	0.00%	0.10%	0.40%	0.10%	0.70%
Emlenton Borough	98.90%	0.00%	0.30%	0.40%	0.50%	0.00%
Total	98.70%	0.69%	0.17%	0.38%	0.66%	0.17%
<i>County</i>	<i>97.60%</i>	<i>1.10%</i>	<i>0.20%</i>	<i>0.20%</i>	<i>0.70%</i>	<i>0.50%</i>

Source: United States Census

Age Distribution of the Population

According to the 2000 US Census the median age for Pennsylvania was 38.0 years of age increasing sharply from the 1990 median age of 34.0 years. This ranked Pennsylvania as now having the 3rd oldest resident population in the US behind West Virginia and Florida. In 2000, Venango County had a median age of 40.2 years ranking the County as having the 11th oldest resident population in the state. In 1990 the median age in the County was 34.8 years. The southern communities also showed an increase in age of the population.

Figure 3



- Only Clinton Township and Clintonville Borough had median ages younger than that of the county or the state, although all were similar.

Age Structure

Three of the most important demographic groups in any human population are people under the age of 18, females in the most common childbearing years (i.e., ages 14 to 45), and senior citizens (i.e., ages 65 and up). People under the age of 18 are important simply because they are the future of the population. Women in the childbearing years are important simply because they represent the population’s ability to reproduce itself. Senior citizens are important because of the special services that they often require.

Table 5: Population Age Distribution (2000)

Municipality	<19 Years	% of Total	20-44 Years	% of Total	45-64 Years	% of Total	>65 Years	% of Total
Barkeyville Borough	53	22.36	83	35.02	60	25.32	42	17.72
Clintonville Borough	154	29.17	179	33.90	113	21.40	82	15.53
Clinton Township	219	28.89	243	32.06	195	25.73	101	13.32
Victory Township	112	27.45	129	31.62	109	26.72	58	14.22
Scrubgrass Township	195	24.41	263	32.92	189	23.65	152	19.02
Richland Township	191	25.67	233	31.32	199	26.75	121	16.26
Emlenton Borough	202	25.77	220	28.06	178	22.70	184	23.47
Total (% of participating municipalities)	1,126	26.44	1,350	31.71	1,043	24.50	740	17.38
<i>County</i>	<i>15400</i>	<i>26.75</i>	<i>18,052</i>	<i>31.36</i>	<i>14,456</i>	<i>25.11</i>	<i>9657</i>	<i>16.78</i>

Source: United States Census

Table 6: Population Trends in Age Distribution

Municipality	< 18 years			18 yrs - 64 yrs			> 65 years		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Barkeyville Borough	77	53	-31.2%	162	142	-12.3%	35	42	20.0%
Clintonville Borough	164	154	-6.1%	259	292	12.7%	97	82	-15.5%
Clinton Township	252	219	-13.1%	386	438	13.5%	95	101	6.3%
Victory Township	103	112	8.7%	208	238	14.4%	54	58	7.4%
Scrubgrass Township	182	195	7.1%	360	452	25.6%	131	152	16.0%
Richland Township	247	191	-22.7%	430	432	0.5%	98	121	23.5%
Emlenton Borough	223	202	-9.4%	410	398	-2.9%	191	184	-3.7%
Total	1,248	1,126	-9.8%	2,215	2,392	8.0%	701	740	5.6%
<i>County</i>	<i>17,482</i>	<i>15,400</i>	<i>-11.9%</i>	<i>32,978</i>	<i>32,508</i>	<i>-1.4%</i>	<i>8,921</i>	<i>9,657</i>	<i>8.3%</i>

Source: United States Census

- The southern communities followed much the same age distribution as the county with the highest number of people between the ages of 20-44 and 45-64.
- The southern region had the highest increase in population in that same age range (18-64) while the county as a whole showed the highest increase in the older age range (>65).
- Barkeyville Borough had the largest negative percentage change between 1990 and 2000 with a decrease in those younger than 18. Scrubgrass Township had the largest positive percentage change with an increase in those 18-64.

HOUSEHOLD TRENDS

Housing is an integral part of Pennsylvania's infrastructure. As of Census 2000, there were more than 1.5 million housing units in rural Pennsylvania, 86 percent of which were occupied. One quarter of these occupied units were rented, resulting in a rural home ownership rate of 75 percent. The southern Venango County region has figures slightly lower than those of the state in occupancy but higher numbers in home ownership. While 70.25% of the housing units are occupied, 21.8% are rented resulting in home ownership of 78.2%.

Table 7: Type of Household, 2000

Municipality	Family Households		Non-Family Households	
	#	% of total	#	% of total
Barkeyville Borough	72	79.1%	19	20.9%
Clintonville Borough	147	68.4%	68	31.6%
Clinton Township	219	78.8%	59	21.2%
Victory Township	120	74.1%	42	25.9%
Scrubgrass Township	241	75.3%	79	24.7%

Richland Township	214	73.5%	77	26.5%
Emlenton Borough	201	62.4%	121	37.6%
Total	1,214	72.0%	465	28.0%
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>15,926</i>	<i>70.0%</i>	<i>6,821</i>	<i>30.0%</i>

Source: United States Census

According to recent estimates by the Census Bureau, housing growth in rural Pennsylvania continues to outpace population growth. Between Census 2000 and July 2003, state population is estimated to have grown by less than 1 percent and housing by nearly 3 percent. It is difficult to determine why housing is growing faster than the population but some possible reasons are that older persons are living longer in their own homes, more young people are moving out on their own, and divorced families live in separate homes. Another simple reason is that today's families are smaller than they were in 1940. An increase in second homes seems to account for a small part of the phenomenon.¹

(¹ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, March 2005 newsletter.)

Table 8: Household Trends, 2000

Municipality	Total Households 1990	Avg. Household Size 1990	Total Households 2000	Avg. Household Size 2000	% Change in Households
Barkeyville Borough	100	2.74	91	2.60	-9.00%
Clintonville Borough	214	2.43	215	2.46	0.47%
Clinton Township	251	2.92	278	2.73	10.76%
Victory Township	143	2.55	162	2.52	13.29%
Scrubgrass Township	267	2.52	320	2.50	19.85%
Richland Township	276	2.81	291	2.56	5.43%
Emlenton Borough	314	2.46	322	2.30	2.55%
Total	1,565	2.63	1,679	2.52	7.28%
<i>County</i>	<i>22,408</i>	<i>2.58</i>	<i>22,747</i>	<i>2.45</i>	<i>1.51%</i>

Source: United States Census

- While the total number of households increased in both the southern region and the county, the average household size decreased.
- The total increase in households for the region was nearly five fold that of the county as a whole.
- The region followed the pattern of the county in family verses non-family households.
- Barkeyville had the highest number of family households while Emlenton had the highest non-family households.

The municipalities have a variety of housing types a majority of which are single-family detached houses. The boroughs have apartment and duplex dwellings as well. The distribution of housing in the region overall is representative of that found throughout Venango County, in which single family homes are the primary housing type. Each community also has a problem with blighted conditions to varying degrees. The following tables and charts give census data concerning housing value, types of housing, tenure and trends.

Figure 4

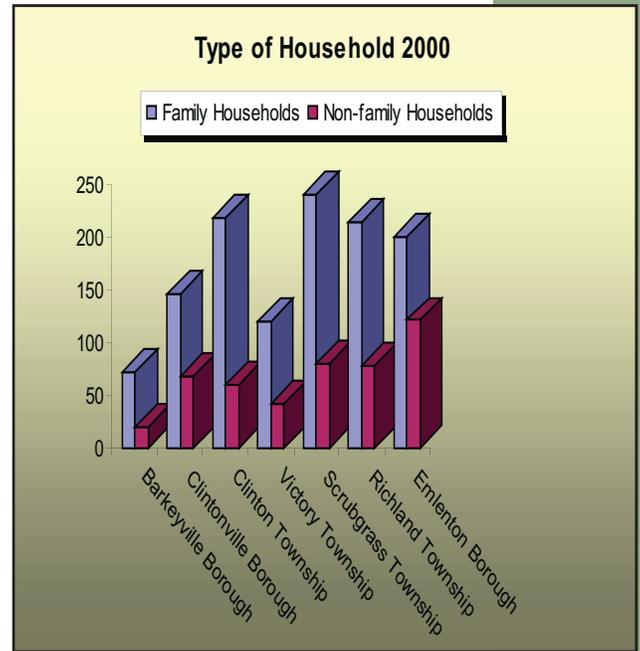


Table 9: Housing Value 2000 – Southern Venango Region

Municipality	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$149,999	\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000 - \$299,999	\$300,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$ 1 million or more	\$ Median
Barkeyville Borough	11	33	4	0	0	0	0	0	62,500
Clintonville Borough	16	47	3	0	0	0	0	0	56,800
Clinton Township	41	66	17	2	2	0	0	0	65,000
Victory Township	24	29	4	2	0	0	0	0	56,900
Scrubgrass Township	46	70	23	7	13	0	0	0	71,400
Richland Township	49	57	11	12	0	3	0	0	60,000
Emlenton Borough	65	90	23	2	0	0	0	0	62,200
Total	252	392	85	25	15	3	0	0	
County	5,369	5,800	966	273	129	9	8	0	55,900

- The median value of houses in Venango County is \$55,900. All of the participating communities have median values higher than that figure although not much higher.
- Scrubgrass Township has the highest median value at \$71,400, though throughout the region most houses are valued between \$50,000 and \$99,000.
- Skewing the values in Scrubgrass Township, along with Clinton and Richland Townships are the 18 homes valued above \$200,000.

Table 10: Housing Value 2000 – Surrounding Municipalities

Municipality	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$149,999	\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000 - \$299,999	\$300,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$ 1 million or more
Irwin Township	237	109	22	4	4	0	0	0
Mineral Township	119	32	4	3	0	0	0	0
Rockland Township	400	169	30	3	2	0	0	0
Sandy creek Township	609	295	112	18	6	2	0	0
Pine Twp., Mercer Co.	1026	345	276	139	71	15	0	0
Harrisville Borough, Butler Co.	250	145	36	13	0	0	0	0
Marion Township, Butler Co.	288	126	16	18	4	0	0	0
Richland Township, Clarion Co.	165	53	11	3	0	0	0	0
Total	3094	1274	507	201	87	17	0	0

Source: United States Census

- The surrounding municipalities show a slightly different story than the planning region. Most of the homes are valued at less than \$50,000.
- On the other hand, 104 homes are valued over \$200,000 – most of these are located in Pine Township, Mercer County.

Table 11: Trends in Housing Construction

Municipality	Total Housing Units	Pre-1960 (%)	1960-1969 (%)	1970-1979 (%)	1980-1989 (%)	1990-2000 (%)
Barkeyville Borough	109	57.80	10.09	3.67	15.60	12.84
Clintonville Borough	244	46.72	4.10	17.21	24.18	7.79
Clinton Township	412	42.96	8.01	18.45	17.48	13.11
Victory Township	328	26.83	12.50	24.09	13.41	23.17
Scrubgrass Township	601	44.93	13.98	17.14	11.81	12.15
Richland Township	335	57.01	11.04	12.24	12.54	7.16
Emlenton Borough	356	75.56	3.93	5.34	9.27	5.90
Total	2,385	49.14	9.64	15.26	14.17	11.78
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>26,904</i>	<i>59.00</i>	<i>9.62</i>	<i>15.23</i>	<i>9.03</i>	<i>7.13</i>

Source: United States Census

As described in the Cultural and Historic Resources section of this plan, many areas of the region still show the heritage of the oil era especially in the architecture of the buildings. Some original structures still stand today. This is especially true in Emlenton Borough.

- As in all of Venango County, most of the housing in the planning area was built prior to 1960.
- Victory Township has the newest homes with growth in the 1970's and 1990's.

Table 12: Housing Type: Units in Structure, 2000

Municipality	1-unit Detached		1-unit Attached		2-4 units		5+ units		Mobile Homes		Other	
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
Barkeyville Borough	79	72.5	3	2.8	2	1.8	0	0	25	22.9	0	0
Clintonville Borough	107	43.9	4	1.6	12	4.9	36	14.8	85	34.8	0	0
Clinton Township	301	73.1	2	0.5	0	0	0	0	108	26.2	1	0.2
Victory Township	219	66.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	32.0	4	1.2
Scrubgrass Township	504	83.9	2	0.3	3	0.5	0	0	90	15.0	2	0.3
Richland Township	275	82.1	3	0.9	7	2.1	0	0	50	14.9	0	0
Emlenton Borough	273	76.7	4	1.1	39	11.0	37	10.4	3	0.8	0	0
Total	1758	73.71	18	0.75	63	2.64	73	3.06	466	19.54	7	0.29
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>19,917</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>2,079</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>1,366</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>3,221</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>0.2</i>

Source: United States Census

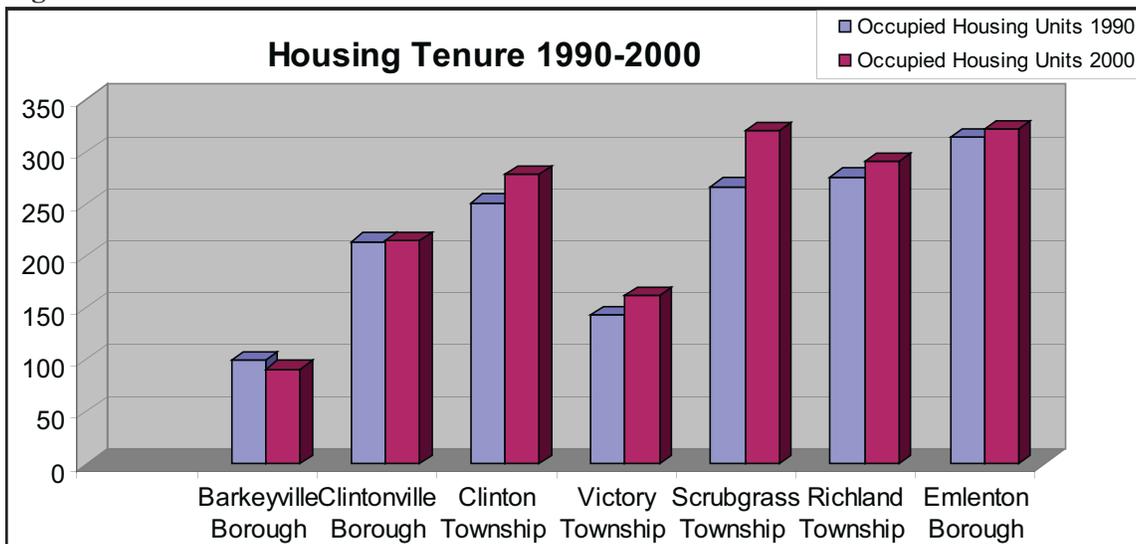
Table 13: Housing Tenure, 1990-2000

Municipality	Year	Occupied Housing Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
			# units	%	# units	%
Barkeyville Borough	1990	100	87	87.0	13	13.0
	2000	91	73	80.2	18	19.8
Clintonville Borough	1990	214	147	68.7	67	31.3
	2000	215	137	63.7	78	36.3
Clinton Township	1990	251	217	86.5	34	13.5
	2000	278	250	89.9	28	10.1
Victory Township	1990	143	125	87.4	18	12.6
	2000	162	134	82.7	28	17.3
Scrubgrass Township	1990	267	228	85.4	39	14.6
	2000	320	270	84.4	50	15.6

Richland Township	1990	276	224	81.2	52	18.8
	2000	291	243	83.5	48	16.5
Emlenton Borough	1990	314	217	69.1	97	30.9
	2000	322	206	64.0	116	36.0
Total 1990		1,565	1,245	79.6	320	20.4
Total 2000		1,679	1,313	78.2	366	21.8
<i>Venango County 1990</i>		<i>22,408</i>	<i>16,692</i>	<i>74.5</i>	<i>5,716</i>	<i>25.5</i>
<i>Venango County 2000</i>		<i>22,747</i>	<i>17,386</i>	<i>76.4</i>	<i>5,361</i>	<i>23.6</i>

Source: United States Census

Figure 5



Most of the homes in the planning region as in the county are owner occupied. The Boroughs show more units occupied by renters than the more rural Townships. There was a decline in occupied housing between the 1990 and 2000 census surveys in Barkeyville and Clintonville Boroughs and Victory Township. Victory Township shows the biggest decline with 50.5% unoccupied compared with the county's 15.5%. This may indicate the fact that Victory Township has a large number of seasonal homes as is the case throughout the region.

Table 14: Housing Vacancy, 1990-2000

Municipality	Year	Total Housing Units	Total (Occupied) Households	Vacant Housing Units	% Vacant
Barkeyville Borough	1990	110	100	10	9.1
	2000	106	91	15	14.2
Clintonville Borough	1990	238	214	24	10.1
	2000	242	215	27	11.2

Clinton Township	1990	416	251	165	39.7
	2000	414	278	136	32.9
Victory Township	1990	282	143	139	49.3
	2000	327	162	165	50.5
Scrubgrass Township	1990	591	267	324	54.8
	2000	600	320	280	46.7
Richland Township	1990	341	276	65	19.1
	2000	341	291	50	14.7
Emlenton Borough	1990	356	314	42	11.8
	2000	360	322	38	10.6
Total 1990	1990	2,334	1,565	769	32.9
Total 2000	2000	2,390	1,679	711	29.7
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>26,961</i>	<i>22,408</i>	<i>4,553</i>	<i>16.9</i>
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>26,904</i>	<i>22,747</i>	<i>4,157</i>	<i>15.5</i>

Source: United States Census

EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS

Table 15: School Enrollment 2000

Municipality	Nursery school/ preschool	Kindergarten	Elementary School (grades 1-8)	High School (grades 9-12)	College or Graduate School
Barkeyville Borough	5	0	26	10	2
Clintonville Borough	6	4	64	30	20
Clinton Township	0	9	86	44	5
Victory Township	3	0	69	19	14
Scrubgrass Township	4	7	96	59	17
Richland Township	1	6	57	62	24
Emlenton Borough	12	11	77	57	27
Total	31	37	475	281	109
<i>County</i>	<i>595</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>6,620</i>	<i>3,762</i>	<i>1,398</i>

Table 16: Educational Attainment 2000 by percent – Southern Venango Region

Municipality	Less than 9th Grade	9th - 12th grade (no diploma)	High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	Some College (no degree)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Barkeyville Borough	12.4	14.5	46.2	16.7	4.3	2.2	3.8
Clinton Township	10.6	13.4	57.4	6	6.8	3	2.8

Clintonville Borough	11.2	13.3	54.6	8.3	1.8	8	2.9
Emlenton Borough	4.9	8.5	51.4	11.6	4.9	9.4	9.4
Richland Township	6.5	12.8	53.4	7.8	5.6	8.5	5.4
Scrubgrass Township	7.9	11.9	54.6	13.4	3.9	5.1	3.1
Victory Township	3.2	15.8	52.3	15.1	4.2	8.1	1.4

Source: US Census of Population and Housing

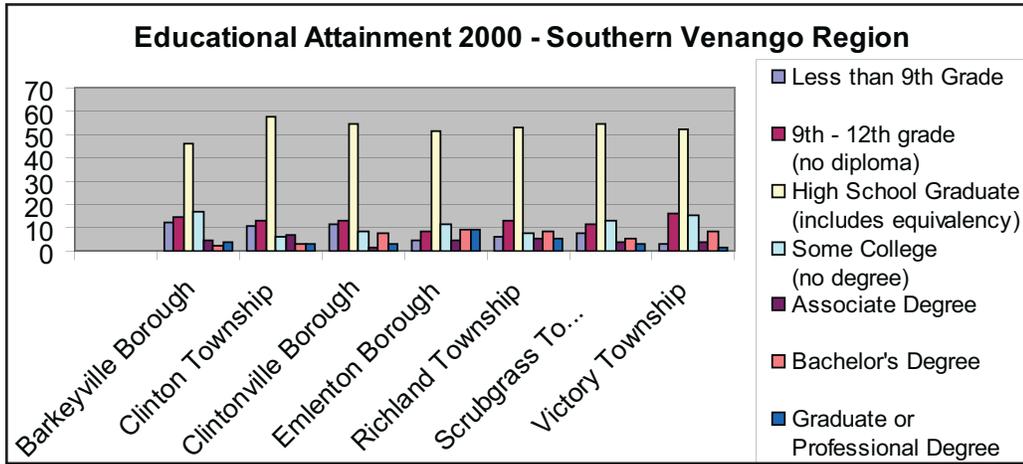
Table 17 Educational Attainment 2000 by percent - Surrounding Municipalities

Municipality	Less than 9th Grade	9th - 12th grade (no diploma)	High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	Some College (no degree)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Irwin Township	7.4	20.5	48.1	9.7	4.3	7.2	2.8
Mineral Township	9.6	13.7	53.9	10.9	3.6	4.7	3.6
Rockland Township	6.2	13.0	56.7	11.2	4.5	6.3	2.2
Sandycreek Township	1.8	7.3	53.0	15.0	8.4	8.0	6.5
Pine Twp., Mercer Co.	4.8	10.6	47.1	10.9	4.0	15.2	7.4
Harrisville Borough, Butler Co.	12.2	13.0	45.4	13.2	4.3	8.2	3.6
Marion Township, Butler Co.	8.4	15.0	50.4	13.6	3.4	5.4	3.7
Richland Township, Clarion Co.	3.0	17.8	50.0	8.4	5.4	12.4	3.0
Total	5.8	12.4	50.0	11.9	4.9	9.9	5.1

Source: US Census of Population and Housing

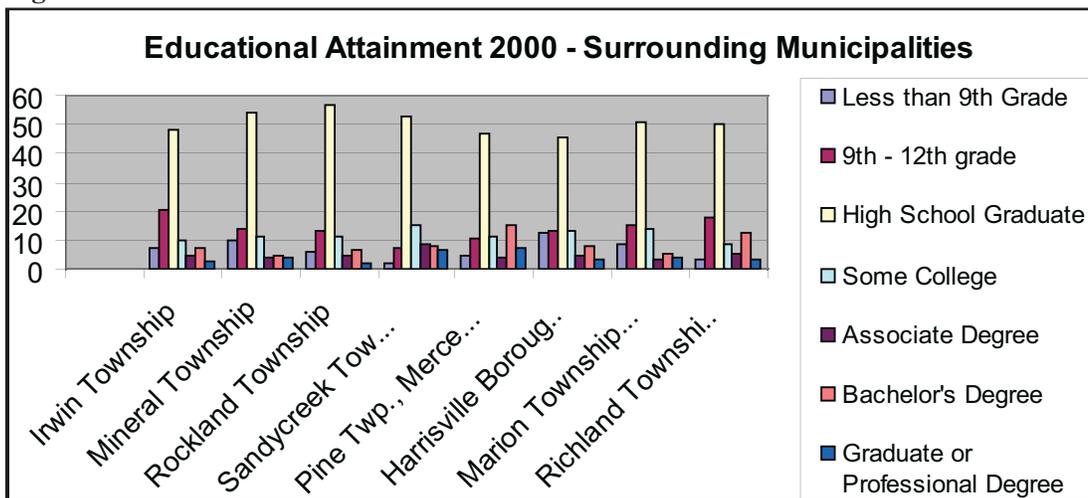


Figure 6



- Although the surrounding municipalities that are being analyzed have a total population that is almost three times that of the project region, the educational attainment pattern is about the same as is that of the region and Venango County.

Figure 7



- The majority of the population in all areas is at the high school graduate (or equivalent) level. This indicates that the workforce in the area is more blue collar than professional.

POVERTY AND INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

Poverty levels for Venango County in 2000 were high compared to Pennsylvania. Of particular concern were the poverty levels of women who are single parents with very young children, nearly 70% of such households were considered below poverty. Families in general with young children have significantly less income than Pennsylvania families as a whole.

Figure 7

Poverty Level - 2000	
	% Families
Pennsylvania	7.8
Venango County	10.4
Butler County	6.1
Clarion County	10.4
Mercer County	8.8

At the core of the definition of “poverty level” was the 1961 economy food plan, the least costly of four nutritionally adequate food plans designed by the Department of Agriculture. It was determined that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; hence, the poverty level for these families was set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses for these smaller households.

Table 18: Income Trends for Planning Area 1990-2000

Municipality	Median Household Income (\$)			Per Capita Income (\$)		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Barkeyville Borough	27,813	41,500	49.2	10,781	16,161	49.9
Clintonville Borough	20,395	22,083	8.3	9,259	15,488	67.28
Clinton Township	28,824	37,361	29.6	8,750	16,370	87.09
Victory Township	23,229	35,096	51.1	10,490	15,156	44.48
Scrubgrass Township	19,671	37,083	88.5	9,811	16,839	71.63
Richland Township	20,375	33,661	65.2	9,004	16,941	88.15
Emlenton Borough	23,947	30,227	26.2	12,042	16,952	40.77
Venango County	22,593	32,257	42.8	10,696	16,252	51.94

Source: United States Census

Between 1990 and 2000, household and per capita income levels rose substantially in six of the seven municipalities keeping or exceeding pace with the county. Nearly all had median household and per capita incomes higher than that of the county.

- Clintonville Borough showed the smallest change in median household income although it showed a substantial increase in per capita income.
- The municipalities surrounding the planning region all had higher median household and per capita incomes. They also showed a greater increase between 1990 and 2000.

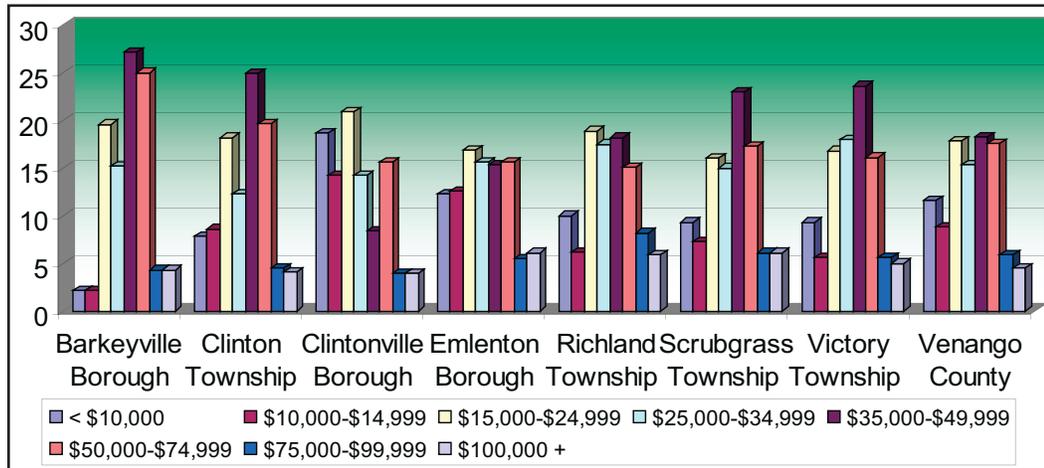
Table 19: Income Trends for Surrounding Municipalities

Municipality	Median Household Income (\$)			Per Capita Income (\$)		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Irwin Township	23,516	34,615	47.20	9,474	16,549	74.68
Mineral Township	24,583	37,500	52.54	10,796	15,945	47.69
Rockland Township	22,042	31,129	41.23	10,946	15,495	41.56
Sandycreek Township	29,028	46,723	60.96	11,427	22,165	93.97
Pine Twp., Mercer Co.	29,795	41,423	39.03	12,027	18,015	49.79
Harrisville Borough, Butler Co.	23,000	31,964	38.97	12,517	12,683	1.33
Marion Township, Butler Co.	21,856	35,288	61.46	10,416	15,089	44.86
Richland Township, Clarion Co.	19,500	32,083	64.53	9,431	14,764	56.55
Total	195,310	292,725	49.88	89,024	132,705	49.07

Source: United States Census

Income Ranges in the Planning Area

Figure 8



The incomes in the region vary greatly from less than \$10,000 to over \$100,000. The largest grouping of incomes is the \$15,000 to \$75,000 range.

- All of the municipalities in the planning region show a much greater variation than does the county data.
- Richland Township shows the highest percentage at the highest income levels while Clintonville Borough shows the highest percentage at the lowest income levels.
- Most households within the planning region have incomes between \$35,000 and \$49,000.

Table 20: Households by Income Group 2000 (by percent) - Southern Venango Region

Name	< \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$14,999	\$15,000 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 +
Barkeyville Borough	2.2	2.2	19.6	15.2	27.2	25.0	4.3	4.3
Clinton Township	7.8	8.6	18.2	12.3	24.9	19.7	4.5	4.1
Clintonville Borough	18.7	14.2	20.9	14.2	8.4	15.6	4.0	4.0
Emlenton Borough	12.3	12.6	16.9	15.6	15.3	15.6	5.5	6.1
Richland Township	10.0	6.2	18.9	17.5	18.2	15.1	8.2	5.9
Scrubgrass Township	9.3	7.3	16.0	15.0	23.0	17.3	6.1	6.1
Victory Township	9.3	5.6	16.8	18.0	23.6	16.1	5.6	5.0
Venango County	11.6	8.8	17.9	15.3	18.3	17.6	5.9	4.5

Table 21: Poverty Characteristics, 2000

Municipality	Individuals		Families	
	#	%	#	%
Barkeyville Borough	33	12.7	7	8.8
Clintonville Borough	72	13.4	22	14.4
Clinton Township	83	11.2	18	8.1
Victory Township	37	9.0	6	5.2
Scrubgrass Township	112	14.3	18	7.7
Richland Township	88	11.9	19	8.7
Emlenton Borough	119	15.1	22	10.7
Total	544	12.8	112	9.2
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>7,516</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>1,657</i>	<i>10.4</i>

Source: United States Census

Poverty in the region overall is less prevalent than in the County. For both individuals and families, poverty rates in five of the seven municipalities in 2000 were lower than those in Venango County as a whole.

- Just over nine percent of the families in the planning region are listed as being at or below the poverty level. This is less than that of the county.
- For individuals, the percentage of those below the poverty level is higher in Emlenton Borough and Scrubgrass Township than it is in the county.
- For families, the percentage of those below the poverty level is higher in Emlenton Borough and Clintonville Borough than it is in the county.
- Clintonville Borough lists the highest number of both individuals and families.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The development of Venango County can be attributed to a number of factors. These include the existence of natural resources, the ability of early settlers to tame the wilderness, the establishment of successful industrial enterprises, and the development of transportation networks connecting the area with the outside world.

The early settlers in Venango County found virgin forests with a lumber boom occurring in Pennsylvania just before the Civil War and continuing for the next forty years.

The extraction and use of the minerals found in the area were exploited by the early settlers for commercial concerns. Early iron making was a significant part of the local economy.

Subsequent publicity following the discovery of oil caused wildcatters, and speculators to rush to the area. The area quickly developed into the world's first oil center.

Boats and railroads were built to provide the needed transportation. These supportive businesses employed many people. However, once the oil was drilled, refineries built, and the transportation



system in place, fewer employees were needed, unlike coal extraction and steel manufacturing which require a continuous large labor force. Natural gas and oil are frequently found together. At first, the important element which created wealth was oil. Natural gas became valuable as a source of home heating fuel and illumination. Today, one can see small oil and gas wells dotting the countryside.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis there are four key employment sectors in the region today:

- Manufacturing
- Government and government enterprises
- Retail trade
- Health care and social assistance

Venango County has the highest percentage of health care and social assistance employment compared to surrounding counties.

Desired Development Objective

Achieve and maintain a healthy business climate to ensure continued sound economic growth of existing and new businesses, and to preserve the quality of life that has made Southern Venango County an attractive place to live and work.

Recent trends in the civilian labor force have been relatively flat since 2001. The county as a whole has experienced little change. For northwest Pennsylvania, unemployment rates in the last five years have been higher than for the state as a whole although they have followed a similar trend. Unemployment for the larger region on average was 5.5 percent in 2005, compared to a statewide average of only 5.0 percent. Venango County has experienced a decrease in total employment in recent years and was below 1980 levels in 2005.

A closer look at trends in the private and public sectors shows that private employment grew during the period from 1980 to 2004. However, trends in the public or government sector were less positive. Venango County experienced losses in the public sector particularly since the mid 1990's.

The project region of southern Venango County has experienced similar trends.

COMMUNITY INCOME ANALYSIS

Table 22: Income Summary for Planning Area

Municipality	Median Household Income (2000)	Per Capita Income (2000)
Barkeyville Borough	41,500	16,161
Clintonville Borough	22,083	15,488
Clinton Township	37,361	16,370

Victory Township	35,096	15,156
Scrubgrass Township	37,083	16,839
Richland Township	33,661	16,941
Emlenton Borough	30,227	16,952
Venango County	32,257	16,252

Source: United States Census

A summary of incomes for the municipalities in the planning area is provided in Table 22

- The median and per capita income levels were similar to those of the county.
- Barkeyville Borough had the highest median household income while Emlenton showed the highest in per capita income.
- Clintonville Borough had the lowest median household income while Victory Township showed the lowest per capita income.

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

The labor force characteristics for the planning area are described in Table 23.

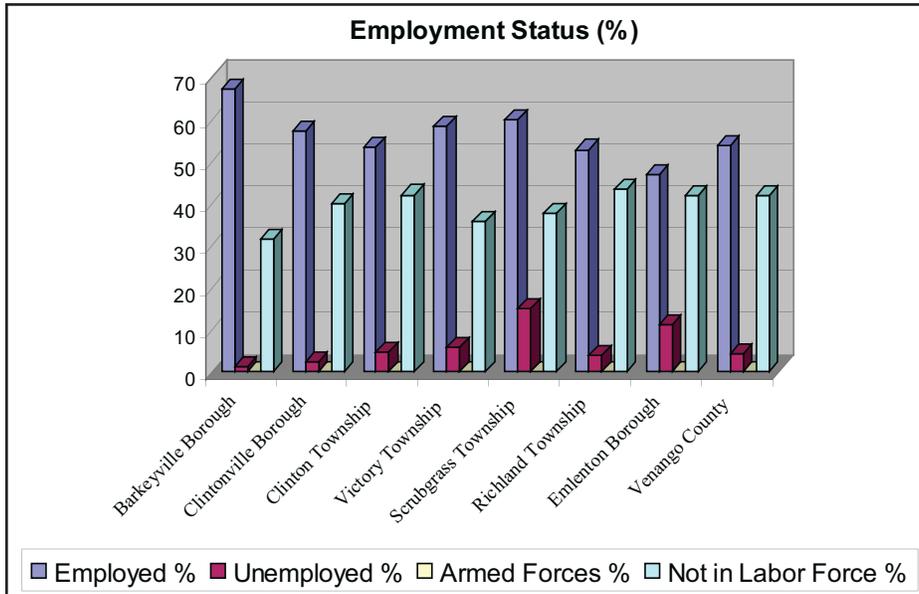
Table 23 - Employment Status for the Planning Area (2000)

Municipality	Civilian Labor Force (#)	Employed %	Unemployed %	Armed Forces %	Not in Labor Force %
Barkeyville Borough	142	67.10	1.40	0.00	31.40
Clintonville Borough	246	57.40	2.40	0.00	40.10
Clinton Township	339	53.30	4.60	0.00	42.10
Victory Township	211	58.50	5.80	0.00	35.70
Scrubgrass Township	390	59.90	15.00	0.00	37.70
Richland Township	357	52.80	3.80	0.00	43.40
Emlenton Borough	367	46.80	11.20	0.00	42.00
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>26,386</i>	<i>53.80</i>	<i>4.20</i>	<i>0.10</i>	<i>41.90</i>

Source: United States Census

*Population 16 years and over

Figure 9



- The unemployment rate in the southern region varied greatly from 1.4% to 15.0%, the highest being nearly four times the rate of the county.
- Scrubgrass Township had the highest unemployment rate while Barkeyville had the lowest.
- No one from the region is listed as being in the armed forces. The County as a whole only has 0.1% who have joined up.

Most people in the United States today still drive alone to work. Commuting times have increased as people have moved away from the urban cores to the country for a slower pace of life. The southern planning region is no different.

Table 24: Commuting to Work (percent)*

Municipality	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Transportation (including taxi)	Walked	Other Means	Worked at Home	Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)
Barkeyville Borough	88.30	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.60	22.20
Clintonville Borough	83.00	11.10	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	21.70
Clinton Township	73.40	15.50	1.60	3.60	3.00	3.00	28.50
Victory Township	79.30	16.50	0.00	2.10	0.00	2.10	32.40
Scrubgrass Township	81.60	15.40	0.00	1.70	0.80	0.60	35.00
Richland Township	76.20	15.20	0.90	1.90	0.60	5.30	25.60
Emlenton Borough	83.20	11.30	0.00	2.10	2.10	1.40	20.10
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>80.40</i>	<i>11.70</i>	<i>0.70</i>	<i>3.30</i>	<i>1.20</i>	<i>2.80</i>	<i>21.20</i>

Source: United States Census

*Workers 16 years and over

- The majority of workers drive to work alone. Only between 8% and 16.5% tend to carpool.
- There is little public transportation in the planning region. The public bus system in the county can be contacted to schedule a pickup in the area when necessary.
- Few areas have businesses within walking distance from most residential areas or the communities aren't "walkable".
- Commuting times were in the 20 to 30 minute range.

OCCUPATIONS

The occupational break-down for the municipalities in the planning area in 2000 is shown in Table 25. The categories as listed in the 1990 census were broken down into more segments. That table is also shown.

- Most workers from the planning region are evenly split for the most part between management and professional level jobs, sales and office jobs, and production and transportation jobs.
- Farming, fishing and forestry were most prevalent in Clinton, Scrubgrass and Richland Townships.
- Farming, fishing and forestry jobs reduced significantly since 1990 levels while management and professional level jobs increased.

Table 25: General Occupation Categories 2000 (percent)

Municipality	Management, Professional & Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing & Forestry	Construction, Extraction & Maintenance	Production, Transportation, & Material Moving
Barkeyville Borough	23.00	15.10	24.50	0.00	18.00	19.40
Clintonville Borough	16.10	26.70	21.60	0.00	10.60	25.00
Clinton Township	15.10	18.90	26.30	3.20	14.40	22.10
Victory Township	21.90	20.30	22.90	1.00	12.00	21.90
Scrubgrass Township	23.50	12.00	23.20	2.10	16.80	22.40
Richland Township	22.80	12.90	23.70	2.10	13.80	24.60
Emlenton Borough	32.40	15.20	26.70	0.00	10.10	15.50
<i>Venango County</i>	<i>25.50</i>	<i>16.70</i>	<i>24.00</i>	<i>0.70</i>	<i>9.40</i>	<i>23.70</i>

Source: United States Census

Figure 10

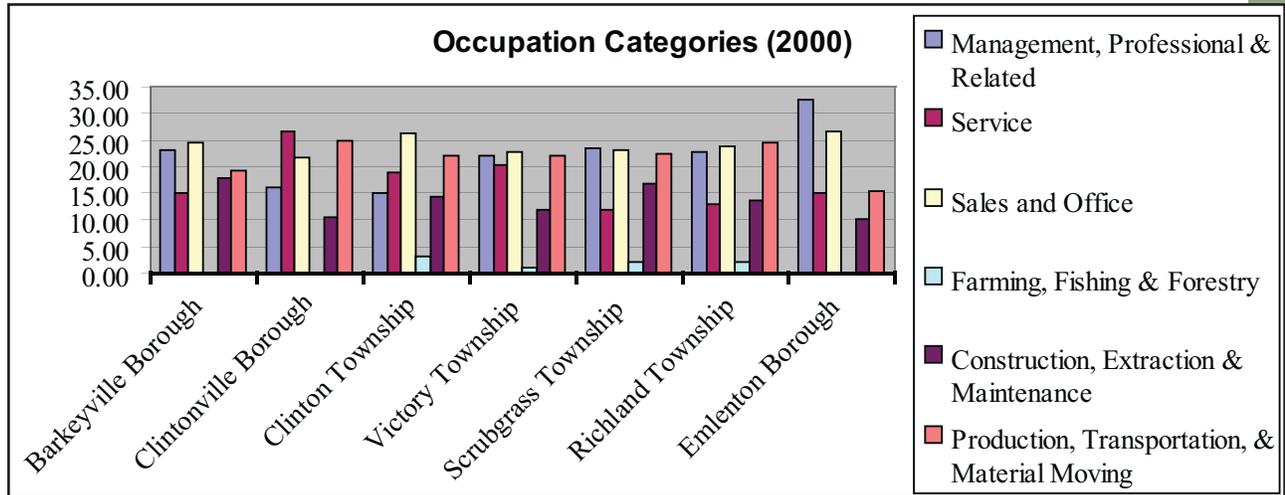


Table 26: General Occupation Categories 1990 (percent)

Municipality	Executive, Administrative, & Managerial	Professional Specialty	Technicians & Related Support	Sales	Administrative Support (including clerical)	Private Household
Barkeyville Borough	5.04	2.88	0.72	6.47	10.79	0.00
Clintonville Borough	7.03	9.19	3.24	4.86	15.14	0.00
Clinton Township	8.65	16.76	9.73	9.73	16.76	1.62
Victory Township	9.73	7.57	1.08	3.24	7.57	0.00
Scrubgrass Township	4.32	11.89	3.24	9.73	15.68	0.00
Richland Township	7.57	12.97	9.73	19.46	27.03	0.00
Emlenton Borough	21.08	21.62	4.86	7.57	23.78	0.00
Protective Service	Service (except protective & household)	Farming, Forestry & Fishing	Precision Production, Craft & Repair	Machine Operators, Assemblers & Inspectors	Transportation & Material Moving	Handlers, Equipment Cleaners, Helpers & Laborers
0.00	23.74	3.60	8.63	10.79	15.83	11.51
0.00	24.86	0.00	10.27	4.86	17.84	2.70
1.08	22.16	8.65	25.95	22.16	16.22	5.41

0.00	18.92	1.08	14.05	4.86	8.65	3.78
0.00	20.00	7.57	25.95	14.59	7.57	8.11
1.08	15.14	15.14	13.51	12.97	17.84	12.97
0.00	24.32	2.16	25.95	15.68	5.95	7.57

Source: United States Census

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Table 27 shows the percentage of people employed by industry type.

Table 27: Employment by Industry Categories (percent)

Industry	Year	Barkeyville Borough	Clintonville Borough	Clinton Township	Victory Township	Scrubgrass Township	Richland Township	Emlenton Borough
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Mining	1990	22.00	5.00	20.00	6.00	21.00	43.00	8.00
	2000	5.00	1.70	4.80	2.10	3.20	5.70	2.00
Construction	1990	4.00	4.00	13.00	4.00	16.00	16.00	22.00
	2000	5.80	5.90	9.30	3.10	9.60	6.60	5.40
Manufacturing	1990	23.00	29.00	78.00	36.00	39.00	67.00	67.00
	2000	15.80	11.40	13.10	17.70	20.50	18.60	10.50
Wholesale Trade	1990	2.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	2.00	11.00	9.00
	2000	2.20	2.50	6.40	1.00	0.00	2.40	0.00
Retail Trade	1990	30.00	39.00	55.00	30.00	54.00	42.00	44.00
	2000	11.50	18.20	14.10	12.50	16.80	14.40	20.60
Transportation & Warehousing, Utilities	1990	9.00	30.00	25.00	14.00	27.00	30.00	18.00
	2000	5.80	8.50	8.00	3.60	10.10	7.80	8.10
Information	1990	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.
	2000	0.00	0.80	0.00	3.60	0.00	2.10	0.70
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, & Rental & Leasing	1990	0.00	13.00	7.00	2.00	4.00	13.00	15.00
	2000	0.00	6.80	4.50	5.20	1.60	6.60	1.40
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, & Waste Management Services	1990	5.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	16.00	28.00
	2000	8.60	8.90	4.50	2.60	8.00	7.80	8.40
Educational, Health & Social Services	1990	24.00	24.00	62.00	28.00	29.00	36.00	56.00
	2000	23.00	16.90	16.00	24.50	8.50	13.20	20.60
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations & Food Services	1990	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	4.00	0.00
	2000	10.80	10.60	6.70	13.00	5.30	3.40	8.40

Other Services (except Public Administration)	1990	18.00	15.00	18.00	9.00	14.00	24.00	18.00
	2000	8.60	6.40	6.70	7.80	7.50	7.80	9.50
Public Administration	1990	1.00	16.00	11.00	10.00	25.00	4.00	12.00
	2000	2.90	1.30	5.80	3.10	8.80	4.50	4.40

Source: United States Census

When broken down by specific industry categories there were significant losses between 1990 and 2000.

- The Wholesale Trade showed an increase in Clinton and Victory Townships.
- Finance type positions increased slightly in Victory Township.
- Professional positions increased slightly in Scrubgrass Township.
- Public administration increased slightly in Barkeyville Borough.
- The Education, Health and Social Service jobs, Manufacturing positions and the retail trade had the highest percentage of employment in all communities but still showed significant losses by 2000.

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

The following section discusses major employers in and in close proximity to the planning area. Few of the largest employers in Venango County are located in the planning area. Many of Venango County residents work in other counties. The table below shows the number of workers that travel outside of Venango County to work.

Table 28: County of Employment

County of Residence	Mercer	Butler	Clarion	Venango
Venango	795	700	190	80.7%

The lumber industry in the central and eastern side of the region is a major employer. Most of these businesses are in Clinton, Scrubgrass and Richland Townships. Other major areas within the townships are along the Routes 38 and 208 corridors. The boroughs have the densest areas of commercial employment.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Hickman Lumber/Allegheny Mountain Hardwood Flooring
 Scrubgrass Power Generating Plant
 Savage Trucking
 Team Hardinger (under construction)
 Hawbaker Construction, Inc. (under construction)
 Fuchs Lubricants
 WLH Enterprise
 Kellner's Fireworks
 Farmer's National Bank
 FRB Machine

Renovex
Truckstops of America
Comfort Inn - Barkeyville
Hepler Meats
Ellis Chevrolet Buick Pontiac Inc.

ECONOMIC STABILITY AND VERSATILITY

Two targeted economic development clusters are logistics and transportation, and general and advanced machining and manufacturing.

Barkeyville Borough is the site of Venango County's premier industrial park, which also has the designation of a Keystone Opportunity Zone. Two new recent tenants have signed on to construct inside the park and represent these clusters. The Barkeyville Industrial Park is located on 85 acres of cleared level land located just off Route 8 and less than a mile from Exit 29 (formerly Exit 3) of Interstate 80. The park has public water and sewer systems installed. Prior to 2006, the park had just one tenant located there.

Logistics & Transportation - with the construction of Hardinger Trucking's new 70,000 square foot logistics and transportation center, 45 new jobs will be created, with the potential for future expansion. Hardinger Trucking's primary customer is General Electric located in neighboring Grove City (Mercer County). The site location of the Barkeyville Industrial park with direct access to I-80 and located nearby to I-79, made this site a perfect location for Hardinger.

General & Advanced machining and manufacturing - with the construction of the Glenn O. Hawbaker asphalt manufacturing plant at the Barkeyville Industrial Park, manufacturing will become a significant source of employment in this region. Hawbaker is projected to employ approximately 80 full-time seasonal jobs created over the next 3 years.

Other targeted county-wide industry clusters identified by the lead economic development agency include:

Business and Professional Services - It was noted previously that Business & professional service positions showed slight increases in Scrubgrass Township.

Medical Services - There are two satellite medical centers located within the region who are affiliated with our regional hospital, UPMC Northwest. There are also assisted living centers and senior centers providing education and social services to the region's seniors.

The region has other economic sectors that are strong and present opportunities for growth. They are:

Cultural and Historical Tourism: In 1994, The Governor of Pennsylvania officially designated the Oil Region Heritage park, using the same boundaries and set of cultural resources related to the birth and early development of the oil industry. In 2004, the area was recognized as the Oil Region National Heritage Area. Emlenton Borough is the site of one of the earliest petroleum refineries in the United States, as well as an early location for the natural gas production and transmission. The Borough will also be a featured site in Venango County's Sesquicentennial of Oil celebration coming up in 2009.

UNDERUTILIZED AND UNDEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

Southern Venango County and the I-80 corridor that runs through it have never been utilized to the fullest potential. This region is the gateway to the county, the Oil Heritage Region and Northwestern Pennsylvania. This region is also the center point of travel between the large urban areas of Chicago and New York City.

Some obviously under used areas are the interstate interchanges. These four specific sites will be designated as growth areas for the region. Although some businesses do exist here, the lack of infrastructure is restricting further growth and marketability of the region.

The Barkeyville Industrial Park has been empty except for one business for nearly ten years. Currently, two new manufacturing businesses are building on the property which will nearly fill the park to capacity. However, the potential exists to purchase additional acreage nearby the industrial park and expand its boundaries to continue to build upon the recent success in recruiting additional businesses into the area. There is also still plenty of room though for new businesses or business expansion at the other industrial park located in Scrubgrass Township. The Scrubgrass Generating Plant is located in the northern most corner of the township on a 600+ acre site, 24 of which are designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Other open space areas that could be developed, if planned appropriately, are the former 40-acre wax plant brownfield site in Emlenton and the former Emlenton airport located in Richland Township. The brownfield site is currently being remediated and will be turned over to Borough ownership soon. Public meetings have been held and committees formed to plan the future of the site. The former airport would be an ideal site for a housing or mixed use development. Planning for this idea would include the “Conservation Subdivision” concept.

The “downtown” areas of the southern region include Barkeyville, Clintonville and Emlenton Boroughs. Unfortunately, with the decline of the oil industry in particular in this region, there are many empty buildings. Downtown revitalization efforts must be planned for the southern communities. These plans should also, of course, include the rest of the region to retain and expand current businesses.

The citizens of the region want sustainable growth but also want to maintain the rural, small town atmosphere of their communities. The most rural and natural areas of the region should be conserved and protected. But that does not preclude development. The public land located in Victory and Clinton Townships as well as the Wild and Scenic River designation are underutilized in attracting the second largest industry in Pennsylvania – tourism.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Organizations available to the planning region to assist in development include:

- Venango County Regional Planning Commission
- Oil Region Alliance of Business and Industry
- Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Clarion University Small Business Development Center
- Venango Industrial Development Authority

County and other local programs available to assist in development include:

- Revolving loan funds
- Oil Region Careerlink
- Southern Venango COG
- Private Trusts

EXISTING LAND USE ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

The existing land use analysis examines development trends and characterizes the type of development that exists in the planning area and each municipality. Land use types include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional, park/recreation, and environmental features such as forestland/open space. It is important to view land use on an area-wide level as well as for each individual municipality to understand development trends and identify future growth and conservation areas. Finally, land use should be examined within the context of the other plan elements, such as transportation and economic development to identify both negative and positive impacts of varying types of land use in a community.

The Land Use Plan for Southern Venango County is comprised of strategies, policies and tools including a future land use map that will enable decision makers to make informed choices that further community goals while protecting community character, ensuring development impacts are only positive on the natural and built environment, and providing for a sustainable economy. The strategies, policies and tools will include incentive as well as regulatory programs, education and training opportunities, increased coordination with county, state and federal agency programs, and examples of precedents and best practices.

There are two overall goals associated with a land use plan.

Land Use - Preserve and enhance the diversified mix of urban, suburban, rural, and natural land uses through municipal cooperation and by concentrating development.

Resources - Sustain and enhance natural, scenic, and historic resources for the benefit of current and future generations while accommodating planned growth.

The land use analysis can be divided into several definitions related to activities that affect land use in various ways:

Purpose:

1. To provide general information on existing land use patterns in the planning area (information is not recorded parcel by parcel, but is generalized).
2. To provide a summary of land use trends, and characterize development types and styles for each municipality and the region as a whole.
3. To pinpoint the occurrence of existing land use issues and concerns.
4. To create an existing land use map for the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan that informs for future land use decision-making.



Neighborhood and Residential Areas – areas designated for residential housing

- * Limited funds can be focused on housing rehabilitation, blight clean-up
- * Neighborhoods are encouraged to be walkable

Mixed Use Areas – a combination of residential, some commercial and public services

- * Takes advantage of existing and planned infrastructure
- * Residential densities are higher (Ex. apartment buildings, condominiums, etc.)
- * Commercial businesses such as retail and specialty shops, grocery stores, restaurants, recreation facilities

Community Gateways – provide a sense of place and protects the image of the community into which the resident or visitor is entering

- * Encourage limited, high quality development along major roadways entering the community and county
- * Discourage “strip centers” that would interfere with the performance of the roadway
- * Present an identity to residents and visitors

Natural Resource Protection Areas – protect natural, scenic, historic and sensitive/wildlife areas

- * Protect the ecological functions of natural areas
- * Areas include steep slopes, floodplains, parks and State Game Lands, State Forest Lands, Natural Heritage Inventory sites

Natural Resource Production Areas – natural resource based businesses

- * Forest management for the purpose of timber production
- * Agriculture
- * Mining
- * Related businesses

Commercial Areas – privately owned or corporate businesses that provide products and services to the residents and visitors of the area.

- * Incorporating design elements that eliminate the typical “strip-style” development can be tailored to create a greater sense of place.
- * Entrepreneurship is encouraged.

Industrial Areas – manufacturing and engineering type businesses that produce components or whole units to be sent to distributors or other industry complexes.

- * Larger scale industrial uses, including manufacturing, transportation and warehousing. Secondary uses within these areas would, or already include, regional commercial retail and public facilities and utilities.
- * Existing KOZ sites, industrial parks.

Perception of Venango County as a rural, wooded area with low population density is accurate for the most part. Venango County could best be described as having some characteristics of the industrial northeast and some of rural Appalachia. Parts of the County have been urbanized through industrial growth and its accompanying population growth. However, the bulk of the County has retained its spectacular natural beauty and recreational value. This latter characteristic explains the County’s attraction to many residents of urban areas as a place to get away from the “rat race” and enjoy the innate qualities of a rural area.

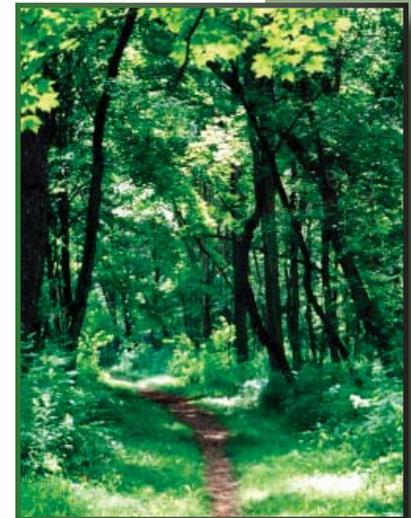
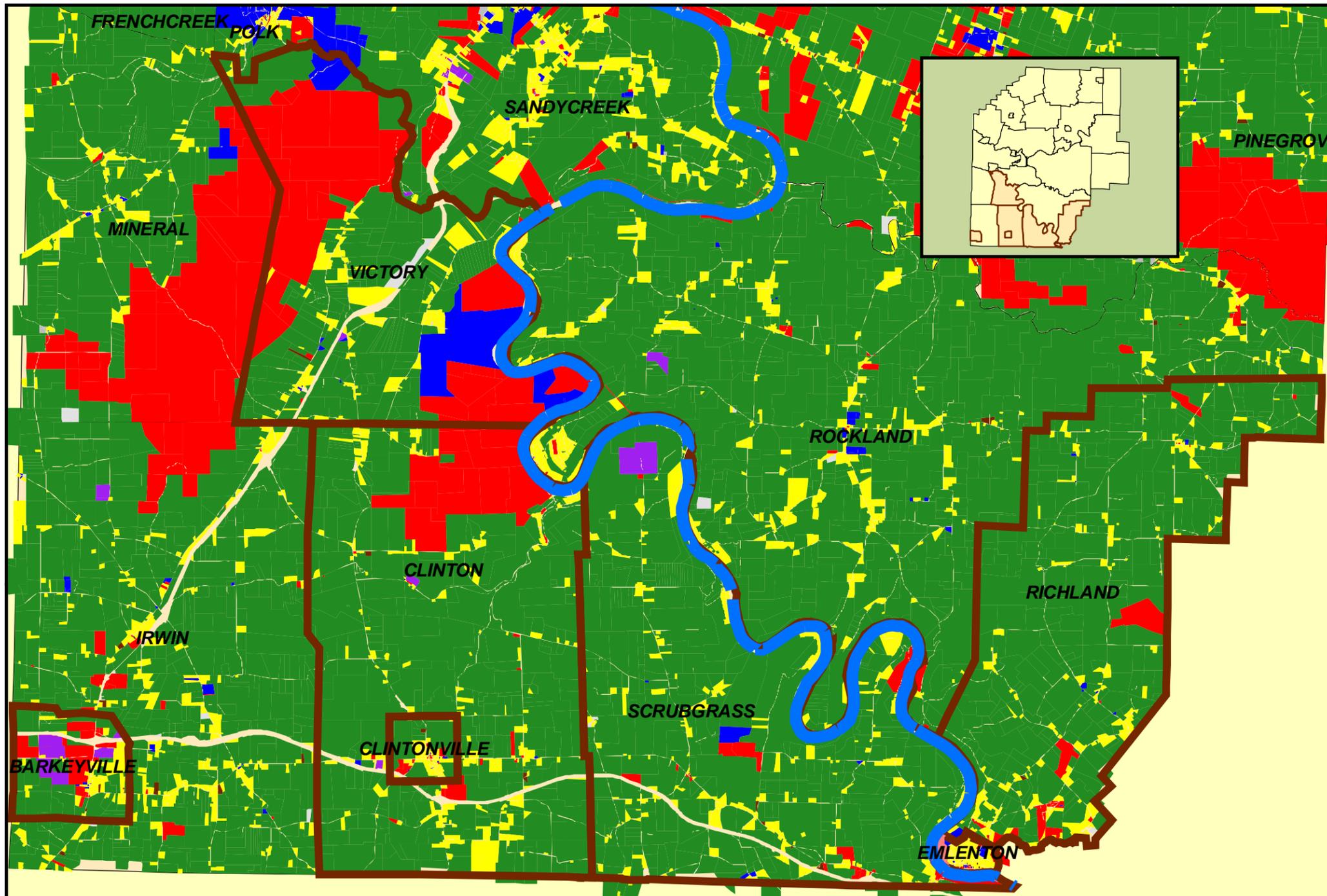


Photo Courtesy of Debra Frawley

Southern Venango County Existing Land Use



Map Features

- Participating Municipalities
- Allegheny River

Consolidated Land Use

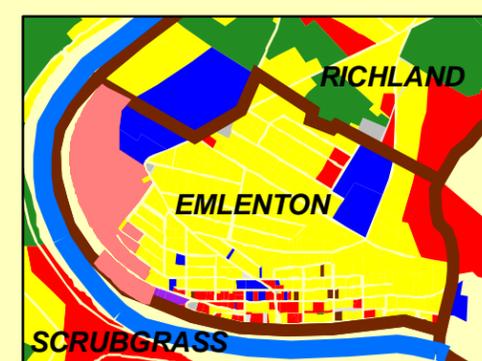
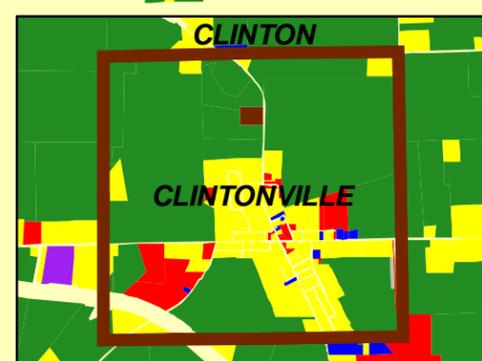
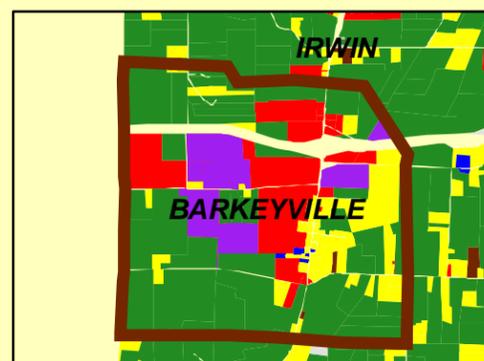
By Parcel

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Community Facilities
- Industrial
- Infrastructure
- Mixed Use
- Residential
- Not Coded
- Vacant
- Venango Municipalities

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Data Source: Venango County Assessment Office; July, 2006

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NEIGHBORHOOD AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Boroughs in the region have the highest residential density. The Townships are rural and housing is scattered. The region as a whole has a small town atmosphere and the most “urban” of areas has a village feel. Residential development in the region varies in age, scale, and density. There is some mix of single-family homes, duplexes and townhouses, and multi-family dwelling units but the majority is single-family homes. Efforts to provide senior housing have occurred in Emlenton and Clintonville Boroughs to take advantage of walkable environments and proximity to services.

Subdivision activity in Venango County has occurred in cycles and in limited geographic areas over the last half of the 20th Century. A total of 100 subdivisions were reviewed and approved for property owners throughout the County in 2006 while 103 were done in 2005. Of those in 2006 twenty-one (21) were in the planning region. Subdivision activity in each municipality over the last five years is shown in the accompanying table.

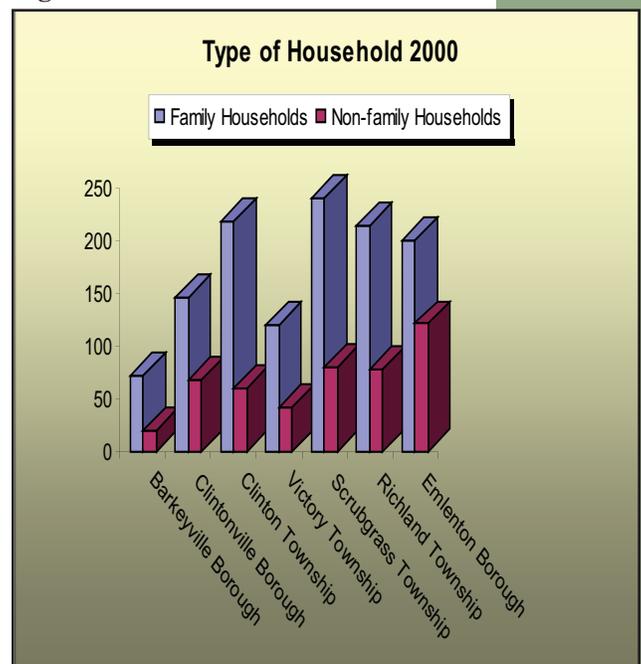
Table 29: Subdivision Activity

Municipality	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barkeyville	1	3	1	2	3	0
Clintonville	0	1	0	0	0	0
Clinton	0	2	0	0	2	5
Victory	3	1	2	6	2	4
Scrubgrass	5	3	6	4	5	6
Richland	5	1	6	3	7	4
Emlenton	0	0	0	0	0	2

In the planning Region, Clintonville Borough saw the addition of 24.2% of their housing stock between 1980 and 1989, while Clinton Township experienced residential growth, at 17.5% of its total. The attractiveness of rural land in some areas continued into the 1990’s. Victory Township gained 23.1 % of their total housing stock during the 1990’s. While some of these percentages sound significant, the fact is, in these rural communities residential development occurred at moderate rates throughout the last half of the 20th Century. In addition, the number of existing housing units was relatively small compared to the central Venango County.

- While the total number of households increased in both the southern region and the county, the average household size decreased.
- The total increase in households for the region was nearly five fold that of the county as a whole.
- The region followed the pattern of the county in family verses non-family households.

Figure 11



MIXED USE AREAS

Barkeyville, Clintonville, and Emlenton have mixed use areas that include both residential areas and commercial businesses as well as public services. These three boroughs serve as the “downtowns” of the planning region.

COMMUNITY GATEWAYS

As Interstate-80 crosses the southern part of Venango County, there are four interchanges that serve as gateways to the nearby communities, Venango County itself, the Oil Heritage Region and the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Region. Emlenton is also a gateway community to the newly developed PA Wilds Region.

- Only the Barkeyville exit #29 and Scrubgrass exit #42 have been developed with commercial establishments.
- Exit #45 in Richland Township also has a car dealership.
- The fourth exit in Clinton Township #35 at one time had established businesses all of which have now closed.

There is great potential at each of these areas for development. But that development must introduce the visitor to the region and the nearby communities. For example, as travelers go over the Emlenton bridge on I-80 near exit #45 and look down at the town, it has been described as a Norman Rockwell painting inviting them to pause in their travels. Plans are currently in process to build an authentic oil derrick along I-80 near exit #29, inviting travelers into the State and National Oil Heritage Region.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS

Natural Resources

The historic growth of Venango County was in large part fueled by the natural resources that are located within the County. These resources include water resources, agricultural lands and viewsheds. In addition Venango County was rich in oil, natural gas and coal. The fact that these resources were readily available for exploitation fueled the development of Venango County and the region.

The region is also characterized by the abundance of forest land within its borders. The county is situated in the Appalachian Oak Forest. This forest is a tall broadleaf deciduous forest, characterized by white oak, and northern red oak as the dominant trees. Other species that are native to our area include sugar maple, sweet birch, bitternut hickory, beech, tulip poplar, white pine, scarlet oak, scrub oak, chestnut oak, and black oak.

Much of Victory and Clinton Townships’ land area is state-owned Game Lands and Forest Land. These are multi-use areas that were formed to protect the wildlife and their habitat that have reclaimed the area since the oil boom days of the county.



Water Resources

All precipitation which falls in the region is channeled by gravity into four major drainages basins. The major watersheds are: Slippery Rock Creek, Sandy Creek, East Sandy Creek and the Allegheny River watersheds. Each of these basins drains surface water into the major streams and river running through the County. There is only one major impoundment located in southern Venango County. Kahle Lake is located in both Richland Township, Venango County and Salem Township, Clarion County and is comprised of about 250 acres.

The Allegheny River winds through the region providing the boundary line of all or parts of Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass and Richland Townships and Emlenton Borough. In 1992, three sections of this river were designated a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress. This exclusive list of rivers was established to recognize outstanding examples of the nation's free-flowing rivers and to raise public awareness of how important and fragile America's river resources are. The Allegheny was given a "recreational" classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to reflect the relatively high level of accessibility and development, when compared with other rivers in the system. However, the middle Allegheny through the region is still considered a primitive river.

Scenic Vistas

Because of the rural traits which dominate the region's land area, the planning region possesses some of the most spectacular views and scenic corridors in Western Pennsylvania. The region's quiet, inherent beauty is maximized by the numerous scenic waterways traversing it. The Allegheny River, with its winding course and steep inclines, is especially breathtaking in the fall when all of the leaves have begun to change color.

Not all the scenic areas can be mapped, as beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What one sees as empty wilderness, another sees as refreshingly natural. Some of the scenic views are of the rolling farmlands and some are of the sights overlooking the village feel of places such as Emlenton. But most of the scenic views are associated with the Allegheny River and other waterways.

Water Hazard Areas

Because of the climate which prevails in Northwest Pennsylvania, floods can occur during any season of the year. Sudden summer thunderstorms can deposit rain at such an excessive rate, flash flooding can occur, turning even the smallest creeks into overflowing water courses. A combination of a thaw and a spell of rainy weather may cause flooding generally in late winter or early spring. The local streams will sometimes develop ice jams and hold back water flow, causing localized flooding.

Soil Characteristics

The general soil map included in this document shows the soil associations in Venango County. A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and it is named for the major soils. The soils in one association may occur in another, but in a different pattern.



Soils Suitability for On-Site Sewage Systems

Most of the soils within Venango County are characterized by slow permeability and/or high groundwater tables, rendering them generally unsuitable for the conventional septic tank and leach field sewage systems. In fact, it has been estimated that less than 1% of the land area in Venango County is suitable for conventional subsurface sewage systems. However, nearly 65% of the County's land area has been mapped as potentially suitable for the alternate-type sewage systems.

The general locations of suitable and unsuitable soils for on-site subsurface sewage systems are delineated on the Venango County Soil Survey Maps. The approval of alternate subsurface sewage systems by the Department of Environmental Protection and new related technology have resulted in increased land area being reclassified from "unsuitable" to "potentially suitable" for either conventional or alternate septic systems. This map is only intended to serve as a guide in determining those areas which may hold the greatest potential for on-lot sewage disposal.

Hydric Soils

The analysis of hydric soils has recently become an important consideration when performing almost any kind of development review. These soils are important to identify and locate because they provide an approximate location where wet areas may be found. Wetland areas are lands where water resources are the primary controlling environmental factor and defined by hydrology, vegetation, and soils. Thus, the location of hydric soils is one indication of the potential existence of a wetland area. Wetland areas are now protected by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and should be examined before deciding on any type of development activity. The Venango County Soils Survey graphically depicts the approximate location of hydric soils in Venango County.

Natural Resource Production Areas

Important Farmlands

In 1972, the United States Secretary of Agriculture assigned the Soil Conservation Service the task of inventorying the prime and unique farmlands and farmlands of state and local importance. This inventory was designed to assist planners and other officials in their decision making to avoid unnecessary, irrevocable conversion of good farmland to other uses. The U.S.D.A. recorded the following acreages for each category of farmland found in Venango County:

Prime Farmland: 103,585 acres

Unique Farmland: 0 acres

Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance: 118,090 acres

Additional Farmland of Local Importance: 18,540 acres

Total Important Farmlands: 240,215 acres out of a total land area of 432,451 acres

From these figures, it is calculated that over half (55%) of the County's land area is classified as "important farmland" and one-quarter of it can be labeled "prime farmland".

The greatest amount of good agricultural land is found prominently in the northwestern corner of the County and the lower southern tier of the County.

The importance of identifying these areas and planning accordingly is significant. The loss of good farmland is often accompanied by such environmental problems as surface water runoff and interference with the natural recharging of ground water. Furthermore, when prime agricultural areas are no longer available, farmers will be forced to move to marginal lands, usually on steeper slopes with less fertile soils which are more apt to erode and less likely to produce. Clearly, decision makers must be able to make informed judgments about the development of farmland. Actions that put high quality agricultural areas into irreversible uses should only be initiated if the actions are carefully considered and are clearly for the benefit of public good.

Forest Management

A review of a study produced by the Penn State School of Forest Resources in 1997, indicates that between 1921 and 1997 Venango County increased its forestry resources by thirty percent (30%). In 1997, fully seventy-two percent (72%) of all land in the County was classified as forests, while in 1921 about forty-two percent (42%) of the land was forested. The vast majority of the forests are privately owned (87%). Forestry was second only to agriculture in total economic contributions in Venango County.

COMMERCIAL AREAS

Commercial and industrial businesses development has been the main goal of the region. To accomplish this goal the problem of access and infrastructure must be addressed. Aside from the Interstate 80 corridor traversing the planning region, there is not an arterial network in place.

While small businesses dot the region and the main streets of the boroughs, the potential of the area has not been reached even with access from Interstate 80 to regional markets. Older industrialized areas of the region have relied on or planned for “adaptive reuse” and structural retrofitting to accommodate a changing industrial sector. A number of sites employing only a few people can have the same effect on the local economy as one large facility, and have less of an impact on the existing public utilities and roadway network.

Most of the commercial entities not located in the boroughs are located on the major transportation routes connecting the municipalities, namely Routes 8, 208, 308 and 38. The remainder of commercial enterprises is considered to be in mixed use areas with residential land uses throughout the region. These scattered businesses were mostly home occupations, with the owners living there simultaneously or they were businesses which seemed to develop, at least initially, to principally serve the neighboring residences, such as grocery stores.

Industrial Areas

Two industrial parks are located within the planning region. The Barkeyville Industrial Park is located directly next to Interstate-80. The area is owned by the Oil Region Alliance of Business and Industry (ORA), the designated economic development agency for Venango County. After sitting nearly empty for about 10 years, two large companies have decided to build in 2007. When construction is completed on these, the park will be nearly full. The other industrial park is located in Scrubgrass Township on the hill overlooking the river. The Scrubgrass Generating Plant is located on the 600+ acre site. Currently, 24 of those acres are also designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ). No other plans currently exist to fill the rest of this property.

Other industries throughout the southern region include the lumber industry. Sawmills dot the central and eastern sections of the region. Much of the land area is owned by private timber companies. Some mineral and sand and gravel extraction can also be seen in the area.

MUNICIPAL SUMMARIES

Barkeyville Borough

The residential area of the borough is located around the core area of the interstate interchange and along the borders. Some close to the core area are also considered to be in a mixed use area.

All of the borough has been developed including now the industrial park. One corner of the park, though can not be developed. It has a designated wetland area. Commercial businesses such as restaurants and hotels cover the interchange area.

Barkeyville Borough

Map Features

-  Buildings
-  Bridges
-  I 80
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Driveways
-  Barkeyville Borough
-  Barkeyville Parcels
-  Surrounding Municipalities
-  Large Tributaries
-  Hydrology
-  Wooded Region

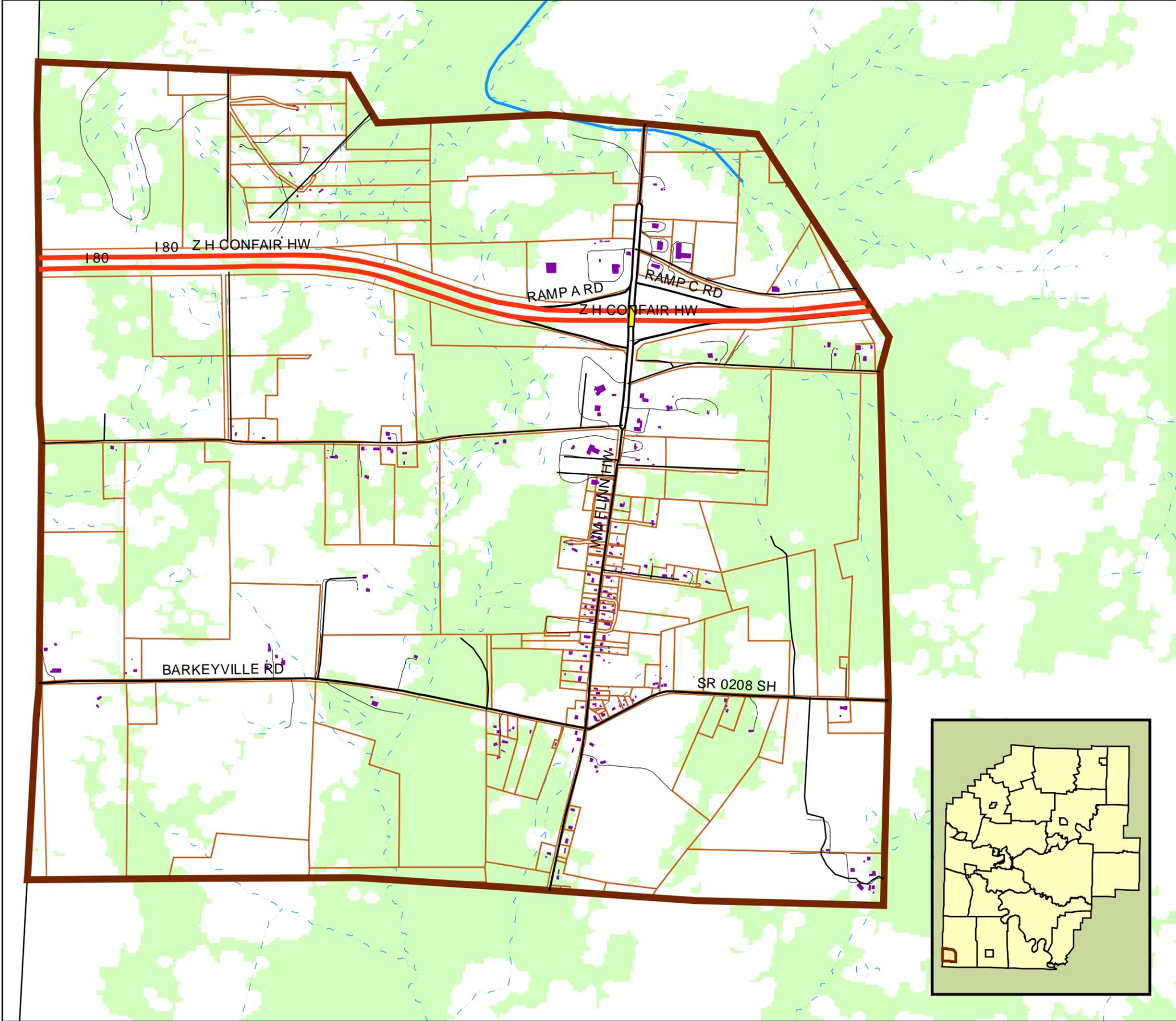
0 0.125 0.25 0.5
Miles

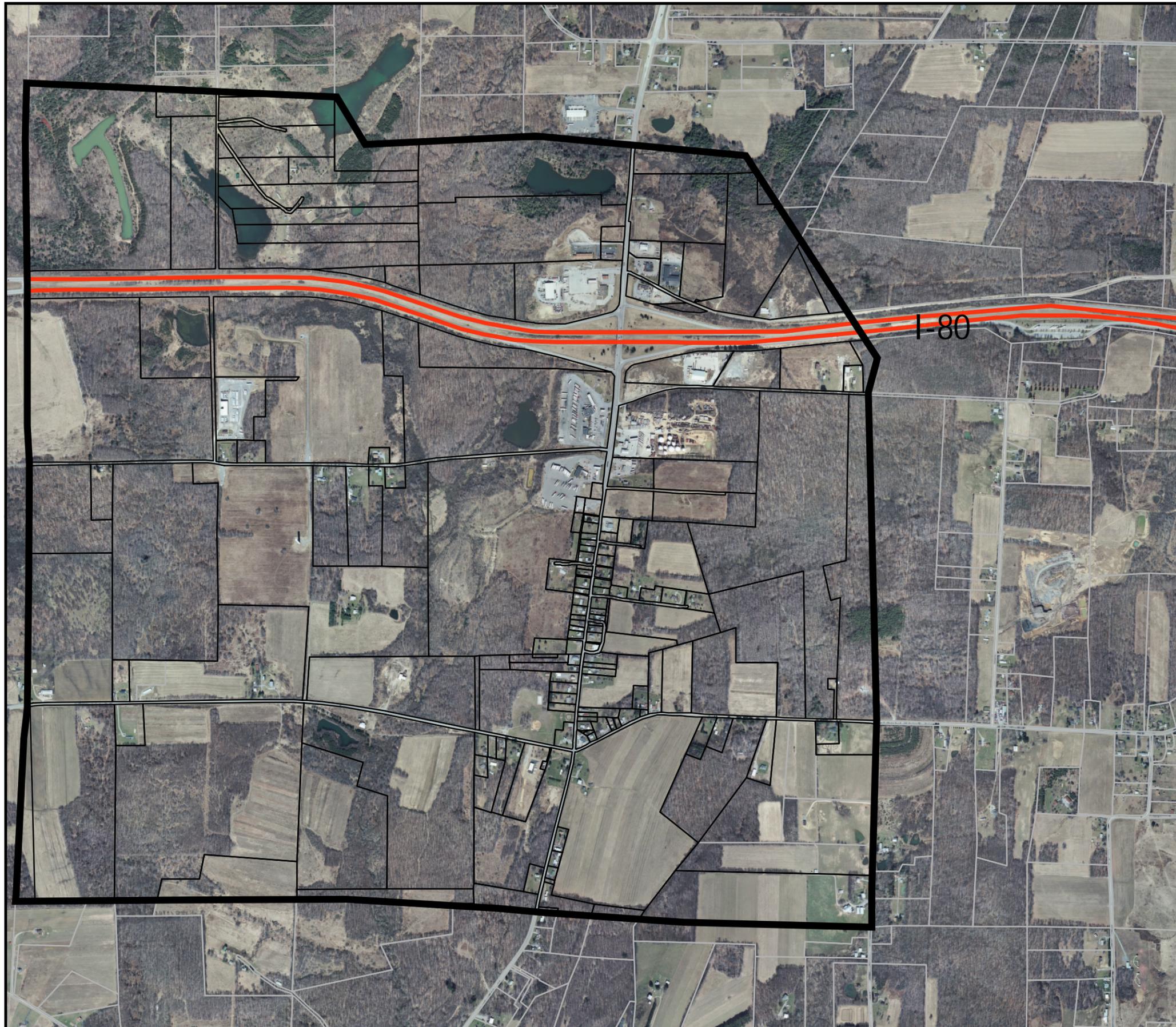
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Barkeyville Aerial



Map Features

-  Barkeyville
-  Interstate 80
-  Barkeyville Parcels



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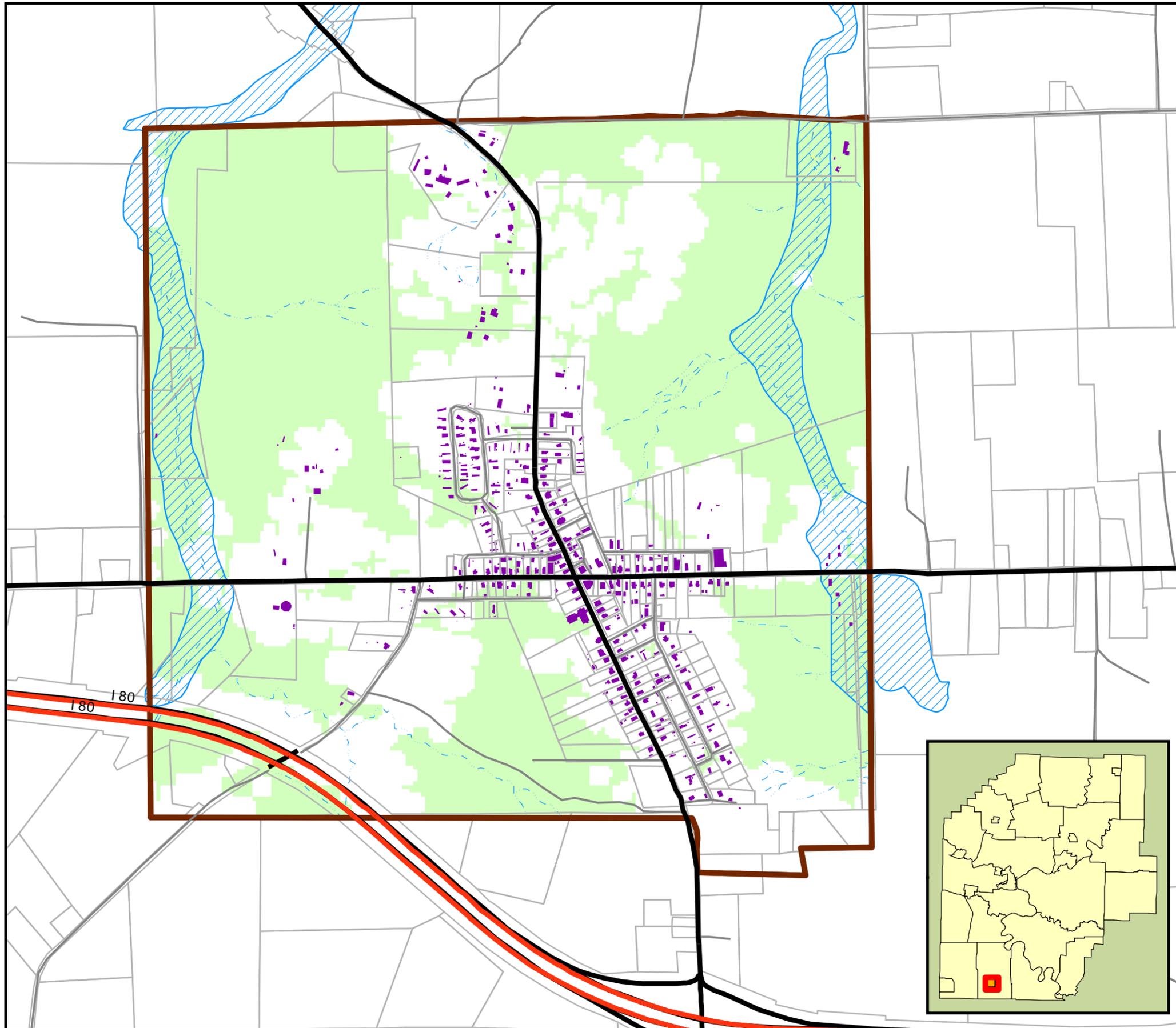
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Clintonville Borough

This densely packed community is mostly made of residential neighborhoods. A trailer court is also within the borough limits. Some homes are also part of a mixed use area that includes a pizza shop, a grocery store, a funeral home and a medical center. The borough does not contain any industry and is too small to include much natural area.





Clintonville Borough



Map Features

-  I-80
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Clintonville Parcels
-  Surrounding Municipalities
-  Buildings
-  Hydrology
-  Floodplains
-  Clintonville Wooded Region

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

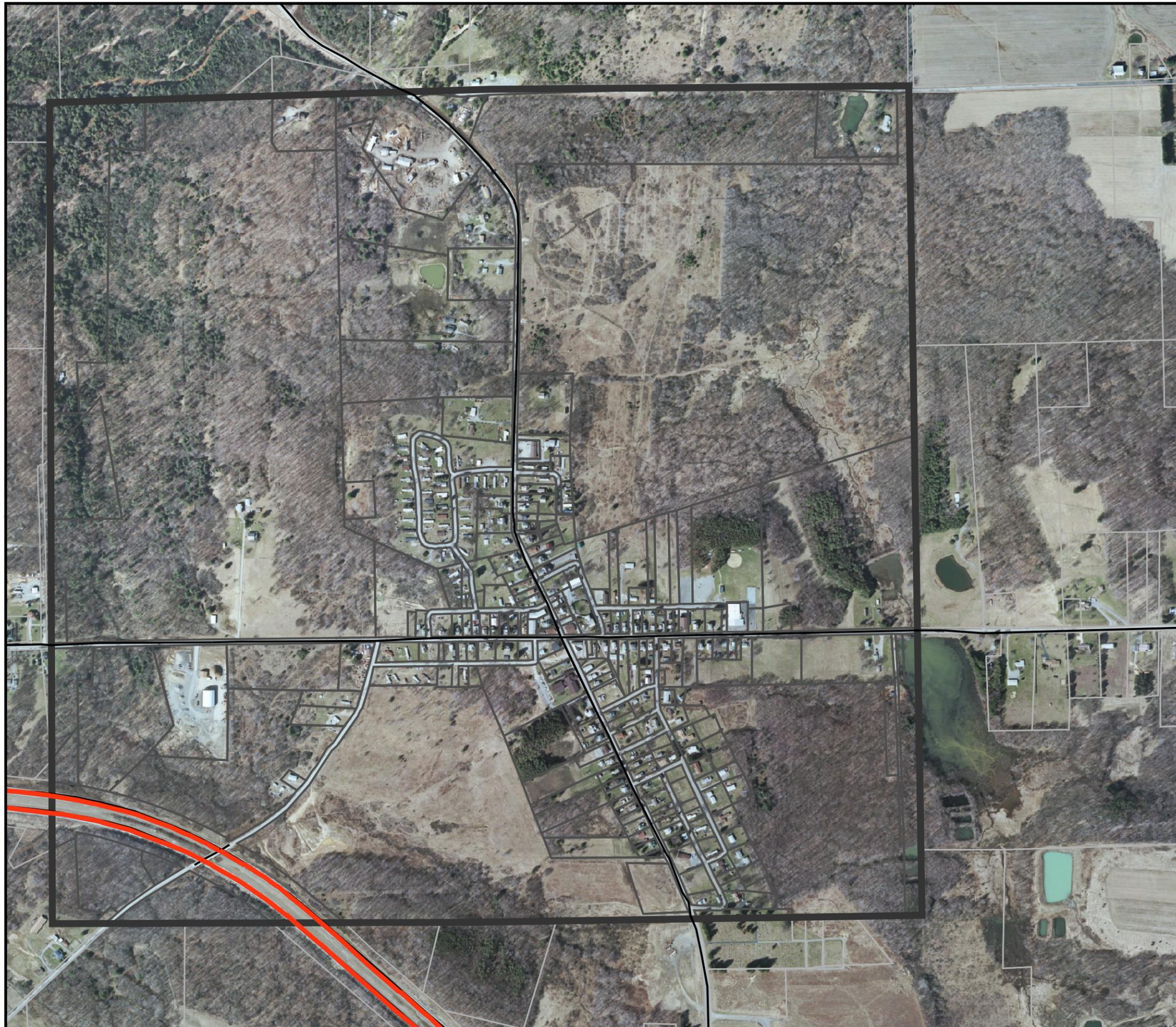


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Clintonville Borough Aerial



Map Features

-  I-80
-  State Roads
-  Municipal Border
-  Clintonville Parcels
-  Venango County Parcels



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



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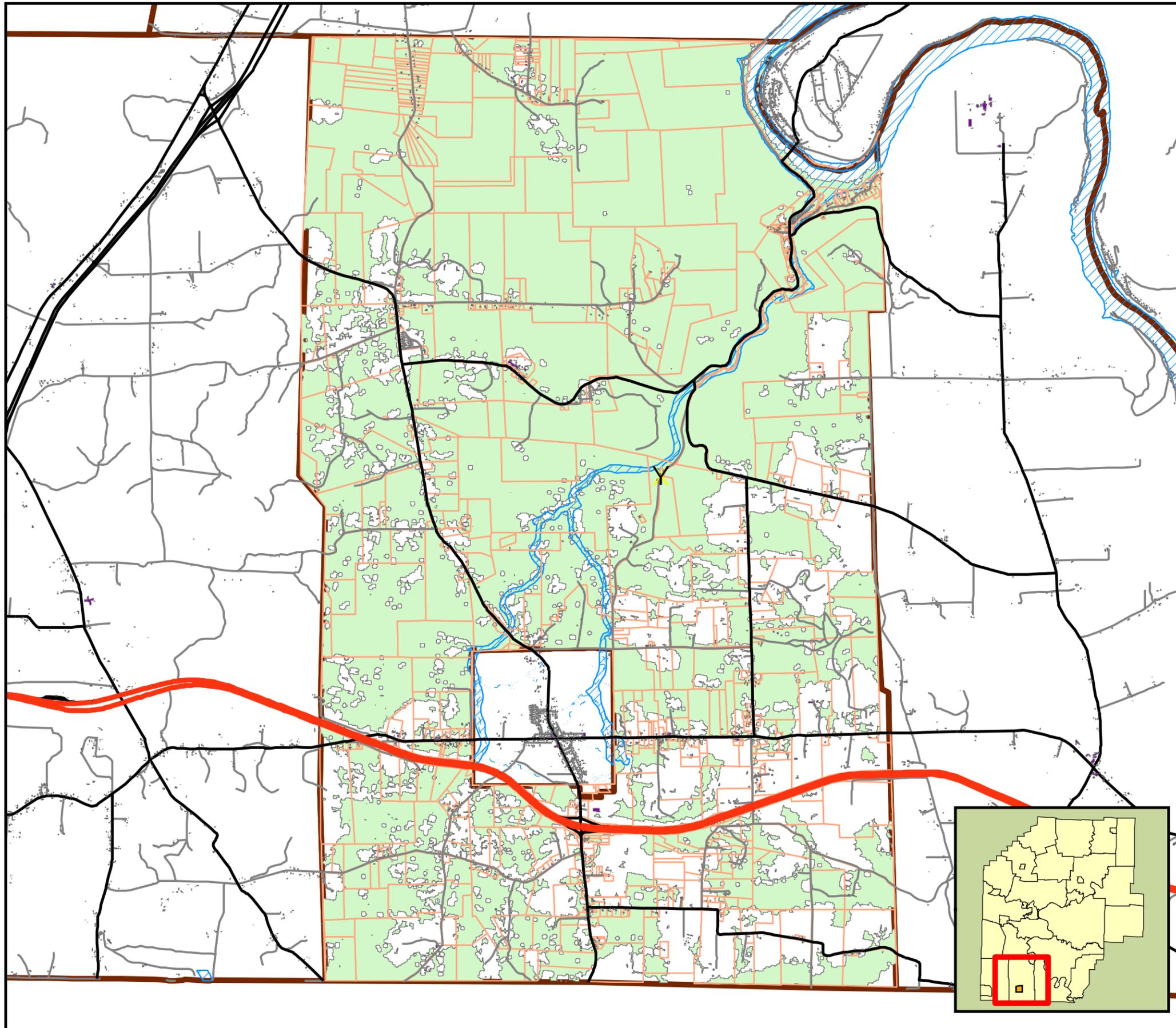
Clinton Township

Clinton Township has residences scattered throughout. The areas east and west of Clintonville on Route 208 seem to be the most densely developed areas of the township.

Commercial development has occurred around the I-80 interchange but these businesses have been closed for several years. The township was also home to the annual Folkways Festival for many years. This event attracted residents and tourists from a great distance to shop throughout the many crafters booths and sample the homemade foods. The festival has not reoccurred for several years due to declining interest. Industry occurs along Route 208 toward Scrubgrass Township. Most of these businesses are in the lumber industry.

Much of this large township is forested. State Game Lands and State Forest Land cover the northern portion. The Allegheny River forms the eastern boundary.





Clinton Township



Map Features

-  Buildings
-  Bridges
-  I-80
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Clinton Parcels
-  Hydrology
-  Floodplains
-  Clinton Wooded Region
-  Municipal Boundary

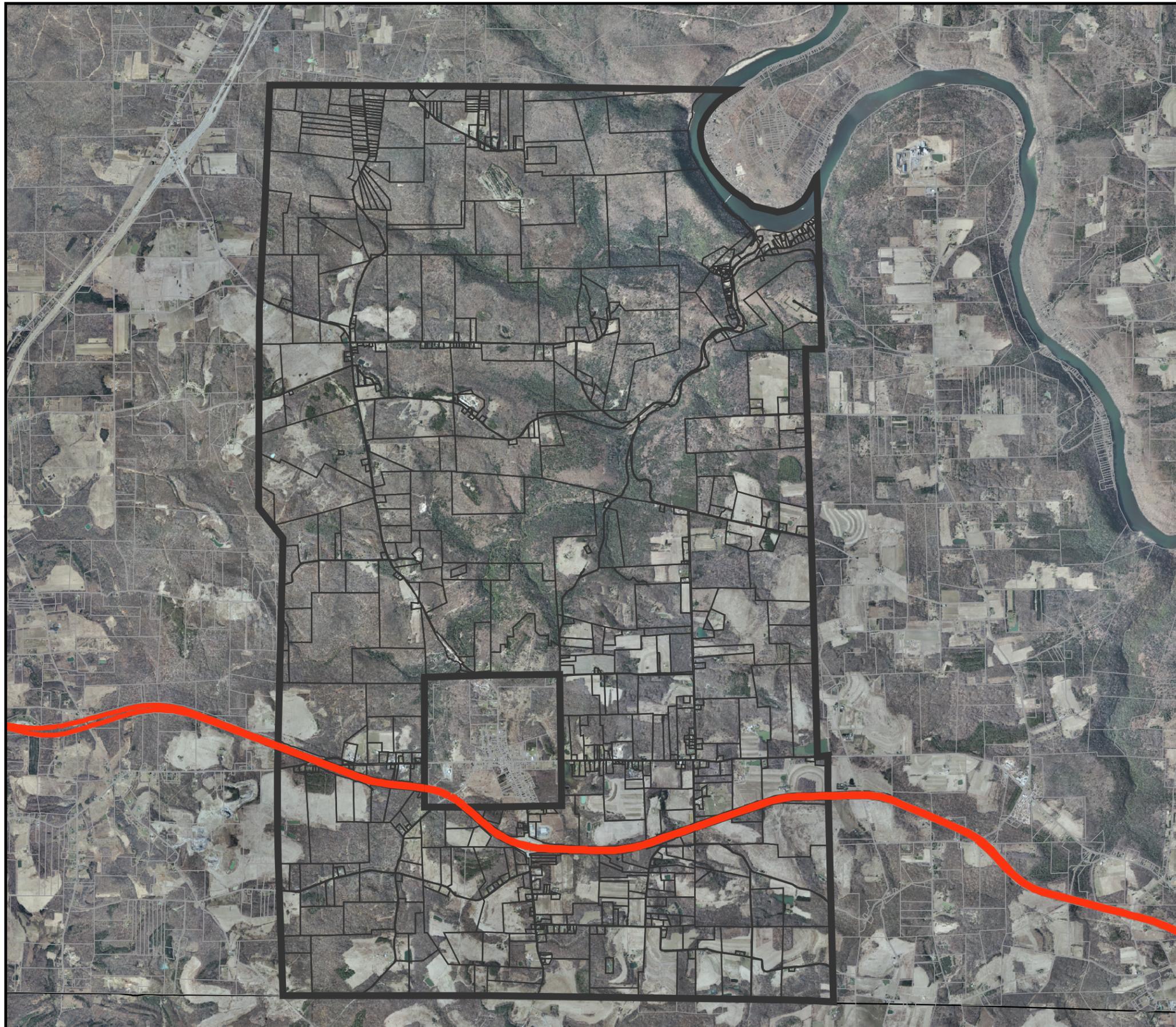


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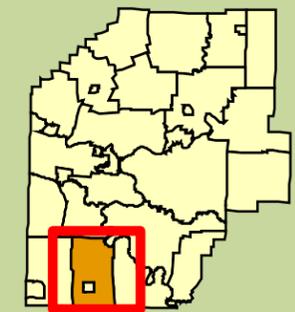


Clinton Township Aerial



Map Features

-  I-80
-  Township Boundary
-  Clinton Parcels



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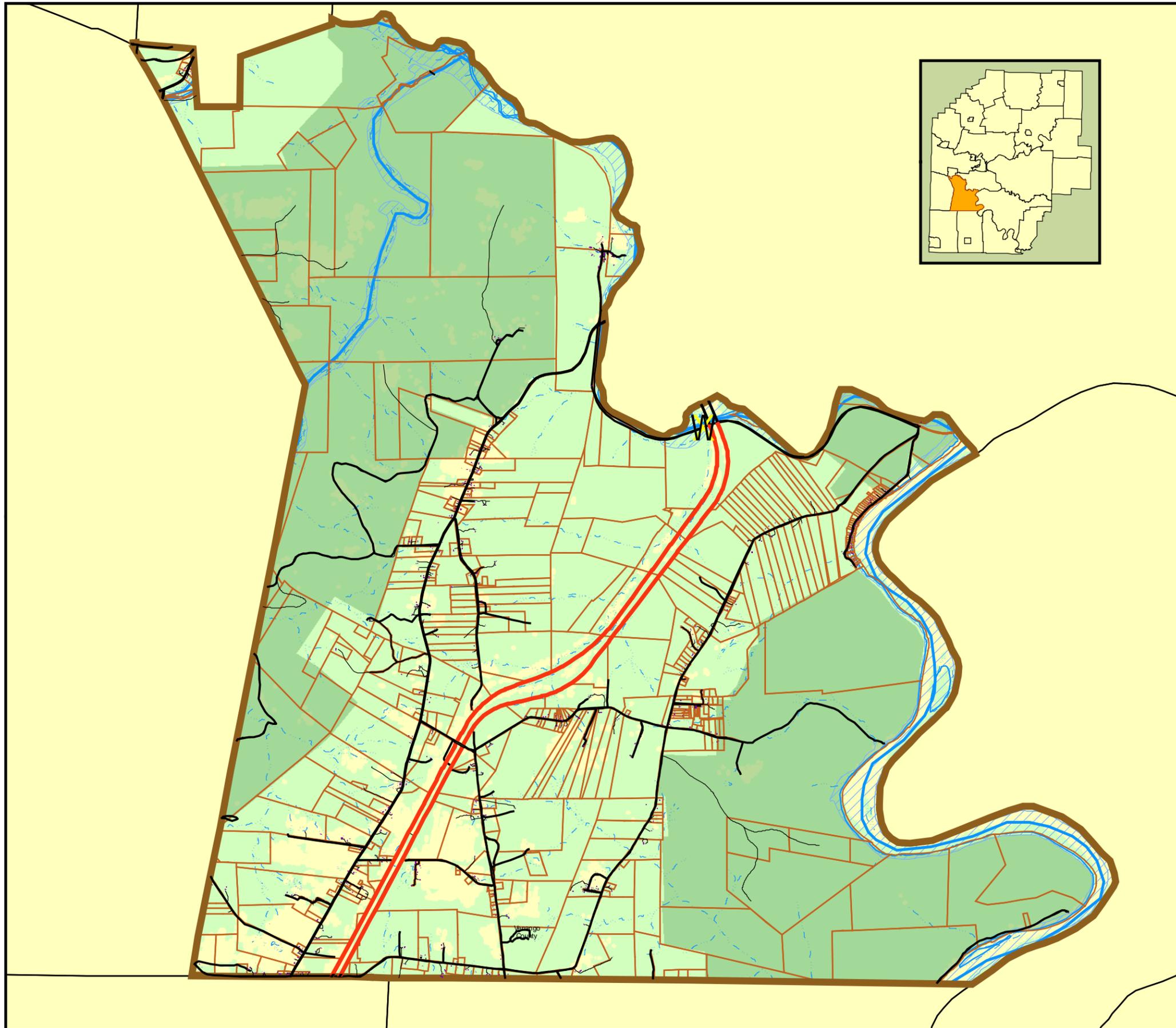
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Victory Township

Most of the residential development of this township has been scattered along the various roadways, although old Route 8 demonstrates a somewhat concentrated amount of residences along it. The seasonal development area located at the bottom of Fisherman's Cove Road is the only other notable grouping of dwelling units.

Commercial and industrial development is very limited while farmland is more prevalent. 48% of the land area of this township is state owned Game Land and Forest Land. This leaves a very small tax base for the supervisors to use to run the township.

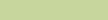
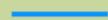
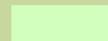


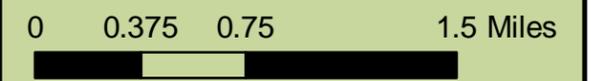


Victory Township



Map Features

-  Victory Township
-  Municipal Owned Bridges
-  Route 8
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Victory Parcels
-  Rivers
-  Flood Plains
-  Managed Lands
-  Wooded Region



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Victory Township Aerial



Map Features

-  Allegheny River
-  Route 8
-  State Roads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Victory Parcels
-  Venango County Parcels



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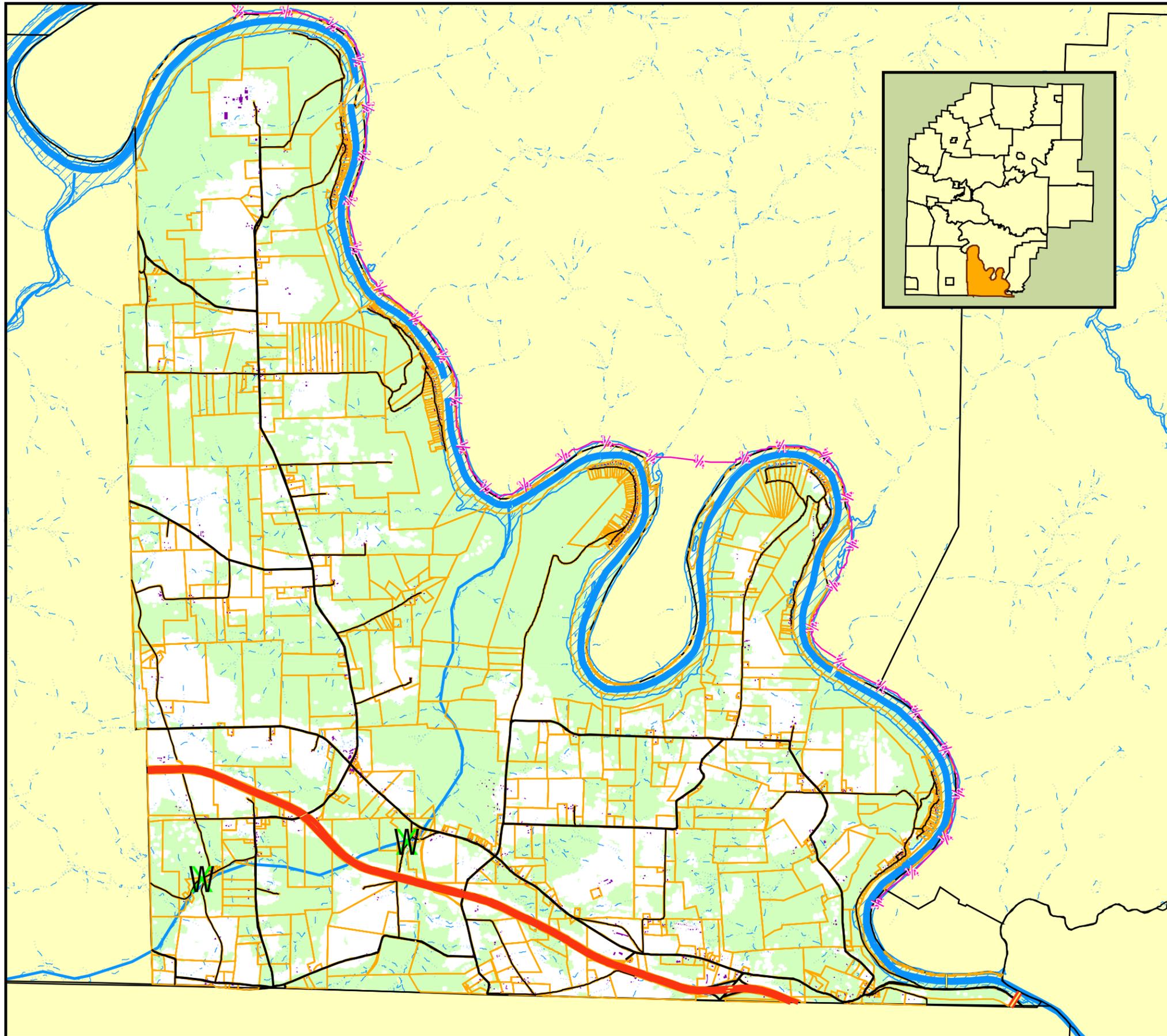
Scrubgrass Township

The Township of Scrubgrass contains few areas of notable residential concentration. There are some locally named cottage developments along the river. A small cluster of housing near Humphrey's Corners, and an area along Route 208 in the vicinity of Lisbon, are generally the only other concentrated residential areas of the township.

Commercial areas are concentrated in the Lisbon area and at the interstate interchange. These include restaurants, campgrounds, a truck and visitor travel center, hotel, and other small private businesses.

Industry occurs at the industrial park at the end of Lisbon Road overlooking the river mentioned previously. The lumber industry and mineral extraction occur the most in this part of the planning region.

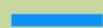




Scrubgrass Township



Map Features

-  Bike Trail
-  County Owned Bridges
-  Buildings
-  I-80
-  State Roads
-  Scrubgrass Parcels
-  Allegheny River
-  Hydrology
-  Floodplains
-  Scrubgrass Wooded Region

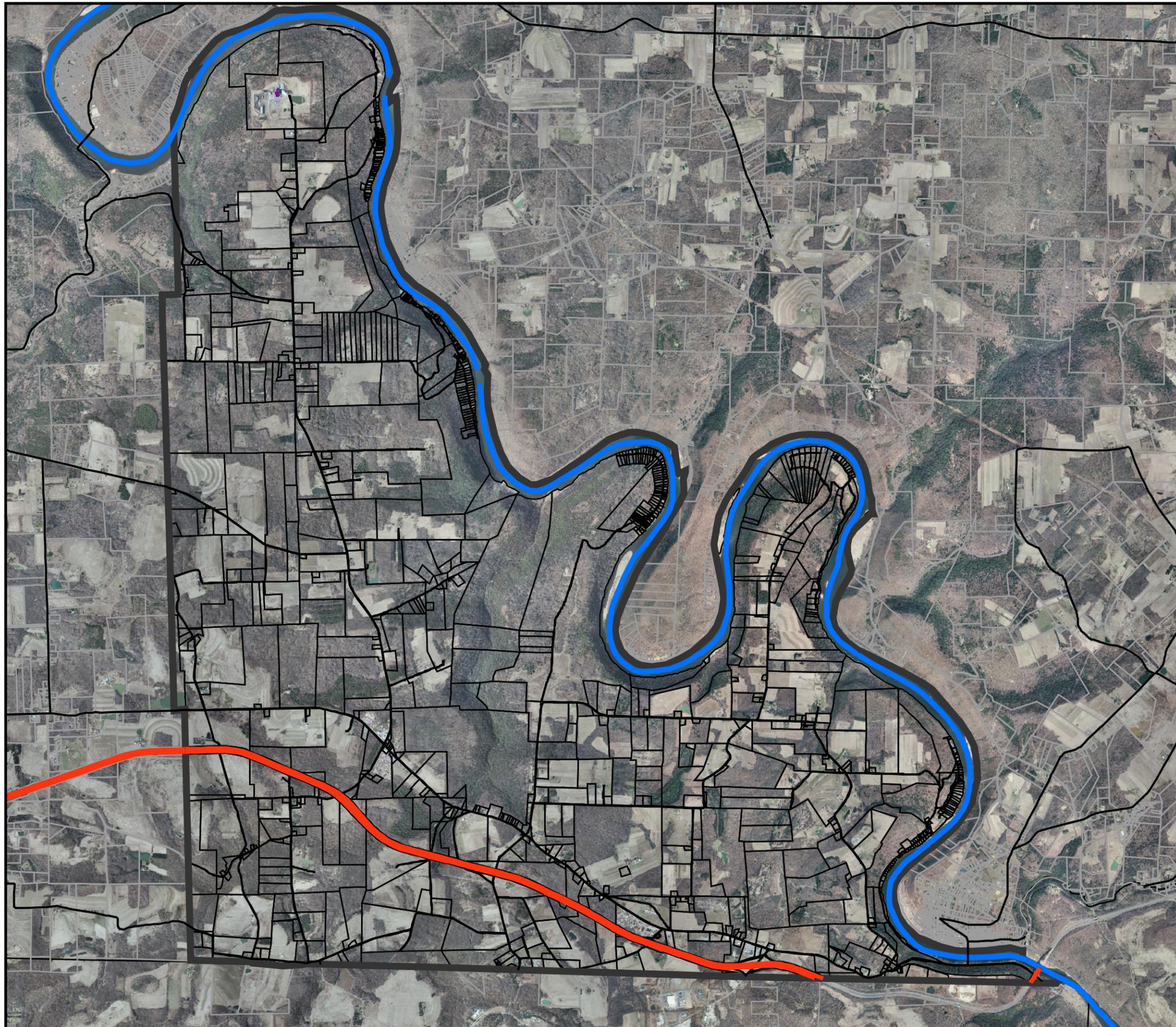


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Scrubgrass Township Aerial



Map Features

-  I-80
-  State Roads
-  Allegheny River
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Scrubgrass Parcels
-  Venango County Parcels



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



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Richland Township

Residential groupings in this township are mostly limited to the southern portion just north of the Borough of Emlenton. Nickleville in northern Richland Township is the only notable concentration in the northern section. Most of the balance of homes are distributed throughout the rural roads of the township.

Farming is the most prevalent industry in this township. The largest dairy farm in the county is located here. Much of the land is owned by private lumber companies which also have sawmills in the area. Commercial areas are limited to the Nickleville area and just north of Emlenton Borough.

Kahle Lake is a major attraction for this township. Owned and operated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, it attracts boaters, picnickers and fisherman.



Richland Township



Map Features

-  Local Roads
-  Bike Trail
-  Municipal Border
-  Municipal Owned Bridges
-  Bridges
-  State Roads
-  Allegheny River
-  Hydrology
-  Floodplains
-  Richland Parcels
-  Richland Wooded Region

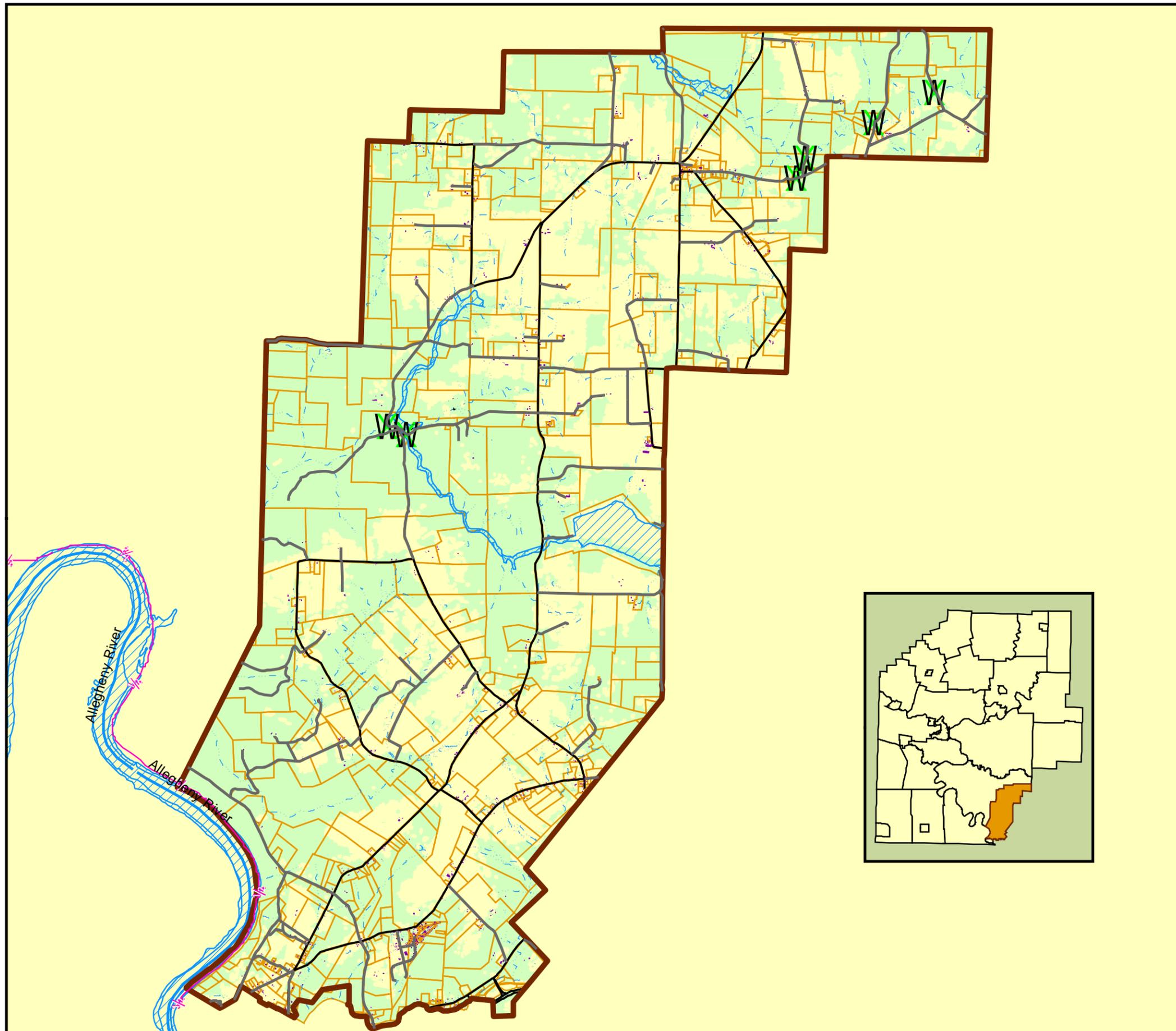


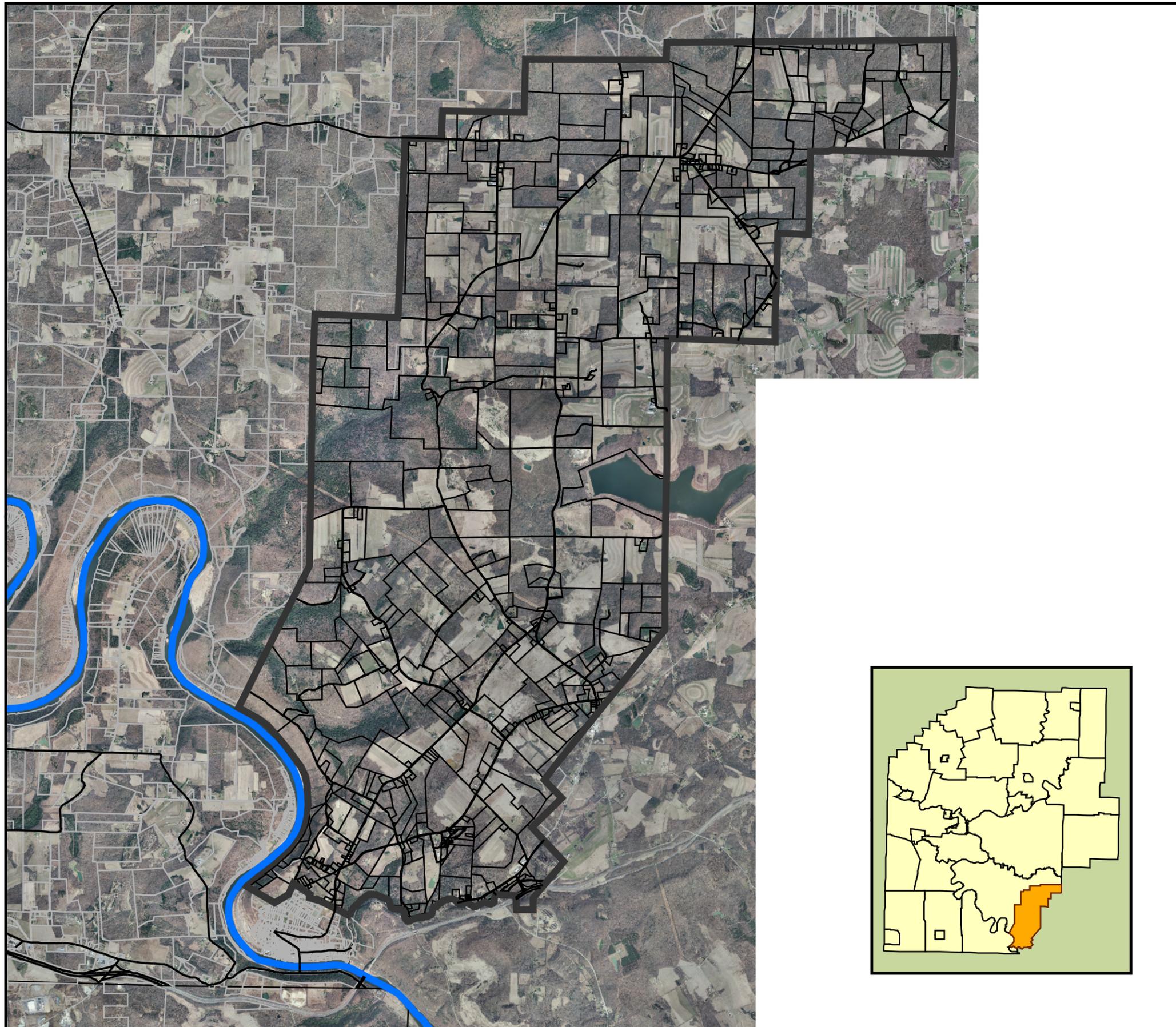
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Richland Township Aerial



Map Features

-  State Roads
-  Allegheny River
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Richland Parcels
-  Venango County Parcels



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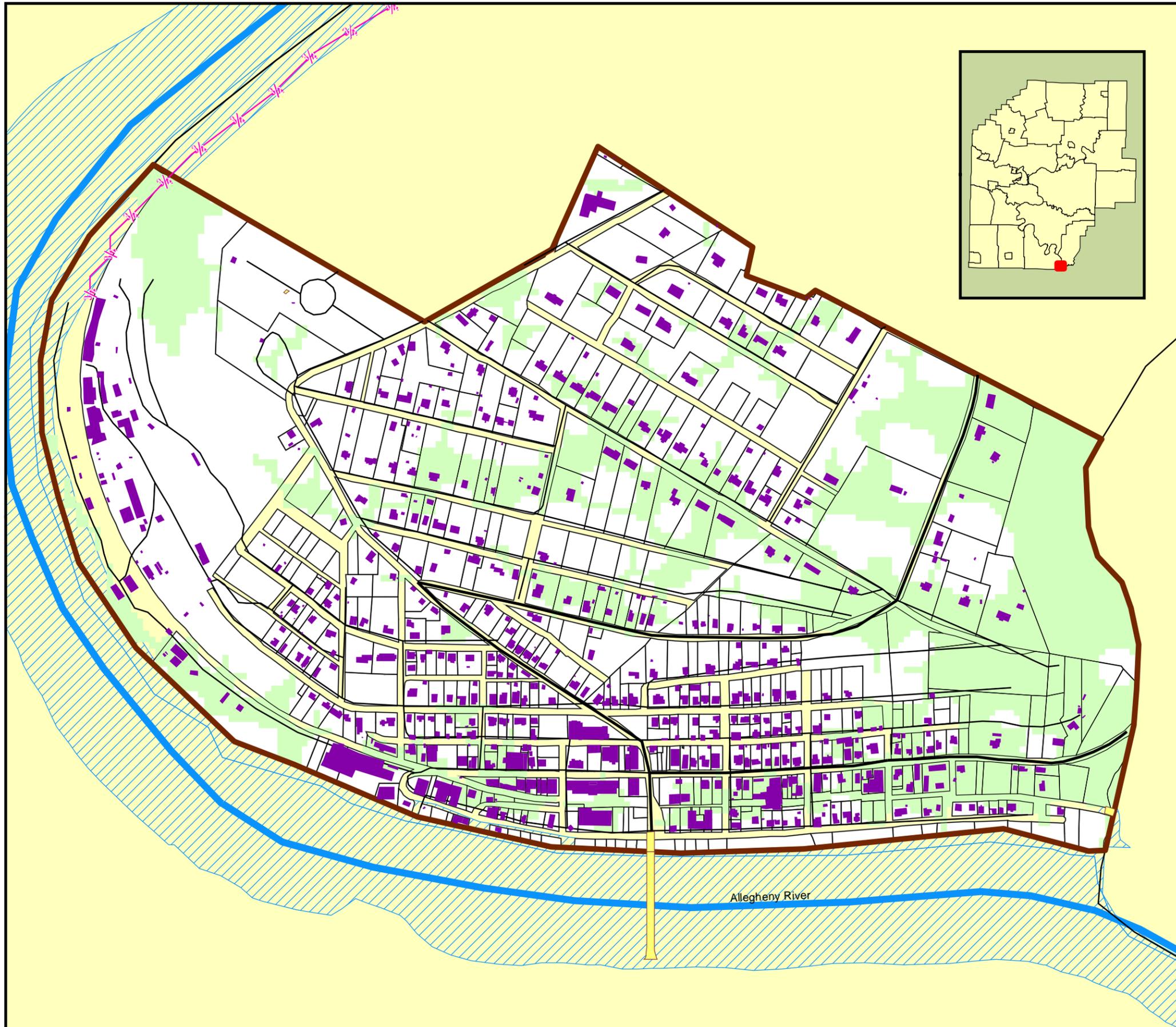
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Emlenton Borough

Emlenton's residential neighborhood is situated on the steep slopes of the river valley and on top of the hill. It is densely compacted and has a mixture of older homes built during the early days including the oil boom era and "newer" homes built before the 1960's.

The borough is one of the "downtown" areas for the region. The main street of town has a mixture of commercial businesses including a bank and medical center. Several of the buildings have been refurbished from their original hey-day grandeur for re-use as modern businesses. The end of main street leads to a light industrial area still in use. But beyond this area is a 40-acre brownfield that was the site of an oil refinery and wax plant. When the last of the oil industry left Venango County in the 1980's and 1990's this plant was dismantled. Plans are currently being developed for re-use of this area also.

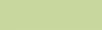
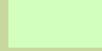
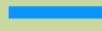
The borough's newest addition is the multi-use Allegheny River Trail that now comes to the edge of town. Soon the bike trail will traverse through town and on to Foxburg in Clarion County. This trail connects to a system of trails that will form the Erie to Pittsburgh trail. The borough also owns a small natural park known as Mineral Springs Park. This park is home to an oil well known to be the oldest continuously pumping well at its original depth.



Emlenton Borough



Map Features

-  Bike Trail
-  Buildings
-  Bridges
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Emlenton Wooded Region
-  Emlenton Parcels
-  Allegheny River
-  Flood Plains

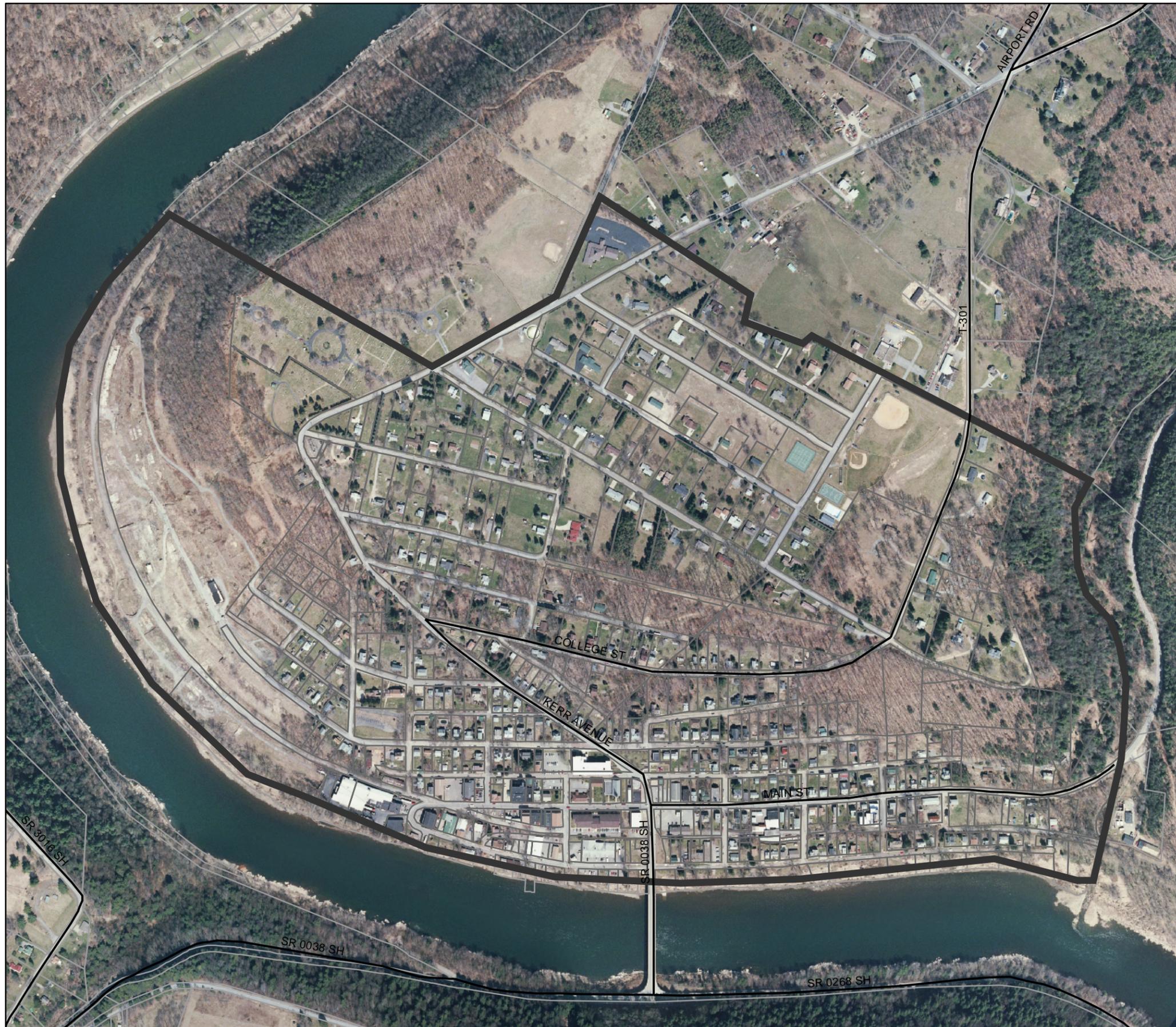


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Emlenton Borough Aerial



Map Features

-  State Roads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Emlenton Parcels
-  Venango County Parcels



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EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The goal of a transportation analysis is to evaluate the condition of the existing roadway network. This evaluation will be used to identify and prioritize roadways and intersections in need of general improvements. A series of field views of the existing transportation network was conducted. The field evaluation was supplemented by average daily traffic volumes and roadway functional classifications provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (NW Commission). The results of the transportation evaluation are summarized in the following sections.



NETWORK AND CIRCULATION PATTERNS

The study area includes seven municipalities located in Southern Venango County: Barkeyville Borough, Clintonville Borough, Clinton Township, Victory Township, Scrubgrass Township, Richland Township and Emlenton Borough. The total study area is approximately 104.55 square miles. Overall the study area has approximately 15 miles of interstate highway, 95 miles of arterial roadways and 82 miles of collector and local access roadways.

Barkeyville Borough, while the smallest of the municipalities in the project area, it is also the busiest. Interstate 80 runs through the borough with an interchange that connects with State Route 8. With several truck stops, two hotels and an industrial park located here, there is much truck traffic.

Barkeyville Borough has an area of 3.42 square miles, and maintains 3.5 miles of roadways all of which are now paved. The main roads in the Borough include I-80 and St. Rt. 8. St. Rt. 208 runs in an east-west direction and connects the borough to the rest of the region.

Clinton Township is a rural township of 28.74 square miles. The main transportation routes are St. Rt. 308 running north-south, St. Rt. 208 running east-west, and Interstate 80.

There is also an interchange for I-80 and St. Rt. 308.

- I-80 runs through the project region, providing connection between Mercer and Clarion counties;
- U.S. Route 62 runs through Franklin and Oil City and provides connection between Mercer and Forest counties; Route 8 connects the southern communities with this main road
- U.S. Route 322 runs through Franklin, providing connection between Crawford and Clarion counties; Route 38 connects the southern municipalities with Route 322.
- State Route 8, which goes through Barkeyville Borough, Victory Township, connects the area to Butler and Crawford counties.
- The Allegheny River winds its way through the County and provides many recreational opportunities to visitors and residents alike. The Middle Allegheny River Trail provides for a different type of transportation growing in popularity.
- Multi-use recreation trail runs through the entire county (except for a few small gaps) and soon will connect with Erie and Pittsburgh.
- Located twelve (12) miles north of Barkeyville, the Venango Regional Airport serves Venango County and parts of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Clintonville Borough is surrounded by Clinton Township. Though only 1.14 square miles in area, it is one of the “down towns” of southern Venango County. It has a bank, grocery store, funeral home and medical center. Clintonville’s main transportation routes are St. Rt. 208, St. Rt. 308 and I-80.

Victory Township is the most rural of the participating communities. 48% of the township is owned by the state as State Game Land or State Forest Land. 20.53 square miles in size, it has many hiking trails and the river as highlighted features. The main transportation route is St. Rt. 8 that connects the southern region to the central part of Venango County.

Scrubgrass Township is the second largest municipality in the study area at 27.47 square miles. While a rural township, it is also the location of the Scrubgrass Generating Plant on a 600+ acre industrial park with 24 acres of Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ), several lumber mills and other businesses and an interchange for Interstate-80. The main transportation routes are St. Rt. 208, St. Rt. 38 and I-80.

Richland Township, third largest participating municipality in the planning region, this township has the most active agricultural land. The 22.38 square miles of open land is sparsely populated. It is also the location of Kahle Lake a 251 acre lake operated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. The main transportation route is St. Rt. 38 which connects the eastern end of the planning region to Butler County and central Venango County.

Emlenton Borough at 0.80 square miles is the smallest, most “urban” municipality. It is a compact, historical community along the Allegheny River. The main street of town is almost the only flat area of the borough. The residential areas are on the steep hillside overlooking the river. A former oil boom town, there are a few reminders of its hay day. A 40-acre former refinery site is now a brownfield but the town has plans to turn this area into a useful boon for the community once again. The main transportation route is St. Rt. 38/208. The southern end of the Allegheny River Trail now comes to the edge of town. Soon this bike route will travel through town and on to communities further south such as Foxburg.

Table 30: Road Mileage by Municipality

Municipality	Township/ Borough Roads	State Highway	Total
Barkeyville Borough	2.59	0.91	2.50
Clinton Township/Clintonville Borough	21.21	25.23	46.44
Victory Township	15.35*	9.30	24.65
* Includes Act 32 Turnback Mileage of 1.64			
Scrubgrass Township	18.33*	34.36	52.69
* Includes Act 32 Turnback Mileage of 1.49			
Richland Township/Emlenton Borough	26.70*	25.65	52.35
* Includes Act 32 Turnback Mileage of 0.86			
Region totals	121.89	126.17	248.06



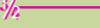
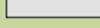
Summary

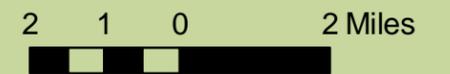
Overall, the roadways within the study area are in adequate condition. In many cases, the roads are dirt and gravel or black topped. Most lack a paved shoulder or a shoulder that is wide enough for bicycles and pedestrians to utilize in a safe manner. Some specific locations with issues or problems include the following:

- Route 8 Corridor – congestion, truck traffic, and access management in Barkeyville
- Route 38 hill – roadway and hillside are collapsing entering Emlenton
- Emlenton Streets – narrow, extreme parking problems
- Access Deficiencies – 60% of Venango County roadways are considered rural collectors linking small town neighborhoods and commercial/industrial areas to high volume arterials.
- Traffic circulation understanding – the Northwest PA Long-range Transportation Plan recommends the consideration of a roadway sufficiency analysis in order to gain a better understanding of traffic circulation throughout the county. The plan asserts that “...the identification of bottlenecks, safety improvements and recommended capacity improvements will enable the County to move forward and guide growth into areas with planned infrastructure improvements.”
- Longer journey to work travel times – Travel times in northwest PA are increasing. While most (76%) of the region’s workers can arrive at their place of employment in less than 30 minutes, this rate has dropped by over four percentage points since 1990. Many require longer than an hour to get to work.

Southern Venango County Existing Transportation

Map Features

-  Middle Allegheny River Trail
-  Bike Trail Tunnels
-  Proposed Bike Trail
-  Bike Trail
-  Allegheny River
-  State Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Southern Municipalities
-  Venango Municipalities

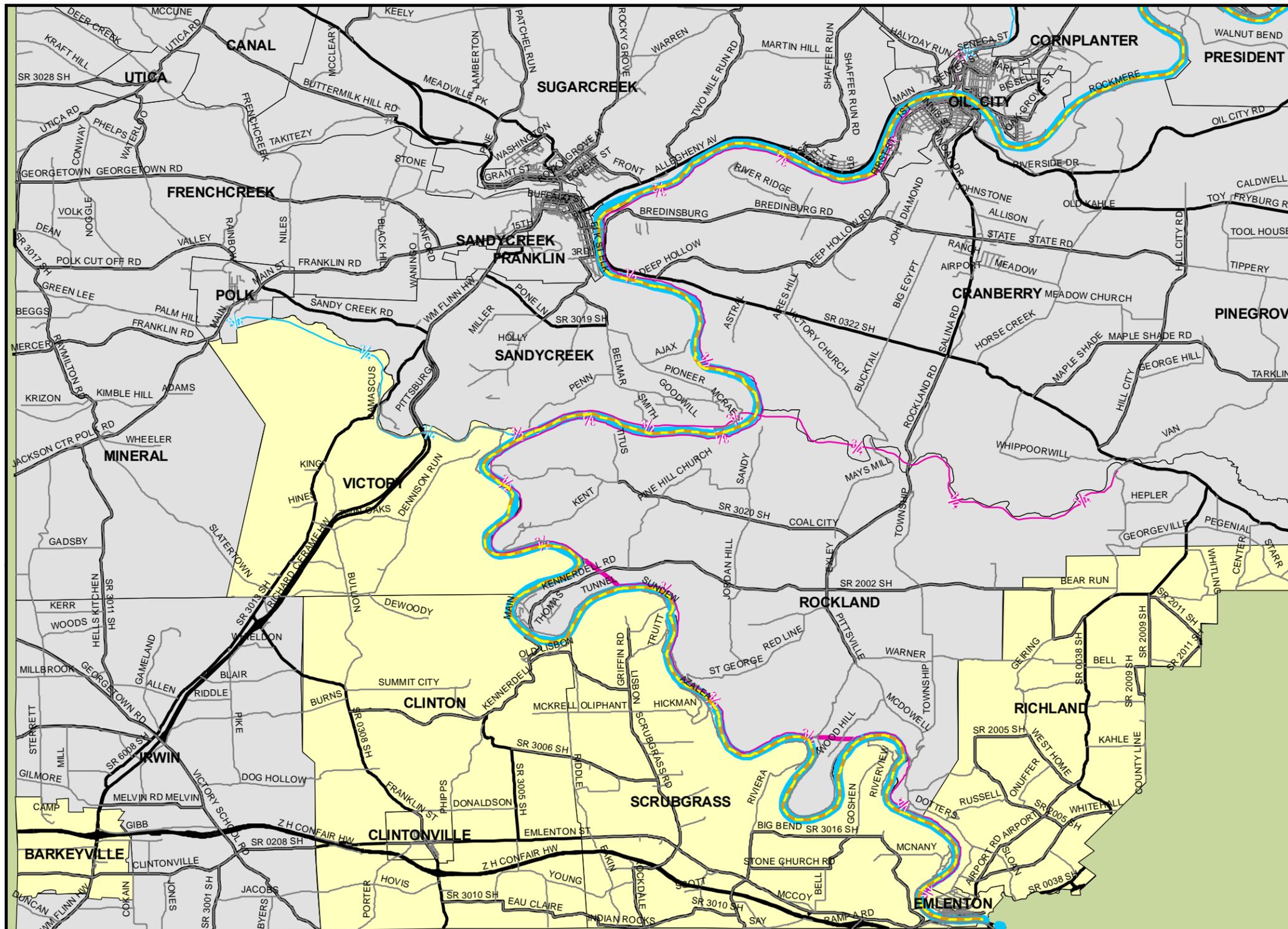


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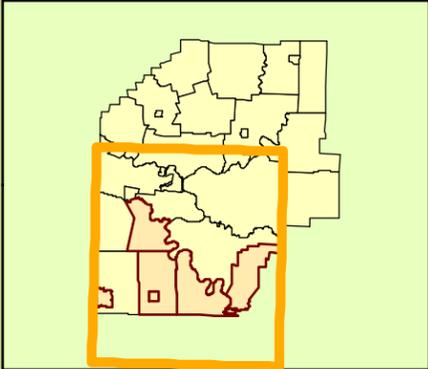
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This map shows the location of the two county owned and eight municipally owned bridges in southern Venango County. Five of these bridges have been recommended to be replaced. Two of these, one in Clinton Township and one in Richland Township, are eligible for federal aid replacement funding.

Source: 2001 Bridge Inspection Reports



Southern Venango County Bridge Locations and Conditions



Map Features

- County Owned
- Bridge Condition
 - (Fair
 - (Poor
- Municipality Owned
- Bridge Condition
 - (Fair
 - (Poor
- RECOMMEND**
- % Replace
- Streams
- ▭ Southern Venango Municipalities



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ROADWAY CLASSIFICATIONS

Functional classifications are used to categorize roadways according to their function. Primarily roadways serve two functions, mobility (the ability to go from one place to another) and access (the ability to enter adjacent property). The roadway's functional classification is based on the degree to which the roadway is used for these two functions.

For the purpose of this study, the roadways will be classified into the following three categories:

Arterials provide for high mobility and limited access. Arterials often connect an urban center with outlying communities and employment. Arterials are designed for high volumes of traffic at moderate speeds. PennDOT further classifies Arterials as Principal and Minor.

Collectors provide access between local roads and streets with arterials. Collector roads are intended to provide for moderate volumes of traffic at reduced speeds.

Local Access Roads provide immediate access to adjoining land uses. Local roads are intended to only provide for transportation within a particular neighborhood, or to one of the other two road types.

The following paragraphs provide descriptions of the various roads within the study area. These descriptions are summarized by roadway functional classification. Table: 31 lists the roads in the study area and identifies corresponding municipality(ies), Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes, roadway classification, and other roadway information.

Roadways in the Study Area

Interstates

Interstate 80, which runs east to west, along the southern tier of the County carries 26,000 ADT through both Clarion and Venango Counties. The highest volumes (30,000) are on the segment between Barkeyville and Clintonville. The development of the interstate in the mid-1960's has done much to improve the economic position of the region. This corridor has development potential; however, utility extensions and the treatment capacity of existing systems will be issues. Approximately 36% of all traffic volumes on I-80 through the Northwest PA region are trucks.

Since as far back as the 1970's, I-80 has been studied and discussed as a possible candidate for tolling, as much of the roadway's traffic volume consists of through traffic. In a 2005 address to the state Senate Appropriations Committee, Transportation Secretary Al Biehler reported that the costs of constructing toll booths and stations would cost an estimated \$650 million and would require decades to recover the costs.

The interstate has also been the subject of much criticism in recent years by such publications as *Overdrive* magazine, which has rated the roadway as one of the worst roads in the nation. Readers in subsequent surveys (2006) however have nominated the roadway as "most improved", yet still rated it as second-worst in the nation, behind only I-10 in Louisiana.

There are four interstate interchanges off of I-80 in the region located in Barkeyville Borough (Exit #29), Clinton Township (Exit #35), Scrubgrass Township (Exit #42) and Richland Township (Exit #45). The Barkeyville exit is the most developed with truck stop/travel centers, hotels, restaurants and an industrial park. The Clinton exit had some development but currently, those few businesses are closed. The Scrubgrass exit is the location of another truck stop and a couple of restaurants as well as a gas station. Finally, the Richland exit is home to a car dealership. These interchange areas will be designated in this regional comprehensive plan as designated growth areas. The restraints to this designation will be traffic in the Barkeyville area, steep terrain in the Richland area and lack of utilities and infrastructure.

Scenic Byways

There are currently no State or National Scenic Byways designated in the Northwest PA region.

Arterials

State Route 8 corridor, oriented generally northeast to southwest, carries between 6,100 and 7,000 Average Weekday Trips from Barkeyville north and between 10,000 and 14,000 AWT as it nears Franklin. This principal arterial connects the western portion of the region to central Venango County, the county seat, and on north to Crawford County. It is also a direct route to Pittsburgh to the south.

In 1973, construction began on the section of expressway from the village of Pearl (just north of Barkeyville) to the northern end of the expressway just south of the City of Franklin. This four lane split highway now also extends to within two miles of Barkeyville and I-80.

State Route 208 traverses the southern region from west to east almost paralleling Interstate-80. This arterial connects the region with Mercer County to the west and Clarion County to the East. The Average Daily Traffic count for Rt. 208 through the region is 1,858.

State Route 308 has its northern terminus just north of the study region in Mineral Township. The route then continues north to south through Clinton Township and Clintonville Borough and on to Butler County. The Average Daily Traffic count for this arterial is 1,571 through the region.

State Route 38 is a main arterial in the eastern portion of the study region. It runs north to south connecting with St. Rt. 208 and St. Rt. 322 further north. It also is a main route to Clarion and Armstrong Counties to the east and south. The Average Daily Traffic count is 2,255 through Richland and Scrubgrass Townships and Emlenton Borough.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OFFICES

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Engineering District 1-0 office is located in Oil City and serves six counties: Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren. The PennDOT Maintenance Office for Venango County is located in Franklin on Pittsburgh Road. District 10-0 also gives support for roadways near Emlenton.

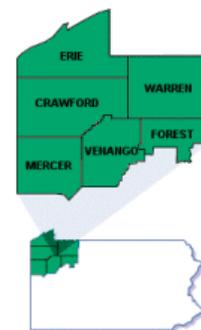


Table 31: Roadway Classification and Traffic Volumes

STATE ROUTE	LOCATION	FUNCTIONAL CLASS	AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC	NUMBER OF LANES	LANE WIDTH	SHOULDER WIDTH
I-80	Barkeyville Borough	Interstate	18570	4	12'	10'
	Clinton Township	Interstate	13724	4	12'	10'
	Clintonville Borough	Interstate	18570	4	12'	10'
	Scrubgrass Township	Interstate	13724	4	12'	10'
S.R. 8	Barkeyville Borough	Principal Arterial	5912	4	12'	4' to 10'
	Victory Township		3772	4	12'	4' to 10'
S.R. 208	Barkeyville Borough	Collector	1858	2	10' to 11'	4'
	Clinton Township	Collector	1776	2	10' to 11'	4'
	Clintonville Borough	Collector	1776	2	11' to 12'	4'
	Scrubgrass Township	Collector	2022	2	10' to 12'	3'
S.R. 308	Clinton Township	Collector	1382	2	10' to 12'	3'
	Clintonville Borough	Collector	1760	2	11' to 12'	3'
S.R. 38	Emlenton Borough	Minor Arterial	1719	2	16.5'	3'
	Richland Township	Minor Arterial	1291 to 2886	2	11'	3'
	Scrubgrass Township	Minor Arterial	3123	2	11' to 12'	3' to 6'

Travel Safety

The PA DOT Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering, Crash Information and Analysis Division, publishes the “Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics”, which is a report that provides a statistical review of reportable motor vehicle accidents in the Commonwealth. The most recent edition available is for the 2003 calendar year, and these figures were compiled from the traffic reports submitted to PA DOT by state, county, municipal and other law enforcement agencies. The following information compares the number and types of accidents for Venango and the other contiguous counties, based on the most recent statistics from 2003 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics.

Venango County

Population in 2003: 56,600

- Fatal crashes: 16
- Injury crashes: 390
- Property Damage Only crashes: 337

Five Year Trend # accidents

- 1998 732
- 1999 726
- 2000 813

- 2001 620
- 2003 743

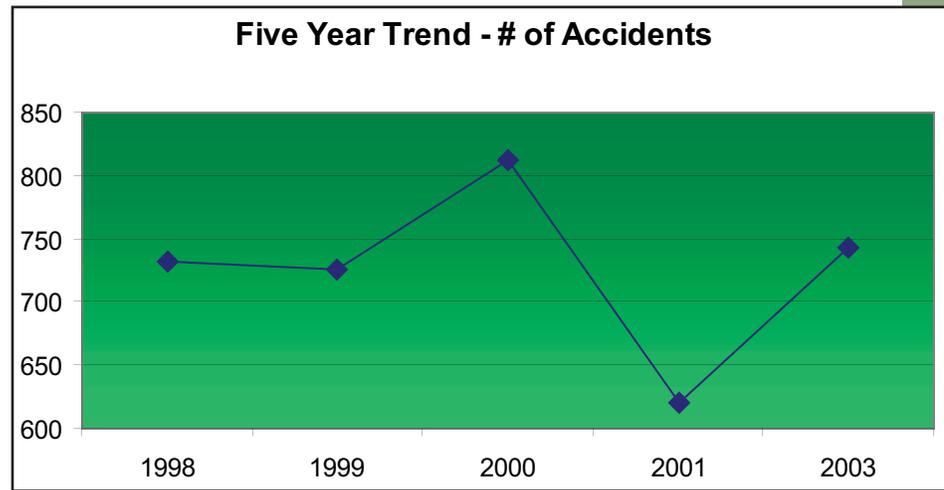
Traffic Deaths

- 1998 10
- 1999 15
- 2000 16
- 2001 7
- 2003 18

Alcohol Related Deaths

- 1998 3
- 1999 5
- 2000 5
- 2001 2
- 2003 6

Figure 12



Surrounding Counties

Table 32: 2003 Vehicle Crash Data – Surrounding Counties

Surrounding Counties	Population	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only	Total
Mercer County	119,895	19	872	730	1,621
Butler County	180,040	23	1,103	1,082	2,208
Clarion County	41,208	10	316	293	619

Source: PA DOT Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics

Table 33: 2003 Vehicle Crash Trend Data – Surrounding Counties

Number of accidents	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2003
Mercer County	1,647	1,578	1,744	1,408	1,622
Butler County	1,962	1,968	2,113	1,951	2,209
Clarion County	546	585	665	552	619
Traffic Deaths	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2003
Mercer County	19	12	40	18	21
Butler County	25	18	32	19	28
Clarion County	12	9	10	10	12
Alcohol Related Deaths	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2003
Mercer County	11	5	17	7	7
Butler County	7	6	9	8	7
Clarion County	5	2	0	6	3

Source: PA DOT Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics

Air Travel

Located sixteen (16) miles north of Barkeyville, the Venango Regional Airport serves Venango County and parts of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The airport is the primary business airport within the I-80/Erie corridor, and supports convenient, daily airline flights to the Pittsburgh International Airport, and on to destinations world-wide. A modern, cozy terminal is offered with on-site rental cars and one of the area's best restaurants. Automobile parking is conveniently close to terminal curb-side. Walking distances both inside and out are short. Baggage is checked to your final destination and carry-on items are X-rayed as you board your aircraft.

Aeronautical Facilities: Venango Regional is a modern, all weather facility with a full compliment of navigation aids and airfield lighting systems. The airport is operated and maintained in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations Part 139, the standards governing commercial service airports. Superior facilities and services to aircraft operators and tenants, including:

- 5,200 ft. x 150 ft. grooved main runway with full Instrument landing system (ILS), as well as MALSR approach lights, HIRL and PAPI Systems.
- 3,700 ft. x 100 ft. cross-wind runway.
- Approved ILS, VOR and GPS approach procedures.
- FAA Index A fire fighting capability.
- Modern, well maintained snow removal equipment.
- Experienced, around the clock, airfield maintenance staff.
- Quality Texaco Fuels.
- Terminal amenities, including; rental cars, fine restaurant, pilot's lounge, flight planning stations, crew shower, pilot supply and gift shop.

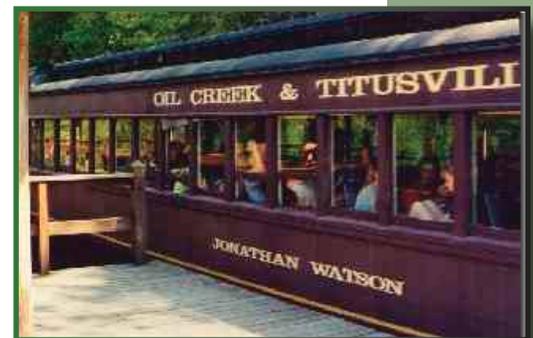
Private on Airport businesses also provide:

- Aircraft Maintenance
- Flight Instruction
- Aircraft Sales

Rail

There is no rail service in the planning region itself, but within Venango County the following companies provide service¹.

Norfolk Southern operates the former Conrail route from Pittsburgh, northeast to Meadville and Oil City. The "Franklin Secondary" and "Youngstown Line" see only limited and irregular service between Shenango, Meadville and Oil City. The 33 mile NS Franklin Secondary and the 42 mile Meadville Line provide Class I service through the region and connect Titusville, Oil City, and Meadville to Youngstown and the NS Youngstown Line. NS also provides a direct connection to the CN Bessemer Secondary between Pittsburgh and Erie. The Franklin Secondary carries less than 1 million gross tons (MGT) annually and the Meadville line carries approximately the same.



The **Oil Creek and Titusville (OCTL)** 16 mile main line connects the NS Franklin line at Rouseville in Venango County to Titusville and East Titusville in Crawford County. Annually the line carries less than 1 million gross tons of lumber, wax and plastics to area businesses approximately two to three days per week.

In addition to providing freight service on this line, OCTL also operates passenger excursion service for the Oil Creek Railway Historical Society. The **Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad** provides passengers with a 2½ hour trip (OC & T RR), taking them on a tour of where the history of oil began. In addition to providing educational and historical tours, the OC & T RR also hosts murder mystery dinner and train rides, and seasonal rides for Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

Water

The Allegheny River winds its way through the County and provides many recreational opportunities to visitors and residents alike, although it is not barge navigable north of Oil City. The river forms parts of the municipal boundaries of Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass and Richland Townships and Emlenton Borough.

The Middle Allegheny River Water Trail is 107 river miles long, starting at Kinzua Dam and ending at the community of Emlenton, just upstream of the I-80 bridge. In 1992, three sections of this river trail, totaling 86.6 miles, were designated a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress. The Allegheny was given a “recreational” classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to reflect the relatively high level of accessibility and development, when compared with other rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, the middle Allegheny is still considered a primitive river. The normal summer flow of the Allegheny River along the length of the trail accommodates small, shallow-draft, powered and non-powered craft. This is a good novice and family canoe and kayak river.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

The natural environment contributes to the economic vitality, environmental health, and quality of life of a community. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, stream valleys, and floodplains are found throughout the planning area. They contribute to the scenic beauty of the region and support important ecological functions.

This section provides an overview of the environmental conditions in the area and outlines the location of environmentally sensitive lands and features. This section also discusses the location and significance of prime farmland and agricultural land uses.

It is important to understand the extent and location of these environmental features in order to identify limitations to development, avoid severe environmental impacts, and prevent property loss or damage. Information on environmental resources should be used to guide growth to areas that are suitable for development in order to protect important natural areas. Environmental features identified in the region include:

- Soils
- Wetlands
- Rivers, Streams, and Lakes
- Floodplains
- Forest Land
- Steep Slopes
- Mining areas

The Environmental Features Map indicates the occurrence of these features and should be referenced throughout this section.

Venango County's climate can be labeled as humid continental. The area is mostly affected by weather systems that develop in the Central Plains or mid-west and are carried by prevailing westerly winds. Canada is the primary source of cold air and the Gulf of Mexico is the main source of moisture. In general, the winters in Venango County are moderately cold and the summers are warm and somewhat humid. Average highs for the summer linger near 80°F while the maximum temperatures experienced in the summer are usually around 97°F. Cloudiness is prevalent in winter as a result of the "lake effect" of cold air passing over the relatively warm Lake Erie, picking up moisture and resulting in cloud formation. The County's prevailing January temperatures average about 24°F while the minimum temperatures experienced then dip to 0 to 10°F. There are about 130 frost-free days during the year in Venango County. On the average, 140 days of the year will experience some form of precipitation. Annual precipitation is about 40 inches. The average annual snowfall amounts to about 50 inches a year. The first measurable snowfall typically occurs in late November or early December. Most storms result in snowfalls of 10 inches or less. After March, the chance of snow diminishes rapidly.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Soils

Understanding soil types is important for protecting water quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Information on general soil types are provided by soil surveys. Soil surveys evaluate the behavior of a type of soil under alternative uses, its potential for erosion, ground water contamination, suitability for sewage disposal and productivity for cultivated crops, trees, and grasses. The general soil associations found in the planning area are based on The Soil Survey for Venango County. Listed below is an overview of the general soil associations in the planning area as well as the limitations.

Table 34: Soil Associations

Canfield-Ravenna:	Gently sloping and sloping, in deep, dominantly gravelly, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils underlain by glacial till; on uplands <u>Limitations:</u> impeded drainage; excess water; seasonal high water table
Hanover-Alvira:	Gently sloping and sloping, deep, well-drained to somewhat poorly drained soils underlain by glacial; till on uplands <u>Limitations:</u> impeded drainage; excess water; restricted permeability; seasonal high water table
Hazleton-Gilpin:	Steep and very steep, deep and moderately deep, stony, well-drained soils underlain by shale, siltstone, and sandstone; on valley sides <u>Limitations:</u> steep slopes; stoniness
Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin:	Gently sloping to moderately steep, deep and moderately deep, moderately well drained and well drained soils underlain by sandstone, siltstone, and shale; on uplands <u>Limitations:</u> restricted permeability; seasonal high water table; stoniness
Cavode-Wharton:	Nearly level and gently sloping, deep, somewhat poorly drained and moderately well drained soils underlain by shale and siltstone; on uplands <u>Limitations:</u> restricted permeability; seasonal high water table

Soil Characteristics

The general soil map included in this document shows the soil associations in Venango County. A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and it is named for the major soils. The soils in one association may occur in another, but in a different pattern.

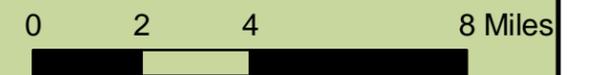


2004 Venango County Comprehensive Plan General Soil



Map Features

-  Venango Municipalities
- Soil Associations**
-  Alton-Monongahela-Philo
-  Canfield-Ravenna
-  Cavode-Wharton
-  Cookport-Hazelton-Gilpin
-  Hanover-Alvira
-  Hazelton-Gilpin

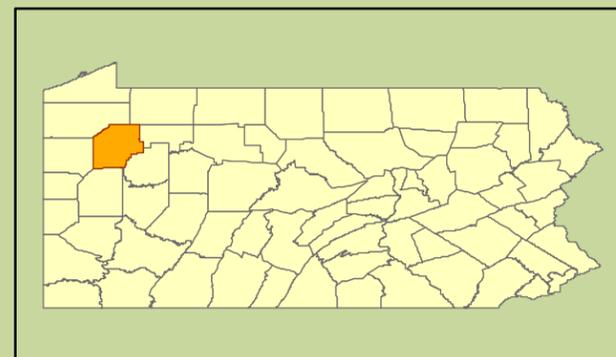
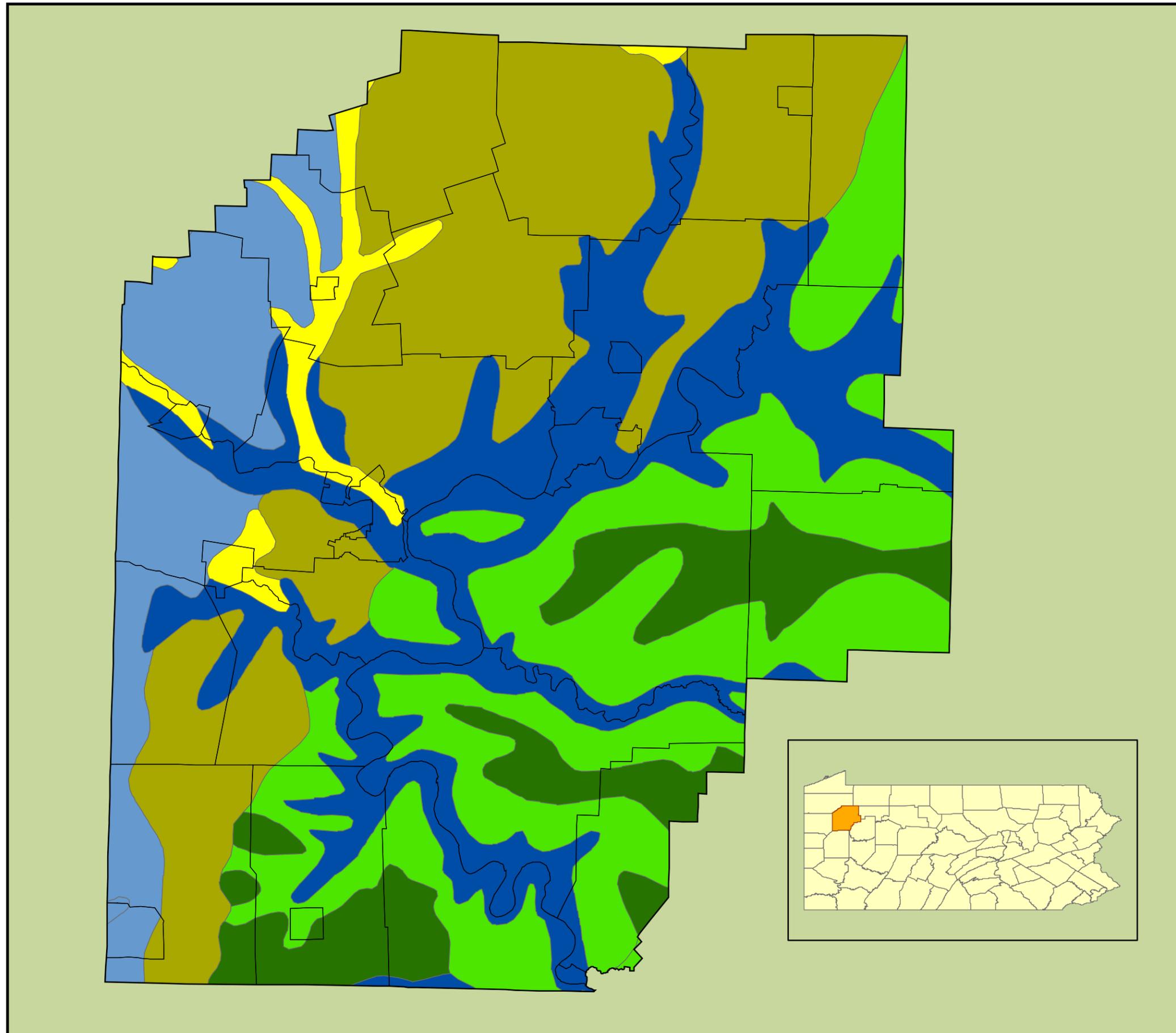


The preparation of this (report, map, document, etc.) was financed in part through a Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, as administered by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.



Prepared By:
The Venango County Regional
Planning Commission

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Soils Suitability for On-Site Sewage Systems

Most of the soils within Venango County are characterized by slow permeability and/or high groundwater tables, rendering them generally unsuitable for the conventional septic tank and leach field sewage systems. In fact, it has been estimated that less than 1% of the land area in Venango County is suitable for conventional subsurface sewage systems. However, nearly 65% of the County's land area has been mapped as potentially suitable for the alternate-type sewage systems such.

Based on information provided by the Venango County Soil Survey (prepared by the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture) and Department of Environmental Protections' (DEP) Rules and Regulations, Chapter 73, "Standards for Sewage Disposal Facilities", three major soil classifications have been outlined below in regard to suitability for on-site sewage systems. The general locations of suitable and unsuitable soils for on-site subsurface sewage systems are delineated on the Venango County Soil Survey Maps. The approval of alternate subsurface sewage systems by the DEP and new related technology have resulted in increased land area being reclassified from "unsuitable" to "potentially suitable" for either conventional or alternate septic systems. This map is only intended to serve as a guide in determining those areas which may hold the greatest potential for on-lot sewage disposal. The Sewage Enforcement Officer designated for each municipality must be contacted to receive a sewage permit.

1. Slight to Moderate Limitations

These soils are potentially suitable for conventional and/or alternate subsurface disposal systems with slight to moderate limitations (subject to required field observation and testing). In Venango County, this classification would include the following soil series:

Soil Series	Soil Association
Wooster (Wo)	Canfield-Ravenna
Hanover (Ha)	Hanover-Alvira
Hazleton (He)	Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin
Gilpin (Gl)	Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin (and Cavode-Wharton as a minor soil)
Canfield (Cd)	Canfield-Ravenna
Cookport (Co)	Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin
Ernest (Er)	Cavode-Wharton (and Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin as a minor soil)
Monongahela (Mo)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo
Wharton (Wh)	Cavode-Wharton

2. Hazardous

Soils with a hazardous classification are soils with very rapid percolation or soils which are underlain by limestone solution channels, either of which have a potential for groundwater degradation, or having slopes of 15 to 25% for which only certain alternate subsurface disposal systems may be satisfactory (again subject to the required field observation and testing). In Venango County, this classification would include the following soil series:

Soil Series	Soil Association
Allegheny (Ag)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo
Alton (Ah)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo

3. Severe Limitations

Soils with a severe classification are generally not suitable for any type of subsurface disposal system due to seasonal high water table, flooding, or slopes exceeding 25%. This classification would include the following soil series found in Venango County:

Soil Series	Soil Association
Atkins (At)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo; Hanover Alvira; and Cavode-Wharton
Philo (Ph)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo
Pope (Po)	Alton-Monongahela-Philo
Alvira (Al)	Hanover-Alvira
Armagh (As)	Hanover-Alvira
Brinkerton (Br)	Cookport-Hazleton-Gilpin and Cavode-Wharton
Cavode (Cl)	Cavode-Wharton
Frenchtown (Fe)	Canfield-Ravenna and Hanover-Alvira
Ravenna (Ra)	Canfield-Ravenna
Rexford (Re)	Alton-Monongahela-Ph
Tyler (TY)	Alton-Monongahela-Ph

Hydric Soils

It is important to note the occurrence of hydric soils in a natural resource inventory. These soils can indicate land that is susceptible to flooding and poor drainage, which can affect the suitability of land for development. The analysis of hydric soils has recently become an important consideration when performing almost any kind of development review. Hydric soils may also indicate the presence of wetlands. Wetland areas are where water is at or near the surface for prolonged lengths of time during the year. They are designated by identifying the hydrology, vegetation, and soils. Wetland areas are now protected by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and should be examined before deciding on any type of development activity.

The definition of hydric soils according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service is, “a soil that forms under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.” Hydric soils include soils developed under sufficiently wet conditions to support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. The Venango County Soil Survey graphically depicts the approximate location of hydric soils in Venango County.

Hydric soils are evident in the planning area primarily near the river and in low lying areas. They tend to mirror the location of floodplains and are also found along creeks and streams throughout the region.



Table 35: HYDRIC SOILS – VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Map Symbol	Map Name	Component	Notes
Map units with major components hydric:			
As	Armagh silt loam	Armagh (PA0094)	
At	Atkins silt loam	Atkins (WV0008)	
BrA	Brinkerton silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Brinkerton (PA0090)	
BrB	Brinkerton silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Brinkerton (PA0090)	
Bt	Brinkerton and Frenchtown very stony silt loams	Brinkerton (PA0091)	
		Frenchtown (OH0085)	
FeA	Frenchtown silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Frenchtown (OH0085)	
FeB	Frenchtown silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown (OH0085)	
Re	Rexford silt loam	Rexford (PA0017)	
Map units with inclusions of hydric components:			
A1A	Alvira silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
A1B	Alvira silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
A1C	Alvira silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
ArB	Alvira and Ravenna very stony silt loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
CdB	Canfield gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
CdC	Canfield gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
CeB	Canfield very stony silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
CeC	Canfield very stony silt loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Depressions, drainageways, potholes
C1A	Cavode silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Armagh	Low flats, drainageways
C1B	Cavode silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Armagh	Low flats, drainageways
C1C	Cavode silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Armagh	Low flats, drainageways
CoA	Cookport loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Wet spots	Depressions
CoB	Cookport loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Wet spots	Depressions

CoC	Cookport loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Wet spots	Depressions
CpB	Cookport very stony loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Wet spots	Depressions
CpO	Cookport very stony loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Wet spots	Depressions
ErB	Ernest silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Brinkerton	Depressions, drainageways
EsB	Ernest very stony silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Brinkerton	Depressions, drainageways
EsC	Ernest very stony silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Brinkerton	Depressions, drainageways
MoA	Monongahela silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Rexford	Potholes, drainageways
MoB	Monongahela silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Rexford	Potholes, drainageways
Ph	Philo silt loam	Atkins	Bottom lands
Po	Pope Loam	Atkins	Bottom lands
RaA	Ravenna silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Drainageways, potholes
RaB	Ravenna silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Drainageways, potholes
RaC	Ravenna silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Frenchtown	Drainageways, potholes
Sm	Strip mines	Wet spots <u>1/</u>	Drainageways, potholes
Ty	Tyler silt loam	Rexford	Drainageways, potholes
Um	Urban land-Monongahela complex	Wet spots	Drainageways, potholes
WhB	Wharton silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Armagh	Depressions, drainageways
WhC	Wharton silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Armagh	Depressions, drainageways

1/ May need soil scientist's verification.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year, or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season (U.S. EPA). Other delineation factors include vegetation and soil type. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

One designated wetland area is in the Barkeyville Industrial Park. The wetlands were built to compensate for the loss of natural wetlands during the construction of the Interstate-80. Other wet areas are in the low lying areas of the rest of the region but designation has not occurred due to a lack of development pressure.

Wetlands Serve Important Ecologic and Social Functions:

- *Maintain water quality*
- *Support aquatic productivity*
- *Serve as habitat for fish, birds, & other wildlife*
- *Control flooding & erosion*
- *Recharge groundwater*
- *Provide recreational and educational opportunities*
- *Serve as a source of energy*



Water Resources

All precipitation which falls is channeled by gravity into drainages basins or watersheds. The major watersheds in the Southern Venango County region are: Slippery Rock Creek, Sandy Creek, East Sandy Creek and the Allegheny River watersheds. Each of these basins drains surface water into the major streams and rivers running through the region and eventually to the Allegheny River itself. There is only one major impoundment located in the region. Kahle Lake is located on the border of Venango County and Clarion County and is comprised of about 250 acres.

Water Hazard Areas

Because of the climate which prevails in Northwest Pennsylvania, floods can occur during any season of the year. Sudden summer thunderstorms can deposit rain at such an excessive rate, flash flooding can occur, turning even the smallest creeks into overflowing water courses. A combination of a thaw and a spell of rainy weather may cause flooding generally in late winter or early spring. The local streams will sometimes develop ice jams and hold back water flow, causing localized flooding.

Rivers, Streams, and Lakes

Rivers and Streams

The Pennsylvania Code, Title 25. Environmental Protection, Chapter 93. Water Quality Standards sets water quality standards for surface water in Pennsylvania. According to the Act, surface waters can be designated as protected for specific water uses, for which water quality criteria are set forth. Water uses are designated according to the following categories: 1) aquatic life; 2) water supply; 3) recreation; 4) special protection for high quality and exceptional value waters; and 5) other uses such as navigation.

For the 2006 reporting period, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) used the integrated format for Clean Water Act Section 305(b) reporting and Section 303(d) listing entitled the “2006 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report”. The narrative report contains summaries of various water quality management programs including water quality standards, point source control and nonpoint source control. It also includes descriptions of programs to protect lakes, wetlands and groundwater quality. A summary of the use support status of streams and lakes is also presented in the narrative report.

Section 303(d) of the Act requires states to list all impaired waters not supporting uses even after appropriate and required water pollution control technologies have been applied. For example, a waterbody impacted by a point source discharge that is not complying with its effluent limits would not be listed on the 303(d) list. The Department would correct the water impairment by taking a compliance action against the discharger. If the waterbody still did not meet water quality standards after achieving compliance with its permit requirements, it would be included on the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it (ground water) or drains off of it travels to the same place, whether it is a stream, river, lake, or the ocean.

Watersheds conform to natural hydrologic boundaries, rather than political boundaries. As a result, it is important for municipalities located within the same watershed to coordinate efforts to protect water quality and stream habitat.

Statewide Assessment Summary

	Aquatic Life Use	Fish Consumption Use	Recreational Use	Potable Water Supply Use
Streams (miles)				
Assessed	83,602	2,261	337	271
Supporting	68,333	581	150	168
Impaired	11,136	1,366	184	93
**Approved TMDL	3,352	314	3	10
Compliance	39	---	---	---
*Pollution	2,304	---	---	---
Lakes (acres)				
Assessed	56,182	35,119	56,600	6,866
Supporting	26,941	2,610	55,329	6,866
Impaired (List 5)	5,441	27,026	1,271	---
Impaired (List 4c)	11,902	---	---	---
Approved TMDL	11,898	5,483	---	---

*1,562 miles have both pollution and pollutant problems

** TMDL miles reported here are only those overlapping impaired segments. A watershed TMDL includes all streams in a watershed including those listed as attained or unassessed.

The 303(d) list includes the reason for impairment, which may be one or more point sources (like industrial or sewage discharges), or non-point sources (like abandoned mine lands or agricultural runoff).

DEP encourages the use of the Internet to view documents. These documents are available electronically on DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us Keyword "305b Report".

The Aquatic Life Use category is divided into several sub-categories:

Warm Water Fishes (WWF): Sets forth water quality criteria for the maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a warm water habitat

Cold Water Fishes (CWF): Sets forth water quality criteria for the maintenance and/or propagation of fish species includes the family Salmonidae and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a cold water habitat.

Trout Stocking (TSF): This designation includes maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31, and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.



Special Protection

High Quality Waters (HQ): A stream or watershed which has excellent quality waters and environmental or other features that require special water quality protection.

Other Protection Designations

Navigation (N): Use of the water for the commercial transfer and transport of persons, animals, and goods.

The following table identifies stream basins and sub-basins in the planning area and their designated water uses. All of the basins in the region eventually drain to the Allegheny River but some of the more noteworthy streams are listed specifically as flowing into the Allegheny.

Table 36: Designated Uses for Surface Waters in the Planning Region

Basin Name	Streams included in Basin	Streams included in sub-basin	Townships in Planning Area	Designated Water Uses
Slippery Rock Creek			Barkeyville Borough	CWF
	Wolf Creek		Barkeyville Borough	CWF
Sandy Creek			Victory Township	WWF
	South Sandy Creek		Victory Township	CWF
	Victory Run		Victory Township	WWF
Allegheny River			Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Richland Townships, Emlenton Borough	WWF
	Clark Run		Victory Township	WWF
	Dennison Run		Victory Township, Clinton Township	EV
	Bullion Run		Clinton Township	CWF
	Scrubgrass Creek		Clinton Township, Clintonville Borough	CWF
		Trout Run	Clinton Township, Clintonville Borough	CWF
	Little Scrubgrass Creek		Clinton Township, Scrubgrass Township	CWF
		Lockard Run	Scrubgrass Township	CWF
		Whann Run	Scrubgrass Township	WWF
		Southfork Little Scrubgrass Creek	Scrubgrass Township	CWF
	Perry Run		Scrubgrass Township	WWF
	Mill Creek		Richland Township	CWF
East Sandy Creek				CWF
	Pine Run		Richland	CWF
	Bear Run		Richland	CWF

Floodplains and Riparian Zones

Floodplains

Development in a floodplain can result in damage and destruction of property due to flooding, habitat destruction and loss of riparian buffers, and increased downstream flooding. Therefore, it is important to identify those areas in the 100-year floodplain and establish floodplain management guidelines to prevent damage and destruction due to flooding. The 100-year flood plain includes those areas with a history and statistical probability of flooding at least one percent per year.

Flood prone areas are located along the Allegheny River and a few of the larger streams that flow throughout the region. But flooding is not a major problem in any of the municipalities. The most significant area that may experience problems in the future is Emlenton Borough. The 100-year floodplain reaches from the Allegheny River to River Avenue. This area, if flooded, would affect a grocery store, gas station, car wash, several homes and also reach into the brownfield site at the west end of town.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available at the office of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission or at the Venango County Conservation District.

Riparian Zones

Riparian corridors are vegetated strips of land bordering creeks, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. These areas should be protected because they provide a natural buffering around waterways. This buffer helps maintain the natural flow of water, protects water quality and stream habitat, and reduces the volume and velocity of run-off and flood waters. Riparian buffers also provide important ecological functions, such as providing food, shelter, nesting sites, and contiguous habitat for a variety of wildlife. Finally, riparian zones can be tied into recreation, such as fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife observation.

Natural Heritage Inventory Biodiversity Areas

A natural heritage area is an area that is recognized for its unique biodiversity and ecological integrity. A County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) is a systematic study of the biological resources of a county. It includes plants, animals, natural communities, and habitats that are important to these living resources. Through a partnership in the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP), a review and collection of information from state agencies (Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, and others), county agencies and organizations, environmental projects and consultants, resource management entities and individuals, and a number of other county-specific sources is conducted.

The inventory identifies natural heritage areas in Venango County and classifies them as exceptional, high, and notable according to their county significance. The CNHI for Venango County is currently being conducted and is expected to be completed in 2008. Contact the Venango County Regional Planning Commission for information. The inventory is being created to assist the public (state, county, and municipal governments) and private sectors in protecting significant environmental resources and species habitat when planning for the future.

Forest Land

The early frontiersmen hunted and trapped in the wild natural landscape of the region. The early settlers in Venango County found virgin forests with large stands of white pine and hemlocks. These trees produced high quality lumber in demand for construction and the building of wooden structures. The lumber boom occurred in Pennsylvania just before the Civil War and continued for the next forty years. By the end of the lumber era, the virgin forest was plundered, and hemlocks and yellow and white pine gave way to the harvesting of hardwoods. At that point, large tracts of trees to support the industry were no longer available, and many lumbermen left the area.

The majority of the project area as well as a majority of Venango County is forested again today as the natural world has reclaimed the area. The lumber industry is again very prevalent in the project area.

Geologic Forces

Venango County's present day surface forms were created through several geologic forces acting over many thousands of years. The land emerged from a prehistoric inland sea essentially as a plain comprised of water-deposited materials. Through the action of time and pressure, the earlier deposits of sand, clay, silt and carboniferous (plant) materials were formed into the sandstone, shale, limestone and coal strata which make up the bedrock stratigraphy of the area.

In more recent geologic times, several glaciers penetrated into the northwestern part of the County. The glaciers exerted a powerful new force upon the landscape. As they advanced, they penetrated along the stream valleys, filling them with ice and shaping them into the U-shaped cross-sections associated with glacial erosion. As they retreated, they deposited enormous quantities of rock and soil transported from areas to the north. These deposits, in the form of outwash and terminal and ground moraines, changed and modified the underlying land forms. As the glaciers retreated, the removal of the great weight of ice resulted in a gradual uplifting of the entire land mass of the region. At the same time, the down-cutting, eroding forces of the surface streams acted to deepen the ravines and stream valleys. These were the forces, explained here in greatly simplified terms, which produced the form of the land as it now exists in Venango County.

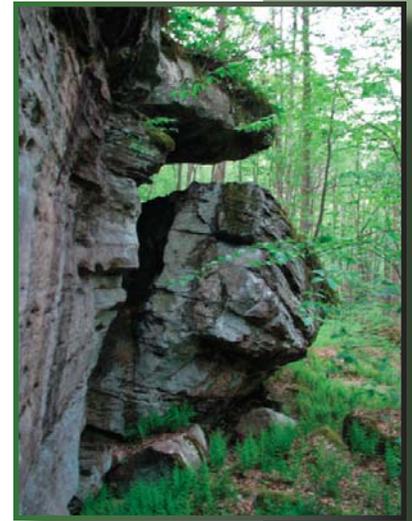


Photo courtesy of
Lynn Moss

2004
 Venango County
 Comprehensive Plan
 Geology



Geologic Formation

-  Allegheny Formation
-  Burgoon Sandstone through Cuyahoga Group
-  Corry Sandstone through Riceville Formation
-  Cuyahoga Group
-  Pottsville Formation
-  Shenango Formation
-  Shenango Formation through Cuyahoga Group

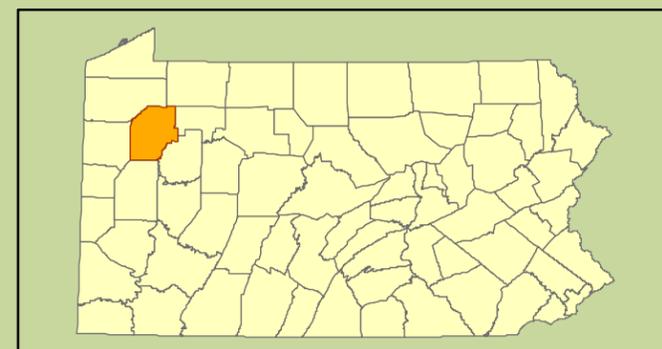
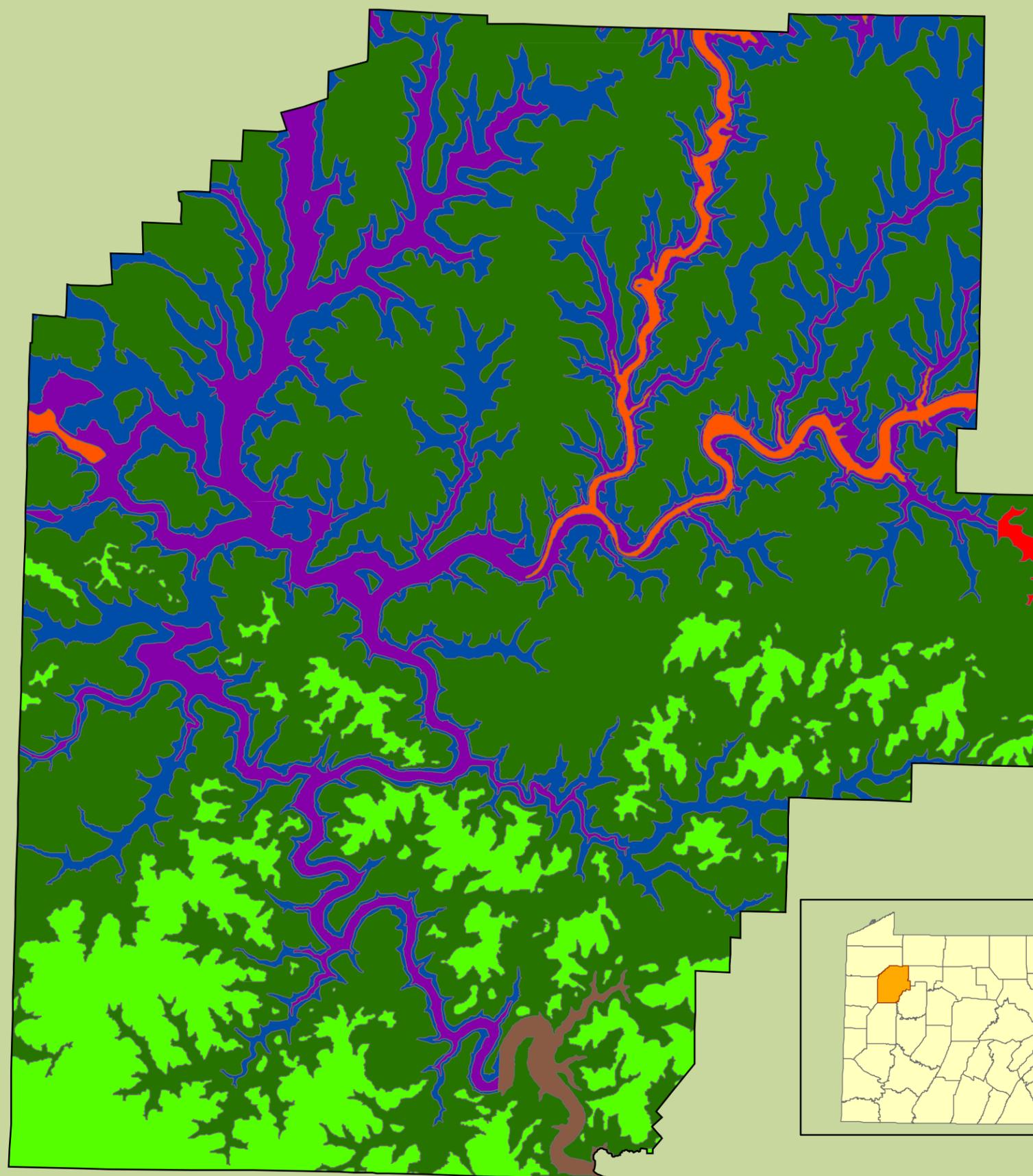
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 Miles

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Prepared By:
 The Venango County Regional
 Planning Commission

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Steep Slopes

Slope information is important for land use planning as it affects transportation, building design, stormwater management, and sewage disposal. Steep slopes are a development constraint due to the lack of supportive surfaces for buildings and homes and instable soils, which make development on steep slopes cost prohibitive. However, steeply sloped areas should be incorporated into greenways in order to connect wildlife habitat corridors and natural areas.

Southern Venango County's land area is comprised of varying degrees of slope, ranging from nearly level plateaus to severe sloping along the river and streams of the region. These categories are discussed below. The general characteristics and development potentials and limitations of each category of slope are described below.

0 to 8% slope

Flat to moderate; capable of all normal development for residential, commercial and industrial uses; involves minimum amount of earth moving; suited to row crop agriculture, provided that terracing, contour planting and other conservation practices are followed.

8% to 16% slope

Rolling terrain and moderate slopes: generally suited only for residential development; site planning requires considerable skill; care is required in street layout to avoid long sustained gradients; drainage structures must be properly designed and installed to avoid erosion damage; generally suited to growing of perennial forage crops and pastures with occasional small grain plantings.

16% to 24% slope

Steep slopes, generally unsuited for most urban development; individual residences may be possible on large lot areas; uneconomical to provide improved streets and utilities; overly expensive to provide public services; foundation problems and erosion usually present; agricultural uses should be limited to pastures and tree farms.

24% and over

Severe and precipitous slopes; no development of an intensive nature should be attempted; land should not be cultivated; permanent tree cover should be established and maintained; adaptable to open space uses such as recreation, game farms, and watershed protection.

Mining

Mining and resource extraction industries can impact the environmental health and water quality in a region. Prior to 1977, when Congress passed the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, (SMCRA), Pennsylvania produced one-third of all coal mined in the United States. However, the unregulated mining of the past scarred the land, degraded areas with subsidence potential and resulted in coal refuse and spoil piles, abandoned mine drainage (AMD), dry and flooded strip mines, and abandoned and/or dilapidated buildings. These areas dot the entire planning region.

Efforts are underway with the assistance of two watershed groups to find abandoned oil wells and areas of mine discharge that are damaging the streams in the area. Well capping and other clean measures are taking place. Inactive, abandoned mines sites should be reclaimed and restored to the natural environment in order to prevent further negative environmental impacts.

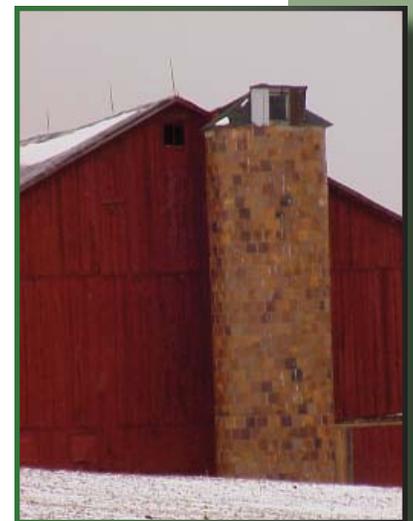
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Prime agricultural soils are located in pockets throughout the planning area. Agricultural land use, as shown on the Existing Land Use Map, generally mirrors the location of prime agricultural soils where residential or commercial development does not currently exist. However, agricultural land use is not limited to areas in which prime agricultural soils are found.

SOIL MAPPING UNITS THAT QUALIFY AS ADDITIONAL FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE	
Manuscript Symbol	Mapping Unit Name
A1A	Alvira silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
A1B	Alvira silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
A1C	Alvira silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
At	Atkins silt loam
CdC	Canfield gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
C1A	Cavode silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C1B	Cavode silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
C1C	Cavode silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
CoC	Cookport loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
ErB	Ernest silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
FeA	Frenchtown silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
FeB	Frenchtown silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
G1C	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HaC	Hanover silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HeC	Hazleton Channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
MoB	Monongahela silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
RaC	Ravenna silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
Re	Rexford silt loam
Ty	Tyler silt loam
WhC	Wharton silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
WoC	Wooster gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes

Farming in the Region

A number of issues have contributed to a loss of farmland in Pennsylvania and Venango County. Farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to make a living with increased cost of equipment and labor, competition in the market place, increasing property taxes, and high health care and insurance costs. In addition, there is little interest from young people to enter into farming or carry on a family farm.



As our communities continue to grow and expand, we must take precaution with careful planning that as we develop we are not jeopardizing the future of our irreplaceable agricultural land. Though new developments and urban sprawl are at times inevitable, through proper planning it can be achieved in a manner in which open space is preserved, towns are revived and our prime agricultural lands remain intact for generations to come.

“Whether the aggregate of capital invested, the amount of labor employed, or the value of its products considered, agriculture is unquestionably a most important industry; and, from the period when its pursuit was practically universal to the present, it has sustained to every community the relation of a primary and ultimate source of wealth. The dignity of the calling has been recognized in all ages; its quite amenities have been celebrated by the poet and artist since the dawn of literature and art; men of ability and eminence in the cabinet or on the field, at the bar or in the pulpit, and every department of human activity have been drawn from its ranks. And yet the history of agriculture, although marked by a gradual and certain progress, is singularly deficient in brilliant passages.”

-History of Venango County 1890

Since the 1950’s the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been losing an average of 80,000 acres of farmland per year. With only 7.5 million acres of farmland left, the State has been working together with its counties and communities to try to protect and preserve the prime land that our state has left. Farmland preservation programs are being implemented at the state level in order to maintain agriculture as a viable industry in Pennsylvania and preserve the rural way of life throughout the state. Farmland preservation programs that are being implemented in Pennsylvania are described in more detail below.

**Farmland in Venango and Surrounding Counties
(number and size) 2000-2006**

County	Year	Land In Farms (Acres)	% Change	Acres Per Farm	% Change	Number Of Farms	% Change
Venango	2000	61,000		130		470	
	2006	64,500	6.0	136	5.0	475	1.0
Butler	2000	139,500		115		1,215	
	2006	142,000	2.0	121	5.0	1,175	-3.0
Clarion	2000	104,500		174		600	
	2006	107,500	3.0	182	5.0	590	-2.0
Mercer	2000	170,500		132		1,290	
	2006	162,000	-5.0	131	-1.0	1,240	-4.0

Livestock in Venango and Surrounding Counties 2000-2006				
County	Livestock	2000	2006	% Change
Venango	Hogs All	500	700	40.0
	Cattle All	7,100	8,500	20.0
	Milk Cows	NA	NA	NA
	Annual Milk Per Cow Pounds	14,900	NA	NA
	All Sheep and Lambs	700	1,000	43.0
Butler	Hogs All	3,100	2,400	-23.0
	Cattle All	21,400	21,600	1.0
	Milk Cows	NA	3,700	NA
	Annual Milk Per Cow Pounds	16,900	18,600	10.0
	All Sheep and Lambs	2,500	2,800	12.0
Clarion	Hogs All	2,400	1,100	-54.0
	Cattle All	15,200	16,500	9.0
	Milk Cows	NA	4,100	NA
	Annual Milk Per Cow Pounds	16,100	17,900	11.0
	All Sheep and Lambs	600	1,100	83.0
Mercer	Hogs All	3,300	4,200	27.0
	Cattle All	34,200	33,900	-1.0
	Milk Cows	NA	9,600	NA
	Annual Milk Per Cow Pounds	15,700	17,000	8.0
	All Sheep and Lambs	2,300	2,700	17.0

NA - data not available

Farming in Venango County today is not as prevalent as it once was.

- But there was a 1% increase in the number of farms between 2000 and 2006.
- The surrounding counties decreased in the number of farms.
- Venango, Butler and Clarion Counties each show an increase in farm size while Mercer County farms decreased both in number and size.

Crops in Venango County 2000-2006											
Commodity	Year	Planted in acres	% Chg	Harvested in acres	% Chg	Yield	Unit	% Chg	Production	Units	% Chg
Corn For Grain	2000	6,100		4,900		125	bushel		612,500	bushel	
	2006	7,200	0.18	5,600	0.14	110	bushel	-0.12	616,000	bushel	0.01
Corn For Silage	2000			1,100		15.4	tons		16,900	tons	
	2006			1,600	0.45	16	tons	0.04	25,600	tons	0.51

Oats	2000	1,700		1,500		58	bushel		87,000	bushel	
	2006	1,600	-0.06	1,500	0.00	66.7	bushel	0.15	100,000	bushel	0.15
Soybeans	2000	500		500		42	bushel		21,000	bushel	
	2006	1,400	1.80	1,300	1.60	40	bushel	-0.05	52,000	bushel	1.48
Hay Alfalfa (Dry)	2000			4,700		3	tons		14,100	tons	
	2006			3,400	-0.28	2.41	tons	-0.20	8,200	tons	-0.42
Hay Other (Dry)	2000			7,300		2.75	tons		20,100	tons	
	2006			9,000	0.23	2.6	tons	-0.05	23,400	tons	0.16
Hay All (Dry)	2000			12,000		2.85	tons		34,200	tons	
	2006			12,400	0.03	2.55	tons	-0.11	31,600	tons	-0.08
Wheat Winter All*	2006	1,200		1,100		40.8	bushel		44,900	bushel	
Wheat All*	2006	1,200		1,100		40.8	bushel		44,900	bushel	
Forage All (Dry Hay + Haylage)*	2006			14,100		2.83	tons		39,900	tons	

*only 2006 data available

Farming today in the region, for the most part is not the sole income for the farm owner. Many people work in other industries and farm in the evenings and weekends. The family farm is still passed down to future generations but many are being subdivided and no longer farmed.

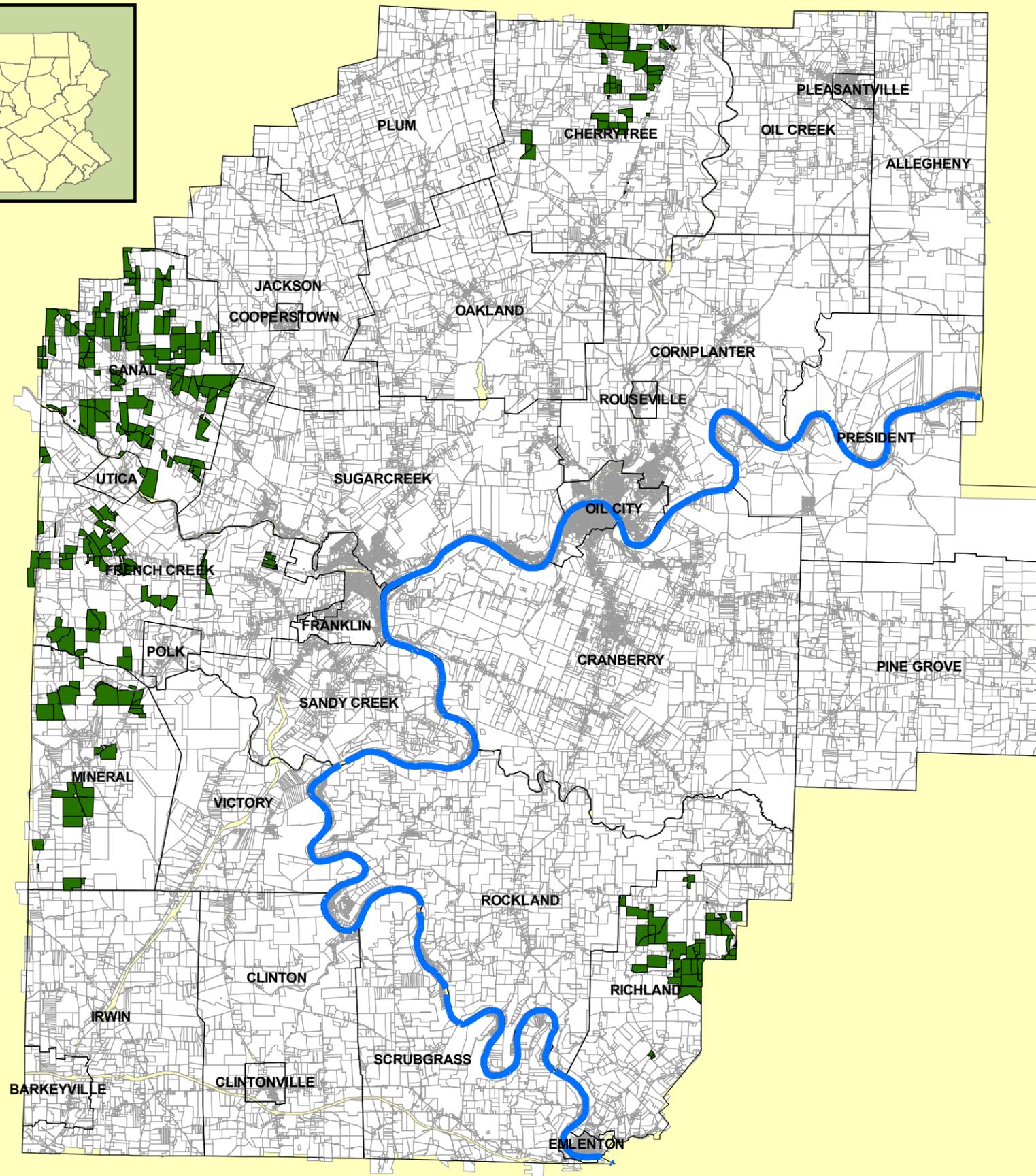
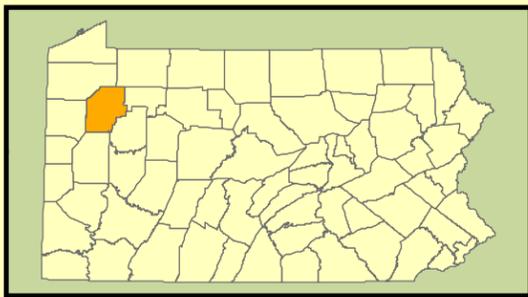
- The average size farm is 136 acres, which is an increase of 23% from 1997 when the average size was 111 acres.
- In Venango County, agriculture generates \$66.1 million.
- Market value of agricultural production increased by 6% from 1997 to 2002.
- Milk and other dairy products from cows have the highest value of sales within the County at \$3,739,000 dollars. This represents 45% of the total value of sales for agriculture products.
- Agriculture employs 571 workers.
- Total county farm employment has risen 20% since 1969, while county wide employment has only risen 15%.
- The largest category of agriculture employment is cattle ranching and farming.
- Government payments supporting Venango farmers have risen from \$1,373 per farm in 1997 to \$3,337 per farm in 2002 and this is an increase of 143%.
- Venango County ranks number one in the state for total deer livestock inventory.

Agricultural Security Areas

Description of Agricultural Security Areas

In 1981, the Agricultural Security Area (ASA) program was created to strengthen and protect agricultural areas and practices in Pennsylvania. In areas where agriculture is the main activity, farmland owners work together along with municipalities to initiate the establishment of an ASA. The Agricultural Security Area (ASA) is a voluntary program administered by a local governing

body. To participate, landowners must submit a petition to their governing body to enroll in the Agricultural Security Area program. A minimum of 250 acres is required among all the participating landowners. To be eligible for the program, the land included must currently be used for or be capable of being used for agricultural production. After township/borough approval of such petition, landowners will agree to keep their land for agricultural uses in exchange for certain benefits provided by the township/borough. As part of an ASA, farmers are protected from nuisance complaints and local ordinances that would unreasonably restrict farming practices. Agriculture Security Areas are reviewed once every seven years at which time landowners have the option of opting out of the program. If an Agricultural Security Area already exists within a township/borough, all subsequent petitions are considered additions to the original. Creating Agricultural Security Areas in a municipality promotes more permanent and workable farm operations and strengthens the community's sense of security in land use and the right to farm.



Venango County

Recorded Agricultural Security Areas



Map Features

-  Allegheny River
-  Recorded ASA's
-  Municipal Borders
-  Venango County Parcels



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Prepared By:
The Venango County Regional
Planning Commission

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Benefits of Agricultural Security Areas

The establishment of an Agricultural Security Area in a township or borough is beneficial to all within and surrounding the community. An ASA may provide residents with a feeling of security in knowing that their surrounding land is being used for productive agricultural purposes and conservation, rather than a feeling of fear that their land will disappear and become prey to development and urban sprawl.

The farmland owners who are involved in Agricultural Security Areas are entitled to special considerations from their state and local government agencies regarding nuisance laws and issues of eminent domain. By owning land in an ASA participants are also eligible to voluntarily sell or donate an agricultural conservation easement to their municipality, county or Commonwealth; enabling them to protect their agricultural land indefinitely. Another benefit to farmland owners who are in an ASA and who have loans through the Small Business First Program or the Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund is the eligibility to receive up to a 1% reduction in their interest rate.

Eligibility Requirements of Agricultural Security Areas

In order to be considered for entry into an Agricultural Security Area the land in question must first be deemed as viable agricultural land. This includes any cropland, pasture or woodland that as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is "...suitable for agricultural production and which will continue to be economically feasible for that use if real estate taxes, farm restriction and speculative activities are limited to levels approximating those commercial agricultural areas not influenced by the proximity of urban and related nonagricultural development". The property in question must be zoned by the township/borough or county for agricultural uses. Eligibility requirements for the ASA program also require that at least 50% of the land fall into Soil Capability Classes I-IV, as defined by the county soil survey.

Farm tracts needed to create an Agricultural Security Area must be 250 acres or larger. The 250 acres of land may be composed of either contiguous or noncontiguous parcels. The eligible land does not have to be under the same ownership or even in the same municipality, as long as the proper approvals are obtained from all entities involved. Farm parcels, which are noncontiguous, must be at least 10 acres in size unless they are capable of generating at least \$2,000 of yearly gross income from agricultural production of crops, livestock, livestock products, horticulture specialties and timber production.

Rights and Restrictions of Agricultural Security Areas

Farmland owners involved in the Agricultural Security Area program are not subject to any restrictions for having their land in an ASA. They retain the right to sell, change the use, or subdivide their land. All changes to the land must be properly recorded and documented. Eligibility requirements for ASA's must be met after changes occur to ensure continued participation in the program. Agricultural Security Area designation should be reviewed every seven years. However, the ASA may be reviewed at any time if 10% of the land is converted to non-agricultural uses. If the seven-year review is not conducted, participants are considered to be readopted without modification, for another seven years.

Of the seven communities involved in the planning project, only Richland Township has Agricultural Security Areas with a total of 1,594.22 acres. This information is gathered from the Venango County Office of the Register and Recorder.

Table 37: Agricultural Security Area Enrollment Information

Township	Parcels	Acres
Barkeyville Borough	0	0
Clinton Township	0	0
Clintonville Borough	0	0
Victory Township	0	0
Scrubgrass Township	0	0
Richland Township	31	1,594.22
Emlenton Borough	0	0

Agricultural Conservation Easements

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program Act was passed in 1988 in an effort to curb the loss of prime agricultural land in our state. It has been a program with great success, involving 55 counties and the preservation of over 300,000 acres of farmland. The program is administered by a state preservation board in cooperation with county agricultural land preservation boards. The program enables states, counties, and local governments to purchase conservation easements (or development rights) from local farmers. To be considered, the applicant must meet specific criteria regarding the quality of the farmland to be protected, the stewardship practices, and the likelihood of conversion and development of the land. The sale of their development rights provides farmers with capital for continued operations and maintenance of their farms.

Unfortunately, Venango County has not yet begun such a program, leaving its 65,000 acres of precious farmland at risk of becoming victim to development and urban sprawl. With the cooperation of the planning commission, municipalities and farmland owners, it is an attainable goal to create an agricultural land preservation program that would protect in perpetuity the agricultural lands of the county.

Description of Agricultural Conservation Easements

An agricultural conservation easement is a voluntary, permanent, legal agreement that exists between a government entity and landowner that places certain restrictions on the usage of a property. Once a county has made the decision to participate in the conservation easement program, an Agricultural Land Preservation (ALP) Board will be established to carry out the actions of the program. After establishment, the board will advertise to interested landowners who meet the eligibility requirements and encourage them to apply to see if their land is eligible for an easement. If deemed eligible, the landowner may donate the easement or choose to have the ALP board purchase the easement using funds from the County, Commonwealth or both. Following the sale or donation, the landowner retains ownership of the eased land, but is now subject to certain restrictions of property use as determined by a mutual agreement with the easement holder to protect the conservation value of the land. The conservation easement is a perpetual agreement and will bind all future owners to its terms, indefinitely protecting the land from nonagricultural development.



Benefits of Agricultural Conservation Easements

Adopting an Agricultural Conservation Easement program has many benefits for both the municipalities and the landowners involved. The municipalities benefit from conservation easements by utilizing them to assist in the completion of specific planning goals. Benefits to municipalities also include the conservation of environmentally sensitive areas, prime agricultural soils and scenic areas located within the easements.

Benefits to landowners involve a sense of security in knowing that the easement is perpetual, and that the land will remain preserved throughout generations, even through changes in ownership. An agricultural easement may provide the landowner with lower property taxes and federal income tax benefits if the easement has been given to the municipality by donation. Another benefit to property owners is that they can receive funds for the sale of their easement in their choice of a lump sum, five-year installment or a long-term installment basis.

Eligibility Requirements of Agricultural Land Preservation Easements

After the establishment of a County Land Preservation Board, minimum eligibility requirements that the farmland tract must meet will be set forth and shall include Pennsylvania state minimum criteria as set in 7 PA Code § 138e.16.

1. Be located in an agricultural security area consisting of 500 acres or more, or meet special provisions for parcels not entirely within an agricultural security area.
2. Be contiguous acreage of at least 50 acres in size unless the tract is at least 10 acres in size and is either utilized for a crop unique to the area or is contiguous to a property that has a perpetual agricultural conservation easement in place.
3. Contain 50% of soils which are available for agricultural production and are in capability classes I-IV, as defined by the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service.
4. Contain the greater of 50% or 10 acres of harvested cropland, pasture or grazing lands.

After determining that the minimum requirements are met, the farms to be considered for easement purchase are evaluated on a ranking system established by the county and/or state. The system should rank the farms based upon such factors as, but not limited to:

1. Soil quality
2. Site assessment factors
3. Land development pressures
4. Productivity of a farm
5. Ability to create clusters of protected farmland

Rights and Restrictions of Eased Land

After the purchase or donation of a conservation easement, the landowners retain many of the rights to their land. The landowner reserves the right to continue agricultural production and expand farming operations by means such as constructing additional barns, sheds or other structures that may be used for farming purposes. The right to manage woodlands for timber production or Christmas tree farming is also retained by the landowner. Subdividing the land for additional residences is permitted according to subdivision guidelines set forth by the state and county agricultural land preservation boards.

Restrictions on easements may prohibit or limit the landowner to certain rights that he/she may have been entitled to before the easement was purchased. A limitation on the amount of signage a landowner may place on their land is restricted. There are restrictions regarding the new development of buildings unless otherwise negotiated. Other restrictions may apply contingent upon the guidelines set forth by the County's Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Costs of Creating and Maintaining Easements

In addition to the cost of the easement purchase, other charges may be incurred to both the landowner and the easement holder. The guidelines set forth by the county and state Land Preservation Board will determine which costs shall be appointed to either the easement holder or to the landowner. Costs which are required to create and acquire an easement may include but are not limited to:

- Professional appraisals
- Legal fees for search, preparation of documents, attendance at closing
- Recording fees
- Survey costs
- Costs of providing adjoining landowners with required notices and of providing necessary advertisements
- Cost of title insurance

There are also costs involved after the easement has been purchased. In order to manage the eased land, there must be personnel hired to monitor the properties and inspect them on an annual basis. The hired personnel also bear the responsibility of preparing reports and communicating with the landowners. When these employees encounter violations of the easement agreement, they are required to spend time working with the landowners to do what is necessary to correct the violation. If needed, they may acquire the assistance of legal council for an additional cost.

Funds for easement purchases will be generated by the County's appointed Agricultural Land Preservation Board. By retaining consistency with state minimum criteria and guidelines for easement purchases, the County will be eligible for additional funding by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Clean and Green Program

The Clean and Green Program preserves farmland and open space by taxing land according to the use of the land, rather than the market value. This eases a landowner's local tax burden by lowering a farm's assessed value. A minimum of ten acres is required to qualify and the farm must generate at least \$2,000 in annual income. This program appears to be having a positive effect in areas where development is pushing out small farms and where little open space remains, such as in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania. In areas with large amounts of open space, as more gentleman farms or homeowners with small tracts of land are accepted into the program, the local tax base can be significantly reduced. This may limit the ability of the local governing body to maintain a reasonable level of public services.² The following table indicates the difference between the total market value of parcels in each municipality and the value as they are enrolled in Clean and Green as of March 2007.



Table 38: Clean and Green Valuation

Municipality	Total # parcels	Total # parcels enrolled in Clean and Green	Total Market Value	Total Clean and Green Value
Barkeyville Borough	182	9	\$19,539,150	\$19,337,450
Clinton Township	729	78	\$34,860,000	\$33,287,090
Clintonville Borough	269	3	\$10,187,990	\$10,108,850
Victory Township	466	61	\$19,409,030	\$18,583,300
Scrubgrass Township	957	78	\$65,587,370	\$64,095,440
Richland Township	751	104	\$30,728,270	\$29,099,990
Emlenton Borough	466	0	\$24,383,280	\$24,383,280

Education and Technical Assistance

Assistance is available through several organizations throughout the county including the following:

Penn State University Extension
867 B. Mercer Road
Franklin, PA 16323
814-437-7607

Venango County Conservation District
471 Beach Road
Franklin, PA 16323
814-676-2832

Venango County Assessment Office
1168 Liberty St.
P.O. Box 831
Franklin, PA 16323

RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

The region is well positioned for outdoor recreation opportunities with

- over 15,000 acres of publicly owned land,
- 25 miles of the Allegheny River,
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Approved Trout Waters
- Class A Wild Trout streams,
- Completed rail-trails that connect through the rest of the county and beyond soon to connect to Erie and Pittsburgh.

These recreational activities and the heritage of the region can be woven together to create a memorable and marketable experience by utilizing both land and water opportunities available within



the region. Although mostly warm weather activities abound, the region is well suited, with its wide variety of both public and private recreational activities, to attract a diverse group of recreational users for longer extended visits or more frequent travels to the region. The expansion of winter recreational activities within the region is a critical niche necessary to extend the use and visitation to the region.

In addition, the region's ridge and valley physiography lends itself well to scenic overlooks, which are attractive venues to educate the visitor about the region. Potential scenic overlooks are near Emlenton Borough, between Emlenton and Dotter overlooking the Allegheny River Valley, and in Victory Township also overlooking the river.

The natural beauty and resources of this area amazed the early settlers and are still important today. The following description is taken from "Schoolcraft's history of the Indians" and describes the attraction of the river and the origin of the name.

As described in the Wild and Scenic River Management Report, the lower Allegheny River has limited boat access points. These access points would also provide exceptional sites for interpretive signage and can serve as areas for crossover recreation to occur. Another river-based activity is boat tours to further use the river as a means to tell the story about the region's history. The history and key attractions along the river could all be told while floating the river. A replica oil packet boat currently operates to the north of the region for special events and private appointments. Expansion of these tours could involve tours of different time lengths and themes to attract a wider variety of travelers. Stops could be sited at existing access areas or riverfront parks allowing for travelers to depart and view the downtown areas, eat at restaurants or shop along the way, and motorized boats could be used to attract less active visitors who want to experience the river, but are unwilling or unable to do so by paddling.

Another new activity in the region that is being encouraged is geocaching. This relatively new phenomenon is a high tech treasure hunt. "Cachers" use a global positioning unit (GPS) to connect to satellites which determine their location on the Earth. They then find a treasure hidden at specific coordinates for which clues are given on the internet. These treasure locations are usually at sites with significance in the natural world or history.

The "Allegheny Region Geocaching Trail" is soon to be created by the Oil Region Alliance and other partners with caches hidden across a multi-county region. The trail will lead the geocacher to key interpretive venues and historic sites in the region. This activity creates a new market of recreational tourists and a straightforward and enjoyable way for them to learn about the history of the region.

Allegheny River

"We proceed to submit further archaeological evidences of that unity in manners and customs which appear to link together the whole family of the Indian hunter tribes, east and west, north and south. There is a district of wild and rugged mountain scenery in the northern parts of Pennsylvania, reaching into the edge of New York, which was formerly a celebrated field of hunter exploits for the Indian tribes. The deer, bear and elk were abundant, and the moose and cougar were often found. This region embraces the northern terminus of the Allegheny Mountains, and gives origin to several considerable streams which rush wildly among its gorges, the most noted of which is the Allegheny River. The banks of this stream were in ancient times occupied by an important tribe, now unknown, who preceded the Iroquois and Delawares. They are called Allegans and the river is named Allegan by Lewis Evans in his celebrated map of 1755."



RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

Active and passive recreation areas and facilities are valuable assets that add to the quality of life in a region. Recreation areas consist of both developed land and undeveloped land. The developed areas often include active parks and recreation facilities. The undeveloped land often includes the passive recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, nature watching, and camping. Undeveloped passive recreation areas also serve to protect streams and stream valleys, forests, scenic views, and serve as buffers and greenway corridors. The number and type of recreational facilities in a municipality and region should be correlated with population density in order to meet the varying needs of a community.

This section identifies and classifies parks, recreation facilities, and open space opportunities in the municipalities of:

- Barkeyville Borough
- Clinton Township
- Clintonville Borough
- Victory Township
- Scrubgrass Township
- Richland Township
- Emlenton Borough

Criteria developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) are used to classify the recreational facilities according to the type of recreational opportunities, the facility size, and service area. The classifications are defined in more detail below.

<p><u>Environmental Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clean water and air • Preserves the wildlife • Reduces pollution • Protects ecosystems • Provides a place to enjoy nature's beauty 	<p><u>Economic Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases tourism • Enhances land values • Increases business retention • Generates revenue • Reduces vandalism and crime
<p><u>Community Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a meeting place to interact with neighbors • Reduces crime and delinquency • Connects families • Support youth • Offers lifelines for elderly 	<p><u>Personal Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces stress • Increases life expectancy • Balances work and play • Eliminates boredom

The benefits of recreation, parks, and open space assets are essential to the quality of life and relate to environmental quality, economic conditions, community health, and personal health.

NRPA Park and Recreation Classifications



Regional Park

A regional park is defined as an area of natural quality for passive outdoor recreation. These activities include many outdoor opportunities such as viewing or studying nature or wildlife habitat, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating, and hiking among others. A regional park's primary goal is to preserve large areas of land for conservation and natural resource management, with a small amount of land used for active recreation. Parks of this nature are normally large in area and begin at approximately 100 acres in size. The service area of a regional park is 40 to 50 miles.

Community Park

A community park is defined as an area of diverse environmental quality, which includes areas suited for varying types of recreational opportunities. These activities may include athletic complexes, large swimming pools, or areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing nature or wildlife habitat, or picnicking.

Neighborhood Park

This type of park is easily accessible to the adjacent neighborhood population. Its purpose is to be a compact area for non-intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, playground apparatus areas, skating, picnicking, wading pools, and other related activities. Neighborhood parks are not as large as community park facilities, and are designed to serve a concentrated population. They are typically less than 25 acres in size.

Play lots/Mini-parks

Play lots or mini-parks provided at the sub-neighborhood level serve residents within the immediate vicinity. These play areas are typically less than one acre in size and can be as small as 2500 square feet. The general characteristics of a play lot or mini-park include several pieces of playground equipment and park benches.

Special Use Facilities

These areas are for special recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and campgrounds. There is no applicable standard for the service area for a special use facility.

Greenways and Linear Parks

Greenways effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. They emphasize harmony with the natural environment and allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout a community. There are two types of greenways – “natural greenways” and “man-made greenways.” Natural greenways follow suitable natural resource areas such as stream corridors and wildlife habitat areas. Man-made greenways include developed areas, revitalized riverfronts, abandoned railroad beds, old industrial sites, and powerline rights-of-way. Modes of travel along greenways include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, and skating. In Pennsylvania, greenway networks are made up of hubs and spokes. The linear greenway areas are the spokes that connect significant cultural, natural, and recreational assets, which constitute the hubs.

A linear park is another type of park, which is different from those previously listed, yet similar in some ways to greenways and play an important role in a region's open space and recreation assets. Typically, linear parks are considered ribbon parks and take the form of bike paths and trails.

Park and Recreation Facilities in the Planning Region

The park and recreation facilities for the region and each municipality in the region are described in more detail below. The NRPA classification is noted for each facility.

Regional Parks

Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region

Venango County is part of the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Region. Lush forests still stretch for miles and miles and still support a vast array of wildlife. Immense Victorian homes and old-fashioned storefronts dot the idyllic towns throughout the region and speak volumes about the oil boom, which resulted from the first-ever successful oil well in Titusville, now part of the Oil Heritage Region.

Oil Region Heritage Area

The Oil Region was designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an official Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1994 and by the National Park Service as an official National Heritage Area in 2004. The state and federal designations use the same boundaries, comprising 33 municipalities in 708 square miles. Included are the City of Titusville and Oil Creek Township in eastern Crawford County, plus all of the County of Venango.



The Oil Region National Heritage Area tells the stories of Colonel Edwin Drake's drilling of the world's first successful commercial oil well in 1859 and the legacy of the petroleum industry, which even now continues to shape daily life, industry, economy, society, and politics. Included in the heritage are oil artifacts, scenic Victorian valley and riverbed communities, plateau developments, farmlands and woodlands, and industrial landscapes. Today visitors enjoy heritage attractions, warm hospitality, and four seasons of outdoor recreation in "the valley that changed the world."

The National Park Service definition for a national heritage area is as follows:

"A 'National Heritage Area' is a place designed by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinct landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance."

The focus is on the protection and conservation of critical resources; the natural, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that have shaped us as a nation and as communities.

Kennerdell Tract of the Clear Creek State Forest

Located in Victory and Clinton Townships is 3,200 acres of Pennsylvania's State Forest Land. The four major development phases of this region – farming, timber harvesting, iron making and oil development – can be found on this tract. The 27-mile trail system directs you to view these activity areas as well as the extraordinary river valley views from the overlooks.

Today, these State Forest Lands are managed under the “Multiple Use Management” system, which involves the consideration of all uses and places the highest priority on the most important use for a given area. Within this framework, the Bureau of Forestry managed the Clear Creek State Forest for recreation, timber, oil and gas production and wildlife.

The entire State Forest is open to public hunting and fishing during seasons as established by the Pennsylvania Game and Fish Commissions. White tail deer, wild turkey, squirrel, grouse and black bear are common in this area. The Venango County tract has over six miles of frontage on the Allegheny River. The area provides a scenic backdrop for boaters and fishermen using this part of the Allegheny River.

State Game Lands #39 and #39A

State Game Lands 39 consists of two separate tracts of land totaling 10,700 acres. The larger section straddles Victory Township and neighboring Mineral Township with 9,840 acres of woodland, shrub land, wetland and agricultural type habitat. The smaller section straddles Victory and Clinton Townships and borders the State Forest Land. These 860 acres contains woodland and shrub land type habitat.

Prior to Commonwealth ownership the land was used for timber harvesting, iron works, coal stripping and agriculture. Since that time, the PA Game Commission has been able to improve wildlife habitat on this land by restoring wetlands, reestablishing a shrub component and establishing food plots. These habitat improvements support waterfowl, shore birds, song birds, birds of prey, upland and woodland game bird species as well as large and small mammals.

State Game Lands 39 offers excellent opportunities for hunting both large and small game, fishing, hiking and bird and mammal viewing. Approximately 74 acres is enrolled in the Game Commission sharecropping program. This program allows local individuals to utilize the land for agricultural purposes while providing a source of food and cover for many types of wildlife. The state maintains 46.6 miles of service roads on the property. One of these roads is designated for ATV use by handicapped hunters. Some trails are designated for equestrian trails under limited times. There are also 23 parking lots.



Photo Courtesy of
Debra Frawley

Kahle Lake

Kahle Lake is a 251-acre reservoir owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Fish & Boat Commission for recreational fishing. The reservoir crosses the border of Clarion and Venango counties in Richland Township and is accessed from Route 38. Activities include fishing and boating.

The Lake is part of the Big Bass Program; the largemouth bass fishery is excellent and Commonwealth Inland Regulations apply for all other species. The Commission annually stocks the lake with tiger muskellunge and walleye fingerlings. Kahle Lake also provides good opportunities to catch nice size sunfish, crappies and perch. Boating is limited to boats powered by electric motors and un-powered boats. There are 2 surfaced boat launches with ample parking. Un-powered boats may be moored at the lake in accordance with Commission property regulations. To be used at the lake, boats must be registered or have a valid launch permit (permits are issued by the Commission or PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources).



Photo Courtesy of
VCRCF

Regional Greenways and Linear Parks

Allegheny River – State and Nationally designated Wild and Scenic River

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific points, containing access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Typically, water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resource. Explore this Pennsylvania water trail!

The Middle Allegheny River Water Trail is 107 river miles long, starting at Kinzua Dam and ending at the community of Emlenton, just upstream of the I-80 bridge. In 1992, three sections of this river trail, totaling 86.6 miles, were designated a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress. This exclusive list of rivers was established to recognize outstanding examples of the nation's free-flowing rivers and to raise public awareness of how important and fragile America's river resources are. The Allegheny was given a "recreational" classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to reflect the relatively high level of accessibility and development, when compared with other rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, the middle Allegheny is still considered a primitive river.



The size of the Allegheny River and the constant release of water from Kinzua Dam make the river canoeable all year long. The normal summer flow of the Allegheny River along the length of the trail accommodates small, shallow-draft, powered and non-powered craft. This is a good novice and family canoe and kayak river. Assume you will float approximately 2 to 3 miles per hour with leisurely paddling. Boat only at water levels appropriate for your capabilities and never when the river is high or flooded. There are a number of canoe liveries from Warren to Foxburg that provide shuttle services and canoe rentals. Contact the Allegheny National Forest or regional tourist promotion agencies for a current list of liveries and telephone numbers.

Oil Heritage (Southern) Segment of the Water Trail

The Oil Heritage trail segment begins at the boat access site in the borough of Tionesta and ends at the community of Emlenton. This segment of the trail is rich in history associated with the oil and lumber booms, and settlement along the river. Remnants of the iron, oil and railroad industries are visible along the way. This trail segment contains four public islands owned by Venango County, in addition to 64 islands under other ownership. The public islands are open for camping and recreation. Access is available, but more limited compared to the northern segment upriver from Tionesta. The spectacular **Belmar Bridge** over the Allegheny River was constructed in 1907 as part of a railroad built by local oilman Charles Miller, intended to connect New York with Chicago. Ultimately, it transported much of the coal from Clarion County to Ashtabula on Lake Erie. Belmar Bridge is now decked for safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle crossings. **Danner's Rest** is located on the Kennerdell Tract described above. This forest site offers primitive overnight camping for float trips, as well as hiking trails, restrooms, spring water and day-use areas. Danner's Rest is on the right bank, about 400 yards past a gas line right of way.

Boat accesses launch ramps:

Franklin Access (PFBC)

This is a developed boat access site on the right bank at Third Street that is operated by the PA Fish & Boat Commission.

Free parking is available

Seasonal restroom facilities.

Fisherman's Cove (PFBC)

About 10 miles downstream of Franklin on the west bank of the Allegheny River.

Hours of operation: 24/7

Unlimited horsepower

Shore fishing

Parking – small lot (fewer than 10 spaces)

Beach-type or unpaved ramp

Primary boating – shallow-draft, lightweight fishing boats, canoes and inflatables

Allegheny River Park Access (Forestry)

Hours of operation: 24/7

Unlimited horsepower

Shore fishing

Parking – no formal lot

Surfaced ramp

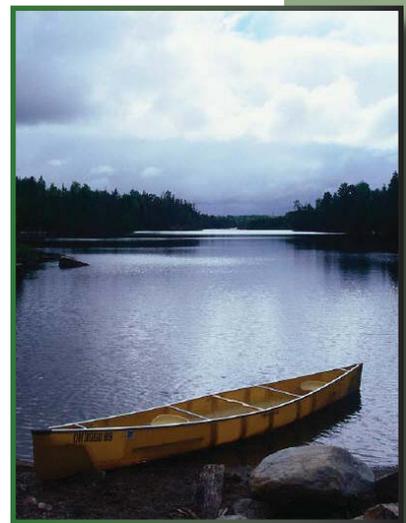
Primary boating – shallow-draft, lightweight fishing boats, canoes and inflatables

Kennerdell

Private boat launch exists on the left bank of the river in Kennerdell.

Fee is required to use this launch area

The Kennerdell monument (the obelisk seen on the left bank) is dedicated to men who lost their lives to nitroglycerine blasts during the oil boom years.



Private camping is available a quarter-mile below the bridge on the right. Established camping sites are not available below Kennerdell.

Kahle Lake – Venango Access (PFBC)

Hours of operation: 24/7

Electric motors only

Fishing pier

Shore fishing

Parking – large lot (10 vehicle or more)

Surfaced ramp

Primary boating – shallow-draft, lightweight fishing boats, canoes and inflatables

Allegheny River Trail



The Allegheny River Trail is a multi-use trail that stretches 31 miles from Franklin to Foxburg through the southern region. The trail surface is asphalt and activities include walking, horseback riding, biking, cross country skiing, in-line skating, and fishing. The trail is wheelchair accessible. This and the rest of the trail system in Venango County will eventually be part of an extensive trail system that extends from the Great Lakes to Washington, DC. The trails all travel along the Allegheny River in northwestern Pennsylvania and can be accessed from three major trailheads: Franklin, Brandon and Rockland Station.

There are two railroad tunnels on the ART. The Kennerdell Tunnel, 3350' long, is 15 miles south of Franklin, and the Rockland Tunnel, 2868' long, is 21 miles south of Franklin. The trail is paved through the tunnels and three rows of reflectors mark the trail edges and center. Both tunnels are very dark. Bring a light!

Three miles farther downriver from Emlenton is the lovely old railroad town of Foxburg. The railroad grade is unimproved but can be ridden on a mountain bike, and the Foxburg Inn on the river is worth the ride. Paving of this section is in the planning stages.

Belmar to Fisherman's Cove extension of Sandy Creek Trail

While the Allegheny River Trail runs North-South, it is crossed by the Sandy Creek Trail running east and west. It is now paved from the Belmar Bridge to Fisherman's Cove, where it crosses the creek and connects with Fisherman's Cove Road, also a former rail bed. The Cove is a wild 213-acre parcel just upriver from a village of cottages. In 1976 it was sold to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy by the Kerr family, which saw that as the best way to protect it from commercial development. The property begins where there are Fish Commission signs and ends before the power line east of the boat launch. Archaeological digs on the site have found evidence of Native Americans living near where Big Sandy Creek joins the Allegheny River and a spot where an early iron furnace operated.

Park and Recreation Facilities in the Communities

Barkeyville

Barkeyville Community Park – Community Park

This 15 +/- acre park is located within the northwest corner formed by the intersection of State Routes 8 and 208. Route 208 forms the southern border of the parcel. Approximately 75% of the property is wooded and the remaining 25% is now developed with the following major assets:

- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground equipment for small children
- Ball field
- Concession stand building
- Open field for volleyball, pick-up games, etc.
- Trail marked through the woods

The park borders the Borough Building property.

Clinton Township

Marlow's Scenic River Campground – Special Use Facility

This family campground located along the Allegheny River just over the bridge from the village of Kennerdell. The large pavilion is the center of much activity, games, Christmas in July and cookouts. Some other amenities:

- Camp store
- Playground
- River access
- Rope bridge
- RV and tent camping

Clintonville Borough

Clintonville Community Park- Community Park

The Borough created this small park for use by the community. It has a playground and pavilion for picnicking. The baseball field has bleachers and a concession stand.

Clintonville Fire Hall – Special Use Facility

The Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department is located in the borough of Clintonville and covers an area of approximately 100 square miles in southern Venango County. Its members provide fire protection to 4 townships and 2 boroughs.

The hall also serves as a meeting place for the community. There are weekly bingo games, youth dances and community parties. The annual Southern Venango Community Days centers around this facility.



Victory Township

Victory Township is the most rural and natural of the participating communities. Much of the area is owned by the state as State Game Lands #39 and #39A and State Forest Land – the Kennerdell Tract of the Clear Creek State Forest. (see listings in Regional Parks, Regional Greenways and Linear Parks above)

Victory Township Community Center – Community Facility

The Community Center is also used as the Township office. It accommodates parties and other community events. A pavilion is also available for outdoor recreation.

Seneca Hills Bible Camp – Special Use Facility

The Seneca Hills Bible Conference is an inter-denominational, Christian ministry conducting camps and conferences for all ages, especially youth.

- Summer Youth Camp
- Conferences for adults and families
- A facility for Christian churches to conduct retreats
- Accommodations for adults and youth
- Food services
- Indoor and outdoor recreation activities
- Climbing wall
- Ropes Course
- Zip line

Scrubgrass Township

Gas Light Campground – Special Use Facility

Families will enjoy the mini golf course and the recreation hall is perfect for clubs, family reunions and all groups. The game room is next to the fully stocked camp store. Other attractions include:

- Swimming Pool
- Fishing Pond
- Cabin Rental
- Pets Welcome
- Clean Restrooms
- Free Showers
- Playground
- Drive-Thru Sites
- Sunny Sites
- Weekend Activities

Westminster Highlands Presbyterian Church Camp – Special Use Facility

For those that enjoy an outdoor rustic style ministry. With over 600 acres of undeveloped wilderness there are opportunities for rock climbing, canoeing and other outdoor activities. Most acreage remains undeveloped except for hiking trails.



- Adirondack huts, rustic cabins, tents
- Picnic pavilion
- Dining hall
- Forest Chapel
- Swimming pool
- Boating pond
- Ropes course
- Zip line

All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp – Special Use Facility

All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp is located on the Allegheny River near Emlenton, Pennsylvania. The 90-acre camp features:

- Cabins for campers
- Rustic dining hall
- Multi-use outdoor sports court with tennis courts and basketball hoops
- Sand volleyball courts
- Grass “all sports” field
- Swimming pool
- Auditorium
- Modern restroom facilities
- Canoeing on the Allegheny River.

Grange – Special Use Facility

The Grange is a family fraternal organization dedicated to the betterment of rural America through community service, education, legislation, and fellowship. In the past, the Pennsylvania State Grange has been associated with agricultural issues. Today however, the Grange is no longer just rural Pennsylvania but all of Pennsylvania. From urban to suburban to the rural areas of the Keystone State, the legislative arm of the 133-year-old organization is watching out for its fellow citizens.

Richland Township

Whitehall Campground – Special Use Facility

Whitehall Camp and Conference Center is located on 288 acres nestled in the rolling hills of Richland Township. A unique setting strategically placed in the midst of God’s creation, it provides the ideal setting for teaching, evangelism, fellowship, and recreation. The facility has been serving God’s people through camping ministry for 115 years. The mission is to provide quality facilities and a servant’s heart that will facilitate: Camping, Summer Camps, Camp Meetings, and retreats/ conferences.

The facility offers a total of 7 different meeting areas that seat anywhere from 40 to 2,000 people. Each meeting space has a variety of AV equipment such as overhead projectors, screens, TV, DVD/ VCR, flip charts, marker boards, which are all available to meet the needs of visitors.

Three types of lodging are available to guests: Dormitory (Retreat Center), Rustic Cabins (Hogans), & Motel (Faith & Hillside). There are a total of 277 beds which can house up to 341 people. Also 45 RV sights provide guests with water & electric. Activities include:



- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tetherball
- Field games
- Soccer
- Team Building Initiatives
- Crafts
- Archery
- Story Time
- Boats: Kayaks, Paddle Boats, Canoes
- Water Trampoline
- Mini Launcher
- Water Slide
- Swimming area
- Fishing
- Nature Hikes
- Creek Walking
- Nature Activities
- Amazing Race
- Camp Store (Snack Shop)

Grange – Special Use Facility

The Grange is a family fraternal organization dedicated to the betterment of rural America through community service, education, legislation, and fellowship. In the past, the Pennsylvania State Grange has been associated with agricultural issues. Today however, the Grange is no longer just rural Pennsylvania but all of Pennsylvania. From urban to suburban to the rural areas of the Keystone State, the legislative arm of the 133-year-old organization is watching out for its fellow citizens. The Granges in the region are social organizations and sponsor many community events.

Emlenton Borough

Hughes Park- Community Park

The Alberta Toddle memorial trust maintains this park. It has a pavilion and picnic area and a toddler playground. It is a shady quiet area for the community to spend an afternoon.

Emlenton Recreational Park – Community Park

This recreational complex is used by Emlenton residents and neighboring communities. The site includes:

- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Playground
- Basketball Courts
- Baseball field

Mineral Springs Park – Community Park

A beautiful, wooded area above the town of Emlenton this park is a shady place to picnic, hike or view wildlife. There is a pavilion with barbeque pits and benches along the stream that runs through the park.



This park has two historical claims to fame. The name comes from the mineral springs in the area which some have felt had health benefits. The park is also the location of the oldest, continuously pumping oil well in the country.

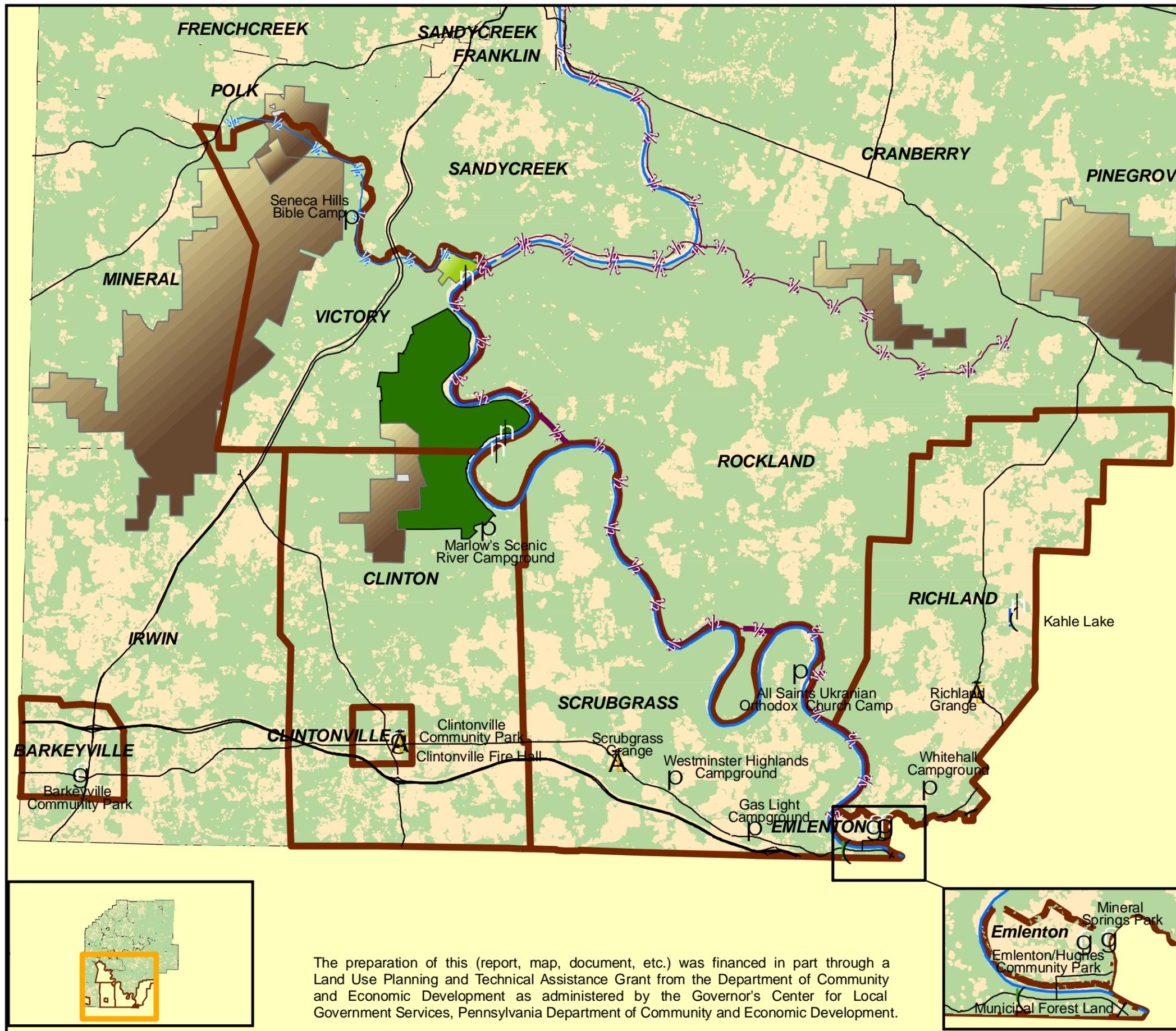
Veterans' Memorial Park – Community Park

War memorial monuments and fountains sit in a small area near the Borough Building. The landscaped area also has a flagpole and is decorated in red, white and blue colors. A small playground is also located there.

Municipal Forest Land – Community Park

The Borough of Emlenton owns 104 acres of forested land across the Allegheny River from town. This undeveloped area is on a steep hillside above the river. The Borough would like to create some hiking trails and an overlook on this property.





Southern Venango County Recreation and Open Space

/

MAP FEATURES

- River Access Areas
- Interstate 80
- Major Roads
- Bike Trail
- Proposed Bike Trail
- Bike Trail Tunnels
- Allegheny River
- Participating Municipalities

Managed Lands

Division

- PA Bureau of Forestry
- PA Game Commission
- Private
- Western PA Conservancy
- Venango Municipalities
- Wooded Lands

0 1 2 4 Miles

Prepared By:
The Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Printed: June, 2007

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CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

This section inventories the historic and cultural resources in the planning area, including historic sites, houses, churches, and villages. Refer to the Community and Cultural Facilities Map when reviewing this section. The map indicates the location of the cultural and historic resources discussed below.



Southern Venango County Community and Cultural Facilities

Map Features

Southern Facilities

- à Iron Furnace
- U Bridge
- Y Cemetery
- † Church
- ! Club
- Ⓜ Fire Hall
- 3 Grange
- j Municipal Building
- 2 Museum/Memorial
- U Senior Center
- E Visitors Center

- Historic District
- Oil Country Trail
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Allegheny River
- Participating Municipalities
- Venango Municipalities

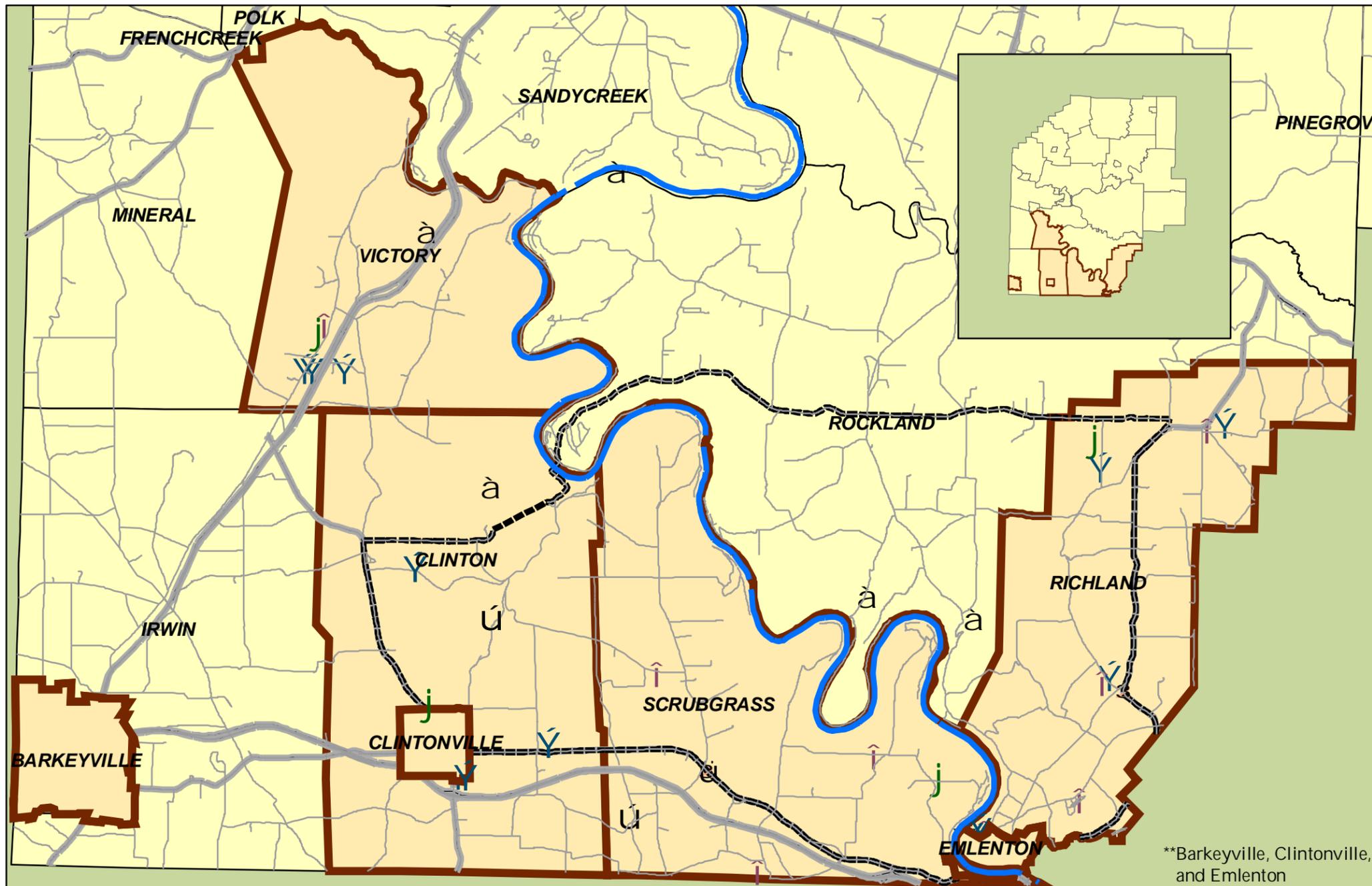
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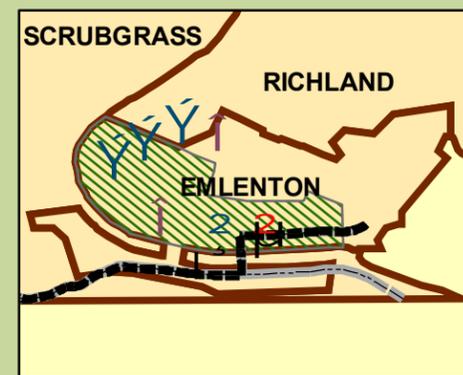


Prepared By:
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**Barkeyville, Clintonville, and Emlenton are shown as insets.



The development of Venango County can be attributed to a number of factors. These include the existence of natural resources, the ability of early settlers to tame the wilderness, the establishment of successful industrial enterprises, and the development of transportation networks connecting the area with the outside world. The current character, the appearance and ambiance of the project region's towns and villages and resources of the region are a direct result of this historical development. These resources can play significant roles in the future educational, recreational, and economic development of the area, while adding significantly to the quality of life for the local residents.



Venango County, organized in 1800, was the 34th county erected in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The early settlement of the area began with the Scotch-Irish and English from older settlements to the east and south. Areas of the county that were settled very early included the Townships of Clinton and Scrubgrass. The increase in immigration into the area after the War of 1812 saw the continuation of Scotch-Irish settlement, with the addition of Germans from Southeastern Pennsylvania, New Englanders, and transplanted New Englanders from New York State. This trend continued up to the oil era, when immigrants flooded in from all over the country. Surviving ethnic patterns dating from the early period of settlement are still to be found.

For the first 25 years of settlement, Venango County inhabitants engaged largely in a simple subsistence economy, including agriculture and those few industries necessary for everyday needs. Sawmills and grist mills were numerous due to abundant water power, and several tanneries provided leather goods. Distilleries made use of excess grain supplies, and probably provided a conveniently compact export product as well as satisfying local demands. The most ambitious early projects were woolen mills in 1804 and 1812.

From 1800-1830 the major non-agricultural industry in the area was lumbering. Sawed lumber was transported in rafts, and seasoned lumber by boat downriver to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Marietta and even New Orleans. These shipments were supplemented by the export of flour, furs, meat, and maple sugar.

Iron-making brought the area its first period of prosperity, supporting a 20-year era of town growth and labor demand. From 1824 until the 1850's, twenty three furnaces operated within county. The town of Emlenton grew up as a supply center for the numerous furnaces located within a 20-mile radius. Clintonville was also established in this era. By 1847, iron making was waning and the period of growth was short-lived. The furnaces were small-scale operations and could not successfully compete with the larger ore deposits and more efficient means of production of other areas. By this time better farmland was to be found further west, so prospective settlers looked elsewhere, and some left the county for the new frontier. Until the



Emlenton Mill,
photo courtesy of Dave Lange, NPS



Rockland Furnace,
photo courtesy of Debra Frawley

discovery of oil in 1859, the only new industries begun were the limited digging of coal and quarrying of limestone.

OIL REGION HERITAGE AREA

The Oil Region was designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an official Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1994 and by the National Park Service as an official National Heritage Area in 2004. The state and federal designations use the same boundaries, comprising 33 municipalities in 708 square miles. Included are the City of Titusville and Oil Creek Township in eastern Crawford County, plus all of the County of Venango. The Heritage Development Department of the non-profit Oil Region Alliance of Business and Industry (ORA) administers the Oil Region National Heritage area .



The form and culture of this region bear the imprint of the oil industry: from the town centers that were developed with oil profits to the oil leases and equipment that still dot the landscape and are often plainly visible from a road. The story of oil is interpreted in many venues, ranging from the state-operated Drake Well Museum, on the site where the initial well was drilled, to small locally managed museums and collections. Moreover, the area has a dramatic natural landscape that is increasingly appreciated by residents and tourists, oriented to the Allegheny River and its tributaries, including the Oil Creek Valley, the locus of “oil fever” in the second half of the 19th century.

Oil was commercially recovered in the Oil Creek Valley of northwestern Pennsylvania beginning in 1859. The tools, the terminology, the extraction, the transportation, and the financial norms for the oil industry, which are used throughout the world today, were developed here in the latter part of 19th century. Heroes and scoundrels, enormous riches, violence, and environmental damage are part of this story.

Across the region’s landscape are unique natural and man-made resources that are intertwined with the history of the oil industry and its remarkable heritage of boom and bust, spoils, and recovery. The permanent effects of economic prosperity that the oil industry brought are most evident in the project region in Emlenton. It still features extant oil related settings, landmarks, and distinctive residential, commercial and industrial architecture.

This region communicates a story of people who realized the opportunities (and experienced the tragedies) of a business that transformed whole societies as well as individual lives and entire landscapes. Traditions associated with oil heritage are carried on through festivals, events, and other activities including several Boomtown Days and festivals. This story of an industry of worldwide enormous economic, social, and technological significance can be powerfully understood in this corner of Pennsylvania.

One future hope to commemorate the oil heritage of the area is the creation of an authentic Boomtown replica visitor attraction. Despite the apparent difficulty of achieving a feasible major Boomtown venue in the short to medium range in the OHR, the work of the OHR Management Action Plan Update has concluded that the core idea associated with the Boomtown –using a venue that communicates the dynamism of the early days of oil exploration to enhance the visitor potential of the OHR – is still a good one. The challenge is to find an approach to this type of interpretation and attraction that can fulfill several objectives:

- Raise the visibility of the OHR and its interpretive themes.
- Reach out to engage more visitors than the current 15-20,000 / year level of current museum patronage, taking advantage of the visitor market segments within OHR that have future growth potential. These include visitors to events and recreation users.
- Limit the amount of financial risk for OHR – in terms of development and operating costs – to levels that are commensurate with likely resources of the organization and benefit that can be achieved from such an approach.

The region's importance in the early development of the natural gas industry is a story yet to be widely told here. Few people understand or appreciate its relationship with the oil industry and how the development of the gas industry parallels that of oil in the region. The Interpretive Prospectus of the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan recommended that the story of natural gas be incorporated primarily into the exhibits at the Emlenton Visitor Center and secondarily at the Drake Well Museum. While both venues feature the early natural gas industry in exhibits, a larger separate location is desired that would include the United Natural Gas Company collection of natural gas operating equipment, maps, records, and other historical materials that is currently being compiled.



Photo Courtesy of
VCRCP

Visitation to the current interpretive venues appears to be declining or at least not noticeably growing. The causes for this situation do not appear to be attributable to any one reason. Certainly, visitation has declined at most attractions in the country since the events of September 11, 2001. All the regional attractions are interested in increased visitation during a period when tourists are seeking more for their money and experience-based opportunities that are closer to home.

The over-arching strength of the OHR is the authenticity of its resources and story; the region retains a cultural landscape that communicates the history of its primary industry and the impact of the oil industry's development on its communities and people.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS IN VENANGO COUNTY

Venango County has significant clusters of historic sites, and properties associated with the discovery, production, refining, and transporting of oil. These resources are connected with the life and times of this era. Many of the industrial buildings and homes, churches, schools and businesses of the oil workers and magnates still exist. Some of these have been preserved or renovated for adaptive reuse. There are five (5) historic districts located in Venango County, according to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The National Register is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and was authorized under the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. The National Park Service administers the Register, which is a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Table 39: List of Southern Venango County National Registered or PA Eligible Properties

Municipality	Historic Name	Address	Listed	Eligible
Clinton Township	Bridge	L. R. 60010	6/22/1988	-
	Witherup Bridge	L. R. 60007	6/22/1988	-
Scrubgrass Township	James Anderson House	T-400	-	2/06/1987

Source: Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, January 2002

The only one of those districts in the southern region is within Emlenton Borough. The Emlenton Historic District was added to the National Register in 1997 and consists of 1800 acres, 317 buildings, 57 structures and one object. The district is roughly bounded by the Allegheny River, the borough limits, Kerr Avenue and Hickory and Center Streets. The architectural style of the district is comprised of Gothic Revival, Italianate and Greek Revival styles, with the significant year of architecture occurring in 1837. The Register considers the years from 1825-1949 as being the periods of significance in the Emlenton Historic District, with the main historic function being commerce/trade, domestic, industry/processing/extraction and religion.

Since the historic district nomination process requires a history and documentation of significance as well as photographs and descriptions of buildings including architectural style, this information provides a valuable record of these historic resources. This information can be useful in a variety of ways including education, public awareness, and for scholars and those interested in historic architecture and the history of these communities. This information identifies those elements associated with the architectural style which can be useful during preservation and adaptive re-use of buildings. In 1997 the NRHP approved a Multiple Property Documentation Form covering the entire oil field of Pennsylvania, thus providing for expedited review of future oil-related district nominations.

There is an historic walking and driving tour of Emlenton. An attractive booklet about the self-guided tour provides an overview of the history, description of architectural styles, maps and other information to improve the experience.

Studies and historians indicate the variety and large number of significant properties and sites connected with the history of Venango County. The county, municipalities and local historic societies, other organizations directly related to historic preservation and promotion, individuals, and community groups should be encouraged to continue preservation efforts. Good stewardship of these properties and sites not only preserves these historic resources for future generations, and maintains the historic character of these communities, but also provides physical references and connections with our collective past, which can be visited and experienced. Preservation and enhancement of significant historic resources helps tell the story of our shared legacy.

The County and municipalities have endorsed the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan (MAP) and its updates as strategy outlines for the ongoing enhancement of area resources. This Multi-municipal Comprehensive Development Plan also endorses and concurs with the OHR, M.A.P. and its updates and includes them here by reference. Encouraging historic tourism as an important element in an over all economic development strategy can bring visitors to the area. Recent designation of the Oil Region National Heritage Area will expedite revitalization, preservation, and interpretation of the existing natural, historic, recreational, and cultural resources.



PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS, AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Venango County has a large and diverse number of organizations dedicated to improving the preservation, education, and marketing of its historic resources. There are a number of groups and organizations which are dedicated to providing cultural activities, improving the quality of life in the area, and encouraging economic development through historic preservation and historic tourism. A brief description of those related to Southern Venango County follows.

Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism (ORA)

The Heritage Development Department of the non-profit ORA administers the Oil Region National Heritage area (designated in 2004) as well as the Pennsylvania Oil Region Heritage Area (designated in 1994) which includes all of Venango County, Titusville, and Oil Creek Township in Crawford County. The organization emphasizes the unique legacy of the area as the birthplace of the oil industry through developing, preserving, and promoting the region's cultural, recreational, historic, and natural resources. ORA staff provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance with planning, grant writing, project management, and other services in support of the activities of historical societies, economic development agencies, museums, municipalities, and community groups and organizations interested in enhancing and preserving the region's historic resources. OHR encourages cooperative planning, coordination, and the creation of private/public partnerships.

The Marketing Department of ORA promotes Venango County as a destination of historical, recreational, and scenic interest through a variety of educational activities to promote understanding of the area's historical significance, coordinating cooperative advertising, publishing and distributing literature, assisting members in developing promotional materials, attending trade shows, and sponsoring familiarization tours.

Venango County Historical Society

The organization is dedicated to acquiring and preserving material relating to the history of Venango County, to encouraging the study and the appreciation of that history, and to making its resources accessible to the public. A part time staff and large number of dedicated volunteers carry out the daily activities. The restored historic Hoge-Osmer House in Franklin is the headquarters of the Society and is also a house museum with docent-guided tours. Other services include a genealogical and local history research library, and a climate-controlled Archival Resource Center containing photographs and other documents. The Society operates a gift shop, offers a variety of education programs, and sponsors special events.

Victorian Region of Northern Pennsylvania

The communities comprising this region of Pennsylvania have encouraged tourists to visit the historic downtowns, quaint neighborhoods, historic homes and other buildings of the region. A Web Site has been created to provide information describing the historic assets of the area. (victorianregion.com)

Victorian Architecture Conference

This annual conference is designed to highlight the area's historic resources and encourage visitors to come to the area. The conference features information regarding period architecture, preservation techniques, and other aspects of preservation. A variety of experts and guests are featured.

ARCHITECTURE

Table 40: Architectural Characteristics

Municipality	Styles and # of inventory sites for the next survey update
Barkeyville Borough	Recent development at intersection of Route 8 and Interstate 80. The older village section contains a variety of folk forms, including a frame schoolhouse and church. Estimate 20 inventory sites.
Clinton Township	Houses in stone and clapboard, some stylized with Greek Revival or Italianate trim. Rural Queen Anne houses. Estimate of 60 inventory sites.
Clintonville Borough	Range of forms from plain stone 4-over-4 and rural Italianate to early 20th century Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts houses. Fine frame bracketed store building. Estimate 30 inventory sites.
Victory Township	Rugged and sparsely populated. I-type and 4-over-4 forms. Estimate 20 inventory sites.
Scrubgrass Township	Rugged along river, farmland elsewhere. Many with Greek Revival and Italianate features. Queen Anne forms. Estimate 75 sites for inventory.
Richland Township	Rugged along river, farms in upper section. Folk types with Greek Revival, Italianate features. Rural Queen Anne forms. Estimate 100 sites to be inventoried.
Emlenton Borough	Wide range of building types and styles from c. 1840 to 1930. Typical folk forms, as well as small-town versions of the Greek Revival and Victorian styles. Particularly noteworthy are several Gothic Revival structures, and brick English period houses dating from the early 20th century. Interesting Collegiate Gothic school and fire station, and some fine frame and brick commercial buildings of the Italianate style, several with cast-iron trim. Simple 1904 Beaux Arts classical bank with imbedded Ionic columns. Estimate 90 inventory sites.

Source: Venango County Historical Survey Preliminary Report - May 1980.

The Venango County Historical Site Survey was created in 1980. A plan is currently seeking funding to update that survey. The settlement patterns and economic history have had a major influence on the architecture of the area although the structures of the actual industrial past are long gone. Homes and churches especially survive in towns such as Emlenton and Clintonville dating back to the prosperous era of the 1830's and 40's. A few farmhouses and cemeteries are also scattered throughout the area.

The smaller towns are highly representative of the various Victorian and early 20th century architectural styles, although in general buildings are not as ambitiously fashionable and often have vernacular characteristics, especially in their basic plans and outline. Urban style influences even extend out into the countryside, resulting in highly personalized combinations of the vernacular and the fashionable.



Table 41: Historic Trends

Period	Economic Trends	Social Trends	Architecture, Non-Domestic
1790-1830	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Agriculture, lumbering, subsistence industries * Slow development of Franklin as County seat * Turnpike travel by stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * English & Scotch-Irish settlers from eastern and southern PA, VA, MD * Frontier conditions with no developed town life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Saw & grist mills * Woolen mills * Distilleries * Log schools, churches, inns * Stone Courthouse
1830-1850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Iron & woolen industries * Steamboat travel * Establishment of towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continuation of English & Scotch-Irish immigration; addition of New Yorkers & New Englanders * Increased educational religious activity w/ population centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Iron furnaces & foundries * Woolen mills * Improved churches & schools * Small commercial establishments * New brick courthouse
1850-1860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Economic stagnation as furnace industry dies out * Growth sharply curtailed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Immigration slows * Traditional rural pattern forms: farm regions centered around small towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Churches and schools * Small commercial establishments (general stores, skilled craftsmen)
1860-1880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Oil boom: rapid expansion * Towns & industry grow at expense of agricultural lands * Railroads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Great increase in immigration from varied sources * Creation of new towns that die out quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ambitious public & commercial buildings (hotels, banks, brick business blocks, large churches & schools) * New brick courthouse * Wells & refineries * Small manufacturing establishments
1880-1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stable prosperity * Establishment of industrial economy * Streetcar, automobile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Steady growth of more stable population * Urban life w/ public & cultural facilities (theaters, libraries, public transportation, hospitals) * Beginning of sub-urbanization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Large industrial complexes * Continued development of commercial & public architecture, libraries, theaters, hospitals, clubs, municipal buildings

Source: Venango County Historical Survey Preliminary Report - May 1980

COMMUNITY HISTORIES AND HISTORIC SITES

Barkeyville Borough

Barkeyville was named for Henry Barkey 1810-1889 and was also once known as “The Corners”, McMurdy’s Corners and Beatty’s Corners. A store that used to be at “The Corners” was owned first by the George McMurdy family and then to the Beatty family.

- Barkeyville Academy was opened in 1881 on a plot donated by Henry Barkey.
 - A college preparatory school like a high school, but with a much more advanced curriculum; strong emphasis was also placed on the arts; Barkeyville Academy closed its doors in 1906
- Venango Path Marker: A ceremony was held Aug. 23, 1987 at Mayes Forks, Wesley just north of Barkeyville to unveil the official Historical Marker provided by the PA Historical & Museum Commission. The marker reads as follows: “A major Indian path from the Forks of the Ohio-Pittsburgh to Venango-Franklin was located just west of here. George Washington used it in traveling north to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753. Capt. Jonathan Hart widened the path in 1787 on his way to build Fort Franklin. Here at Mayes Forks, the house on the NW corner was a major hotel and a mail and stagecoach stop during the early Nineteenth Century.

Clinton Township

This township was organized in 1855 upon petition of citizens of Scrubgrass and Irwin Townships. Two historic structures in the township are:

Figure 13

Bridge in Clinton Township (added 1988 state listing - Structure - #88000808) LR 60010 over Scrubgrass Creek, Kennerdell	
Historic Significance:	Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer:	Smith Bridge Company, Toledo, OH
Architectural Style:	Other
Area of Significance:	Engineering
Period of Significance:	1875-1899
Owner:	State
Historic Function:	Transportation
Historic Sub-function:	Road-Related
Current Function:	Transportation
Current Sub-function:	Road-Related
National Register of Historic Places	



Figure 14

Witherup Bridge ** (added 1988 state listing - Structure - #88000800) LR 60007 over Scrubgrass Creek, Kennerdell	
Historic Significance:	Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer:	Canton Bridge Co.
Architectural Style:	Other
Area of Significance:	Engineering
Period of Significance:	1900-1924
Owner:	State
Historic Function:	Transportation
Historic Sub-function:	Road-Related
Current Function:	Transportation
Current Sub-function:	Road-Related
National Register of Historic Places	

Clintonville Borough

This Borough dates back to about 1833. The initial movement was a store opened by William Cross and James Perry while only two houses were in place. It was incorporated into a borough in January 1878.

Victory Township

This is the last of the organized townships of Venango County. It was organized for judicial purposes in the year 1876. It was formed from that part of Sandycreek Township lying south and east of Big Sandy Creek.

- Fisherman’s Cove is a beautiful little village along the Allegheny River. It is the site of archeological findings of Native American dwellings and trading areas.
- State Game Land and State Forest Land hold many remnants of oil history in the form of equipment and cabins left behind.

Scrubgrass Township

In the early history, Scrubgrass Township was designated as part of Allegheny County. It was erected into a township in the year 1806, when the county was sub-divided into townships. It derived its name from a rough grass which grew in one of the streams.

- Easily cultivated and produces good crops
- Steep slopes along the river
- Limestone outcrops and underlain with veins of coal



Richland Township

Richland Township was one of the original townships formed during the sub-division of Venango County in 1806. It was one of the largest townships in the county, but by later sub-divisions of the territory, from one of the largest it has become one of the smallest. Rockland Township was first taken from it; then, in 1835, the act to create Clarion County divided the township again, giving to Clarion more than one-half of its remaining territory.

- Soil and production are varied but farming yields a rich return
- Bountifully supplied with minerals such as iron ore, limestone, sandstone, coal
- Specialty accommodations: Red Brick Inn B&B 100-acre property

Emlenton Borough

The community was named after Hannah Emlen, wife of a founder, Joseph M. Fox. The site of the Borough was surveyed in 1830. The community grew as an important oil-related railroad and river town in the second half of the nineteenth century, eventually becoming established as a desirable place to refine crude oil pumped in the region for shipment to market across the country.

Figure 15

Emlenton Historic District (added 1997 - Venango County - #97001256) Roughly bounded by Allegheny R., the borough limits, Kerr Ave., Hickory, and Center Sts., Emlenton (1800 acres, 317 buildings, 57 structures, 1 object)	
Historic Significance:	Architecture/Engineering, Person, Event
Architect, builder, or engineer:	Crosby, W. Holmes
Architectural Style:	Italianate, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival
Historic Person:	Crawford, Harry Jennings
Significant Year:	1837
Area of Significance:	Architecture, Industry
Period of Significance:	1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949
Owner:	Private, Local Government
Historic Function:	Commerce/Trade, Domestic, Industry/ Processing/Extraction, Religion
Historic Sub-function:	Business, Financial Institution, Manufacturing Facility, Religious Structure, Single Dwelling, Specialty Store
Current Function:	Commerce/Trade, Domestic, Industry/ Processing/Extraction, Religion
Current Sub-function:	Business, Financial Institution, Manufacturing Facility, Religious Structure, Single Dwelling
National Register of Historic Places	



- One new important interpretive venue is the Oil Heritage Region Visitor Center and Pumping Jack Museum in Emlenton. It focuses on the important Oil Heritage figures from the locality, artifacts associated with the oil industry, and larger past and current impacts of the oil and natural gas industries on the world and contemporary culture and lifestyles. This is the first of four planned OHR Visitor Orientation Centers.
- Specialty accommodations: Barnard House B&B with View of Allegheny River
- The southern Oil Country Trail route will be a self-guided tour of oil-related sites. The southern route connects Nickleville, Emlenton, and Foxburg. The route will not be a formal self-guiding driving experience, just a connector route to access southern sites. Interpretive panels could be installed at select locations along the route.
- A World War I military commemorative monument, erected in 1927, is located in the Veteran's Memorial Triangle on Kerr Avenue at the intersection of Hill Street, directly opposite the Crawford Center. The plaque bears the names of 147 area veterans of the First World War with stars marking the names of those killed during the conflict.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

This section inventories community facilities and provides an overview of public services, including police, fire, and emergency medical services. The Community Facilities Map shows the location of school facilities, municipal buildings, police stations, and fire stations. Utility providers are identified in this section as well. Nearby higher educational institutions, libraries, and medical facilities are also identified.

Public services are essential to maintaining and protecting the health and safety of the community. This section pays particular attention to police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services. The primary services providers for each township and borough are outlined, including information on staff, equipment, facilities, and funding. Public services are costly for municipalities to provide and many municipalities do not have the resources to support their own police, fire, or EMS providers. In some instances a municipality will rely on the state police or an adjacent municipality for service. Services can also be regionalized among a group of adjacent municipalities. Therefore, recommendations will be made in Section III of the plan on potential areas for cost reductions through resource sharing and partnerships.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Two public school districts serve the southern Venango County region:

Franklin Area School District

Services: Barkeyville Borough
 Clinton Township
 Clintonville Borough
 Victory Township

Franklin Area School District's elementary students attend six K-6 schools in neighborhood settings. A Middle School (7-8) and High School (9-12) building is located approximately three miles from downtown Franklin.



There are a total of 2294 students in the district: 1122 elementary students and 1172 secondary students. Approximately 75% of Franklin graduates continue their formal education. The mission of the district is to provide each student with the opportunity to develop his or her greatest potential through participation in a continuous, purposeful, and active learning process where quality teaching is the primary commitment and each learner's needs and potential are respected, promoted, and challenged.

- The Franklin Area School District's enrollment dropped by 280 students between the 1995-96 and 2000-01 school years, an average of nearly 56 students per year. The elementary schools lost the bulk of the students.

Allegheny-Clarion Valley School District (located in Clarion County)

Services: Richland Township
Emlenton Borough
Scrubgrass Township



A-C Valley takes great pride in providing an educational environment and academic programs that are progressive and conservative, comprehensive and individualistic, technological and basic. The district stresses a foundation in basic learning and thinking skills, an acknowledgement of individual differences, sound management practices and consistent discipline.

Venango Technology Center

Each district refers students involved in vocational/technical learning to the Venango Technology Center in Oil City. The instructional areas include:

- Allied Health Occupations
- Electronic Technology
- Auto Body Repair Technology
- Equipment Operation/Maintenance Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Building Construction Technology
- Machine Tool Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting and Design
- Marketing Education
- Computer Information Systems
- Natural Resources
- Cosmetology
- Welding Technology
- There are also clusters in engineering technology and industrial manufacturing.

The region's students are fortunate to be living in districts that are small, close-knit and family oriented. Such an environment provides opportunities for the districts' staff to readily respond to the needs of students, and for students to demonstrate talents, showcase creativity, interact with others and develop meaningful learning relationships with staff. In our rural region of the state, the school serves as the hub for academic, recreational and social activities. All of the districts in the County had similar student teacher ratios of approximately 16:1.

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment projections for the five (5) year period from 2007-2011 suggest a slight but steady decline in enrollment for each of the districts in Venango County, with the exception of the Oil City Area School District (north of the project region), which would experience a very slight and nominal increase.

Private/Parochial Schools

There are several private and parochial schools located in the County to provide alternative educational opportunities to students.



St. Patrick's School

Located on Buffalo Street in Franklin, this school has small enrollment from kindergarten through eighth grade and is part of the Erie Diocese.

St. Stephen's School

Saint Stephen School provides a catholic education to students in grades K-8 by providing experiences in daily living in a faith community and developing skills and commitment in serving others. Students on Saint Stephen School achieve academic excellence, individual initiative, and personal responsibility. They are prepared to assume their role as active Christians and future citizens of the world. The school is part of the Erie Diocese.

Venango Catholic High School

VCHS students are provided a strong spiritual foundation rooted in the Teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church with four years of Theology and a progressive Retreat program. VCHS has attained the highest rating possible for accreditation offered by the Middle States Accreditation Association. The teachers are required by the Diocese of Erie to be certified in their major teaching field.

Christian Life Academy

Christian Life Academy is a private, K-12 Christian School located in Seneca, Pennsylvania as an independent, board operated school. The campus houses the Elementary, Junior High, and High School.

Faith Christian Academy

Located on Horsecreek Road in Seneca, this school offers complete education from kindergarten to high school.

Colleges/Universities

Clarion University

Clarion University is primarily an undergraduate institution with selected graduate programs. Instructional programs--delivered on campus, throughout the state, and beyond via appropriate distance learning technologies--range from associate degrees and certificate programs to baccalaureate degree programs in the arts and sciences and professional fields, graduate programs in selected fields, and continuing education.



University programs are administered through campuses in Clarion and Oil City. The university is a learning community that seeks diversity in its faculty, staff, and student body and values this diversity as providing richness in the learning process.

The main campus of Clarion University is located 20 miles from the eastern end of the region with easy access from the Emlenton area.

The Venango Campus of Clarion University, located in Oil City, was established in 1961 on 62 scenic acres and was the first branch campus in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. The campus provides programs for full and part time students who wish to complete the first two years study toward a bachelor's degree in business, education, psychology and rehabilitative sciences, with the final two years being completed at the main campus in Clarion.

The Venango Campus also provides students the opportunity to earn their Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing and radiologic sciences and master's degrees in nursing and special education/rehabilitative science. In addition, the campus also offers students the ability to earn an associate degree in one of nine areas, such as:

- administration technology
- allied health
- arts and sciences
- business
- criminal justice
- early childhood education
- industrial technology
- legal business studies
- nursing
- rehabilitative services
- respiratory care

One-year certificates are also offered in eleven high demand fields that include both credit and non-credit classes and a variety of professional development and personal enrichment courses are also offered.

- applied computer systems
- billing and coding
- bookkeeping
- criminal investigation
- electronics technology
- executive office management
- legal office management
- massage therapy
- medical office assistant
- medical office management
- small business management

Venango Campus students can earn a master's degree in:

- business administration (executive MBA)
- nursing
- special education/rehabilitative science

Slippery Rock University

As one of the largest campuses in western Pennsylvania, SRU is situated on 600 acres in 48 buildings, and is located just 11 miles south of Southern Venango County. The fundamental mission of Slippery Rock University is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate academic instruction. Complementary missions are to conduct scholarly research, to promote professional performance, and to address the educationally-related economic, health, environmental, social, cultural, and recreational needs of the region served by the university. In accomplishing these missions, Slippery Rock University primarily focuses its efforts on the academic areas of:



- the arts and sciences
- business
- communication
- computer and information sciences
- environmental sciences and studies
- health and human services
- teacher education

As part of the State System of Higher Education, Slippery Rock University enjoys an enrollment of some 7,600 students in more than 100 degree programs. Students are enrolled from 40 states and 71 countries.

Grove City College

Since its founding in 1876, Grove City College, committed to Christian principles, has striven to be equal in academic quality to the finest four year colleges. It seeks to provide liberal and professional education of the highest quality that is within the reach of families with modest means. Grove City College is proud to offer state-of-the-art learning capabilities in its classrooms across campus. Long recognized for its academic quality, Grove City College insists that all its graduates possess, in addition to specialized knowledge in major or professional fields, a high level of cultural literacy and communication skills. Students are required to complete 38-50 credit hours of general education courses with emphases in the humanities, social sciences, quantitative and logical reasoning, laboratory sciences, and foreign language.



Degree Programs and Majors:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Communication Studies

- Computer Science
- Economics
- Education
- English
- Entrepreneurship
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Music & Fine Arts
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religion
- Sociology
- Physical Education

Engineering

- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Pre-Professional Programs

- PreDental
- PreHealth
- PreLaw
- PreMedical
- PreTheology
- PreVeterinary

DuBois Business College, Oil City Campus

The DuBois Business College was established in DuBois in 1885, and has grown to keep up with the ever-changing needs of the business world by staying on top of current trends and technological advancements. The College now has campuses in DuBois, Huntingdon and Oil City, with the Oil City Campus located on East Third Street being established in July of 1996.



The College degree programs are in Accounting/Business Administration, Administrative Medical Assistant, Computer Applications/Management, Entertainment Production Business, Executive Assistant, Information Systems Support Technician and Legal Assistant. Diploma programs are offered in Computer Office Specialist, Computer Systems Support Technician and Office Supervisory Assistant.

LIBRARIES

The participating municipalities in southern Venango County do not have public libraries. The nearest library would be in the city of Franklin.



Franklin Public Library

The Franklin Public Library, located on Twelfth Street in Franklin, was founded in 1894 and has been at the current location since 1921. It is open six days during the week, Monday through Friday from 10 am to 8 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. During June, July and August, the library is open during the weekdays from 10 am to 6 pm. The library provides free library cards to the residents of fifteen municipalities in the County, and is also a participating site for the Statewide Access PA card.

One of the features of the library is the Pennsylvania Room, which houses the Pennsylvania Collection that was established in 1968. The Pennsylvania Collection contains historical books of the region, historical oil books and other Pennsylvania resource books. The library also houses a Junior Room, which consists of books, magazines, videos and audiotapes in a variety of subjects for children of all ages.

Suhr Library, Clarion University Venango campus

The Suhr library on the Clarion University Venango Campus in Oil City supports the Bachelor and Associate Degree programs and provides students, faculty and alumni with a collection that contains 29,000 volumes, 175 periodical subscriptions and access to over 7,000 full-text journals via the Internet. The library also provides eight public access computer terminals to enable students to utilize the web for electronic resource materials. During the academic year, the library is open Monday through Thursday from 8 am- 9 pm, Fridays from 8 am- 4:30 pm and Saturdays from 9 am- 4 pm. In the summer months, the hours of operation are changed to Monday through Thursday from 8 am- 5 pm and Fridays from 8 am- 4:30 pm.

Foxburg Public Library

Located in picturesque Foxburg, Clarion County the library has three distinct areas: for the adults, for the children, and for the young adults (7th grade and up). The library offers books, books on CD or audio cassette, magazines, newspapers, CDs, videos, and DVDs. Computers with Internet connection and word processing are available and copies, printouts, and faxes can be made for a nominal fee. Our operational hours are: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 12:00 - 7:00 P.M.; Friday and Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 P.M.; and closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

PUBLIC SERVICES

An inventory of police, fire, and EMS services was conducted for the municipalities in the planning area. Information was collected on personnel and areas of joint cooperation or sharing of services. While there are no formal written mutual aid agreements listed in the County Emergency Management office between any of the participating municipalities, there are pre-plans with both fire and EMS for emergency response within all jurisdictions. Preplans are dispatch plans that are created by the fire or EMS organization. They give an initial mass response to structure fires, car accidents, or commercial fires. These differ from NIMS compliant mutual aid agreements, due to the fact that a mutual aid agreements between municipalities are bonding, legal agreements which also help with recovering costs related to an emergency if more than one municipality had to respond.

The southern communities are served by volunteer fire and ambulance services, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Venango County Sheriff and some areas are covered by the Emlenton and Polk Borough Police Departments.

Police Services

The **Pennsylvania State Police** was created by an Act of the legislature which was signed into law by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker on May 2, 1905. It was the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States. Today, the authorized complement of the Pennsylvania State Police is 4,545 sworn members. In addition, over 1,600 civilians serve in a variety of roles throughout the Department.



Venango County Sheriff:

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the County. Much of his duties are in concert with the Courts. The Sheriff takes prisoners from the County Jail to the courtrooms during criminal trials and provides security at such proceedings. In addition, the Sheriff and his deputies serve legal papers for many different functions. Other duties include the transportation of prisoners to penal institutions, the guarding of cloistered juries and general peace keeping.

See police coverage map in this section.

- PA State Police are the primary agency for Interstate-80.
- PA State Police are the primary agency for Richland, Victory and Scrubgrass Townships.
- Polk Borough Police provide primary coverage to Clintonville Borough, Barkeyville Borough and sections of Clinton Township when they are on duty. The State Police provides additional coverage to the area when Polk is off duty.
- Police coverage in Emlenton and now Richland Township is provided by the Emlenton Police Department.

Fire Services

Emlenton Volunteer Fire Department – serves Emlenton Borough, Richland Township and Scrubgrass Township from Power Plant Road on Route 208 east.

- 3 Pumpers
- 1 Brush Unit
- 1 Aerial Unit
- 1 Boat w/ 12 certified divers
- 1 Heavy Rescue Unit/Hydraulic Tools & 240 Ton Airbag System

Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department – serves the areas of Barkeyville Borough, Clintonville Borough, Clinton Township, Victory Township and Scrubgrass Township up to Power Plant Road on Route 208.

- 2 Pumpers
- 1 Tanker
- 1 Brush Unit

- 1 Rescue
- 1 Heavy Rescue Unit w/ hydraulic tools

See fire coverage map in this section.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Many EMS providers rely on a combination of membership dues, donations, and insurance reimbursements. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for independent non-profit ambulance companies to cover their costs due to increasing equipment and operational expenses. This may be one area in which municipalities will increasingly be required to assume more fiscal responsibility in order to sustain quality service to their residents.

Ambulance coverage changes throughout the area. Emlenton Volunteer Ambulance Service covers Emlenton Borough, Richland and Scrubgrass Townships, Clintonville Borough and the majority of Clinton Township with the exception of the northern section which is covered by Community Ambulance Service. Superior Ambulance Service covers Barkeyville Borough and Clintonville Borough.

See the ambulance coverage map in this section.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The hospital facility closest to the project region within the county is the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – northwest branch. **UPMC Northwest** in Seneca, Cranberry Township, has 96 private rooms, including 30 that can be converted for semi-private occupancy, yielding as many as 126 beds. A one-story, 28-bed behavioral health building -- part of the UPMC Behavioral Health Network -- adjoins the hospital via an enclosed walkway. Future construction will bring more facilities to this site, including UPMC Northwest’s inpatient rehabilitation and transitional care units and a physician office building. A convenient outpatient diagnostic center is located in the hospital for those who need outpatient laboratory and imaging exams. State-of-the-art treatment technology equips UPMC Northwest to meet our patients’ health care needs.



Nearby **Clarion Hospital** offers a host of inpatient, outpatient and ancillary services to ensure health needs are being met. Four nursing units admit patients with medical conditions, for post-surgical recovery, for childbirth or for inpatient rehabilitation.

Clarion Hospital is proud to be a base site for STAT MedEvac, a helicopter medical transport service located in Pittsburgh. STAT MedEvac, a service of the Center for Emergency Medicine, has had a base site at Clarion Hospital since June 1995.



Photo courtesy of Stat MedEvac

United Community Hospital in Grove City has state-of-the-art technology, 128 beds, and a certified medical staff of 40 allopathic and osteopathic physicians. The hospital provides area residents a wide range of medical, surgical, and support services.

PERSONAL CARE HOME FACILITIES

Emlenton Laurel Manor, located in Emlenton, is a for-profit personal care home that has capacity to house 60 individuals.

The Snyder Rest Home, located in Emlenton, is a for-profit personal care home that has capacity to house 8 individuals.

Sugar Creek Station Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Complex, is a 160-bed rehabilitation and respite care facility. The rehabilitation unit includes expanded physical, occupational, and speech therapy facilities, plus a rehabilitative apartment where short-term residents can sharpen their daily living skills (cooking, dining, bathing, etc.) in preparation for going home.

Sugar Creek Station also offers a pet therapy program and includes a specialized Alzheimer's disease/dementia unit. The Jessie Lamberton Peters Memorial Courtyard provides a comfortable, therapeutic setting for residents to enjoy alone or with their families for most of the year.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Venango County **Human Services** is comprised of several departments. The mission statement for Human Services is "To assure the safety of our clients, preserve families where possible and enhance quality of life." This mission statement is advanced by the operations of several departments that operate under the umbrella of Human Services.

The Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR), Substance Abuse, Children and Youth Services (CYS), Area Agency on Aging, Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and Veteran's departments make up Human Services, and utilized many workers through subcontracts to perform services.

PA Department of Public Welfare, Venango County medical assistance

The PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) provides a variety of services and programs to serve the medical needs of those within the County who would not ordinarily be able to afford medical insurance coverage. These programs include:

- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- General Assistance
- State Blind Person

PA Department of Public Welfare, Venango County food stamp coupon program

The PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) provides medical assistance programs, cash assistance, and a food stamp coupon program to assist and supplement households within the County who meet the income guidelines established by the Department. The table below illustrates statistics for Venango County as a whole based on the most recent data from the April 2006 provided by the DPW's Office of Income Maintenance.

Table 42: PA Department of Public Welfare Statistics as of April 2006

Unduplicated Number of Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance, by County								
County	Percent of Pop.	Total Eligible Persons	ALSO RECEIVE MONEY PAYMENT				Cat. Needy	Med. Needy
			SSI	TANF	GA	SBP		
Venango	20.1%	11,235	2,106	1,251	227	2	6,671	978
State Total	15.1%	1,871,778	333,722	258,262	55,942	440	1,093,232	130,180
Unduplicated Number of Persons Receiving Cash Assistance, by County								
County	Percent of pop.	Total	SBP	TANF		GA		
				TANF-C	TANF-U			
Venango	2.6%	1,480	2	1,083	168	227		
State Total	2.5%	314,644	440	243,815	14,447	55,942		
Food Stamp Eligible Households and Persons by County								
County	Public Assistance		Non-Public Assistance		Total		% of Pop.	
	Households	Persons	Households	Persons	Households	Persons		
Venango	534	1,282	2,696	5,822	3,230	7,104	12.6%	
State Total	111,867	264,384	384,903	828,421	496,770	1,092,805	8.8%	
Value of Food Stamp Coupons Issued								
County	Fiscal Year to Date	SYMBOLS:		SBP=	STATE BLIND PENSIONS			
Venango	\$5,783,331			TANF=	ADC - AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN CU - UNEMPLOYED PARENT			
State Total	\$969,553,530			GA=	D - CHRONICALLY NEEDY GENERAL ASSISTANCE			

Venango County Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

The Venango County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is part of the Venango County Human Services Department and operates through funding provided by both State and Federal government grants in addition to local share funds contributed by the County.

The primary goal of the AAA is to maintain and foster independent living for older residents of the County, while providing the necessary assistance that they may need for day-to-day living.

In some instances, cost sharing is required in order to provide some services, the amount being determined by the individual client's income. Once a person is assessed and eligible, the AAA may directly provide or purchase some services from other providers. The AAA is also responsible for the planning, coordination of services and resource management of the Older Americans Act, Pennsylvania Lottery Funds and other funds that are available to the County.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Pennsylvania consumers may have the opportunity to choose who generates their electricity, supplies their natural gas and provides their local telephone service. In 1996, the electricity market in Pennsylvania was deregulated and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an Order that established competition in the local telephone market. Competition for all gas customers in Pennsylvania began November 1, 1999, after House Bill 1331 became law (Act 21). Act 21 allows all gas customers the option of purchasing natural gas services from a natural gas supplier, just as customers currently purchase electricity from an electric supplier under the Electric Choice Program.

The following companies are listed on the PA Public Utilities Commission as providing services in Venango County. Each distribution company also works with service companies, information for which can be obtained by contacting the PUC or the distribution company.

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES (EDCs)

- Allegheny Power
- Met-Ed (formerly GPU Energy)
- Penelec (formerly GPU Energy)
- Penn Power
- PPL Electric Utilities
- Central Electric

NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES (NGDCs)

- Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
- Dominion Peoples
- Equitable Gas Company
- National Fuel Gas Distribution, PA Division
- PECO Energy
- PG Energy
- Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW)
- PPL Gas Utilities
- T.W. Phillips
- UGI Utilities, Inc.

LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS (LSP) FOR VENANGO COUNTY

Residential:

- Windstream
- AT&T Communications of PA
- Choice One Communications
- DPI Teleconnect (Reseller for pre-paid customers)
- Level 3 Communications
- Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. (Reseller)

- Reconex (Reseller for pre-paid customers)
- Trinsic Communications
- United Telephone Company of PA
- Embarq
- Verizon North Inc.
- Verizon Pennsylvania Inc

Business:

- ALLTEL PA, Inc.
- AT&T Communicatoins of PA
- Choice One Communications
- Fairpoint Communications Solutions Corp
- Level 3 Communications
- REMI Communications
- Telcove
- Trinsic Communications
- United Telephone Company of PA Verizon North Inc.

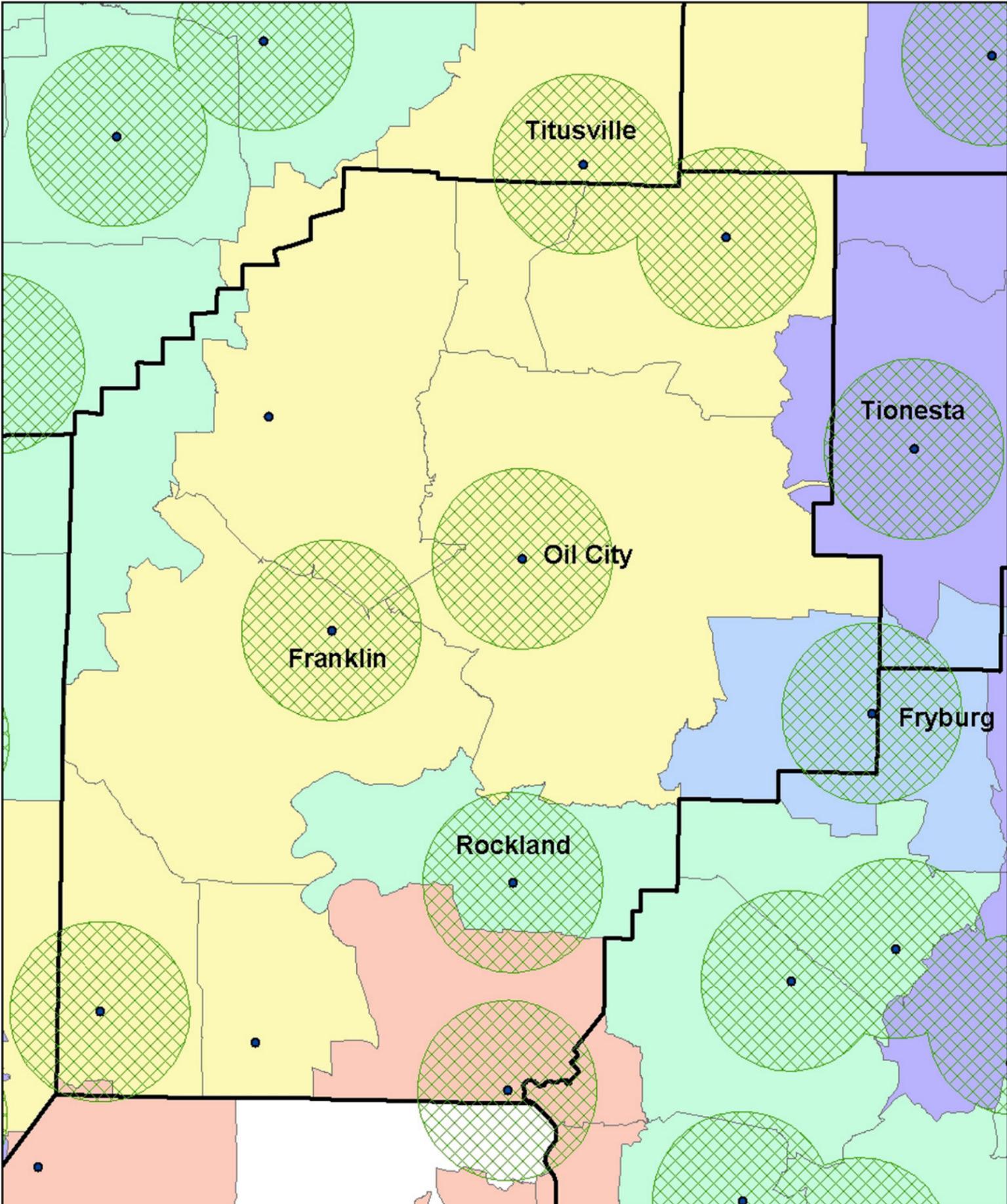
TV CABLE:

- Armstrong Cable
- Comcast

BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE

- Armstrong Cable/Internet
- Windstream

Venango County Broadband Coverage



- Central Offices
- ◻ DSL Coverage Area
- ◻ ALLTEL PENNSYLVANIA INC.
- ◻ PYMATUNING INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE CO.
- ◻ SPRINT/UNITED TELEPHONE OF PENNSYLVANIA
- ◻ VENUS TELEPHONE CORP
- ◻ VERIZON NORTH INC.-PA
- ◻ VERIZON PENNSYLVANIA INC.

WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

The distribution area and capacity of public water and sewer infrastructure influence the location and intensity of development in a community. Water and sewer infrastructure enables growth and development to take place at greater densities. Therefore, municipalities should guide infrastructure decisions with community input. The development and expansion of infrastructure should not be an end goal in itself, but should serve the broader development and preservation goals of the community while at the same time protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

This section identifies the existing public and private water and sewer utility providers and service areas in the planning area. Municipalities are required to prepare an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan according to the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act. Sewage facilities plans should include: 1) an assessment of existing areas served by public sewer systems; 2) future infrastructure requirements based on socio-economic and demographic trends and the existing condition of the systems; and 3) community goals for the preservation of land and designation of growth areas to be served by public sewer. Act 537 plans should be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the municipal or multi-municipal plan.

Table 43: Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plans

PA DEP #	Municipality	Adoption Date	Age of Plan
61804	Barkeyville Borough	2/04	3+ years
61907	Clinton Township	1/1/70	20+ years
61908	Clintonville Borough	6/26/86	10-20 years
61912	Emlenton Borough	5/26/82	20+ years
61923	Richland Township	4/1/00	5-10 years
61927	Scrubgrass Township	2/5/99	5-10 years
61930	Victory Township	1/1/70	20+ years

The Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission conducted an Infrastructure Needs Inventory in February 2003. The needs have been classified as “immediate” and “future” by the municipal and county officials and engineers providing the information. The term “immediate” generally includes those projects that need to be done now: those needed to comply with DEP environmental or health related orders and regulations, those needed to serve industrial or other development sites, those needed to replace existing facilities that have failed or are inadequate, etc. The lack of funding sources has prevented many of these “immediate” need projects from being undertaken or even scheduled. Various municipalities have classified similar project needs differently as in the case of replacing inadequate or poor condition water lines. Some municipalities may see the water line replacement need as “future” due to the realization that no funds are available to undertake the work currently.

As a result of interviewing planning, development, and government personnel and municipal engineers in the preparation of the Inventory, the following issues arose and are offered for further discussion:

- The publicly owned underground utilities in many municipalities are approaching or now are over 100 years old and have passed the useful life of the materials and technology of that time (pipe sizes, joints, etc.)
- Financial assistance is required to help municipalities in undertaking the needed infrastructure projects.
- Prompt response to development opportunities is essential. While planning approvals and environmental permits are important, it is critical to shorten the time between development proposal and final local and Commonwealth approvals. Entrepreneurs must be able to get their developments, industries, etc. up and running in months, not years.
- The Infrastructure Needs Inventory should be updated regularly so that it can be an effective tool for planning.

According to the Venango County Assessment records, a variety of methods are used to dispose of sewage and provide water to both households and businesses as shown in the following tables.

Table 44: Sewage Facilities by type - 2007

Sewage Facilities	Participating Municipalities No. of Parcels	Participating Municipalities % of Parcels	Venango County No. of Parcels	Venango County % of Parcels
Approved, not yet installed	3	0	3	0
Cesspool	0	0	6	0
Denied	1	0	3	0
Holding	11	0	48	0
Public	518	13	13,662	35
Sand Mound	16	0	106	0
Septic	1,767	46	13,070	34
Unknown	1,513	39	11,483	30
Unlisted	34	1	328	1
Total Parcels	3,863	100	38,709	100

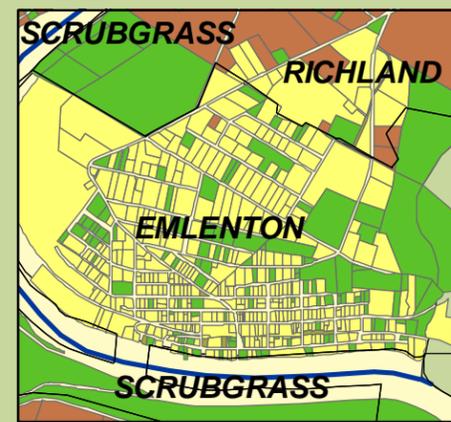
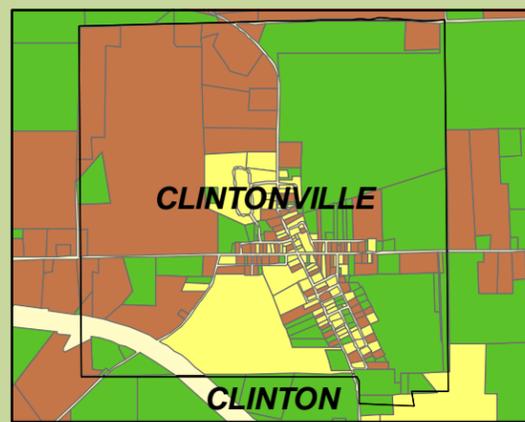
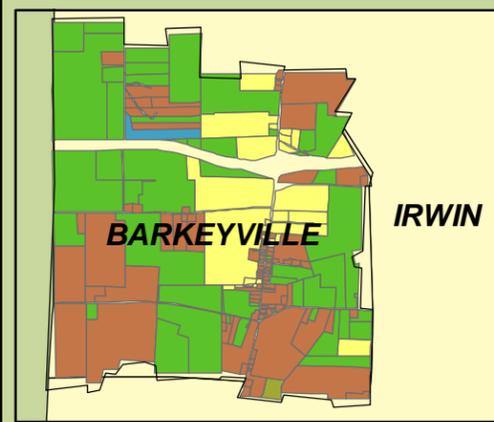
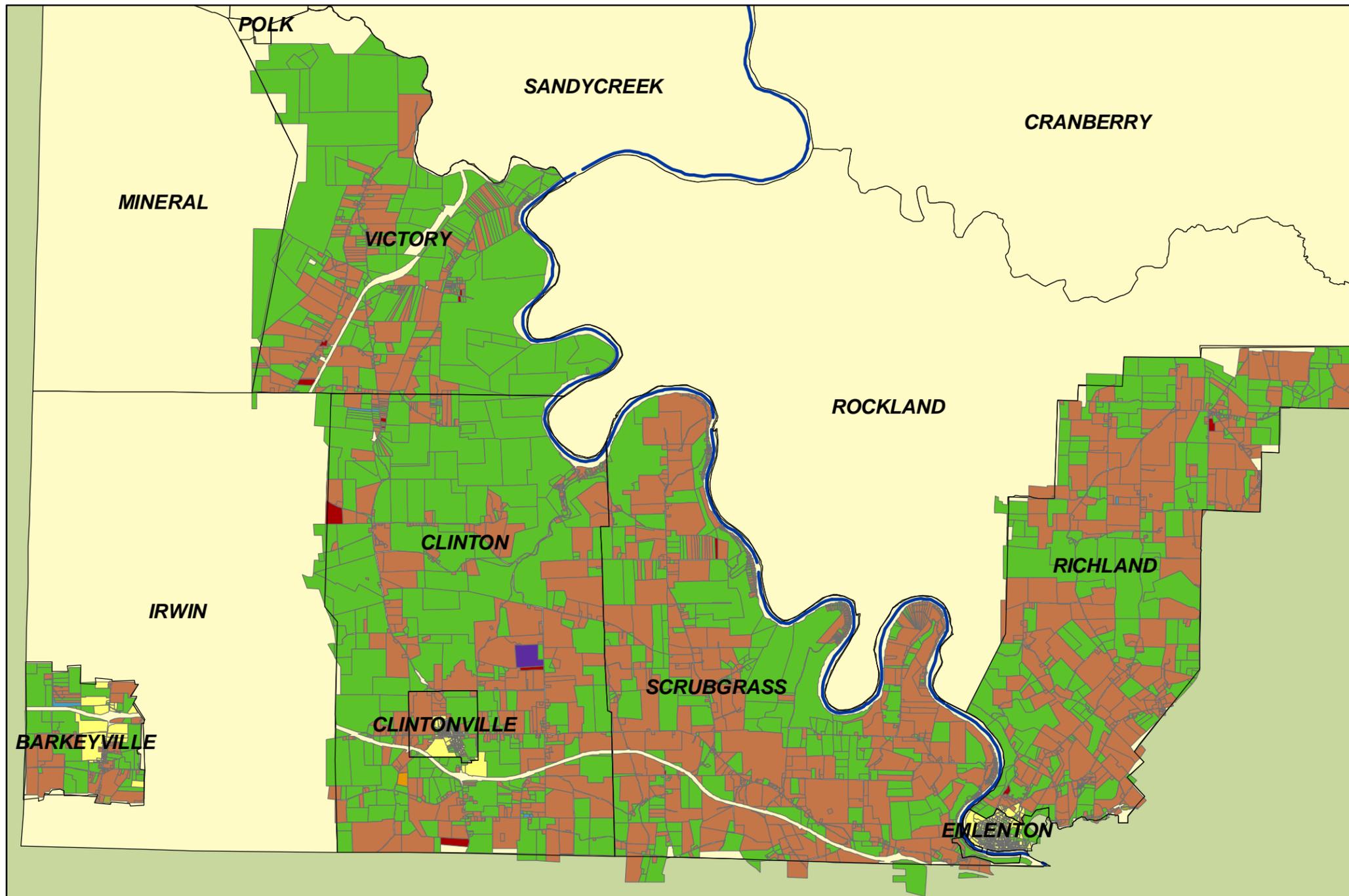
Table 45: Water Facilities by type - 2007

Water Facilities	Southern Municipalities No. of Parcels	Southern Municipalities % of Parcels	Venango County No. of Parcels	Venango County % of Parcels
Cistern	3	0	12	0
None	1,464	38	11,302	29
Public	633	16	14,286	37
Shared	17	0	90	0



Spring	189	5	1,210	3
Well	1,523	39	11,481	30
Unlisted	34	1	328	1
Total	3,863	100	38,709	100





Southern Venango County Sewage Facilities

Map Features

- Sewage Facilities
- Unlisted
 - Approved, not installed
 - Denied
 - Holding Tank
 - Public
 - Sandmound
 - Septic
 - Unknown
 - Allegheny River
 - Venango Municipalities

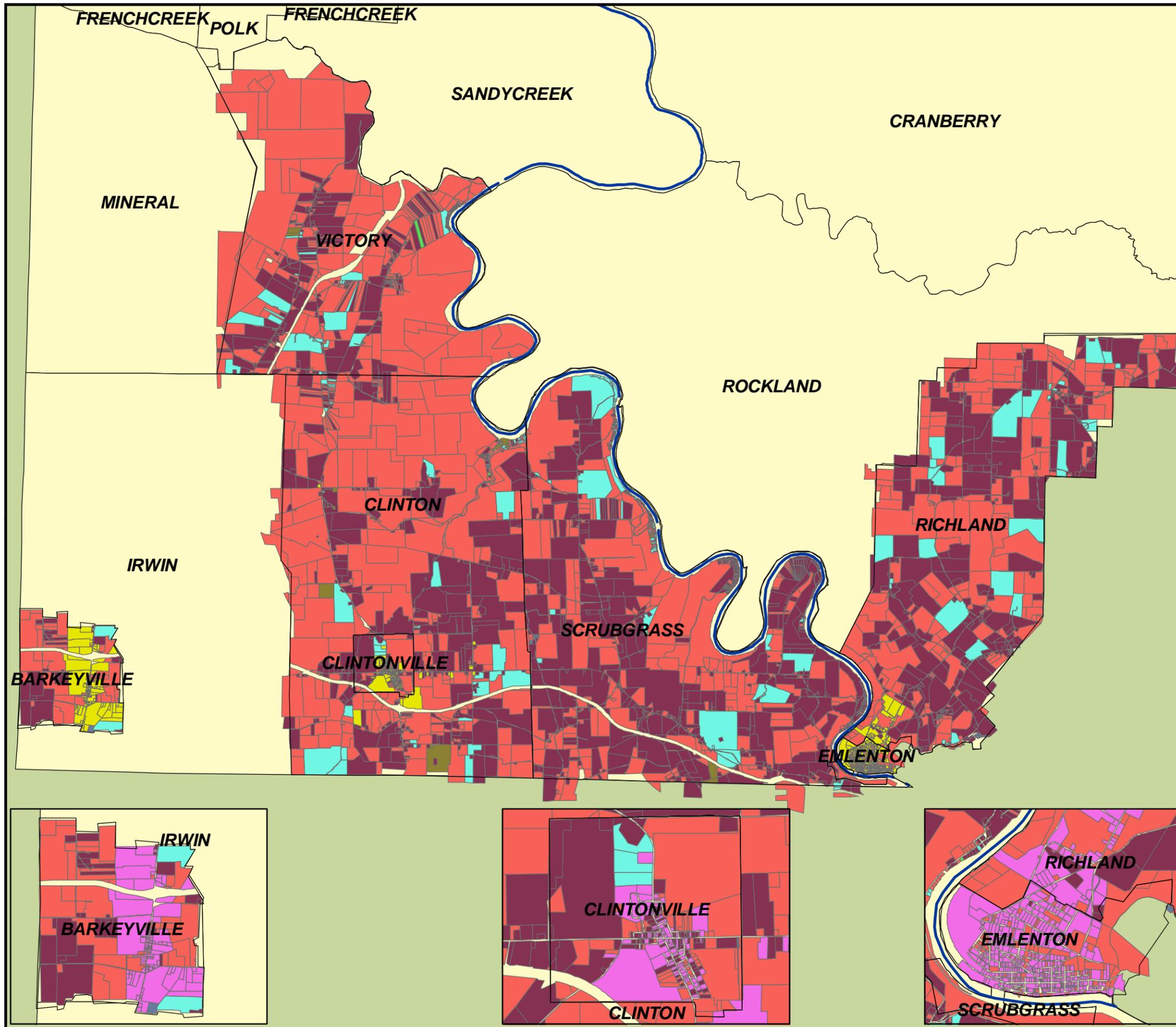
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Southern Venango County Water Facilities

Map Features

Water Facilities

- Unlisted
- Cistern
- None
- Public
- Shared
- Spring
- Well
- Allegheny River
- Venango Municipalities

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Water Authorities

Barkeyville Municipal Authority

The Barkeyville Municipal Authority (BMA) provides potable water to the central area of Barkeyville Borough, Venango County, Pennsylvania with drinking water from 2 groundwater wells. The approximate depth of each well is 375 feet.

The water system is operated by the Authority employees, one full time licensed operator and two part time laborers. The water system consists of 2 wells (circa 1980 and 2006), a duplex gravity iron-manganese greensand and softening system (circa 2006) with disinfection and 2 finished water storage tanks (standpipes – 188,000 gallons (circa 1980) and 363,000 gallons (circa 2003)). The two wells are located on a six acre parcel of land owned by the Authority. The system currently serves 36 commercial/industrial and 68 residential customers. The average daily demand is 50,000 gallons per day with a peak use of 80,000 gallons per day. The treatment system has an effective residual capacity of 230,000 gallons per day.

The distribution system is comprised of 4”, 6”, 10” and 12” diameter lines (approximate total length 18,930’) with the majority of the lines being ductile iron pipe (circa 1980) along Routes 8 and 208 and C-900 PVC (circa 2000) along Stevenson Road.

County CDBG funds were used to develop a new groundwater well source treatment facility. The Oil Region Alliance (owner of the industrial park) has provided the infrastructure improvements at the site of the industrial park. The new industrial projects being constructed in the park will significantly add to the existing rate base, allowing the system to generate additional revenues needed to build cash reserves and to fund the replacement of facilities as they depreciate in value.

Clintonville Sewer and Water Authority

The Clintonville Water System has some system deficiencies that will require construction permit approval by PADEP if they move forward with the development of the Interstate-80 interchange and maintain an adequate margin of safety in supply. If additional sources are not developed, a well designed Source Water Protection Plan and provision of emergency backup power at each well should be provided.

The Authority is currently working to complete the building of a new water pump station and water treatment plant building including an upgraded filter system.

Emlenton Water Company

The Emlenton Water Company is a subsidiary of Nido’s, Ltd. Inc., which operates several PUC regulated gas utilities. The Water Company withdraws its source water from an intake located on the Allegheny River. In 2003 the company had 500 customers serving a population of approximately 2,000.

The Emlenton Water Company is permitted to withdraw up to 1.0 MGD from the Allegheny River. On average, approximately 130,000 gallons are distributed each day.

The system should concentrate on replacement of the aged cast iron piping and should turn attention to replacement of the aged brick reservoir. Bright spots include excess capacity in plant and source allocation. The company has reportedly explored restructuring options, including regionalization and selling bulk water to other systems.

Sewer Service

Barkeyville

The Barkeyville Sewerage Company (BSC), a private utility company, provides sewerage service to the commercial businesses located around the intersection of Route 8 and Interstate 80 on the north and south sides along with the Barkeyville Industrial Park located on Stevenson Road. The industrial park's sewerage system consisting of collection lines, pump station and forcemain are owned and operated by the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (ORA).

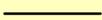
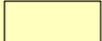
The BSC's treatment plant (circa 1970's) is permitted to treat 150,000 gallons per day of wastewater using a modular activated sludge treatment system. The treatment plant system includes a comminutor and bypass bar screen, aeration tank, clarifier, plate settler, chlorine contact tank and aerated sludge holding tanks. The waste sludge is transported off-site to a local municipal treatment plant for final digestion, dewatering and disposal. The annual average daily flow for the treatment plant is 50,000 gallons per day.

The BSC collection system is comprised of 8", 10" and 12" diameter gravity collection lines and precast concrete manholes (approximate total length 5,000'). The ORA collection system (circa 2002) is comprised of 8" diameter PVC gravity collection lines (approximate total length 2,700') and precast manholes, a 4" diameter PVC forcemain (approximate total length 3,400') and an 80 GPM duplex submersible pump station.

Both the BSC and ORA sewerage system have residual capacity.

Barkeyville Water and Sewer Service Areas

Map Features

-  Water and Sewer Facilities
-  Barkeyville Sewer Lines
-  Barkeyville Water Lines
-  Venango County Roads
-  Venango County Parcels

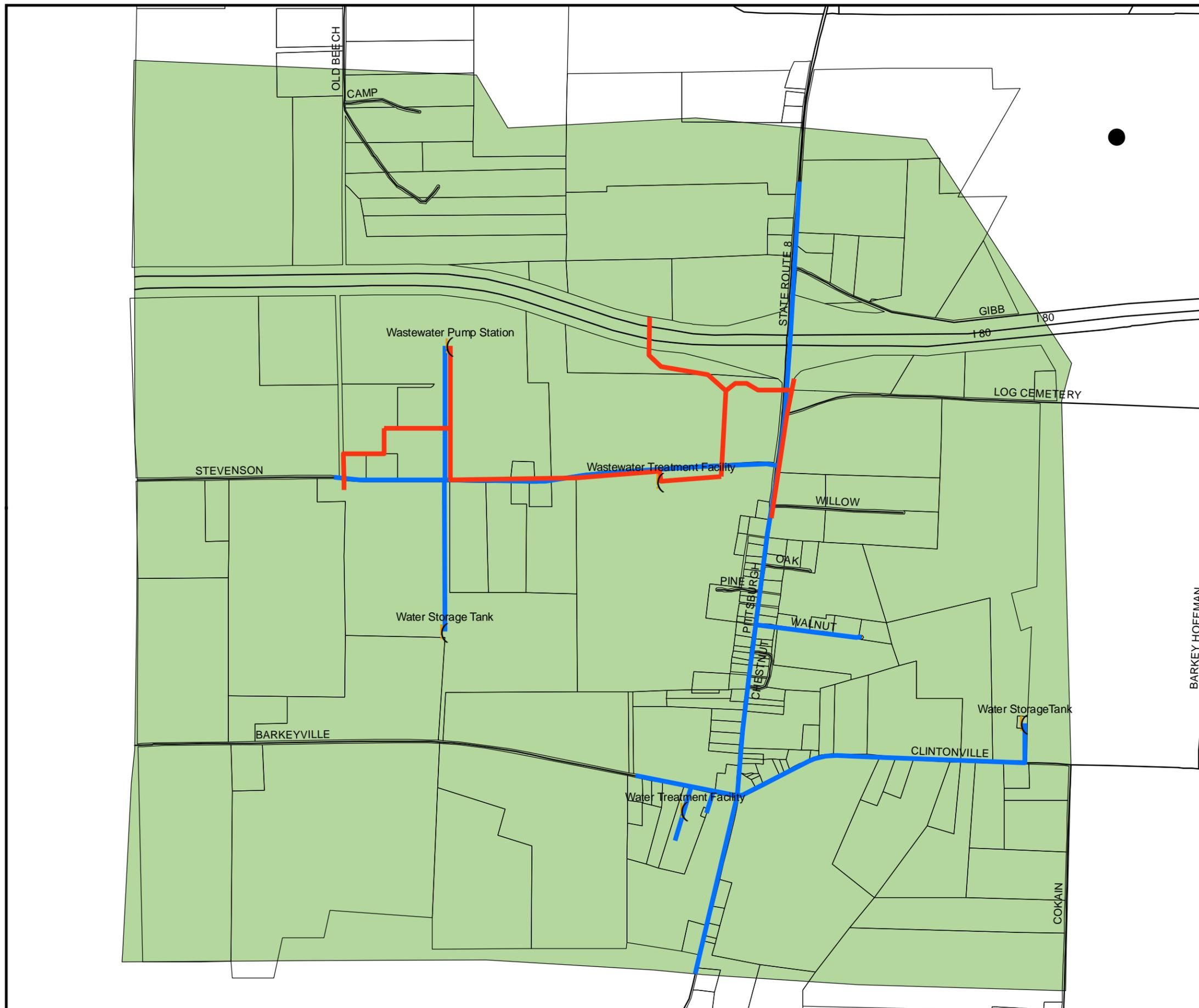


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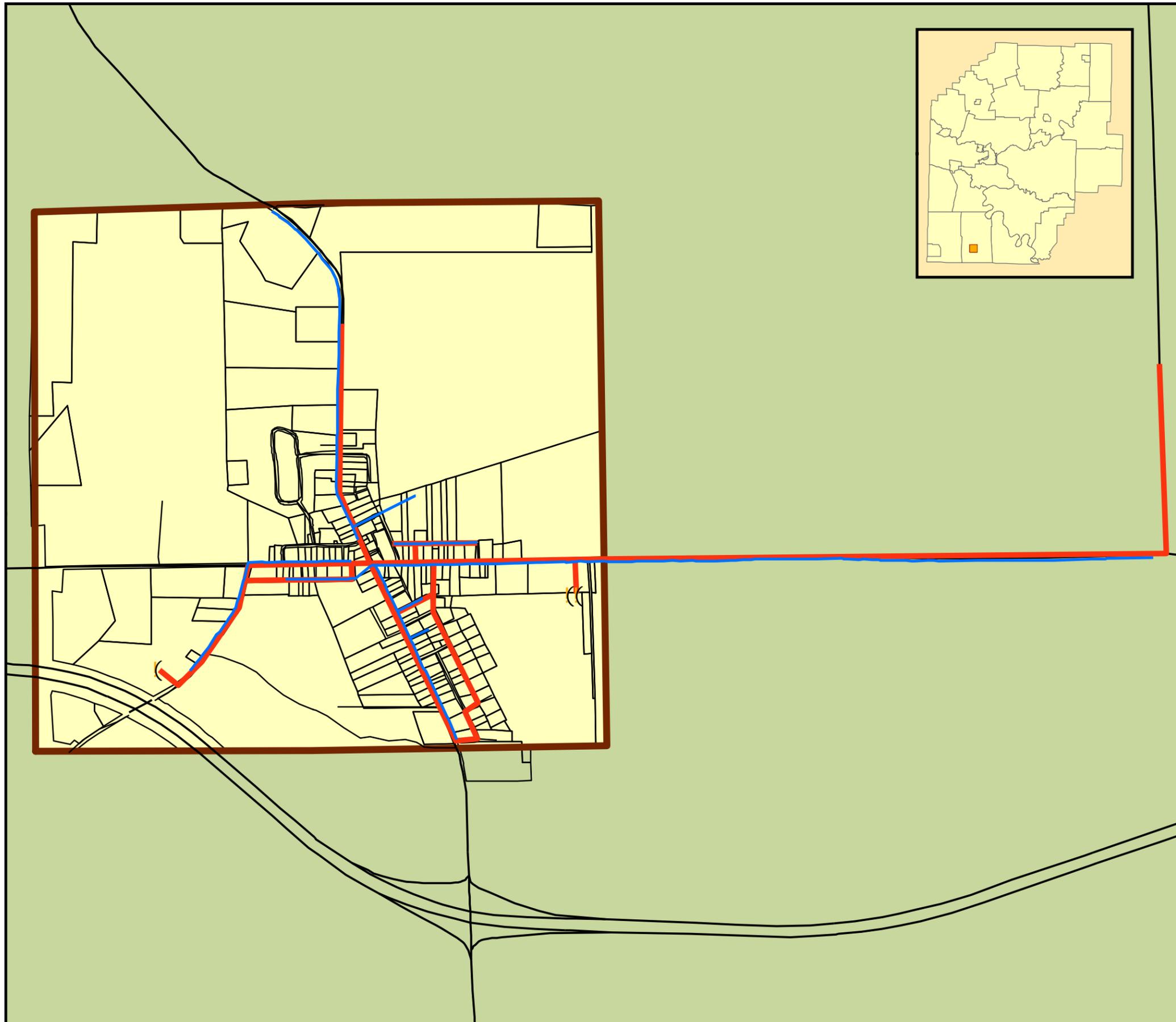
Clintonville Sewer and Water Authority

The Clintonville Authority provides service to Clintonville Borough and a small portion of Clinton Township. The system uses extended aeration and/or carbonaceous nitrification for treatment.

As of 2006, the system had a capacity of 0.65 MGD permitted under the NPDES permit for hydrologic loading and 130 lbs/day permitted organic loading. The average annual usage over the years 2001-2005 was 0.050 MGD hydrologic loading and 79 lbs/day organic loading.



Clintonville Borough Water and Sewer Service Areas



Map Features

- () Water and Sewer Facilities
- Water Lines
- Sewer Lines
- Local Roads
- State Roads
- ▭ Municipal Boundary
- ▭ Clintonville Parcels



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Emlenton Area Municipal Authority

The Emlenton Area Municipal Authority services the Borough of Emlenton and portions of Richland Township, Venango County and Richland Township, Clarion County. The main sewage treatment plant is located in Emlenton Borough. Two separate systems also belong to the Authority. An elevated sand mound system is located in Lamartine, Clarion County. Another smaller treatment plant is located in Mariasville, Clarion County.

The Emlenton treatment plant has a permitted capacity of 0.2 MGD. Available taps are in the range of 50-100 EDU's dependant upon the treatment volumes of other waste. The Mariasville plant has a permitted capacity of 8,000 GPD and has available taps of approximately 10 EDU's. The Lamartine system has a design capacity of 22,000 GPD. Available capacity is unknown at this time.

The consulting engineer's April 2007 annual report listed the following recommendations for short and long range planning items to the Authority:

- Emlenton Plant – consider options to identify and reduce inflow and infiltration into the collection system. Recommended to be an ongoing activity with an associated interest in obtaining grant funding. Investigate use of micro screen for influent solids removal.
- Mariasville Plant – no items at this time
- Lamartine system – Continue to evaluate the intermediate repair to the first cell. Consider possible long term solutions. Pursue other funding sources for repairs.

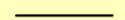
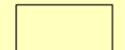


Emlenton

Borough Sewer Service Area



Map Features

-  Sewer Treatment Plant
-  Emlenton Sewer Lines
-  Venango County Roads
-  Venango Municipalities



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FORM AND FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT SUMMARY

This section is an overview of the existing local government structure and administrative function in the seven municipalities in the planning area. Included is a chart of existing land use tools and ordinances.

Federal and State Congressional Districts

- US House – PA 3rd and 5th Districts
- PA Senate District 21
- PA House District 64

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Venango County is governed by three (3) County Commissioners elected at large for four (4) year terms, with no more than two (2) from a single political party. These elected officials function as administrators as well as managers for Venango County and deal with the day to day business of this County of the sixth (6th) class. There are also a series of “row offices,” each administered by an elected official who is largely independent of the County Commissioners.

Activities which are directed or coordinated by the County Commissioners include the daily administration of Venango County affairs, County bridge maintenance, monitoring of property assessments, the delivery of social services, veterans affairs, the Board of Elections which includes voter registration, a staff for the Regional Planning Commission, which handles subdivision and land development review and approvals, recycling and solid waste management, and emergency preparedness and management. County Commissioners also direct the preparation of ordinances and resolutions which upon adoption, become law, and establish an annual operating budget, including the setting of tax rates.

In addition to the primary services and activities listed, a variety of health and human services are also provided by Venango County agencies. The public defenders office, data processing and the County Jail are also functions of County government administered by the County Commissioners. Domestic relations, adult and juvenile probation supervision, and child welfare are all departments or agencies which supplement and support social services offered by the County.

There are also agencies which have established offices in County facilities which are associated with County services, but are funded and staffed by State or Federal agencies such as the Conservation District and the Cooperative Extension Service (Pennsylvania State University).

County “row offices” are administered by elected officials to handle specific functions. These officials, their titles and a summary of their responsibilities are as follows:

Administrator Finance and Management Services:	This position is the chief fiscal officer of the County. This person assists in the preparation of the budget, has custody of certain valuable documents and is responsible for preparing the annual report on the financial condition of the County.
Treasurer:	As with the other officers, the County Treasurer is elected for a four (4) year term. The County Treasurer receives and gives receipts for all monies due to the County. He or she keeps accounts of same and works closely with the County Controller. One of the main functions of the Treasurer is the collection of taxes. In addition, the County Treasurer for Venango County sells dog licenses, as well as hunting and fishing licenses.
Sheriff:	The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the County. Much of his duties are in concert with the Courts. The Sheriff takes prisoners from the County Jail to the courtrooms during criminal trials and provides security at such proceedings. In addition, the Sheriff and his or her deputies serve legal papers for many different functions. Other duties include the transportation of prisoners to penal institutions, the guarding of cloistered juries and general peace keeping.
Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts:	The Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts is another elected four (4) year row officer in Venango County. This highly responsible position is closely associated with the Courts and the County's legal system. The Prothonotary keeps records of all Court proceedings in Venango County. The Prothonotary also handles requests for passports and issues marriage licenses.
Register and Recorder:	The Register and Recorder also deals with legal matters. However, this is more related to real estate transactions, subdivisions, mortgages and wills. This office provides a public record for such transactions. Good record keeping is essential to this office because the volume of documents filed.
District Attorney:	The District Attorney can be considered the public prosecutor. He or she represents the Commonwealth – we the people – in bringing action against alleged criminals. This is also a four (4) year elected office and must be filled by an attorney. The District Attorney is assisted by full and part time assistants, as well as a detective.
Jury Commissioners:	The function of the Jury Commissioners is rather straight forward – the selection of men and women to serve on juries for civil and criminal cases.
Coroner:	The basic duty of the County Coroner is the investigation of deaths that may be of a violent or suspicious nature and certain accidental or natal deaths. The principal role of the Coroner is to help in determining whether any criminal action or negligence is in evidence.

At the County government level, the Commonwealth requires the election of full time judges based on population. These judges hear both civil and criminal complaints. The two (2) sitting judges in Venango County are joined by one (1) or more visiting judges, depending on the number of cases on each courtroom docket.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Townships

The preferred system of governance in the Townships is a three (3) member Board of Supervisors whose primary responsibilities are the maintenance of Township-owned roadways and equipment. The Second Class Township Code (as amended through 1995) states that the Board of Supervisors shall:

Table 46

Municipality	# Supervisors or Council Members	# Full Time Employees	# Part Time Employees
Barkeyville Borough	7	0	0
Clinton Township	3	0	2
Clintonville Borough	7	0	2
Victory Township	3	0	9
Scrubgrass Township	3	1	1
Richland Township	3	1	1
Emlenton Borough	7	4	1

Be charged with the general governance of the Township and the execution of legislative, executive and administrative powers in order to ensure sound fiscal management and to secure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township.

In addition, other offices include three (3) Auditors, and one (1) Tax Collector. Supervisors and auditors are elected for six (6) year terms, while the Tax Collector serves four (4) year terms. Most townships employ a Road Master, although some have a Supervisor serve that duty. Supervisors have the authority and are mandated to appoint a Township Secretary whose duties include recording all proceedings of the Board, keeping records relative to road openings or variations, and preserving minutes of all meetings.

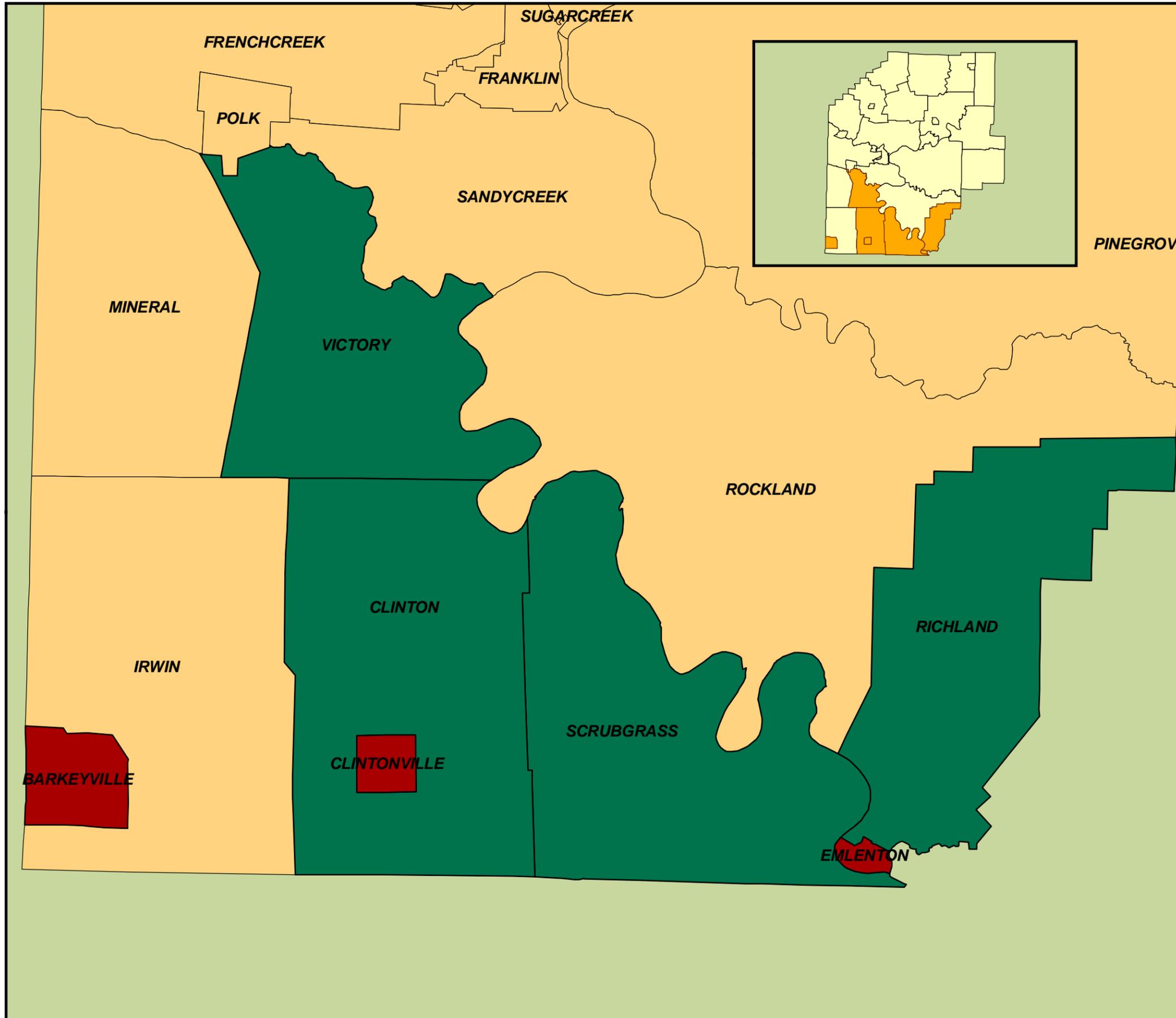
Boroughs

Table 47

Municipality	Committee or Board				COG
Barkeyville Borough	Zoning Hearing Board	Planning Commission	-	-	Southern
Clinton Township	-	-	-	-	Southern
Clintonville Borough	Park Board	Police Board	Fire Dept. Report Board	Roads & Sidewalks Committee	Southern
Victory Township	Rec. Bldg. Supervisor	-	-	-	Southern
Scrubgrass Township	-	-	-	-	Oil Region
Richland Township	-	-	-	-	Oil Region
Emlenton Borough	Zoning Hearing Board	Planning Commission	Parks/ Recreation	Public Safety	Oil Region
	Street Committee	Clean-up Task Force	EAMA	-	

According to the Borough Code, amended through 1998, in Boroughs not divided into wards, seven (7) Councilmen, one Mayor and one Assessor are elected for four (4) year terms. The Mayor in this local government context enforces ordinances and preserves order in the Borough and is limited to public health and safety issues.

The Borough Code authorizes Borough Council to appoint and hire a Secretary, Treasurer, Solicitor, Police officers, a Borough Manager, a Borough Engineer, Planning Commissioners, Civil Service Commissioners, where police or paid firemen are employed. Commonly, the Borough Secretary wears several hats including the Treasurer's or the Manager's. The Borough Secretary attends all meetings of Borough Council, keeps minutes of all proceedings and preserves all records and documents.



Southern Venango County Boroughs & Townships

Map Features

- Venango Municipalities
- Township
- Borough

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Other Services

Each of the municipalities has contracted with individuals or firms for services of a solicitor and sewage enforcement and permits, building code enforcement and engineering services.

- There are two (2) types of local governments in the Southern region: Townships of the Second Class and Boroughs.
- Township leaders govern ninety-five percent (95%) of the region's land area while the three Boroughs' govern five percent (5%).
- All of the participating municipalities belong to one of the three Councils of Government (COG) in the county.

LAND USE TOOLS AND ORDINANCES

Two of the municipalities currently have a zoning ordinance in place. All have given authority to the county, and in turn, to the Planning Commission to administrate the subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO). These documents are used to manage land use as authorized by the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Table 48 provides information about the land use tools and ordinances each municipality has adopted and implements.

Table 48: Land Use Tools and Ordinances

Municipality	Comprehensive Plan	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision/ Land Development	Building Ordinance
Barkeyville Borough	√	√	√	√
Clinton Township			√	√
Clintonville Borough			√	√
Victory Township			√	
Scrubgrass Township			√	
Richland Township			√	√
Emlenton Borough	√	√	√	√

The zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances are the primary land use ordinances used to implement the comprehensive plans in each Township. The zoning ordinances for Barkeyville Borough and Emlenton Borough are reviewed below, highlighting the types of districts and differences between zoning districts within the planning area.

Barkeyville Borough Zoning Districts:

C -Conservation District – to meet the community development goals of preserving wetlands, aquifers, forests, floodplains and farmland, while accommodating a variety of uses appropriate to the district's rural, low density setting.

R - Residential District – to meet the community development goals of protecting property values, and encouraging future residential use to occur in a harmonious arrangement within compact

neighborhood units. Uses in this district will be limited to those which are compatible to the relatively high density of the district and the maintenance of a quality residential setting.

CB - Community Business District – to provide a traditional mixed-use setting for a variety of appropriate commercial and residential uses. The standard for such uses will be their ability to conform to pre-existing and neighboring uses in a harmonious community setting, particularly ensuring the community development objective that ensures highway traffic does not adversely impact the local quality of life.

IDC -Interchange Development Corridor District – to meet the objectives of capturing the economic development potential of Interstate 80, to maintain and protect existing commercial uses and to encourage new commercial facilities to locate in functionally designed centers with safe and adequate roadway access.

IP - Industrial Park District – to meet the objective of preserving strategic properties suitable for industrial development for the establishment of suitable, diversified industry in the Borough.

I-2 - Industrial District – to meet the objective of protecting property values to ensure a suitable, attractive and efficient community environment by providing a regulated environment for uses which could be innately threatening to the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the community. It is also established to provide additional land in meeting the objectives of 202(e).

WHP (Wellhead Protection) - Overlay District – to ensure the provision of adequate public utilities and facilities by protecting wellhead recharge areas from contamination which would threaten the health, safety and general welfare of the community.

Emlenton Borough Zoning Districts:

	Permitted Uses	Special Exceptions
R-1 Suburban Residential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single-family detached dwellings 2. Public and parochial schools 3. Churches 4. Public parks and playgrounds 5. Libraries 6. Municipal buildings 7. Essential services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home occupations 2. Multi-family dwellings 3. Water recreation and storage 4. Cemeteries 5. Hospitals and clinics for humans 6. Colleges 7. Fire stations 8. Public utility buildings 9. Agriculture 10. Sewage treatment plant 11. Planned unit residential projects



R-2 Urban Residential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single-family detached dwellings 2. Multiple family dwellings 3. Public and parochial schools 4. Churches 5. Public parks and playgrounds 6. Libraries 7. Municipal buildings 8. Home occupations 9. Tourist homes (rooming and Boarding houses) 10. Nursing and convalescent homes 11. Essential services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hospitals and clinics for humans 2. Individual mobile homes 3. Mobile home (trailer) parks 4. Funeral homes 5. Colleges 6. Nursery schools 7. Fire stations 8. Public utility buildings 9. Water recreation and storage 10. Sewage treatment plants 11. Planned unit residential projects
C – Commercial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retail business 2. Eating and drinking establishments 3. Food stores 4. Offices 5. Personal, professional and business services 6. Commercial schools 7. Indoor commercial amusement 8. Clubs 9. Funeral homes 10. Hotels and motels 11. Churches 12. Auto sales, service and repair 13. Essential services 14. Apartments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water recreation and storage 2. Municipal buildings 3. Public utility buildings 4. Trailer sales and display 5. Animal clinics 6. Hospitals and clinics for humans 7. Fire stations 8. Wholesale business 9. Supply yards 10. Printing, lithographing and publishing plants 11. Cleaning and laundry plants 12. Auto laundries
I – Industrial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and testing laboratories 2. Industrial office buildings 3. Light manufacturing (as defined by Article 7) including production of the following goods: home appliances, electrical instruments, office machines, precision instruments, electronic devices, timepieces, jewelry, optical goods, musical instruments, novelties, wood products, printed material, lithographic plates, type composition, machine tools, dies and gauges, ceramics, apparel, lightweight non-ferrous metal castings, film processing, light sheet metal products, plastic goods, pharmaceutical goods and food products, but not including animal slaughtering, curing, nor rendering of fats. 4. Oil refinery 5. Railroad freight facilities 6. Auto sales, service and repair 7. Essential services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water recreation and storage 2. Sewage treatment plant 3. Truck terminals 4. Bulk Fuel Storage 5. Municipal buildings 6. Public utility buildings 7. Fire stations 8. Junk yards 9. Other industrial and related uses not otherwise prohibited by law.

(Footnotes)

1 <http://www.octr.clarion.edu/>

2 Zeigler, Jennifer. Pennsylvania Township News. Pinching Pennies, March 2003



SECTION 2:

“WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?”



The purpose of Section II of the plan is to present the community's vision and future land use plan. This section includes the following components:

- The Vision Statement;
- Community Goals and Objectives;
- The Future Land Use Plan; and
- Potential Development Sites and Model Site Plans.

VISION STATEMENT

The “vision” is a statement that articulates the type of place a community is striving to become in the future. It sets the context for the goals, objectives, and action plan by identifying the ideal future conditions in the community and providing the community with something to work toward.

Southern Venango County features a variety of communities ranging from rural townships to village-like boroughs. The Southern Venango County communities are home to many unique natural features such as large woodland habitats and the Allegheny River. The region's oil heritage is celebrated through numerous cultural and historic resources. The quality of life in Southern Venango County communities has been offset by challenges associated with population loss and job availability. However, Southern Venango County is situated in the path of development pressures coming up from Butler County and from the Grove City area. The presence of the I-80 Corridor compounds these pressures. Communities within the region are quickly discovering the development interests that surround the Corridor's interchanges. These interchanges offer unique opportunities for economic development that is of great interest to the region. The communities need to act quickly to ensure that they capitalize on economic opportunities without compromising the region's character. Balancing future growth with the protection of natural and historic amenities will sustain the quality of life within the Southern Venango County communities.

As a first step in regional planning, Barkeyville Borough, Clinton Township, Clintonville Borough, Emlenton Borough, Richland Township, Scrubgrass Township and Victory Township have developed a Vision for the future. In the future, the seven communities form a place that:

- cherishes its home town atmosphere where all people enjoy living, working, and playing in a safe and private setting;
- celebrates and embraces the character and aesthetic quality of its towns and rural areas;
- provides a variety of employment opportunities;
- protects its environment and preserves farmland and open spaces;
- demonstrates the benefits of cooperative efforts across municipal borders;
- ensures that all people have access to safe and adequate housing;
- offers recreational and cultural programs for all age groups;
- manages government services efficiently; and
- features an overall high quality of life for its residents.

COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Community goals are broad in nature and reflect the main themes of the vision. The goals described below are shared throughout the seven participating communities within the Southern Venango County region. Each goal was developed based on discussions with Steering Committee members at a series of meetings. The goal statements are the first step in breaking down the vision into targeted statements that outline how to make the vision a reality. The second step includes community development objectives, which are consistent with the goals and support the implementation strategies. Implementation strategies, discussed in greater detail in Part III of this plan, are specific action steps that the community should take to achieve the overall desired character of the area. The goals and objectives should guide local officials and decision makers in developing and implementing land use and community development policies. Community goals and objectives are included related to the following topics:

- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Transportation
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Community Facilities and Utilities
- Natural and Historic Resources
- Intergovernmental Cooperation

COMMUNITY GOALS AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

LAND USE

Regional Goal

- Maintain a balance between development (residential, commercial, industrial, etc) and the preservation of existing open/natural spaces while ensuring that future development reflects the existing character within the region's diverse community settings (village, rural, and natural land)

Community Development Objectives

- Determine areas that can support future development and areas that should be preserved in their current condition
- Preserve the open spaces in existing less dense (large lot) areas and natural/environmentally sensitive areas of the region
- Promote infill development in the region's population/community centers
- Capitalize on the opportunities presented by the presence of the I-80 interchanges within the region.
- Leverage the unique development opportunities created by redeveloping brownfield sites
- Coordinate land use plans with infrastructure planning

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Goal

- Sustain a healthy business climate to encourage the expansion of existing businesses and growth of new businesses, and to preserve the quality of life that has made Southern Venango County an attractive place to live and work.

Community Development Objectives

- Support existing businesses and encourage their expansion.
- Attract new industries to diversify employment opportunities available to residents within the region.
- Promote workforce development, education and training opportunities to ensure that citizens are prepared for jobs and growth.
- Encourage entrepreneurship within the region.
- Provide access to assistance programs for agricultural and silvicultural businesses.
- Market the region to perspective employers by highlighting the region's transportation and infrastructure assets and human capital.

HOUSING

Regional Goal

- Maintain a mixture of housing types/densities to provide safe, affordable accommodations to all residents in accordance with the land use plan and goals.

Community Development Objectives

- Inventory and establish methods of controlling and rehabilitating blighted and abandoned housing areas.
- Eliminate substandard housing units, that endanger the public, health, welfare and safety in the planning area.
- Improve the appearance of existing older housing units.
- Assure high-quality and safe building practices are used for new construction.
- Provide for adequate infrastructure to improve livability of existing neighborhoods and assure that new housing developments have sufficient infrastructure to meet new demands.
- Provide for an appropriate mix of new high-quality housing styles and choices, allowing for different types of high-quality housing within the planning area.
- Increase the number of high-quality affordable housing units and types of housing suitable for young families and retirees.
- Require that new housing developments be built in harmony with the natural environment.

TRANSPORTATION

Regional Goal

- Maintain an efficient regional transportation network that can accommodate future traffic demand as well as potential alternative transportation modes in the future.

Community Development Objectives

- Plan regionally for transportation system linkages throughout the planning area utilizing vehicular and other transit modes.
- Develop the arterial and collector street system in accordance with the road classification map in this plan.
- Provide collector and arterial roads in the region which can move large volumes of traffic from within and outside the planning area while minimizing impacts on residential areas.
- Serve residential neighborhoods with adequate collector roads and commercial areas with adequate collector and arterial roads into which local roads connect, so that local roads do not serve collector needs.
- Maintain the public road system in a cost effective manner to extend roadway surface life, and allow for the safe use by the traveling public in all seasons and weather conditions.
- Share responsibility of transportation related impacts and improvements with other governmental sources and private developers.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Regional Goal

- Provide adequate active and passive recreational opportunities to the region's residents and visitors.

Community Development Objectives

- Maintain and enhance existing community parks to provide additional active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Establish new recreation facilities in areas of residential growth.
- Develop trails to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and other leisure activities.
- Maximize the use of frontage of the Allegheny River for recreational opportunities.
- Work towards enhancing regional parks and recreational facilities located within the planning area.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Regional Goal

- Maintain high-quality public services and foster regional efforts to provide these services to residents.

Community Development Objectives

- Address the region's current infrastructure needs and plan for meeting future needs in order to maintain a high level of community services.
- Promote public/private partnerships to provide accessible community facilities and services which meet residents' and visitors' needs.
- Provide facilities and services to meet all needs in the region, protect the environment and public health, and support development consistent with the future land use patterns.
- Coordinate infrastructure plans with land use planning.

NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Regional Goal

- Conserve the sensitive natural features within the region and promote the preservation of historic and heritage resources.

Community Development Objectives

- Protect areas with environmentally sensitive features such as steep slopes and wetlands.
- Continue to develop heritage tourism initiatives to promote cultural and historic assets and bring tourism dollars into the community.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Regional Goal

- Achieve a high level of intergovernmental coordination and public-private cooperation as a model of government efficiency in Pennsylvania.

Community Development Objectives

- Continue the coordinated efforts in multi-municipal planning through joint implementation of the comprehensive plan.
- Identify opportunities for future cooperative endeavors.

THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

The intent of the land use plan is to provide a means for future development to occur within the region in a manner that is consistent with the region's vision. The land use plan is a conceptual guide for establishing land use policies and implementation tools that direct land use and development practices over the next ten to fifteen years. However, it is recommended that the land use plan be reviewed periodically (every few years) by the seven municipalities to ensure that the plan remains relevant to the future of the community. The land use plan translates the vision, goals, and objectives for the southern Venango County communities into a graphic depiction of where the community would like to target future growth and development. This graphic depiction takes two forms within the plan: the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map and Model Site Plans.

The Comprehensive Future Land Use Map identifies the type of land uses and development patterns that are appropriate and desired in the community. It generally targets areas for future growth, reinvestment, and conservation of natural assets. While the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map shows the type and location of development desired in the community, it is not meant to be absolute or exact. However, the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map should serve as a general guide for county and community-specific land use policies and implementation tools within the region.

Model Site Plans were created for a series of potential development sites within the region to outline policies in a more specific manner than shown by the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map itself. These Model Site Plans focus on a wide range of issues including but not limited to land uses, parking, access, screening, recreation, traffic, infrastructure, conservation, etc. at a site scale. While developed for a particular site, the principles described in the plans are intended to be a model for other similar development within the region.

The Comprehensive Future Land Use Map and Model Site Plans should be used to evaluate if a development proposal is generally consistent with the community's vision, goals, and land use plan. New development and redevelopment activities should be examined not only within the context of the plan for the area in which the development falls, but also to evaluate the relationship to and impact on surrounding land uses. When considering a proposed development, important questions to consider during plan review include:

- Is the proposed development generally consistent with the land use plan for that particular location?
- How will the proposed development impact adjacent sites (traffic, noise, etc.)? How have development impacts been mitigated?
- Does the proposed building(s) fit the scale and intended character of a particular streetscape and neighborhood?
- What type of design guidelines are in place for streetscapes, parking, landscaping, sidewalks, and building orientation?
- How will adjacent streets and sidewalk connections fit together?
- What stormwater management tools are being used? Are best management practices being used?
- What effect will this plan have on the future development of the area?

PUBLIC INPUT

Public input regarding future development within the region was solicited using several techniques. The project Steering Committee, through a series of meetings, developed a conceptual diagram of development within the region. This diagram featured a village core surrounded by rural areas. The committee formed consensus that future development should occur within the village core in the form of infill development and redevelopment activities. Development near the village perimeter was also desirable when adjacent to available infrastructure. The committee expressed a clear desire to limit large development activities within the surrounding rural areas.

Some individual sites emerged as unique development opportunities within the region. Three of these sites were situated within areas generally considered to be villages and three were located in the rural setting of the diagram. A public workshop was held to gain public perspectives on the future of these six sites. At this workshop, citizens were asked to answer a series of questions regarding the future use, character, design, etc. of each particular site. The result of this workshop was a series of model site plans that could potentially be replicated or applied to other development sites within the region.

At the workshop, participants working in groups were asked to consider what type of future development is desired in their community. Groups were also asked to identify where these developments should be situated. Each group of workshop participants was asked to consider the following questions in developing their site plan:

- Visually, what do you like about the site?
- Visually, what don't you like about the site?
- What is missing?
- What uses would you like to see on the site in the future?

A base map was provided to each group of workshop participants that included:

- An aerial photo of existing land uses,
- municipal boundaries,
- roads,
- landmarks,
- major waterways,
- environmental features such as steep slopes, wetlands, and floodplains, and
- public water and sewer areas.

Additionally, each group was given a series of photographs showing the existing conditions at each site from the ground-level.

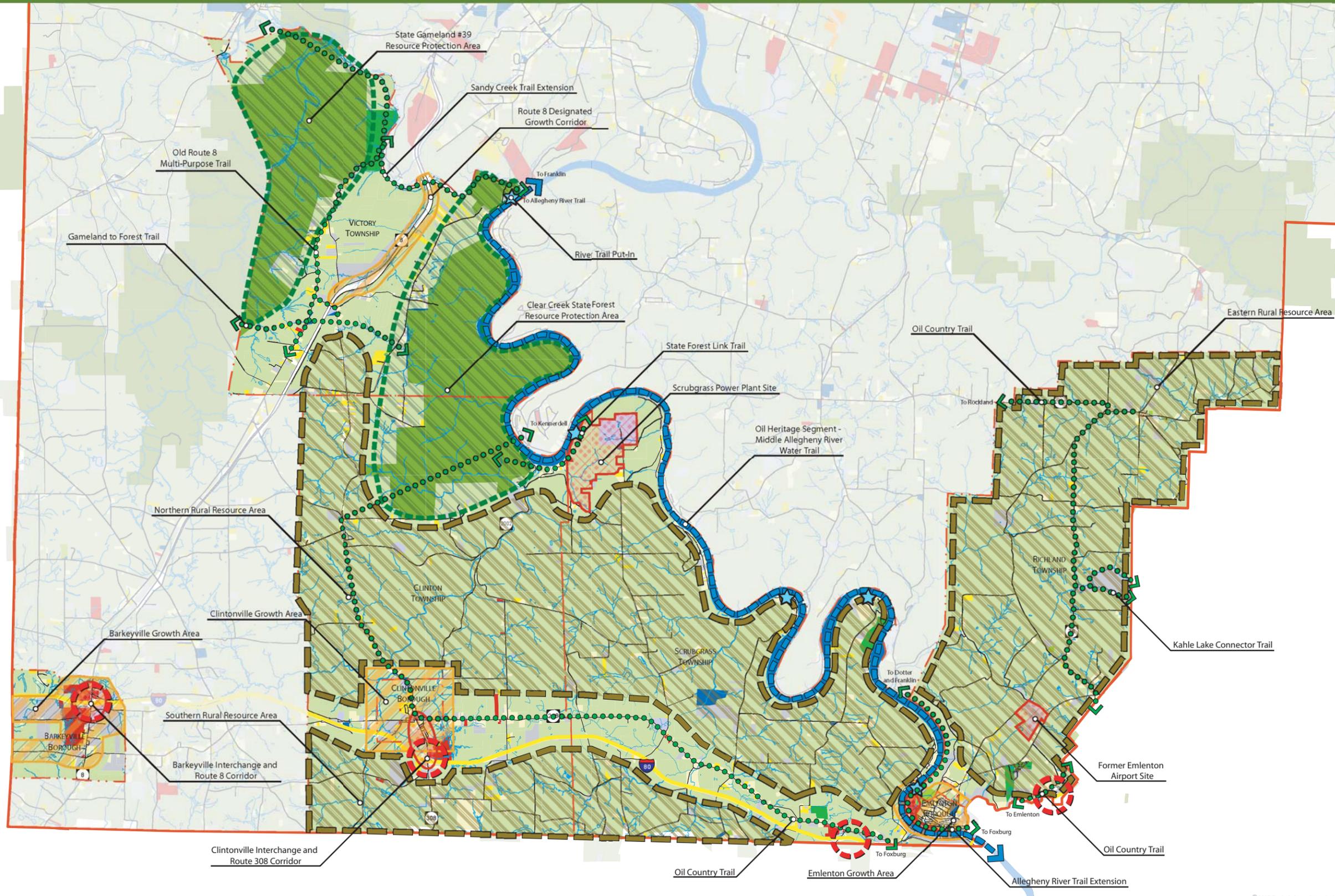
At the end of the workshops, participants were asked to present their ideas to the entire group. The feedback received at the workshops was then reviewed and used to create the future land use map and model site plans.

THE COMPREHENSIVE FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The Comprehensive Future Land Use Map shows where the communities envision future growth and development taking place in the southern Venango County region. It also shows where public investments will be directed to promote new development or to spur redevelopment within existing village areas. For example the three boroughs (Barkeyville, Clintonville, and Emlenton) are more village-like in character and have less undeveloped land. Consequently, strategies within these communities focus more on redevelopment or in-fill development opportunities. The Comprehensive Future Land Use Map also identifies where the communities would like to preserve open space, farmland, and retain the rural character of those areas that are relatively undeveloped.

The Comprehensive Future Land Use Map was developed with consideration of the location of infrastructure (roads, water, and sewer), existing development styles and densities, environmental constraints, and availability of conservation land, open space, and recreational amenities. The I-80 corridor and its interchanges provides the greatest opportunity for new development in the southern Venango County region. Similarly, the municipalities recognize the importance of targeting new development within close proximity of existing developed areas and public infrastructure. The Municipalities Planning Code provides communities with several tools for managing where future growth takes place such as the designation of growth areas and rural resource areas. Additionally, other areas are identified on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map including natural resource protection areas, recreational facilities and trails, community gateways, etc. Each of these elements is described in greater detail below.

Comprehensive Future Land Use Map



Legend

- Interstate Highway
- Street
- Waterway
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

Comprehensive Plan Elements

- Rural Resource Area
- Natural Resource Protection Area
- Water Trail
- Potential Development Site
- Designated Growth Area
- Regional Gateway
- Multi-Purpose Trail
- Water Trail Destination

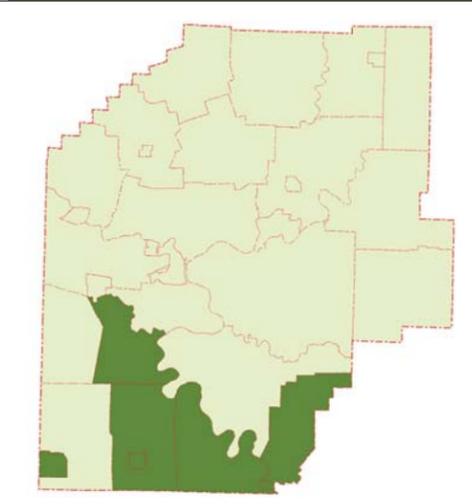
Land Uses

- Vacant/Information Unavailable
- Low Intensity Residential
- Moderate Intensity Residential
- Office
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Parks/Recreation/Public Lands
- Agriculture/Open Space

Data Sources:
 Venango County Regional Planning Commission
 PASDA- Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access
 Pashek Associates makes no claims to the accuracy of this data.

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 12,000 16,000 Feet

PASHEK ASSOCIATES
 a pennsylvania corporation



DESIGNATED GROWTH AREAS

An area of a municipal or multi-municipal plan, including adjacent land, where residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses and development are permitted or planned at varying densities. Public infrastructure services may or may not be provided, but future development at greater densities is planned to accompany the orderly extension and provision of public infrastructure services.

Growth areas were initially identified within the Venango County Comprehensive Plan. These areas have been focused during the Southern Venango County Comprehensive Plan's process. County designated growth areas include areas in and around Barkeyville Borough, Clintonville Borough, Emlenton Borough and the Route 8 corridor in Victory Township.

Barkeyville Growth Area

The growth area in and around Barkeyville Borough includes areas along Route 8 north and south of the I-80 interchange as well as areas extending west along Route 208. The growth area initially appeared in the Venango County Comprehensive Plan as encompassing the entire borough and including portions of surrounding Irwin Township. Through discussions with the Steering Committee, it became apparent that the growth pressures are more focused along Route 8 and Route 208 (west of Route 8) than in other portions of the borough. Infrastructure is not available throughout the borough. This creates additional limitations on the amount of growth that can occur. Consequently, the growth area was redesigned to reflect existing and planned infrastructure as well as development pressures.

Commercial growth is anticipated to dominate the areas along Route 8 near the interchange with some residential in the southern portion of the Borough along Route 8. Growth west of Route 8 includes the Barkeyville Industrial Park and heritage development activities associated with the Oil Region Alliance. Please see the Model Site Plan portion of this plan for additional details regarding the vision for portions of the Barkeyville growth area.

Clintonville Growth Area

This growth area includes Clintonville Borough and portions of Clinton Township surrounding the borough. It extends south nearly to the I-80 interchange. This growth area was initially identified in the Venango County Comprehensive Plan and has not been modified during this planning process.

A variety of uses are anticipated within this growth area. Infill commercial and residential uses are envisioned amongst existing development along Routes 208 and 308, highway commercial and/or flex space is envisioned along Route 308 near the I-80 interchange, and other residential uses are envisioned elsewhere in the borough. Uses are intended to situate along existing infrastructure. Infrastructure will likely need to be extended to accommodate development near the perimeter of the growth area such as at the I-80 interchange. Please see the Model Site Plan portion of this plan for additional details regarding the vision for portions of the Clintonville growth area.

Emlenton Growth Area

Most of the Emlenton growth area, which was identified in the Venango County Comprehensive Plan, is already built-out. The two major exceptions are the areas near the borough's border in Richland Township and the large brownfield site along the Allegheny River. Nearly the entire growth area is situated within or adjacent to infrastructure service.

Because of its built-out nature, growth is intended to take the form of infill development. Infill includes both residential within existing neighborhoods and commercial within the established business district along Main St. The brownfield site is envisioned to accommodate a variety of uses including flex/space, recreational assets, and infill residential. Please see the Model Site Plan portion of this plan for additional details regarding the vision for portions of the Emlenton growth area.

Route 8 Growth Area (Victory Township)

Route 8 is a heavily traveled route between I-80 and Franklin. The County Comprehensive Plan delineates a growth area along much of Route 8 within Victory Township. The area is not directly served by infrastructure. However, infrastructure is provided to adjacent areas on the north side of Sandycreek.

Intense development is not anticipated for this area. Victory Township has a natural ambiance supported by the presence of large tracts of State Forest and Game Lands. Instead, a small restaurant or lodging uses associated with usage of the State Game Lands and Forest are envisioned in this area.

RURAL RESOURCE AREAS

An area described in a municipal or multi-municipal plan within which rural resource uses including, but not limited to, agriculture, timbering, mining, quarrying and other extractive industries, forests and game lands, and recreation and tourism are encouraged and enhanced. Development that is compatible with or supportive of such uses is permitted, and public infrastructure services are not provided, except in villages.

The concept of rural resource areas emerged during discussions with the steering committee regarding preservation of the rural character of the region. Committee members shared a desire to preserve this rural character while promoting economic growth. Consensus was formed around the idea of concentrating growth near existing population centers and infrastructure and protecting the remaining areas. Because of the current development patterns and natural geography, three rural resource areas were formed.

- a. Northern rural resource area
- b. Southern rural resource area
- c. Eastern rural resource area

The Rural Resource Area is situated exclusively within the region's four townships. The eastern rural resource area is entirely within Richland Township. The eastern rural resource area is separated from the other two rural resource areas by the Allegheny River. The southern rural resource area includes portions of Clinton Township and Scrubgrass Township, generally situated south of Interstate 80. The northern rural resource area expands across large portions of Scrubgrass Township and Clinton Township (north of I-80) as well as a part of Victory Township.

Rural resource areas within the region consist of primarily undeveloped or sparsely developed rural land in the four townships. These areas generally do not have public water and sewer service and consist primarily of scattered houses on large rural lots, farms, open space, and other traditionally rural uses. As a designated rural resource area, publicly funded infrastructure extensions are limited to village areas where the density warrants such extensions.

PARKS AND TRAILS

Existing parks, State Forests, State Game Lands, etc. are identified in the “parks/recreation/public lands” category of existing land use. Existing trails such as the Allegheny River Trail, which extends north out of Emlenton, are shown as “multi-purpose trails” on the map. Many trail opportunities exist within the southern region and are illustrated on the map. Once developed, these trails will form an extensive recreational network that will link major recreational facilities, population centers, and significant natural areas throughout the region.

The ideas of the Oil Country Trail and the extension of the Sandy Creek Trail originated in the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan. The Oil Country Trail forms a large loop through five of the seven communities within the region (exceptions are Barkeyville Borough and Victory Township) and links the southern region communities to other communities north of the Allegheny River. The Sandy Creek Trail now winds along East Sandy Creek, crossing over the Allegheny River at the village of Belmar. Four miles of paved trail were added going west from the Belmar Bridge following the river and crossing Big Sandy Creek at Fisherman’s Cove in Victory Township. Plans for further extension are in process.

Other recommended trails resulted from steering committee and public meeting discussions such as the Kahle Lake Connector, Game Land to Forest Trail, and Old Route 8 Multi-Purpose Trail. The Kahle Lake Connector links the proposed Oil Country Trail to Kahle Lake, a regional recreational attraction within Richland Township. The Old Route 8 Multi-Purpose Trail and the Game Land to Forest Trail radiate from the Victory Recreation Center to capitalize on the concentration of recreational assets within the area. The Allegheny River Trail is intended to extend through Emlenton and on toward Foxburg. Currently, the trail runs from the Borough’s west side toward Dotter and on to Franklin.

Water trails are a relatively new recreational opportunity within the region. The Middle Allegheny River Water trail runs 62 miles of the Wild and Scenic River from Tionesta to Emlenton. In order to capitalize on the presence of the Allegheny River, which runs for approximately 25 miles throughout the region, the idea formalizing the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail was developed. In concert with the water trail, river put-ins are envisioned to be placed throughout the region along the riverbank. These put-ins can range in character from a small boat launch to a campground area.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS

Two specific areas are designated on the Future Land Use Map as natural resource protection areas. The first of these areas encompasses State Game Land #39 in Victory Township and the second surrounds Clear Creek State Forest in Victory and Clinton Townships. The game land and forest are dominated by a natural setting and tranquil character that is reflected in the surrounding rural areas. Striving to protect sensitive environmental features within and surrounding the game land and forest is essential to preserving the natural ambiance of this portion of the region. Resource protection can take many forms but generally includes limiting development on steeply sloped areas, floodplains, and wetlands, and preserving farmland and forest management. Although not delineated on the map, floodplain areas along the Allegheny River and other water features should be protected from development as well.

GATEWAYS

Four major gateways exist in the region. These locations are highly traveled entry points into the County, Southern Region, and Oil Heritage Region. I-80 carries a high volume of traffic and most visitors access the County and region from this route. Consequently, each of the four gateways is located at one of the region's interchanges along I-80. The four gateways include the Route 8 interchange (Barkeyville Borough), Route 308 interchange (Clinton Township), Emlenton Interchange (Scrubgrass Township), and the St. Petersburg Interchange just outside of Emlenton in Richland Township. Gateway areas are targeted for visual improvements to highlight entrances into the community through improved signage and landscaping. There are currently plans to provide gateway signage associated with the Oil Heritage Region at the Barkeyville Industrial Park near the Route 8 (Barkeyville) interchange. This project is being completed by the Oil Region Alliance and is consistent with similar signage efforts of the organization throughout the Oil Heritage Region.

MODEL SITE PLANS

A number of specific sites within the region were identified as having potential for future development. These sites exhibited unique characteristics such as significant development pressure, existing infrastructure, prominent location within the region, potential for economic assistance, etc. This list of potential development sites was prioritized to focus on a smaller number of sites that highlighted a range of potential land uses, natural/environmental settings, and infrastructure constraints common within the region. Model Site Plans were developed for six sites within the region.

The concepts described in the model site plans are designed to be applicable to other similar sites throughout the region. Recommendations assigned to one of the I-80 interchanges could be applied to the other three interchanges within the region. The Model Site Plans include a range of preferred development practices applicable to a variety of potential land uses, natural/environmental conservation strategies, and infrastructure considerations.

Each Model Site Plan forms a vision for the specific site and includes a Concept Plan and a series of Design Principles and Examples. The Concept Plan provides an overview of the key design elements and recommendations. The key design elements shown on the concept plan are supported and described in more detail within the Design Principles and Examples portion of each Model Site Plan. Design Principles and Examples are not always tailored specifically to the site; rather they portray a general technique or intended outcome. Detailed studies, plans, or designs will be necessary to explore the specific application of these principles to the site. Many of the examples shown in the Model Site Plans were included due to their striking similarity and applicability to one of the sites. However, these examples are not intended to be interpreted as specific plans for the sites. Included on the margin of each Design Principles and Examples page is a key map highlighting the general area envisioned to feature the elements included on that page.

The six sites include:

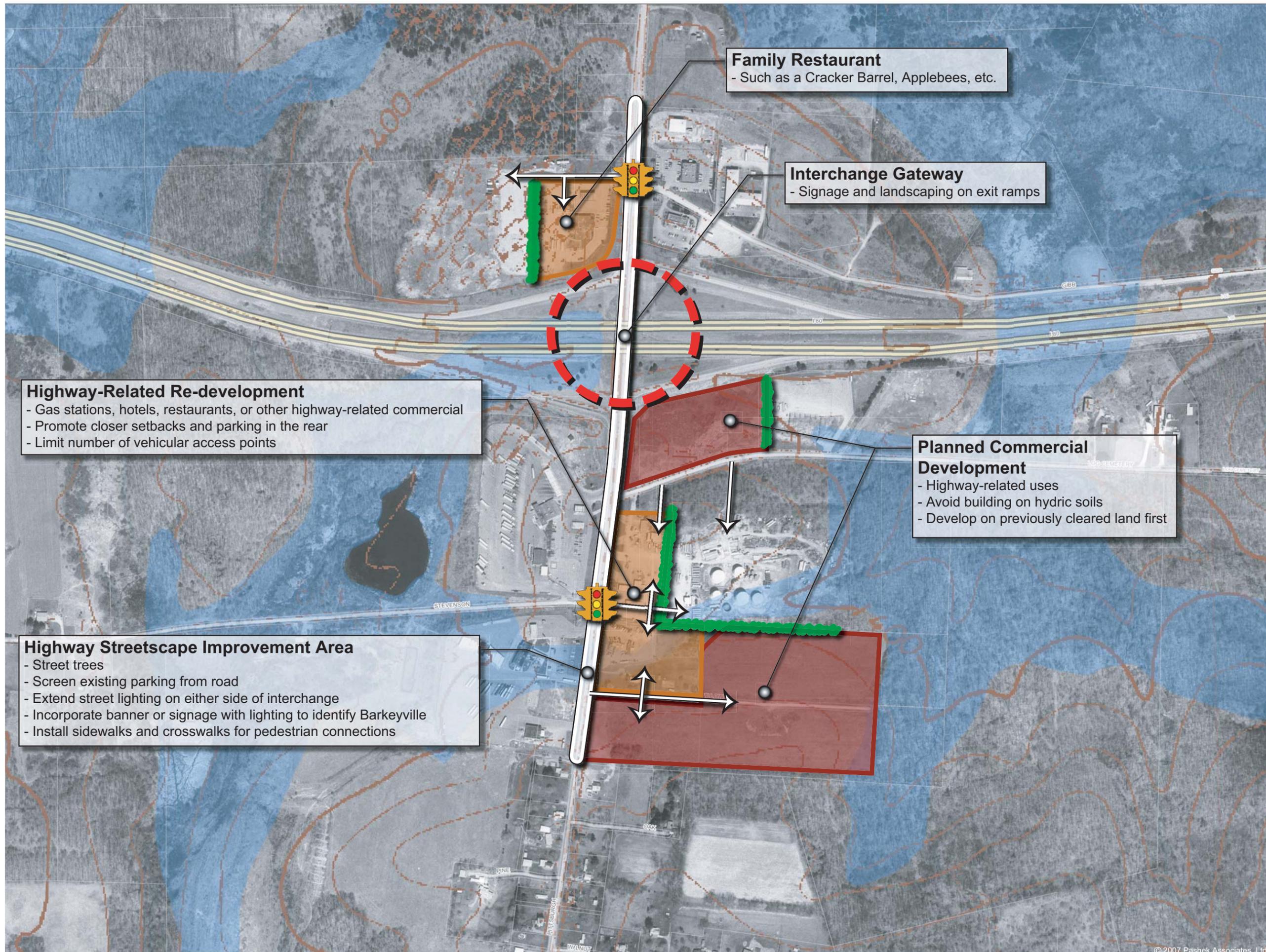
- I-80 Interchange (Barkeyville)
- Route 208 and Route 308 Corridors (Clinton Township and Clintonville)

- Brownfield Redevelopment, Riverfront Area, and Town Center (Emlenton)
- Former Emlenton Airport (Richland)
- Power Plant and KOZ (Scrubgrass)
- Old Route 8 Corridor (Victory)

I-80 INTERCHANGE (BARKEYVILLE)

The I-80 interchange in Barkeyville serves as a gateway into the Oil Heritage Region, Venango County, and the Southern Venango County Region. The Barkeyville interchange is the first exposure that eastward travelers along I-80 are given to the region. The I-80 corridor runs through the Southern Venango County and includes four interchanges within the region. Significant investment has already occurred at the Barkeyville interchange and pressures exist for further development. The entire site is situated within the designated growth area and most of the area surrounding the interchange includes access to sewer and water infrastructure. The Barkeyville interchange was chosen as a model site within the region because of its prominent location, available infrastructure, and similarity to other interchange settings within the region.

The overall vision for the interchange is to provide a gateway destination that welcomes travelers into the region, capitalizes on the economic opportunities presented by the interchange, and protects the safety and welfare of borough residents. This vision is achieved through a combination of access management, traffic improvements, screening and buffering, new development, business recruitment, and signage improvements. The major uses that are to be accommodated within the interchange area capitalize on the high traffic volumes along I-80 and Route 8 and cater to trucking/transportation industry. These uses include additional highway commercial such as restaurants and truck stops, temporary commercial uses such as temporary flea/farmers markets, heritage tourism uses, and gateway signage. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other interchange areas, gateways, and commercial areas along major highways within the region.



Highway-Related Re-development

- Gas stations, hotels, restaurants, or other highway-related commercial
- Promote closer setbacks and parking in the rear
- Limit number of vehicular access points

Highway Streetscape Improvement Area

- Street trees
- Screen existing parking from road
- Extend street lighting on either side of interchange
- Incorporate banner or signage with lighting to identify Barkeyville
- Install sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrian connections

Family Restaurant

- Such as a Cracker Barrel, Applebees, etc.

Interchange Gateway

- Signage and landscaping on exit ramps

Planned Commercial Development

- Highway-related uses
- Avoid building on hydric soils
- Develop on previously cleared land first

Legend

Existing

- Hydric Soils

Proposed

- Vehicular Access Point
- Vegetative Buffer
- Traffic Light
- Gateway

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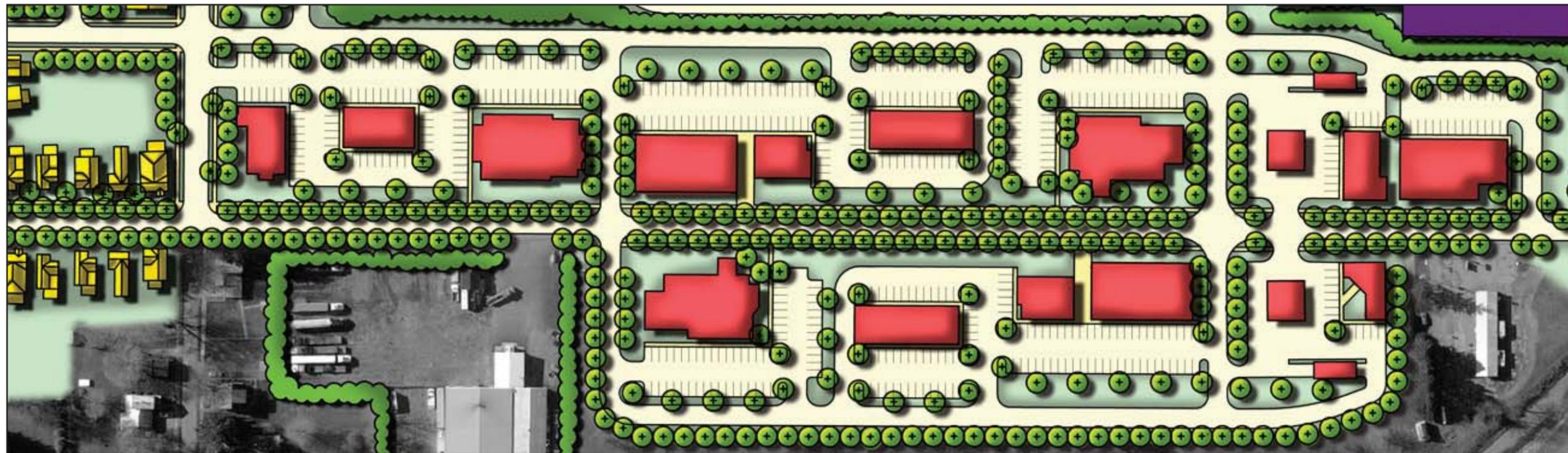
Gateway Simulation

The exit ramps from Interstate 80 at Barkeyville present a great opportunity to entice travelers to stop and visit through gateway signage and landscaping. The above simulation illustrates how the existing interchange can be enhanced to attract travelers. In addition, old signage that is no longer in use or is associated with an inactive use has been removed to create a more attractive entrance into Barkeyville.

Gateway Design



**Highway,
Commercial,
and Tourism-
Related
Development**



Highway Commercial Example

Barkeyville serves as an important stop along Route 80 for truckers and other travelers. Several improvements can be made to attract more travelers, increase jobs, and enhance the visual quality of the area. The example above demonstrates these improvements. They include closer building setbacks with parking in the rear or screened on the side, street trees, and sidewalks connecting all businesses. The new buildings, shown in red, can accommodate hotels, restaurants, gas stations, auto shops, and other highway related businesses.



Hotel and Restaurant Example

Hotels and restaurants, such as these, that are set closer to the street with most of their parking located in the rear and plenty of landscaping create a more attractive streetscape setting.



Tourism-Related Development

Other types of businesses that can take advantage of the interchange improvements include entertainment and other tourism-related activities such as the flea market shown above.





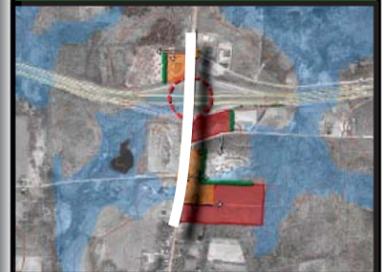
**BARKEYVILLE
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Streetscape
Design**



Commercial Streetscape Example

The existing Route 8 streetscape in Barkeyville is dominated by tractor trailers and automobiles. This photosimulation example shows how to create a more attractive interchange using street trees, lighting, sidewalks, closer building setbacks, and parking that is either screened or hidden from the road.



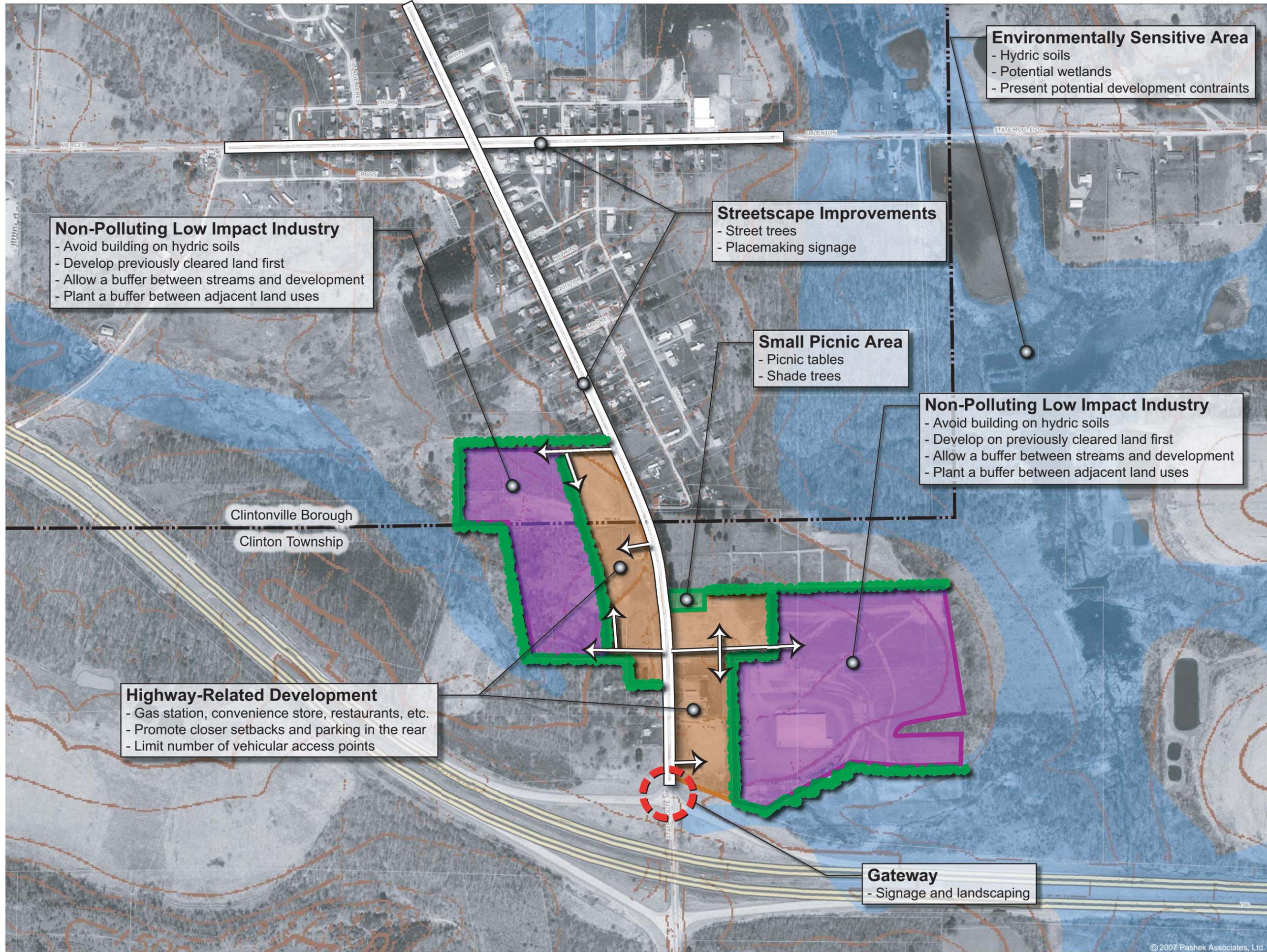
**Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan**

ROUTE 208 AND ROUTE 308 CORRIDORS (CLINTON TOWNSHIP AND CLINTONVILLE)

The Route 208 and Route 308 Corridors include the crossroads at Clintonville and extend south to the interchange at I-80. Route 208 is a heavily traveled east-west corridor and Route 308 is a major north-south corridor linking Clintonville and Butler. Much of the area includes sewer and water infrastructure service. Most of the site is included within a designated growth area. The site is opportune for development due to its proximity to major transportation routes, available land and nearness to an established community.

The overall vision for the site includes development of new economic opportunities for both Clinton Township and Clintonville Borough while bolstering the attractiveness of streetscapes and pedestrian access between established areas of the Borough and newly developed areas within the Borough and Township. New development is also envisioned to capitalize on traffic and business generated by the presence of I-80. The site will serve as a gateway into the region as well as Clintonville itself. Extension of pedestrian amenities will allow Clintonville residents to walk along a continuous sidewalk to work or patronize new businesses. To achieve this vision, a combination of streetscape improvements, screening and buffering, pedestrian facilities, signage and landscaping, access management, and new development will be used. New development is envisioned to primarily include low-impact industry and flex space uses as well as highway-oriented commercial uses. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other small town business districts, gateway corridors, areas adjacent to I-80 interchanges, and new flex space and highway commercial development.

Clintonville Concept Plan



Non-Polluting Low Impact Industry

- Avoid building on hydric soils
- Develop previously cleared land first
- Allow a buffer between streams and development
- Plant a buffer between adjacent land uses

Streetscape Improvements

- Street trees
- Placemaking signage

Small Picnic Area

- Picnic tables
- Shade trees

Non-Polluting Low Impact Industry

- Avoid building on hydric soils
- Develop on previously cleared land first
- Allow a buffer between streams and development
- Plant a buffer between adjacent land uses

Highway-Related Development

- Gas station, convenience store, restaurants, etc.
- Promote closer setbacks and parking in the rear
- Limit number of vehicular access points

Gateway

- Signage and landscaping

Environmentally Sensitive Area

- Hydric soils
- Potential wetlands
- Present potential development constraints

Legend

Existing

Hydric Soils

Proposed

Vehicular Access Point

Vegetative Buffer

Gateway



Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan



Highway Commercial Streetscape Simulation

New commercial development along Route 308 should fit in with the existing community of Clintonville. The above simulation shows how close setbacks, sidewalks, hiding or screening parking, landscaping, and street trees are used to create an attractive entrance into town while accommodating highway-type commercial development.

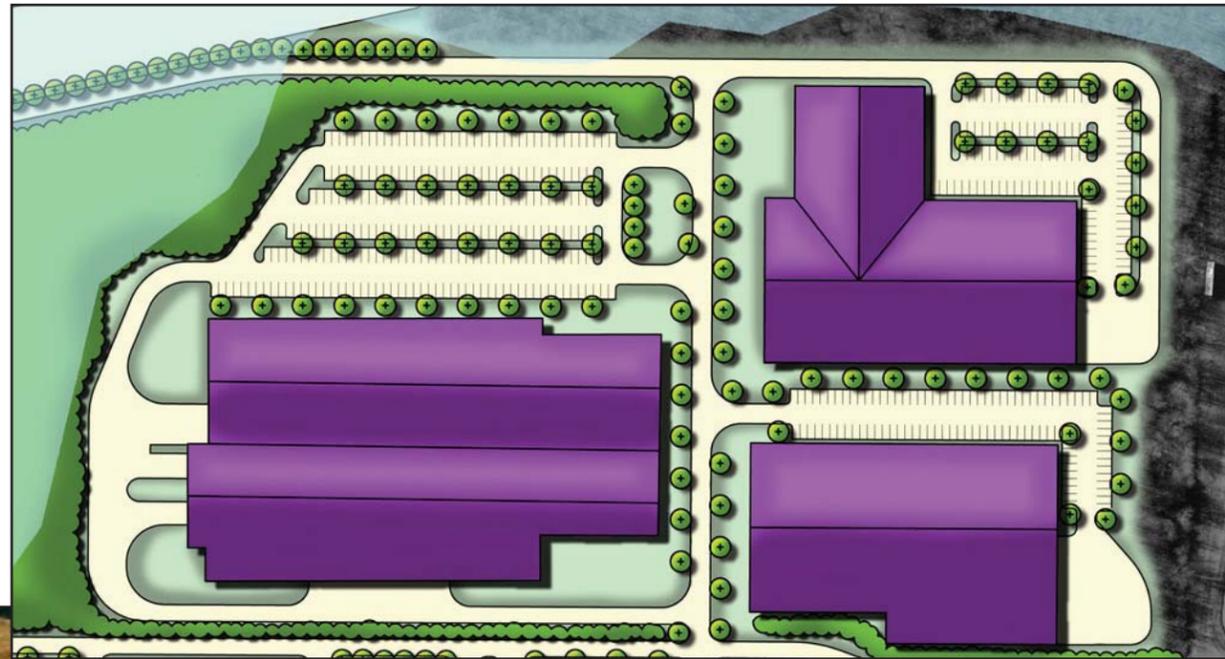
CLINTONVILLE DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Highway Commercial Streetscape



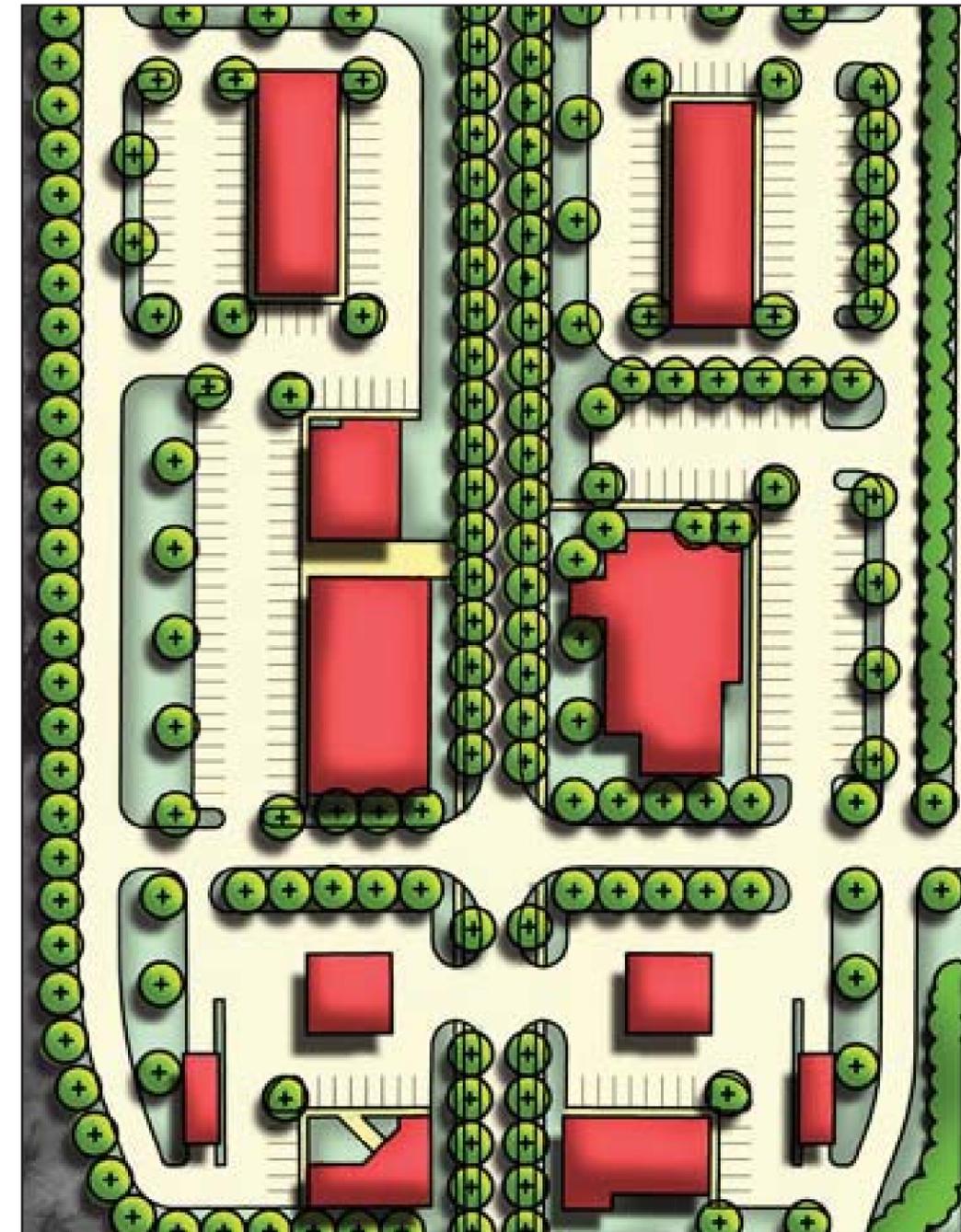
Southern
Venango County
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Comprehensive Plan

Highway
Commercial
and Low
Impact
Industry



Low-Impact Industry

Since the area is surrounded by ponds, small streams, and hydric soils, low-impact industries are appropriate. The examples above shows how buffers are used between adjacent properties. Locating these types of industries behind the highway commercial area further hides their massive buildings from the road and preserves a pleasant entrance into Clintonville.



Highway Commercial Example

The vacant properties at the Clintonville interchange present many opportunities for commercial and low-impact industrial uses. The above example illustrates how highway commercial development along Route 308 can look using good design principles such as closer setbacks, screened parking or parking located in the rear, and street trees.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT, RIVERFRONT AREA, AND TOWN CENTER (EMLENTON)

Emlenton is a population center and cultural and heritage center within the region. The borough offers many unique amenities within close proximity to each other such as a traditional downtown (Main St.) area, a large redevelopment (brownfield) site, and a large portion of riverfront area. The borough is serviced by water and sewer infrastructure throughout. The Emlenton Model Site Plan includes a variety of recommendations to address the diversity of these key areas within the borough. The Borough's Main St. is an intact traditional downtown with a mixture of businesses, institutional uses, and residences. The site of the former wax plant, located west of the commercial center (Main St.) now sits vacant and is being studied for redevelopment. This large tract of riverfront land presents tremendous opportunity for the borough. The borough is the region's cultural center and a significant heritage tourism destination. Emlenton is situated along many significant transportation routes and has recently seen investments in recreational trails. In addition to its significance as a regional activity center, Emlenton provides services necessary to sustain a residential population.

The overall intent of this site is to increase the prominence of Emlenton's business district and emphasize the borough as a regional hub of activity. The improvements described in the Model Site Plan are envisioned to help shape a community that capitalizes on its natural assets such as unique views and the Allegheny River while respecting the importance of protecting sensitive natural features such as steep slopes and floodplains. To achieve the vision, the Emlenton Model Site Plan features an attractive continuous riverfront park with areas of river access. Continuation of existing trails will service the entire borough running through the brownfield site and downtown. Redevelopment at the brownfield site is being studied and could concentrate on flex space including light industrial or office uses. The riverfront portion of the brownfield site will be reserved for continuation of the riverfront park and extension of the Allegheny River Trail. Additional uses envisioned within the site include portions of residential infill development near existing residences, investments in the existing business core area, and extension of the business district through a transitional district. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other main street business districts, brownfield redevelopments, riverfront developments, residential infill developments, trail developments within a village setting, and new flex space developments.

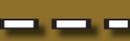
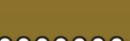
emlenton Concept Plan

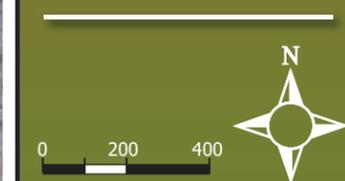
Legend

Existing

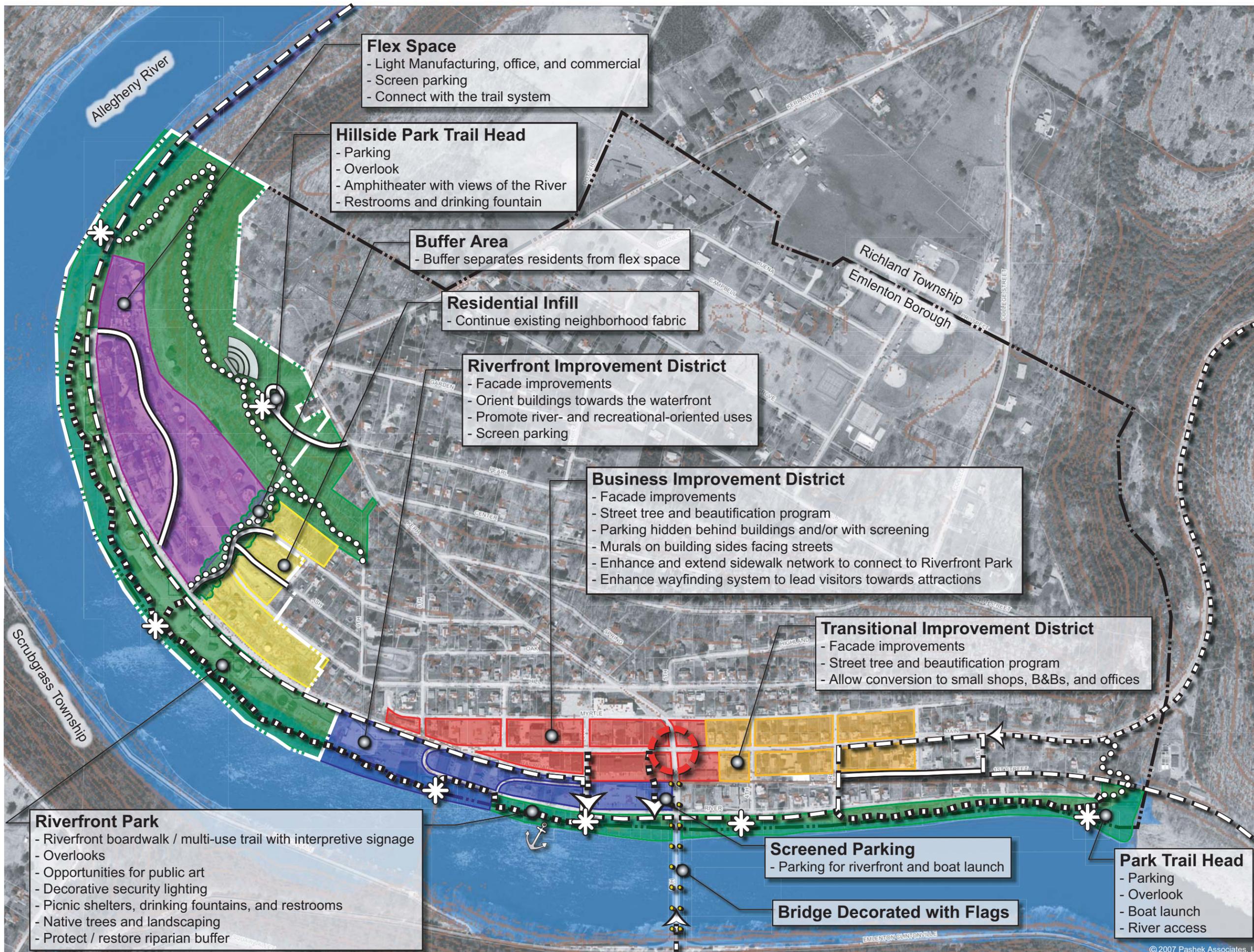
-  Floodplain
-  Former Wax Plant

Proposed

-  New Roads
-  Rail Trail
-  Riverfront Trail
-  Hiking Trail
-  Oil Country Trail
-  Gateway
-  Overlook
-  Docks
-  Amphitheater



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Regional
Comprehensive Plan



Flex Space
- Light Manufacturing, office, and commercial
- Screen parking
- Connect with the trail system

Hillside Park Trail Head
- Parking
- Overlook
- Amphitheater with views of the River
- Restrooms and drinking fountain

Buffer Area
- Buffer separates residents from flex space

Residential Infill
- Continue existing neighborhood fabric

Riverfront Improvement District
- Facade improvements
- Orient buildings towards the waterfront
- Promote river- and recreational-oriented uses
- Screen parking

Business Improvement District
- Facade improvements
- Street tree and beautification program
- Parking hidden behind buildings and/or with screening
- Murals on building sides facing streets
- Enhance and extend sidewalk network to connect to Riverfront Park
- Enhance wayfinding system to lead visitors towards attractions

Transitional Improvement District
- Facade improvements
- Street tree and beautification program
- Allow conversion to small shops, B&Bs, and offices

Riverfront Park
- Riverfront boardwalk / multi-use trail with interpretive signage
- Overlooks
- Opportunities for public art
- Decorative security lighting
- Picnic shelters, drinking fountains, and restrooms
- Native trees and landscaping
- Protect / restore riparian buffer

Screened Parking
- Parking for riverfront and boat launch

Bridge Decorated with Flags

Park Trail Head
- Parking
- Overlook
- Boat launch
- River access



Existing Gateway



Enhanced Gateway

**EMLENTON
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Gateway
Design**



**Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan**

A gateway gives a community a formal attractive entrance that sets the tone for the rest of the community and gives visitors a sense of arrival. A gateway can entice visitors to explore a community. For Emlenton, while the bridge acts as a portal to the community, the corner of 5th and Main Street serves as the gateway. A combination of trees, shrubs, and flowers along with signage enhances the entrance to Emlenton while softening the visual impacts of parking areas, and the backs of buildings.



Banners / Signage identifying the Business District

Ornate lighting stretching the entire length of Main Street

Crosswalk pavers

Bump-outs with plantings

Overhead protection for pedestrians

Street trees stretching the entire length of Main Street



Streetscape Simulation Example

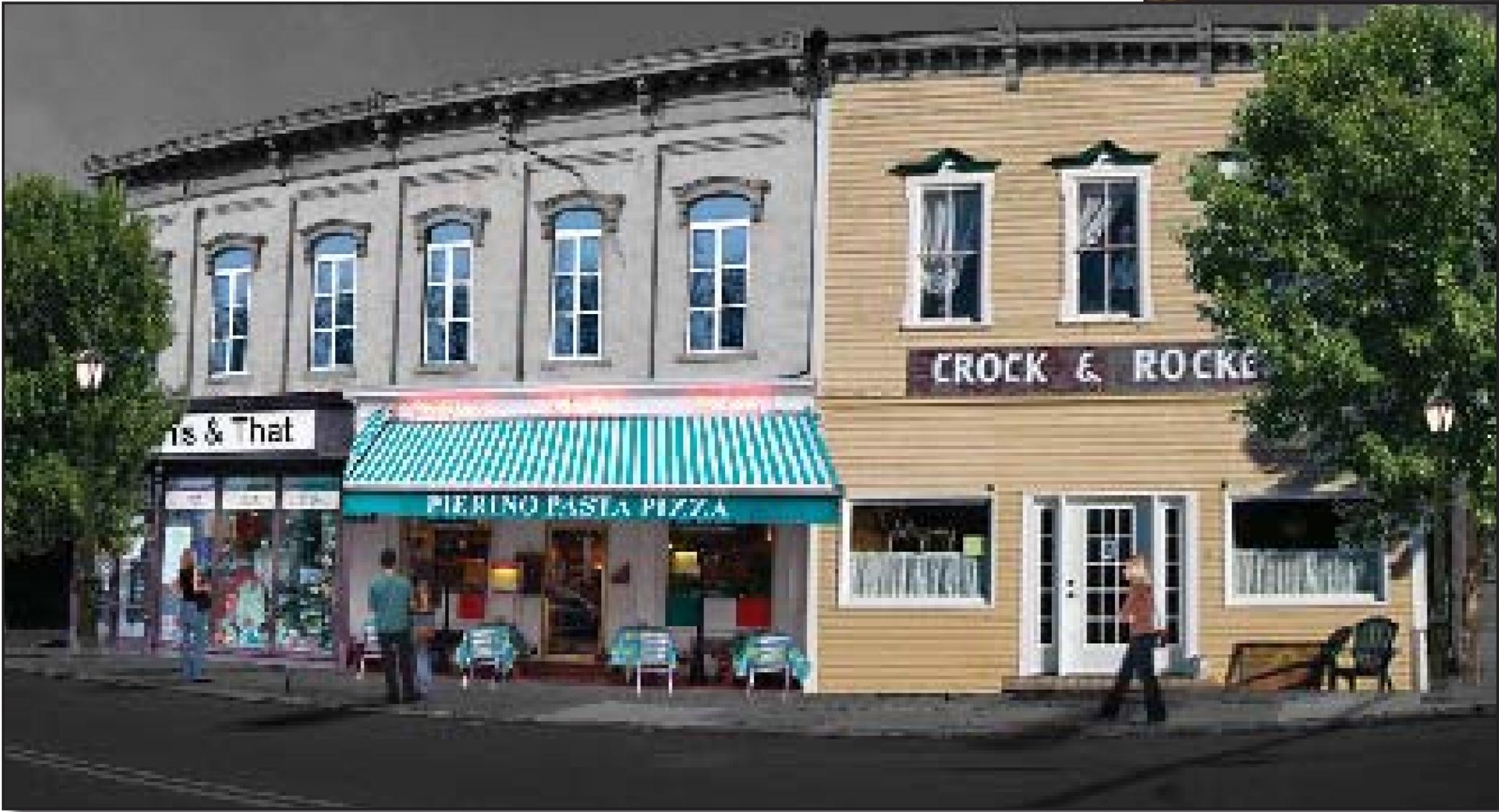
Streetscapes play a major role in creating the mood and atmosphere for a community. The visual appearance of a streetscape plays a significant role in determining whether a community has a positive or negative image. An attractive Main Street fosters community pride and helps attract visitors. Emlenton's Main Street is in good shape. The improvements seen in the above example enhance the street's attractiveness, encourage slower traffic, and create a safer environment for pedestrians.

**EMLENTON
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Business
and
Transitional
Improvement
Districts**



**Southern
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Comprehensive Plan**

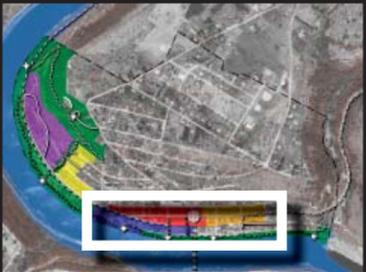


Facade Simulation Example

Building facades are a key element of a streetscape. They define the space of Main Street while the architectural features add character and identity to the community. Emlenton has many historic buildings with a lot of character that are in really good shape. Maintaining regular upkeep of these buildings along with improvements to others will help enhance the appearance and preserve the history of Emlenton. The above example demonstrates how an existing facade can be enhanced. Sometimes, all that is needed is new paint, signage, awnings, and/or windows.

**EMLENTON
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Business,
Transitional,
and
Riverfront
Improvement
Districts**



**Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan**

**EMLENTON
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**



Flex Space

Brownfield Redevelopment Example

Brownfields offer a great opportunity for redevelopment in communities. Depending on the level of contamination and cleanup, brownfields can accommodate many types of new uses. The former Wax Plant, a brownfield site in Emlenton, provides opportunities for residential, recreational, commercial, and industrial uses. The redevelopment of this site is extremely important to Emlenton's economy, ecological environment, and social environment. The Concept Plan shows flex space taking up a large portion of the brownfield in order to provide more jobs. Flex space includes commercial, office, and light manufacturing. The above plan details the redevelopment of a brownfield site that is very similar to the former Wax Plant. This plan demonstrates good design principles to follow as part of the Wax Plant's redevelopment. These principles will not only help create an attractive development that is oriented towards the river and connected to recreational activities, but also one that is environmentally sensitive.



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Regional
Comprehensive Plan**



Planting Islands

Planting islands increase the visual appearance by breaking up and softening large expanses of asphalt. They can also help screen parking from the road.



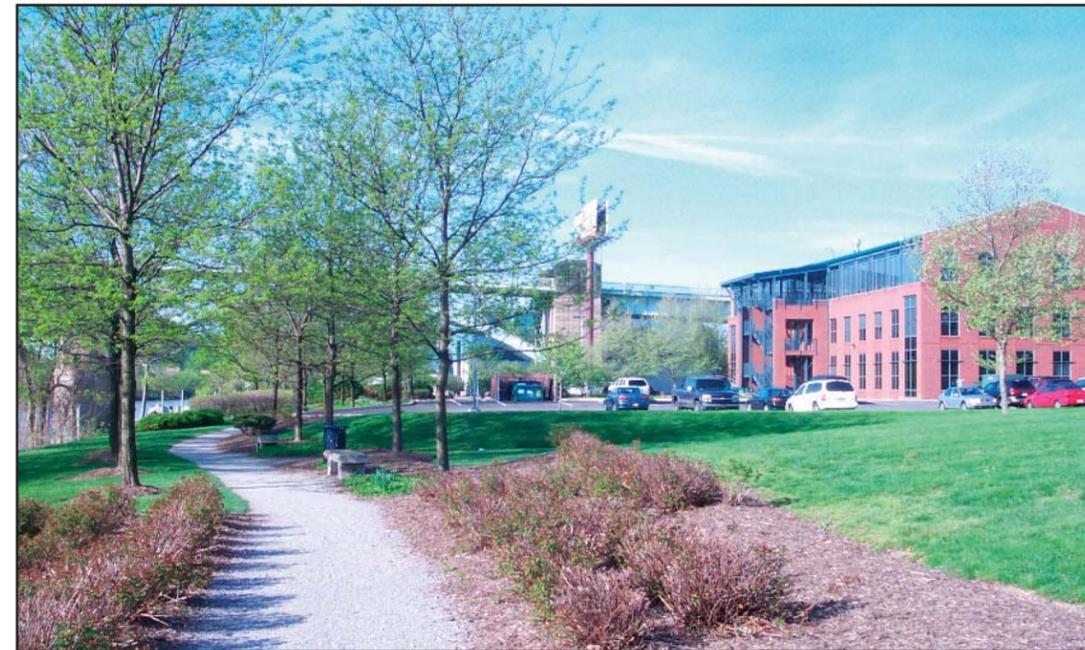
Sidewalks, Close Setbacks, and Street Trees

Sidewalks, close setbacks, and street trees help create an attractive place to work by encouraging a pedestrian friendly atmosphere that is visually pleasing and connected with the riverfront.



Bio-Swales

Bio-swales infiltrate stormwater runoff from parking lots, building roofs, and other impervious surfaces. They are simply a vegetated swale that allows stormwater to infiltrate naturally into the ground rather than being piped into a sewer system or large detention basin.



Riverfront, Trail, Flex Space Relationship

This photo illustrates how an office building can be situated in a manner that allows employees access to the riverfront trail.





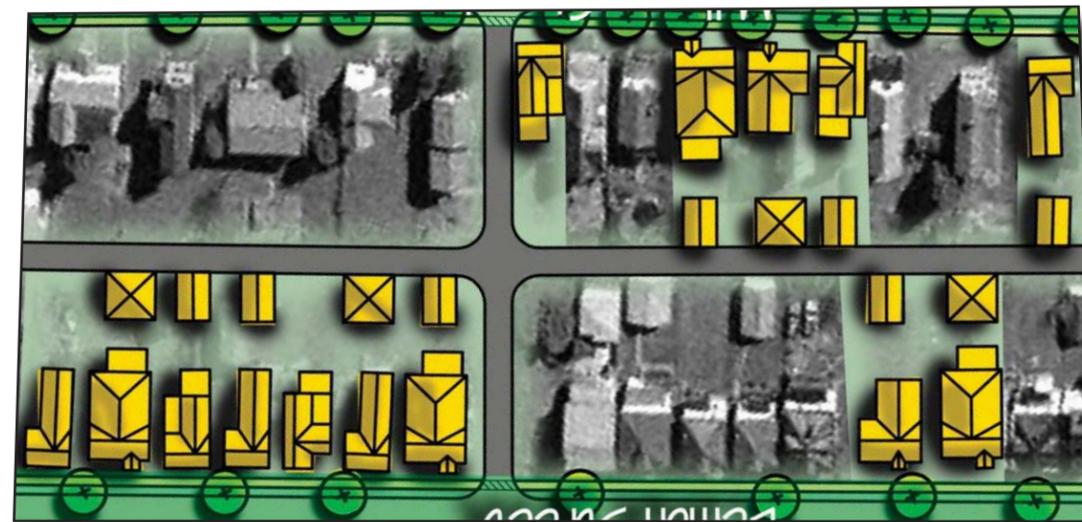
Infill Examples

These two photos demonstrate how a new infill development can fit in with the surrounding context. The bottom photo is an example of new housing that exhibits similar design principles to existing housing located on River Street in Emlenton (shown in the top photo). These principles include close setbacks, front porches, sidewalks, and street trees.



Residential Fronting a Riverfront Park

Numerous studies have shown that the value of housing increases when adjacent to attractive parks and waterfront areas. This photosimulation shows how housing fronting a street along a riverfront park can not only create an attractive place to live but also increase the safety and usefulness of the park. In other words, the closer a park is to housing, the more useful it becomes. In addition, a park becomes more safe when more houses, or eyes, are looking upon it.



Infill Plan Example

Above is an example of housing redevelopment within an existing neighborhood. The yellow buildings are new housing designed with close setbacks, front porches, and a rear alley for garage access. The new homes are similar to existing homes, which are shown in the black and white photo.

EMLENTON DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Residential Infill



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Urban / Active Riverfront

The portion of the Riverfront Park along River Street that is adjacent to the Riverfront Improvement District is naturally going to be more urban and active in nature. Therefore, the materials used to develop this portion of the park need to reflect the urban atmosphere and heavy use it will receive. The above photos are examples of some materials that can be mixed and matched to create a more urban and active riverfront. Boardwalks such as in the top photo have a long history of use along waterfronts. The addition of docks and piers increases the amount of activities by promoting fishing and allowing visiting boaters to tie up and visit the rest of Emlenton. Brick and concrete pavers add a decorative touch in the bottom example, while benches, landscaping and lighting help create the full effect.



Passive Riverfront

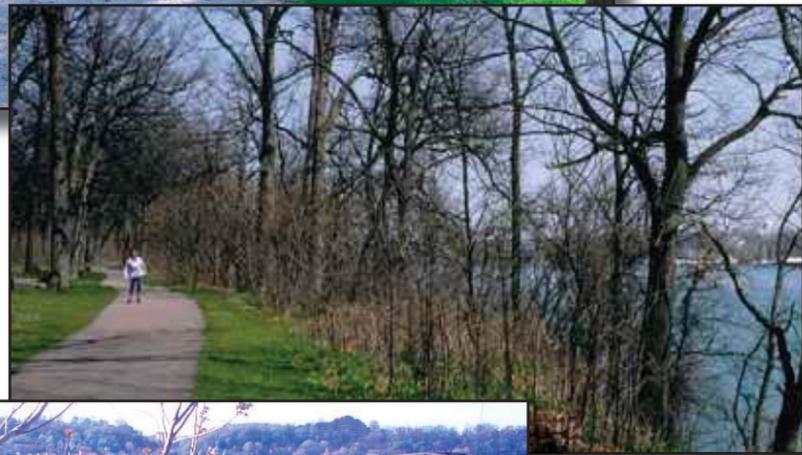
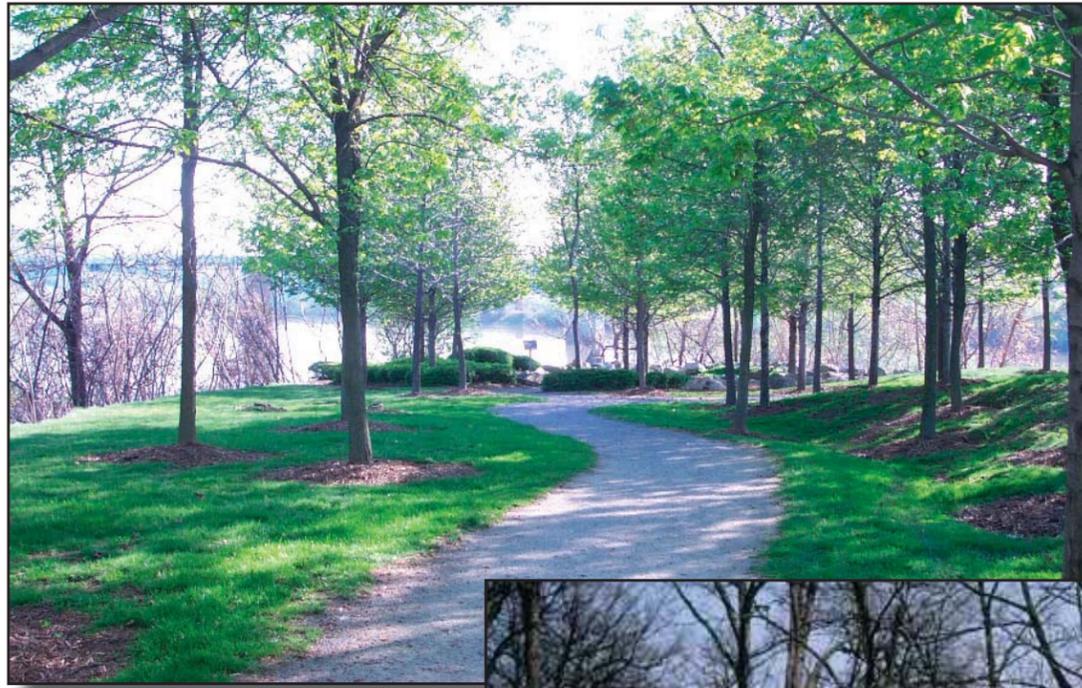
The portion of the Riverfront Park that is adjacent to residential infill will include more passive recreation areas. This area of the park may include facilities such as gazebos, picnic shelters, restrooms, horseshoe courts, open lawn areas, and a playground. Landscaping, benches, and lighting tie everything together.

EMLENTON DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Riverfront Park



Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan



Riverfront Trail

The trail along the riverfront can be made of several different materials depending on the types of uses anticipated. Crushed limestone paths can be ADA accessible and accommodate walkers, joggers, and bicyclist while an asphalt path can also accommodate rollerbladers. A meandering path that pops in and out along the shoreline creates interest and drama while interpretive signage tells the story of Emlenton.



Rail Trail

The proposed rail trail through Emlenton presents great opportunities for tourism and adds to residents' existing recreational options. Shelters, such as the gazebo in the bottom photo, create nice resting areas near trail heads. Where the trail has to share the road designated lanes create a safer experience for bicyclists.

EMLENTON DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Riverfront Trail Design

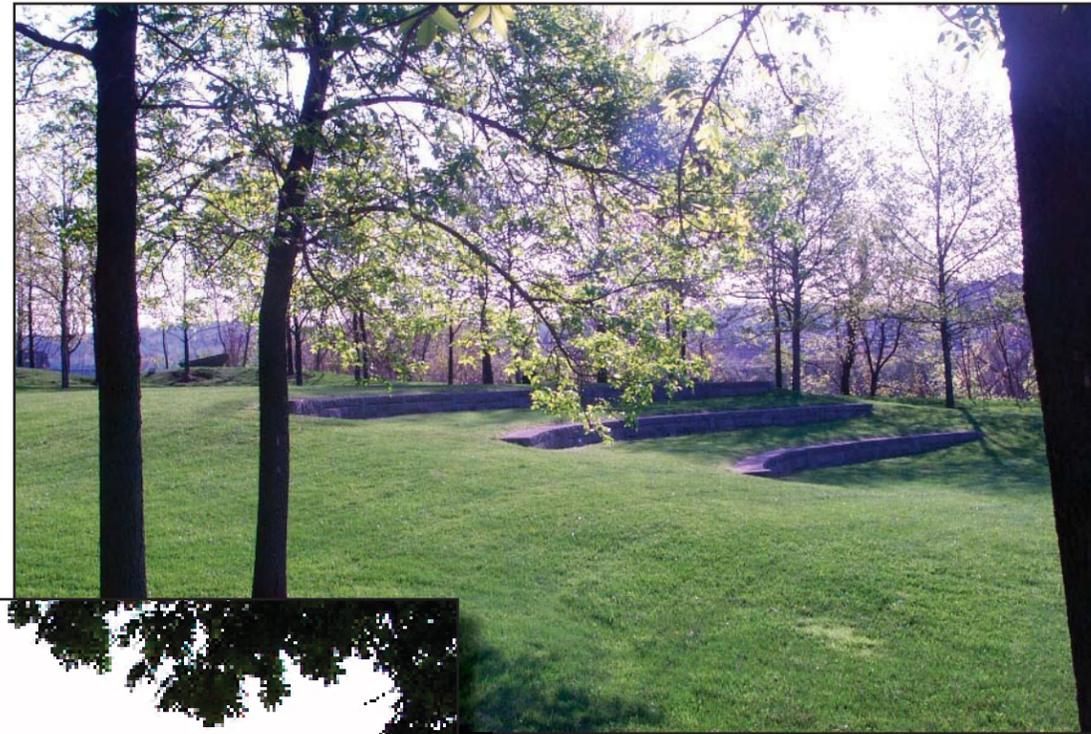


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Comprehensive Plan



Riverfront Overlooks

Strategically placed overlooks create wonder and awe for residents and visitors alike. The above photos are examples of how different types of overlooks fit their surroundings whether more urban and open or smaller and intimate.

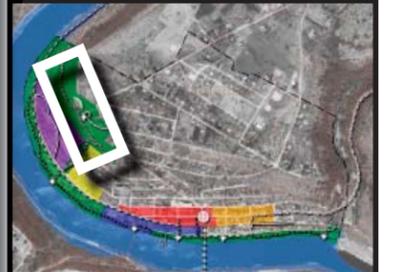


Hill Top Park Elements

The Hill Top Park includes a trail head with parking, restrooms, overlook, amphitheater, and trail connections to surrounding residents and the Riverfront Park. A rustic amphitheater, such as the one on the top right, facing the river not only creates an added attraction but also creates spectacular views for the audience. An overlook, like the one above, adds even more to the opportunities for viewing the river valley from above. Hiking trails, like the photo on the right, take advantage of a hillside that can not be developed otherwise.



Overlooks and Hill Top Park



FORMER EMLENTON AIRPORT (RICHLAND)

The former Emlenton airport site is a large flat site located in Richland Township a few miles northeast of Emlenton. Currently, the site is utilized for remote controlled aviation purposes. The site is nearly clear with few trees and structures. Several rural single-family homes are located adjacent to and surrounding the site. The site is not linked into sewage or water infrastructure.

The vision for the former Emlenton airport site is for a residential subdivision that respects the natural environment, utilizes conservation subdivision principles, and preserves the rural character of the surroundings. The conservation subdivision approach allows for compact development with focused investment in roads while preserving portions of the site with sensitive environmental features in their natural state. The development is envisioned to be surrounded by a band of undisturbed land to maintain the rural character of the site's surroundings. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other residential developments within a rural setting.

Former Emlenton Airport Concept Plan

Preserve Rural Character

- Open space left along the road to preserve the rural character

Conservation Subdivision Design

- New residential development using CSD principles
- Plant street trees
- Include internal pedestrian network connecting park

See Enlargement

Park Gathering Area

- Park encompasses hydric soils, existing ponds, and drainage way
- Gathering area includes:
 - Picnic shelter
 - Lawn area
 - Playground
 - Restrooms
 - Limited parking
 - Trails

Enlargement Area



Legend

Existing

Hydric Soils

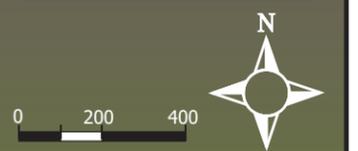
Proposed

Vehicular Access Point

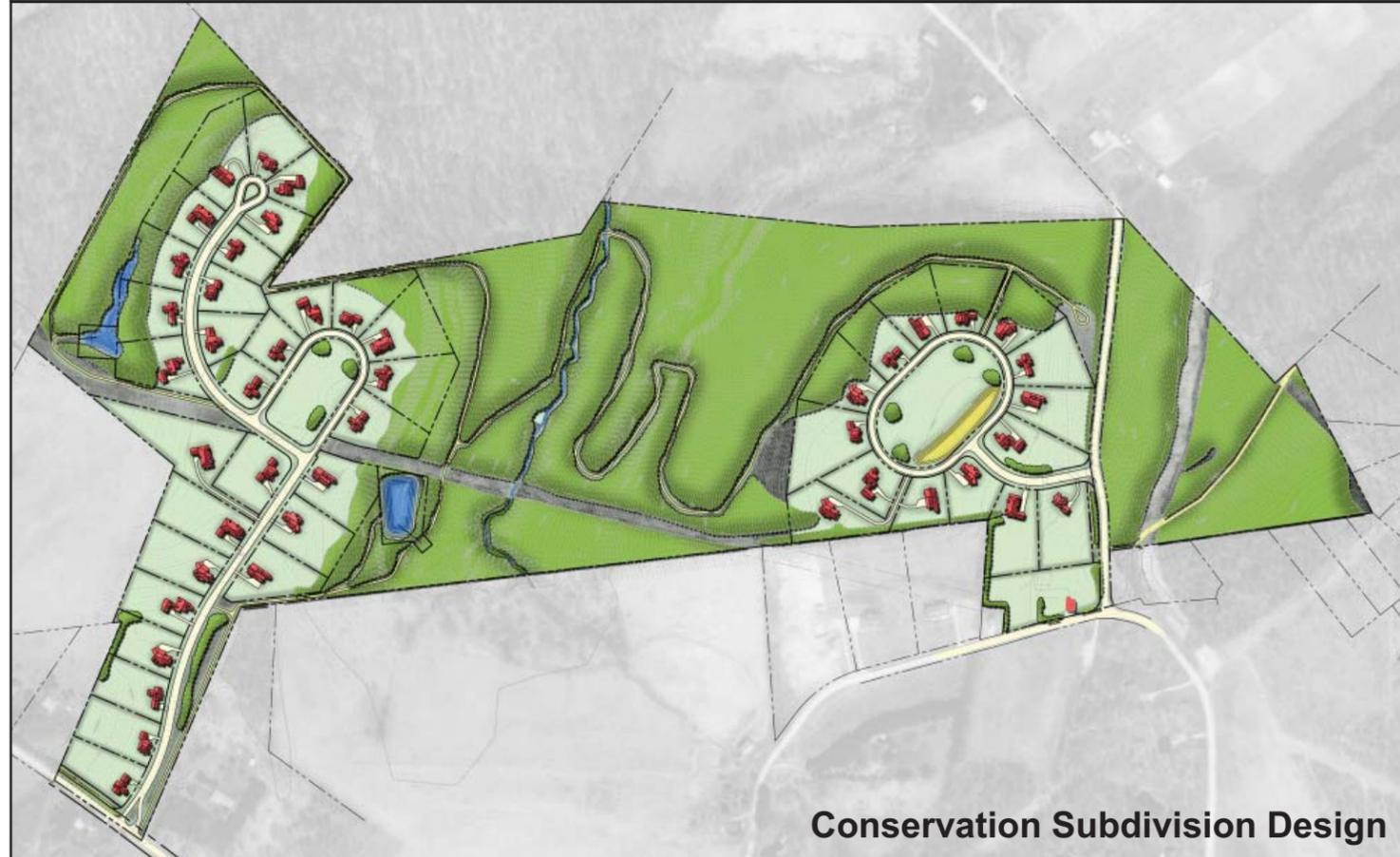
Vegetative Buffer

Pedestrian Trail

Attraction / Trail Hub



Southern Venango County
Regional Comprehensive Plan



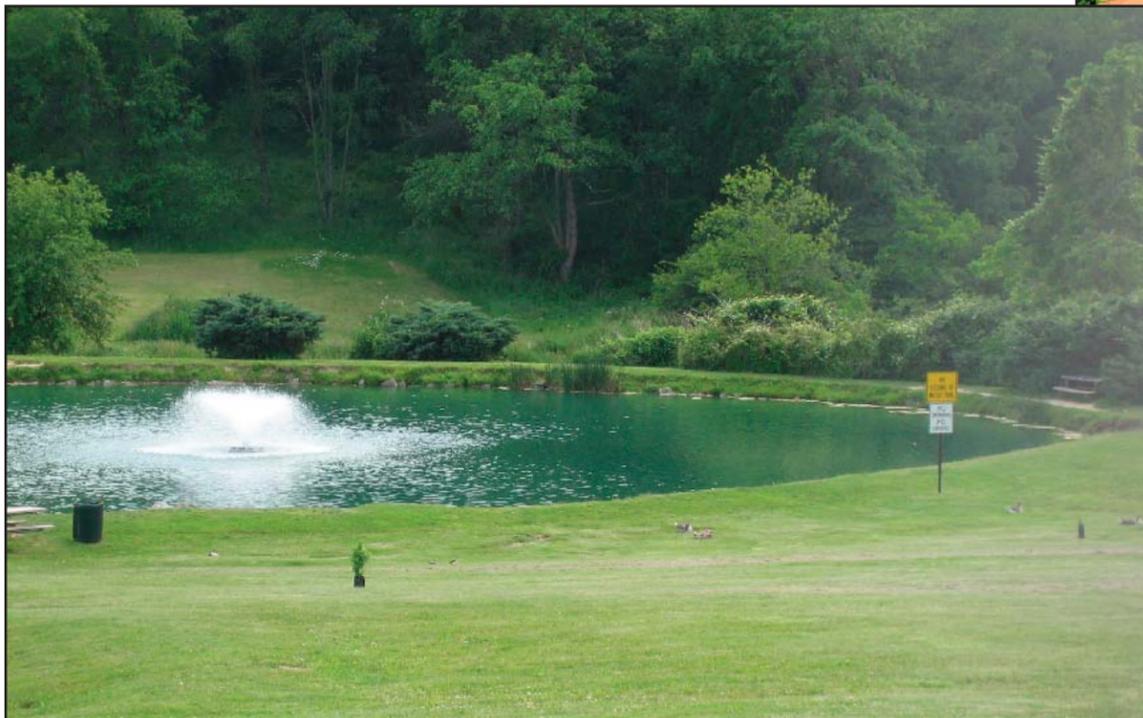
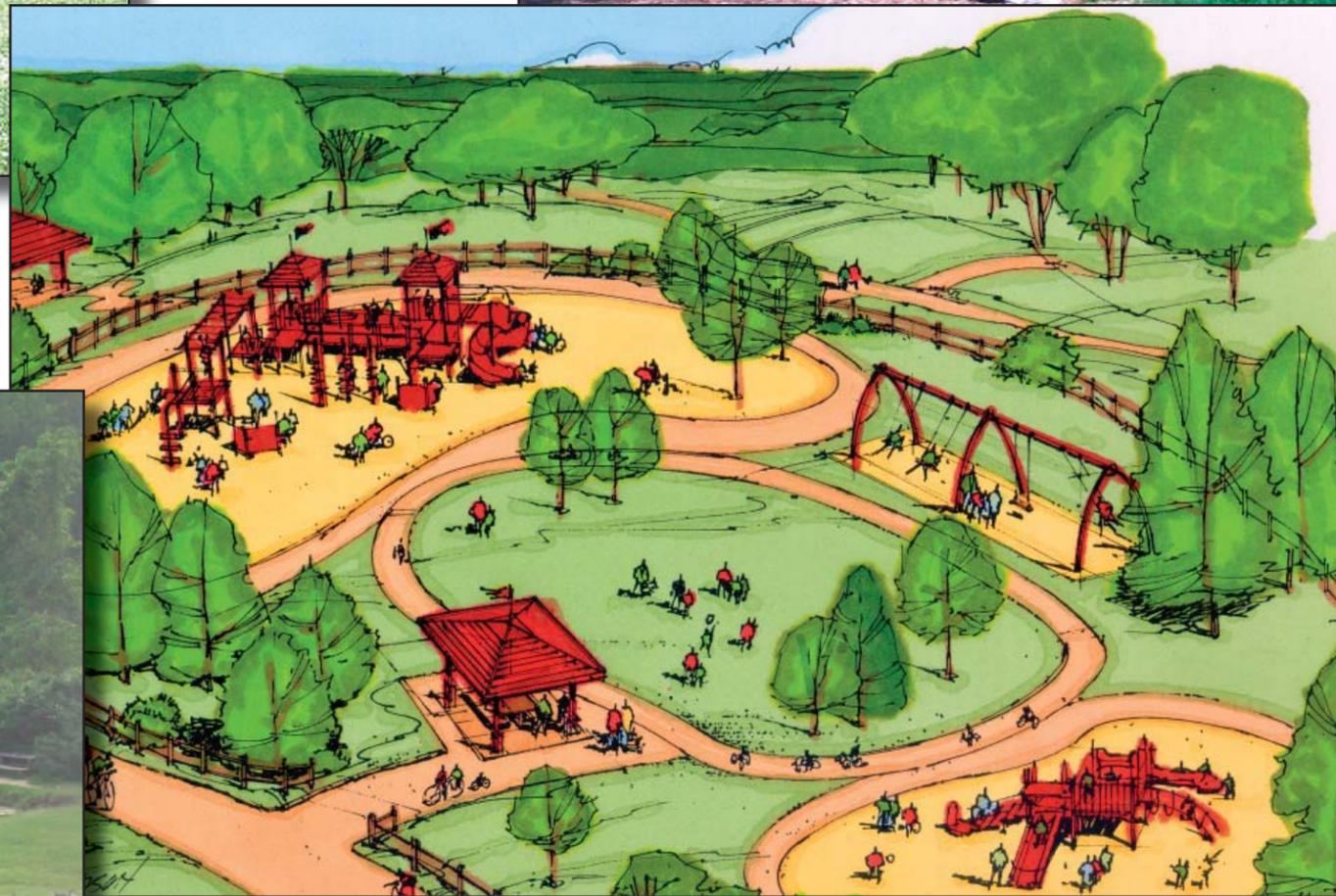
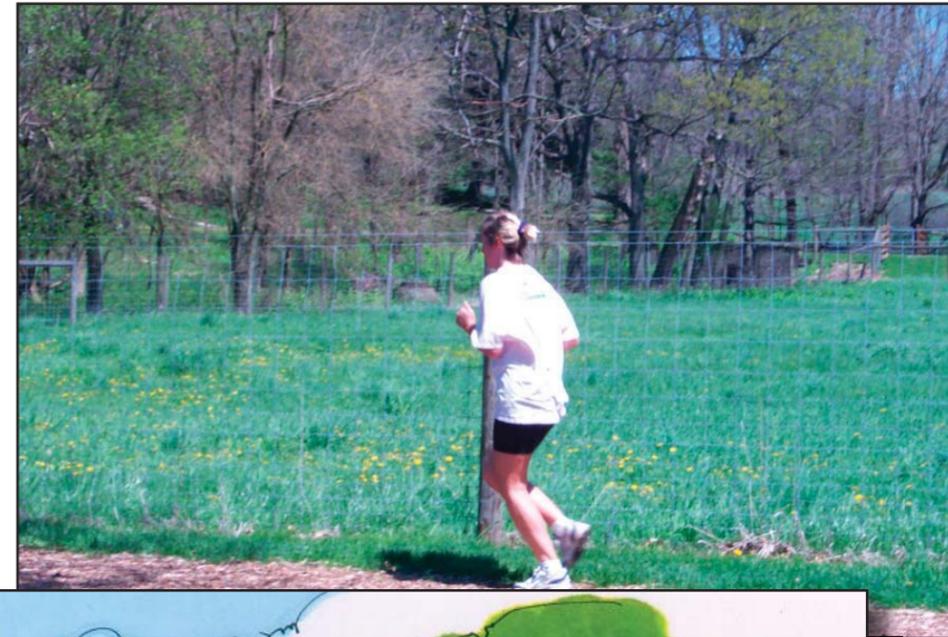
CSD Example

This photo is taken of a CSD that was successful in preserving the existing rural character.

**The Difference Between a Conservation
Subdivision Design (CSD) and Conventional
Residential Development**

As mentioned earlier, CSDs are a type of residential development used to reduce development costs and environmental impacts while increasing recreational opportunities, fostering community interaction, and preserving the surrounding rural character. This type of development is appropriate for the former Emlenton airport because it can be used to preserve the existing rural character of the area. The example to the left shows the difference between a conventional residential development (top) and a CSD (bottom). As shown on the Concept Plan for the airport, the residential area is set back from the road, existing ponds, and drainage ways to help create buffers and offer recreational opportunities for the residents.





**FORMER
EMLENTON
AIRPORT
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Residential
Park**



**Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan**

Recommended Park Facilities

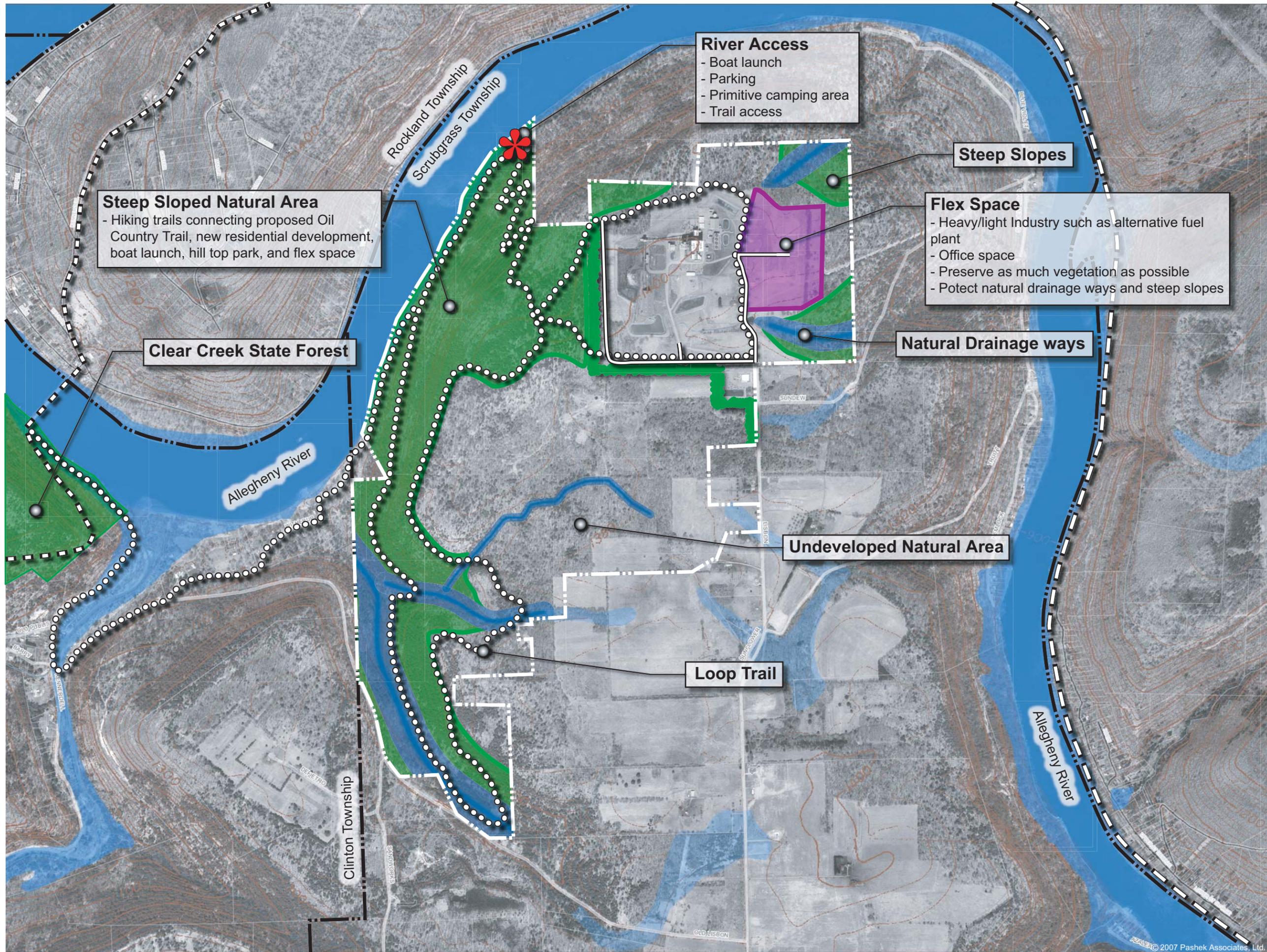
Residential developments with recreational facilities are more attractive to prospective home buyers. Recommended facilities for the park include open lawn areas for community gatherings, picnic shelters, parking, trail connections, fishing docks, and playgrounds as shown in the images above.

POWER PLANT AND KOZ (SCRUBGRASS)

The Scrubgrass Power Plant site is located in the northern portion of Scrubgrass Township along Lisbon Road. The site is situated on a hill that slopes down to the Allegheny River. A small portion of the site is currently in use by the Power Plant, which owns the large tract of land. An additional portion of the site is designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ), a state designation given to promote business development in a certain area. The remainder and largest portion of the site remains in its natural state. Much of this area includes mature forested areas and steep slopes down to the River on the western side of the hill. The site is surrounded by natural wooded areas and sporadic rural residences.

The vision for the site includes development of flex space near the existing Power Plant, capitalizing on the KOZ designation. Additionally, the environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes and floodplains are preserved within the site. Low-impact recreational trails are included traversing the slopes down to the river to provide plant workers and regional residents with recreational opportunities and access to the Allegheny River. Areas on the top of the hill are envisioned to remain in their natural state. Preservation of existing vegetation combined with screening and buffering will help minimize impacts of the flex space and power plant uses on surrounding uses. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other flex space developments within a rural setting as well as areas with significant areas of sensitive environmental features.

Scrubgrass Power Plant Concept Plan



Steep Sloped Natural Area
 - Hiking trails connecting proposed Oil Country Trail, new residential development, boat launch, hill top park, and flex space

River Access
 - Boat launch
 - Parking
 - Primitive camping area
 - Trail access

Steep Slopes

Flex Space
 - Heavy/light Industry such as alternative fuel plant
 - Office space
 - Preserve as much vegetation as possible
 - Potect natural drainage ways and steep slopes

Natural Drainage ways

Clear Creek State Forest

Undeveloped Natural Area

Loop Trail

Legend

Existing

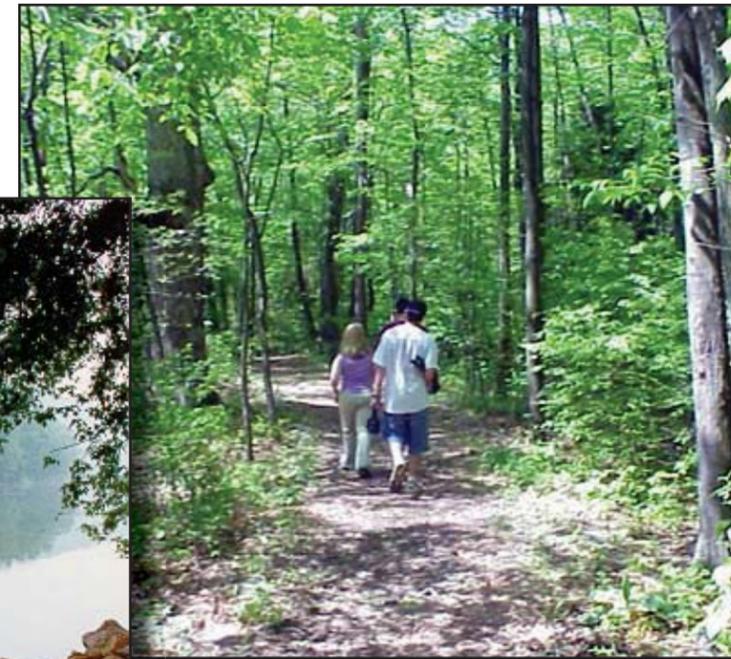
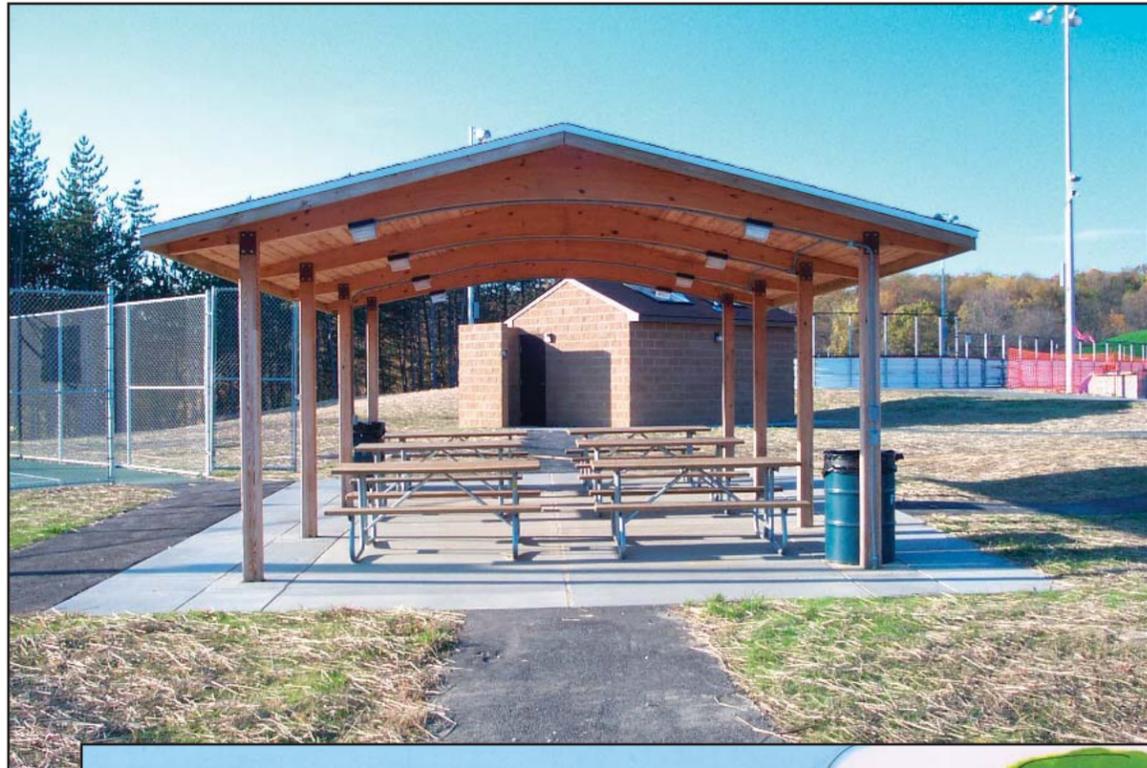
- Hydric Soils
- Site Boundary
- Rail Trail

Proposed

- Roads
- Oil Country Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Attraction / Trail Hub



Southern Venango County
 Regional Comprehensive Plan



Hill Top Park Trail Head

Providing recreational opportunities helps attract new business and residential development. Many office and light industrial parks are seeing the benefits of providing multi-use paths for workers to exercise during break times while residential developments with recreational facilities are more attractive to prospective home buyers. Recommended facilities for the park include open lawn areas, picnic shelters, parking, trail connections, playgrounds, and some ball fields as shown in the images above.



River Access Area

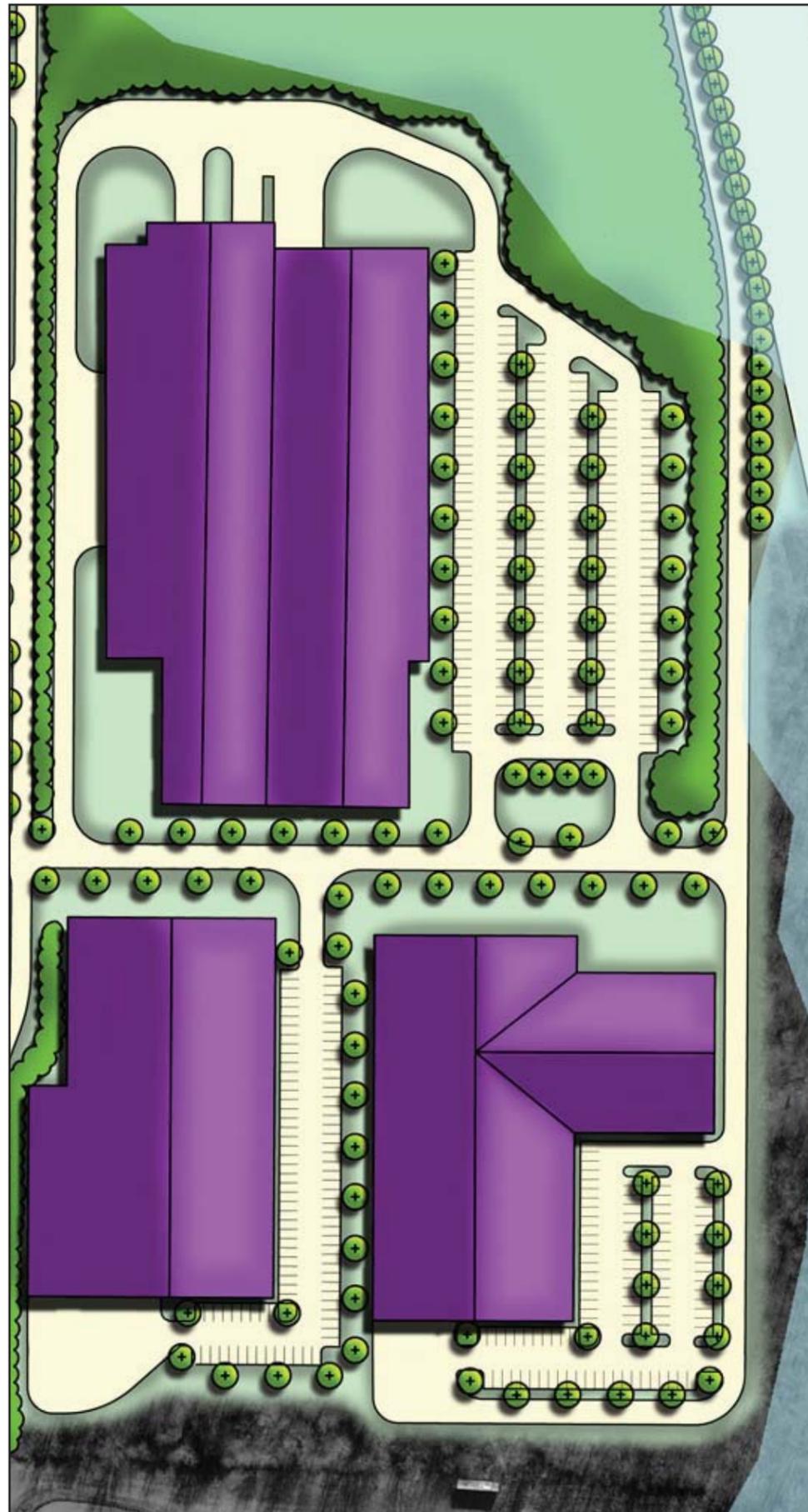
A boat launch provides key access to the river. At the same time, it allows boaters traveling down stream to take a pit stop. Primitive camping areas, such as the one above, help promote the river as a water trail and increases tourism opportunities. Hiking trails connecting the proposed residential and flex space development to the boat launch and the proposed Oil Country Trail offer even more recreational opportunities. These meandering trails cross small creek beds and give access to the Power Plant site's most interesting features.

SCRUBGRASS POWER PLANT DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Recreational Activities



Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan



**SCRUBGRASS
POWER
PLANT
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Flex Space
Design
Principles**



**Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan**

Flex Space Examples

Flex space, as described earlier, includes commercial, office, and light industrial uses. As a Keystone Opportunity Zone, the Scrubgrass Power Plant site offers a great opportunity to develop flex space. The example shown on the left illustrates some of the design principles that are appropriate for the site. For example, heavily wooded areas are preserved, parking lots are hidden behind the buildings from the road, wooded buffers are used to separate the development from surrounding uses, and shade trees break up the parking areas and soften the appearance of buildings. For the Power Plant site, sidewalks connect the flex space to the surrounding trail system to provide workers opportunities to exercise during lunch. The photos above show some examples of what flex space looks like.

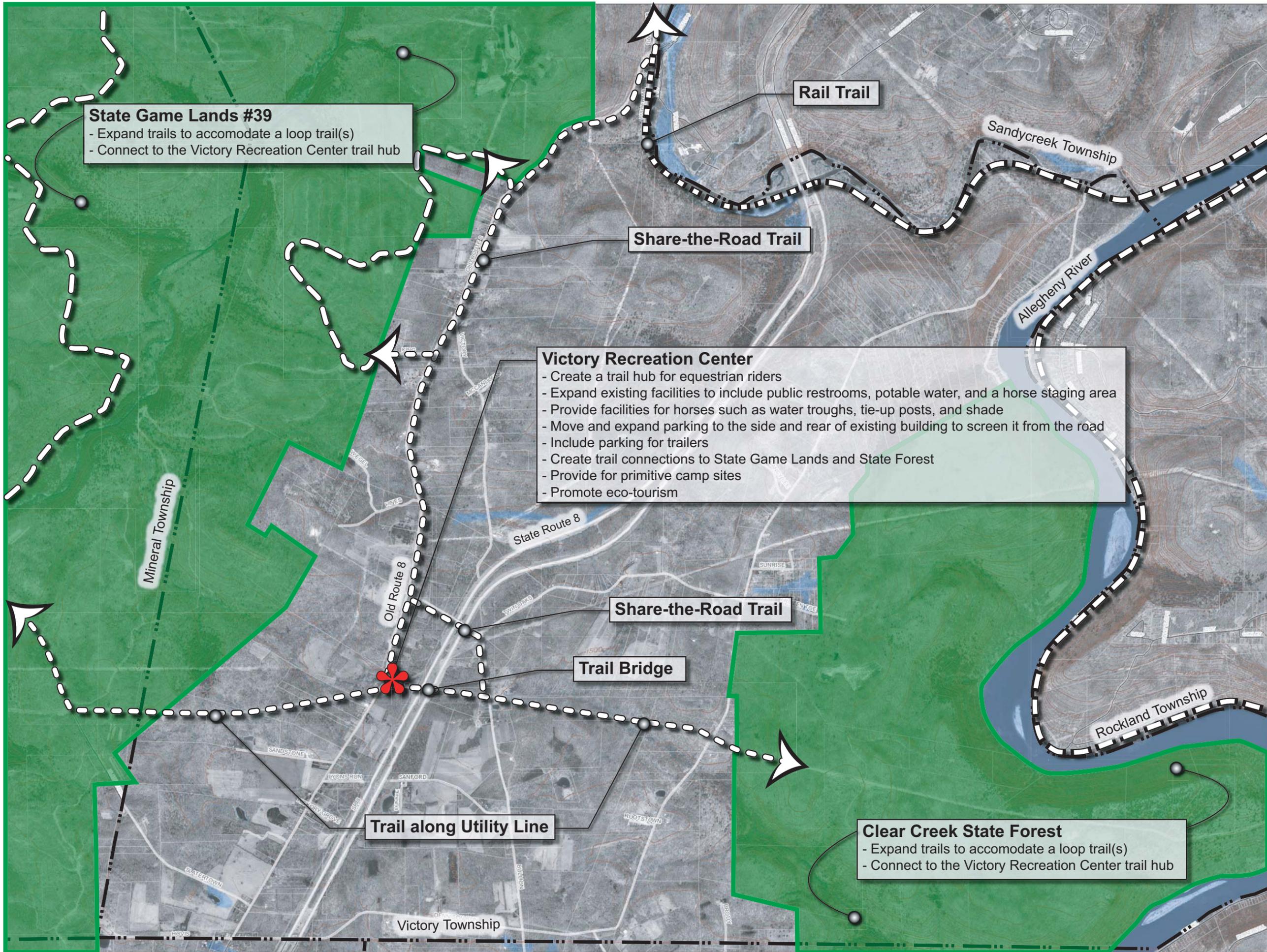
OLD ROUTE 8 CORRIDOR (VICTORY)

The Old Route 8 corridor is situated in Victory Township. The corridor is primarily comprised of rural residential uses and is situated near large natural/recreational resources. The corridor runs adjacent to State Game Land #39 and is near Clear Creek State Forest. The Victory Township Municipal Building and recreation hall is located along the Old Route 8 corridor.

The vision for the Old Route 8 corridor includes preservation of existing rural tranquil setting while promoting eco-tourism associated with the recreational assets of the area. A network of multi-purpose trails is envisioned to link with the State Game Land and State Forest. Nurturing and capitalizing on eco-tourism could spark additional private development that could bolster the Township's tax base. To achieve this vision, a share-the-road trail is envisioned to run along the Old Route 8 right-of-way from south of the Victory Township Building and Recreation Hall to the proposed Sandy Creek Trail extension. A multi-purpose trail is also envisioned to link State Game Land #39 to Clear Creek State Forest along existing utility rights-of-way. Successful implementation of the trail network may warrant the expansion of the Victory Township Recreation Hall facility. Concepts, techniques and designs seen in this Model Site Plan should be applied to other recreational center and trail projects.



Old Route 8 Concept Plan



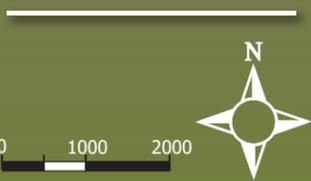
State Game Lands #39
 - Expand trails to accommodate a loop trail(s)
 - Connect to the Victory Recreation Center trail hub

Victory Recreation Center
 - Create a trail hub for equestrian riders
 - Expand existing facilities to include public restrooms, potable water, and a horse staging area
 - Provide facilities for horses such as water troughs, tie-up posts, and shade
 - Move and expand parking to the side and rear of existing building to screen it from the road
 - Include parking for trailers
 - Create trail connections to State Game Lands and State Forest
 - Provide for primitive camp sites
 - Promote eco-tourism

Clear Creek State Forest
 - Expand trails to accommodate a loop trail(s)
 - Connect to the Victory Recreation Center trail hub

Legend

- Existing*
- Hydric Soils
 - Rail Trail
 - Designated Horse Trail
- Proposed*
- Rail Trail
 - Horse Trail
 - Attraction / Trail Hub





Equestrian Center and Trail Head

The Victory Recreation Center (top photo) is situated between State Game Land #39 and Clear Creek State Forest. trail connections between these three facilities will result in a the Victory Recreation Center becoming a recreational hub for the trail users. The Center can be improved and expanded to include facilities for horseback riding and hiking. Expanded picnic facilities, trailer parking, hitching posts, and water troughs in shady areas allow visitors and their horses to take a rest. Non-tourism related activities such as horse therapy can also be promoted at the Center.



Hiking and Camping

Other facilities for hikers can include primitive camp sites, restrooms, and picnic areas. All of these improvements will help make the Victory Recreation Center a local and regional recreation destination and will promote tourism within the region.

OLD RT 8 CORRIDOR DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Victory Recreation Center

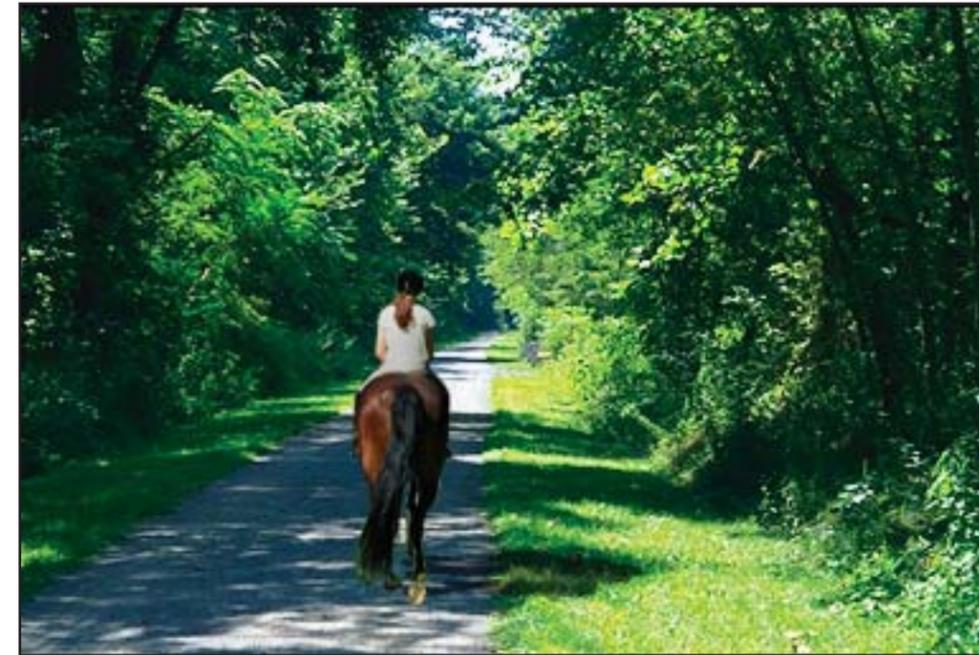


Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan



Share-the-Road Trail Simulation

The existing right-of-way along Old Route 8 can be used to extend the trail system via a share-the-road trail. Extending the shoulder and adding signage can designate the new trail as shown in the photosimulation above.



Trail Along Utility Line

Existing utility easements present great opportunities for expanding trail systems to increase tourism and recreation within the region. The existing pipelines through Victory Township are especially valuable because they can connect the Clear Creek State Forest, the Victory Recreation Center, and State Game Lands #39.



Sketch and bridge design credited to Stewart Engineering

Trail Bridge over Divided Highway

The safest way to connect the Victory Recreation Center to Clear Creek State Forest is to build a sturdy trail bridge over the new State Route 8 as illustrated in the above sketch. Railings or fencing need to be tall enough for a safe crossing by a horse. The bridge's design can reflect its use (as a horse trail) or any aspect of the surrounding community (such as its history).

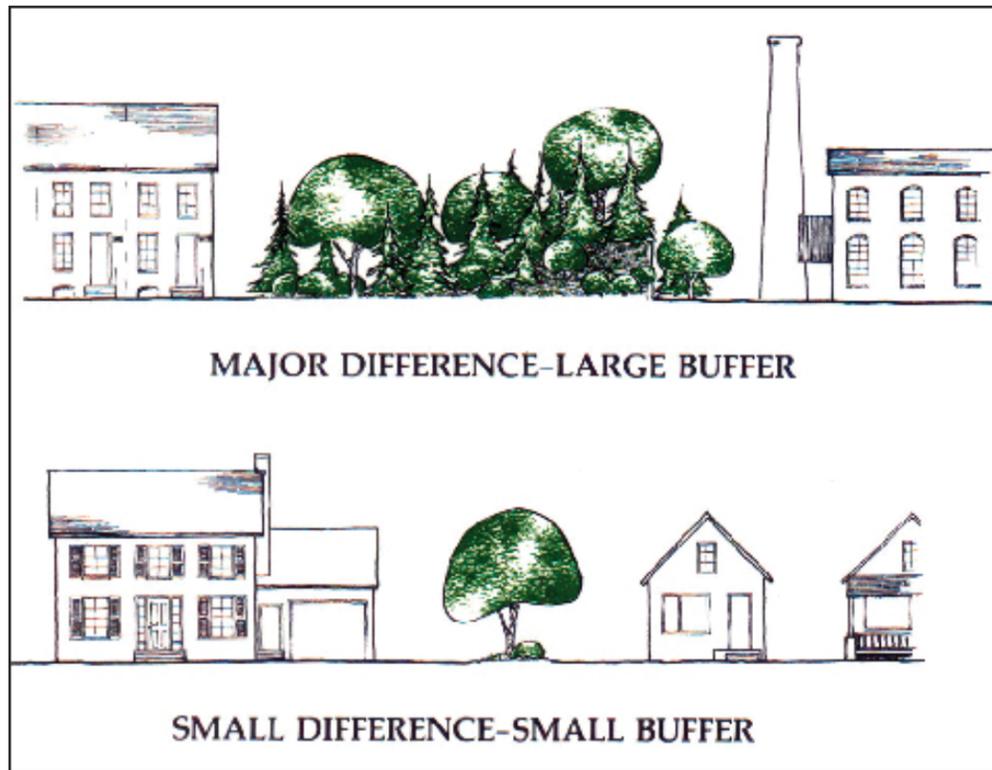
**OLD RT 8
CORRIDOR
DESIGN
PRINCIPLES
AND EXAMPLES**

**Equestrian
and Hiking
Trails**



GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The next series of pages illustrate additional development techniques and principles. These have been included separately because they are not specific to any of the previously mentioned model site plans. The elements described previously were somewhat specific to their respective model site plans. However, the concepts presented in the following pages can be applied to any new development within the region.

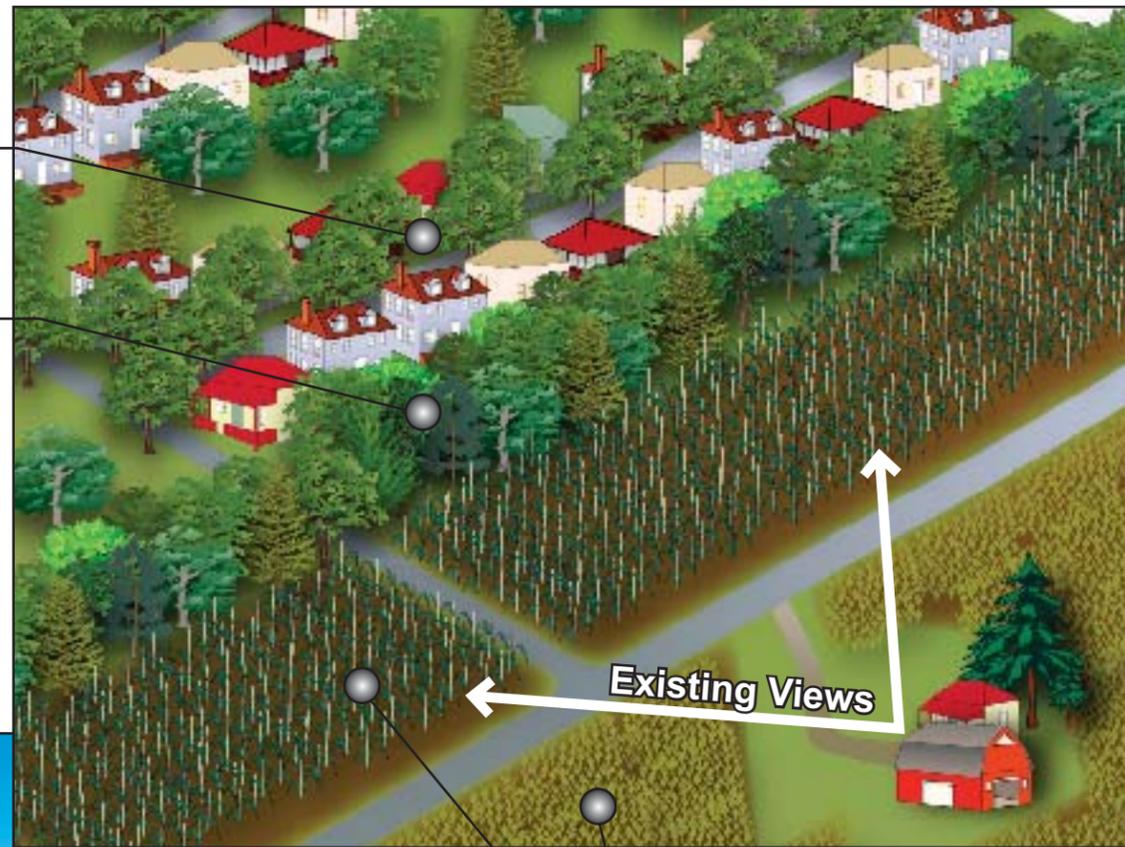


Buffering

Landscaping is important for buffering incompatible uses. The illustration above shows how a large buffer is needed between two highly incompatible land uses, such as residential industrial. On the other hand, only a small buffer is needed between similar land uses, such as single family homes adjacent to multi-family or town homes. Buffers help to limit the negative impacts of adjacent incompatible uses on property values.

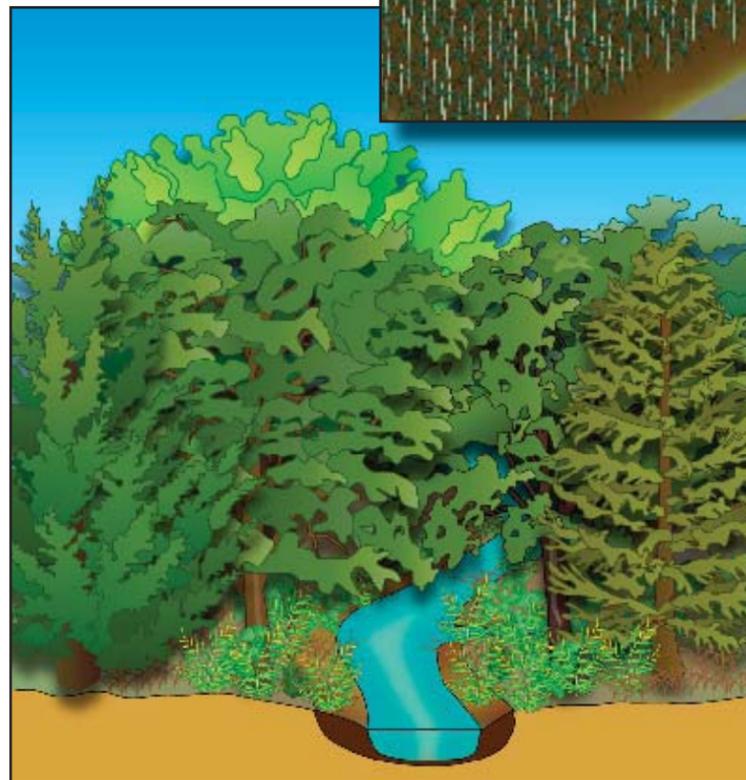
New Housing Development

Planted Hedge Row / Buffer



Existing Views

Agricultural Fields



Protecting the Environment and Existing Views

Riparian buffers (bottom illustration) are vegetated areas along rivers, streams, and other bodies of water that help protect the water's edge from erosion and nutrient runoff while providing important animal habitat. All planned land development should preserve existing vegetation along water edges as much as possible. At the same time, riparian buffers offer unique opportunities for interpretive trails. Another type of buffer includes both distance and vegetation to preserve existing views. The top illustration preserves the existing rural character of the area while still providing for new residential development by leaving a strip of agricultural land and planting a thick hedge row off of the existing road. This type of buffer is used at the former Emlenton airport.

GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Buffers



Southern Venango County Regional Comprehensive Plan



Landscaping

A little bit of landscaping can go a long way. Corner lots often present the greatest potential for beautification due to their high visibility. Similarly, high visibility attracts uses that thrive on high traffic volume such as gas stations. Consequently, gas stations tend to be the first thing people see when entering a community. Reducing the height and size of signage (bottom photo) and adding flowers and shrubs can dramatically change first impressions. Other techniques include using a combination of berms and planting to hide gas pumps and parking (top photo). These same techniques can be applied to any type of business.



Screening

Screening is used to block views of visually unattractive objects, structures, or areas. Screens include fencing or vegetation and can be low to the ground or higher depending on what needs to be screened. Parking lots, especially when located next to a major road, can be visually unattractive. The top photo shows how a low hedge is used to help screen views of a parking area. In other cases, such as in the bottom photo, screens are used to soften and hide large buildings located across the street from residential properties.

GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES

Screening and Landscaping



Southern
Venango County
Regional
Comprehensive Plan

MUNICIPAL TARGETS

The following summary highlights municipality-specific elements illustrated on the Future Land Use Map:

Barkeyville Borough

- Focus new highway commercial development within the growth area along Route 8.
- Provide for flex space and light industrial development within the growth area along Route 208 West.
- Preserve the rural character of the residential areas of the borough.
- Create a gateway/entrance into the region at the “Barkaeyville” I-80 interchange.
- Update the borough’s zoning ordinance to address MPC mandates.
- Update the borough’s zoning ordinance to address the borough’s changing needs.
- Explore the implementation of the comprehensive plan through the borough’s zoning ordinance.

Clinton Township

- Provide necessary infrastructure to the growth area at the I-80 interchange.
- Focus new highway commercial, light industrial and flex space development within the growth area along Route 308 near the I-80 interchange.
- Create a gateway/entrance into the region at the “Clintonville” I-80 interchange.
- Allow for pedestrian access from Clintonville to new development at the I-80 interchange.
- Preserve the rural character of the Township south of I-80.
- Preserve the rural character of the Township north of I-80 and Route 208.
- Utilize conservation subdivision design principles for larger residential developments
- Explore the development of put-ins for the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail.
- Protect the natural setting of the northeast portion of the Township including Clear Creek State Forest.
- Explore the development of the Oil Country Trail from Kennerdell to Bullion through the State Forest, then south along Route 308, and east along Route 208.

Clintonville Borough

- Assist with the provision of necessary infrastructure to the growth area at the I-80 interchange.
- Focus new highway commercial, light industrial and flex space development within the growth area along Route 308 near the I-80 interchange.
- Assist in promoting pedestrian access from Clintonville to development at the I-80 interchange.
- Focus on streetscape enhancements along Route 208 and Route 308.
- Promote in-fill development of residential homes.
- Explore the development of the Oil Country Trail south along Route 308, and east along Route 208.
- Continue to focus development within existing and proposed infrastructure areas

Emlenton Borough

- Promote in-fill development of commercial and residential structures within the designated growth area, which encompasses the entire borough.
- Redevelop the former Wax Plant brownfield site to accommodate light industrial/flex space uses, recreation and open space, and residential infill development.

- Create a riverfront park extending through the brownfield site to the eastern border of the borough along the Allegheny River.
- Provide additional river access points within the riverfront park that can be used to access the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail.
- Incorporate a multi-purpose trail within the riverfront park to extend the Allegheny River Trail east toward Foxburg.
- Create a formal gateway to the borough at the intersection of 5th and Main Streets.
- Explore business revitalization efforts within the Main Street area.
- Repair and improve stormwater runoff infrastructure.

Richland Township

- Explore the development of the Oil Country Trail from Emlenton to Nickleville along Route 38 and on toward Rockland along Route 2002.
- Preserve the rural character of the Township.
- Focus development near villages such as Nickleville and within infrastructure areas adjacent to Emlenton.
- Utilize conservation subdivision design principles for larger residential developments such as at the former Emlenton Airport site.
- Capitalize on the existence of Kahle Lake as a regional recreational attraction.
- Explore the completion of the Kahle Lake Connector, a trail linking the proposed Oil Country Trail to Kahle Lake.

Scrubgrass Township

- Explore the development of the Oil Country Trail from Clintonville to Emlenton along Route 208.
- Preserve the rural character of the Township.
- Focus infrastructure investments and future development at the “Emlenton” interchange (Exit 42).
- Utilize conservation subdivision design principles for larger residential developments.
- Accommodate additional industrial/flex space at the Scrubgrass Power Plant site.
- Explore the development of put-ins for the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail.

Victory Township

- Protect the natural setting of the northwest portion of the Township including State Game Land #39.
- Protect the natural setting of the southeast portion of the Township including Clear Creek State Forest.
- Explore the development of the multi-purpose trail linking State Game Land #39 to Clear Creek State Forest.
- Explore the development of the multi-purpose trail linking from the Victory Recreation Center to the Allegheny River along Old Route 8.
- Upgrading facilities at the Victory Recreation center to promote eco-tourism and trail usage
- Preserve the rural character of the Township.
- Accommodate limited commercial development within the Route 8 growth corridor.
- Utilize conservation subdivision design principles for larger residential developments.
- Capitalize on eco-tourism opportunities present as a result of the State Game Land and State Forest.
- Explore the development of put-ins for the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail.



STATEMENT OF COMPATIBILITY

SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES

Sixteen municipalities, including two boroughs and fifteen townships within four different counties, surround the planning area. The proposed land use plan is generally consistent with land use in the surrounding municipalities. Proposed growth areas that are adjacent to surrounding municipalities, such as Barkeyville, are intended to utilize adequate screening and buffering to minimize impacts to surrounding uses. There are no foreseeable conflicts between existing and proposed land uses in other surrounding municipalities.

Six of the sixteen surrounding communities are situated within Venango County. They include Irwin Township, Polk Borough, Sandycreek Township, Frenchcreek Township, Mineral Township, and Rockland Township. Each of these communities is included within the County's Comprehensive Plan (see discussion of consistency with the Venango County Comprehensive Plan below). The land use plan for the planning area does not propose land use changes that will create significant conflicts in uses across municipal boundaries. Several of the trail projects will require coordination with municipalities outside of the region. In some instances, these municipalities are within other counties as well. Ideally, future planning efforts should involve all of the above mentioned municipalities, in addition to the seven municipalities participating in the plan, to promote better consistency in land use planning and implementation practices.

VENANGO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The land use plan is generally consistent with the Venango County Comprehensive Plan. The goals of the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Southern Venango County Regional Comprehensive Plan are similar in nature. Recommendations included within the Southern Venango Regional Comprehensive Plan advance the goals of the County's plan, which include the following:

- *To sustain the highest quality of rural, suburban and urban life for the residents of Venango County.*
- *To provide policies, plans and proposals to municipalities for the physical, economic and social development of their communities while protecting the natural, historic and built environments.*
- *To promote conditions providing for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Venango County.*
- *To provide equal opportunities for all residents to obtain safe, affordable housing.*
- *To provide equal opportunities for all residents to obtain meaningful employment.*
- *To promote the preservation of the agricultural areas of Venango County in an economically sound manner.*
- *To provide a framework for cooperation within Venango County and the region.*

The County Comprehensive Plan includes four designated growth areas. Each of these areas has been delineated within the Southern Venango County Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Southern Venango Plan modifies the growth area around Barkeyville to focus on the areas along Route 8 and Route 208 West instead of including the entire borough. However, the County Plan states the following in reference to the growth areas:

“These areas must be evaluated for adequacy in terms of infrastructure. Existing water and sanitary sewerage systems must be able to accommodate increased development, or capacity improvements funded.”

The presence and availability of infrastructure was a large contributor to the modification of the Barkeyville growth area in the Southern Venango County Regional Comprehensive Plan.



SECTION 3:

“HOW DO WE GET THERE?”



Section III answers the question “How do we get there?” by creating an action plan for implementation. It includes implementation strategies for achieving the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan with respect to the following topics:

- Land Use and Planning
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Transportation
- Community Facilities and Utilities
- Intergovernmental Cooperation

The action plan contains detailed tables that include strategies, priorities, responsible and participating parties, and potential funding sources for implementation of the plan. The following definitions aid in interpreting the action plan:

Strategy: A plan of action intended to reach a specific goal.

Priority: Categorized based on the importance of each strategy:

- immediate priority – < 1 year;
- short-term – 1-2 years;
- long-term – 2-5 years; and
- on-going.

Responsible and Participating Parties: Those agencies, organizations, or public entities responsible for implementing the strategy.

Potential Funding Source or Technical Assistance: Reference to grant programs and agencies that support the strategy

The action plan identifies resources to assist in the implementation of the plan’s strategies, where available. Sources of technical and financial assistance include county and state programs, as well as non-profit organizations, and foundations. In some instances, matching municipal funds are required for grant funding. The Appendix includes a Grants and Community Resources reference list of agencies and programs that can be tapped for plan implementation. Included is a brief description of each program, contact information, and eligibility requirements.

The strategies presented provide guidance to decision-makers and implementers of the plan on the key planning issues identified throughout the planning process. In addition, successful implementation will require continued cooperation among all stakeholders from the public, private, and non-profit sector. For this reason, the project steering committee should remain active participants in the implementation of the plan.

Continued citizen participation throughout the implementation process is essential to ensure ongoing community support for the plan. The municipalities should make a commitment to provide on-going education to residents and community stakeholders on the plan and its goals, objectives, and

strategies throughout the implementation process. This can be done by presenting the plan at schools, granges and fairs, churches, and community meetings. Efforts should be made to update members of the public on the progress of the plan and the accomplishments of the municipalities in implementing the objectives.

OVERARCHING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

While each of the action strategies recommended as part of this comprehensive plan are critical to accomplishing the expressed vision statement for the communities, there are four overarching strategies that need to be addressed in order for this plan to be successfully implemented. These are:

1. **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** The seven communities involved in this multi municipal plan, just by being partners of this planning process, have increased awareness of the importance of this issue. The communities face similar issues in terms of needed infrastructure, public facilities and economic development. A key finding of this plan is the opportunities that is created when communities work together to address common issues. These opportunities include:
 - a. **Greater Opportunities for Grant Funding.** In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania most funding agencies favor grant applications that are submitted by more than one community
 - b. **Cost-Effective Projects:** Communities that work together result in more cost-effective projects. For example, a several communities can work together to develop a park facility to benefit all, as opposed to each community developing their own park.
 - c. **Sharing of Municipal Services:** Each community has limitations to meet the service needs of its residents. Capital equipment is costly, and manpower is limited. Through the sharing of municipal services, such as equipment and labor, there can be great cost efficiencies and improved level of services to all residents of the region.
 - d. **Regional Planning.** Many issues, such as water and sewer systems, storm water and transportation cross municipal boundaries. Inter-municipal planning efforts to address these concerns, such as a Regional Act 537 Plan for the watershed area can go a long way towards addressing assisting all of the communities in the region.

2. **Planning Commission Assistance:** A common linkage between the seven communities is the Venango County Regional Planning Commission. The plan in itself was initiated by the Planning Commission as a means to address development issues in the southern tier of the County. **The success of the implementation of the objectives and strategies of this plan is dependent upon all the municipalities becoming members of the Planning Commission, so that the resources of this agency can be used to address individual and common concerns identified within this plan.** These resources include:
 - a. Assistance in grants development and administration
 - b. Assistance in and zoning and subdivision ordinances
 - c. Assistance in economic development planning
 - d. Assistance in capital planning and infrastructure assessment
 - e. Assistance in mapping community resources



- 3. Capital Improvements Planning:** A substantial portion of the recommended action strategies address physical improvements to existing infrastructure and the acquisition of equipment to deliver public services to the citizenry of the region. The expenses involved in constructing and acquiring such improvements are substantial and go beyond the annual operating budgets of the communities. The tool necessary to approach these needs and issues is capital improvements planning. Capital improvements planning allows for a longer-range view of infrastructure and equipment needs and assists in the determination of sources of funds that could be utilized to implement the plan. This planning tool is particularly effective in the multi-municipal context, as needs and resources can be assessed with cost-sharing and economies of scale at the forefront. It is the recommendation of this plan that a comprehensive Capital Improvements Plan be developed for the Southern Venango County region.
- 4. Economic Development:** Plain and simple, the planning area needs economic development to create sustainable employment and tax bases. Without jobs, the communities suffer through out-migration and decline. Without tax base growth, it is near impossible to implement many of the action strategies included within this section of the plan. The economic development focus within the plan is on the conceptual development plans that are included in Section II of this document. While these conceptual plans represent visions for these areas, they are tangible in many ways. First, they provide focus on these areas as prime development/redevelopment sites. Efforts to provide necessary improvements, land use planning and infrastructure can be directed toward these areas as part of the implementation of the plan. Secondly, they provide an opportunity for the county, the communities and the economic development agencies to market these areas as prime development/redevelopment area in the region.

The seven municipalities should also formalize their partnership to implement the multi-municipal plan through an Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement. The Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement identifies the role and responsibilities of each municipality in implementing the plan. In addition, it should outline the following:

- **Establish a process to achieve general consistency among the municipalities in implementation of the multi-municipal plan.**
- **Establish a process for review and approval and development of regional significance and impact.**
- **Require a yearly report by participating municipalities regarding activities carried out in accordance with the agreement**
- **Designate growth areas, future growth areas and rural resource areas based on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Plan.**
- **Establish a process for amendment and update of the regional plan.**

The regional planning steering committee and VCRPC should meet on a regular basis to ensure intergovernmental cooperation throughout the implementation process. The plan should be reviewed and updated annually to reflect the accomplishments of the plan, identify new funding sources, assess municipal coordination and cooperation, and re-evaluate priorities.

LAND USE AND PLANNING - “PLANNING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE THE REGION”

The planning area consists of seven municipalities with varying land use patterns and needs to address both redevelopment and new development through land use policies and tools. Close coordination among the seven municipalities is required to ensure a balance between redevelopment in villages within the planning area and new development in the undeveloped areas of the community.

Community and committee members indicated that guiding development to areas with proper infrastructure and services was a high priority. Additionally, there was an overall desire to preserve the natural and rural landscapes and character of the region. Therefore, in order to balance development needs and promote the livability of the entire region, the steering committee identified the following land use and growth management objectives:

- **Determine areas that can support future development and areas that should be preserved in their current condition**
- **Preserve the open spaces in existing less dense (large lot) areas and natural/ environmentally sensitive areas of the region**
- **Promote infill development in the region’s population/community centers**
- **Capitalize on the opportunities presented by the presence of the I-80 interchanges within the region.**
- **Leverage the unique development opportunities created by redeveloping brownfield sites**
- **Coordinate land use plans with infrastructure planning**

It is recommended that municipalities within the region utilize a variety of land use tools to meet these objectives. Zoning ordinances (where applicable) and the County’s Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance should be reviewed and updated to reflect the region’s new objectives. In order to strike a balance between new development and preservation of undeveloped areas, the municipalities identified Future Growth Areas, Natural Resource Protection Areas, and Rural Resources Areas. The designation of zoning districts and standards should be consistent with these areas identified on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map.

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) provides direct professional planning services to Venango County municipalities. The VCRPC is staffed by trained professional planners to provide services related to comprehensive planning, subdivision and land development review, zoning administration, preparation of grant applications, Geographic Information Services (including the preparation of specialized maps for use by municipalities), grant administration, and other planning related functions (i.e. storm water management, flood plain management, ordinance preparation and review, environmental reviews, etc).¹ The VCRPC is a key partner in many of the planning and land use actions included within the comprehensive plan. Five of the seven municipalities within the region currently participate in the VCRPC. The other two municipalities are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this resource.



The use of innovative land use tools in the region should be explored to help preserve their rural character. These tools, which can be incorporated into local zoning and other land use ordinances, include Cluster Style Residential Development and Conservation Subdivision Design.

SAMPLE LAND USE TOOLS TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE

- Cluster Style Residential Development – this tool allows the developer to reduce lot size and setbacks in a residential district while maintaining the overall density requirements. It results in preservation of open space for recreation or habitat (although not necessarily public) and lowers both construction and maintenance costs due to more compact layout of infrastructure (roads, water lines and sewers).
- Conservation Subdivision Design - this method allows developers to develop at full legal density while preserving at least 50% as open space including sensitive environmental features and an interconnected network of conservation land. It involves four essential steps: (i) identifying conservation areas; (ii) locating residential sites; (iii) aligning streets and trails; and (iv) drawing in the lot lines. The Natural Lands Trust provides free trainings to interested municipalities and has published an in-depth workbook outlining the necessary steps.

“It is our strong belief that improving the quality of planning in Venango County will not only assist municipalities in the day to day functions related to subdivision, land development, and grant applications, but will also provide long term benefits in terms of obtaining grants, providing realistic opportunities for economic development and working with communities to protect their built and natural environments.”

- Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>Immediate Priority Actions</i>				
1	Promote development at the Scrubgrass Power Plant KOZ. Form a consortium of community members/representatives to work with the Power Plant. The consortium should meet with plant owners and officials to discuss development options and conceptual plans. The model site plan for the Power Plant site should be used as a guide for this development.	Scrubgrass	Municipal Governing Bodies, ORA	DCED
2	Municipalities that are not currently participating in the Venango County Regional Planning Commission should work to become members. Member municipalities receive the benefit of planning staff without forming their own planning department.	Clinton, Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies	Local Support
3	Revise zoning ordinance to address present and future issues. The current zoning ordinance should be reviewed to determine updates necessary as per changes in the PA MPC since the ordinance was last updated. The ordinances should also be reviewed and revised to meet current and future needs of the municipalities.	Barkeyville	Borough Council, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
4	Target new development in Designated Growth Areas as defined on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support
5	Develop commercial areas according to the principles and guides described in the model site plans. In-fill commercial development should be promoted within established business cores.	Barkeyville, Emlenton, Clinton, Clintonville, Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support
6	Focus industrial/flex space development near the I-80/Route 308 interchange in Clinton Township and Clintonville Borough.	Clintonville, Clinton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
Short-Term Actions				
7	Revise zoning ordinance to address present and future issues. The current zoning ordinance should be reviewed to determine updates necessary as per changes in the PA MPC since the ordinance was last updated. The ordinances should also be reviewed and revised to meet current and future needs of the municipalities.	Emlenton	Borough Council, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
8	Redevelop the former Emlenton Wax Plant (Honeywell Property) brownfield site. Conduct a feasibility study of redevelopment of the site. Utilize the model site plan to guide the site's development/design. Explore potential economic incentives for redevelopment of the site. Work with business development organizations to recruit targeted business sectors to the development.	Emlenton	Borough Council, VCRPC, ORA	DCED - Business in our Sites
9	Explore County-level land use regulations at each of the region's interchanges along I-80. Review applicability and determine whether this tool could meet the region's goals for the interchanges. Determine public opinion regarding the concept. Review the County's capacity for administrating such regulations. Interchange regulations should be coordinated with communities existing land use regulations.	Barkeyville, Clinton, Clintonville, Scrubgrass, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, County Commissioners	DCED - LUPTAP
10	Develop formalized Gateways into the region at the following locations. Barkeyville (Route 8 interchange), Clinton/Clintonville (Route 308 interchange), Scrubgrass (Route 38 interchange), and Richland (St. Petersburg exit). Gateway improvements include signage, landscaping, and other amenities.	Barkeyville, Clinton, Clintonville, Scrubgrass, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, ORA	ORA, Local Educational Institutions

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>Long-Term Actions</i>				
11	Foster the development of low-impact lodging within rural areas of the region. These uses should capitalize on the region's natural amenities including state forests and gamelands as well as the Allegheny River.	Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support
12	Promote local small-scale commercial development in rural areas of the region. These commercial uses should cater to adjacent residents and have a limited market area.	Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support
13	Promote the development of a family-style restaurant	Victory	Township Supervisors, VCRPC, ORA	Local Support
14	Develop and implement land use tools (such as zoning, where applicable) that encourage innovative design options. Innovative land use tools include traditional neighborhood development and conservation subdivision design standards. Ensure consistency between the local zoning ordinances and County SALDO in allowing for innovative development design.	Barkeyville, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP, Local Government Academy, Natural Lands Trust
15	Implement commercial development standards and/or design guidelines for large scale retail facilities that take into consideration building design and orientation, surrounding land uses, access, landscaping/buffering, lighting, signage, and pedestrian movement.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP, Local Government Academy
16	Update zoning (where applicable) and sub-division and land development ordinances to include standards and districts that are consistent with the designation of future growth areas and rural resource areas identified on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map.	Barkeyville, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP, Local Government Academy



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>Long-Term Actions (continued)</i>				
17	Coordinate implementation of the regional comprehensive plan and Act 537 planning to ensure that land use and infrastructure projects are mutually supportive of the community's development goals and objectives. Ensure proper coordination between municipal authorities, municipal governments and VCRPC by establishing a planning and infrastructure task force to facilitate communication between planning commissions and municipal authorities representing all seven municipalities.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Sewer Authorities	PA DEP Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Grants
18	Evaluate development standards in existing zoning ordinances to ensure that they promote infill and redevelopment that is consistent in character and density as existing neighborhoods.	Barkeyville, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
19	Conduct a parking study to identify and address street and surface parking needs in order to bolster business and tourism in Emlenton. Recommendations should be focused on identifying a variety of parking options.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, ORA	Congestion Management/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
20	Encourage enrollment in Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs) as a pre-qualification for consideration for the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program by educating landowners on the benefits on enrollment in ASAs.	Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, Farmers	PA DOA, USDA
21	Preserve open space in the largely undeveloped parts of the region's townships by limiting the extension of public infrastructure to rural resource areas.	Victory, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, Sewer and water authorities	Local Support
22	Work in cooperation with the Oil Heritage Region, Inc. to address the findings of the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan Update as it relates to the region.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Oil Heritage Region, VCRPC	Based on specific implementation projects

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>On-Going Actions</i>			
23	Continue to participate in the Venango County Regional Planning Commission.	Barkeyville, Clintonville, Emlenton, Richland, Scrubgrass	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC Local Support



HOUSING - “SAFE AND ADEQUATE HOUSING”

The main issues that arose during the planning process in regards to housing were the necessity of balancing new housing construction, including a variety of housing types and affordability levels, with preservation of the existing community character. This issue was compounded by the presence of two distinct settings within the region: rural and village settings. Within both settings there was a desire to invest in the existing housing stock in order to retain the character and livability of existing neighborhoods. The following objectives reflect these priorities:

- **Inventory and establish methods of controlling and rehabilitating blighted and abandoned housing areas.**
- **Eliminate substandard housing units that endanger the public, health, welfare and safety in the planning area.**
- **Improve the appearance of existing older housing units.**
- **Assure high-quality and safe building practices are used for new construction.**
- **Provide for adequate infrastructure to improve livability of existing neighborhoods and assure that new housing developments have sufficient infrastructure to meet new demands.**
- **Provide for an appropriate mix of new high-quality housing styles and choices, allowing for different types of high-quality housing within the planning area.**
- **Increase the number of high-quality affordable housing units and types of housing suitable for young families and retirees.**
- **Require that new housing developments be built in harmony with the natural environment.**

Housing strategies focus on areas in the region where new development will take place, as well as areas where redevelopment is envisioned. Generally, these areas are the townships and the boroughs respectively. In areas of new development, the municipalities expressed a desire for alternatives to conventional subdivisions in order to promote neighborhoods that are integrated and that conserve the surrounding natural/rural setting. In the redevelopment areas, the municipalities desired to promote infill development that is consistent with the existing neighborhood character. Zoning ordinances in the redevelopment areas, where applicable, will need to be reviewed and updated to promote infill development in a consistent character to the surrounding neighborhood.

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Short-Term Actions				
1	Provide for alternatives to conventional sub-division design by updating zoning ordinances (where applicable) to include traditional neighborhood development (TND) districts and conservation sub-division design.	Barkeyville, Emlenton, other municipalities (should they later adopt zoning)	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP, Natural Lands Trust
2	Ensure that zoning ordinances (where applicable) allow for a mix of housing targeted at young people, professionals, and retirees such as lofts, live/work space, apartments, townhouses, and condominiums.	Barkeyville, Emlenton, other municipalities (should they later adopt zoning)	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
3	Ensure that zoning (where applicable) adequately addresses senior housing needs through provisions for assisted living facilities, nursing and group homes, and condos that have access to public transit, shops, and amenities.	Barkeyville, Emlenton, other municipalities (should they later adopt zoning)	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
4	Develop and implement an Elm Street Program to enhance neighborhoods adjacent to the Main St. in Emlenton.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - Elm Street Program
On-Going Actions				
5	Encourage regular maintenance of housing stock in both village and rural areas through implementation of housing rehabilitation assistance programs.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Program



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - “CAPITALIZING ON OUR ASSETS AND RETAINING OUR RESIDENTS”

The region has witnessed an out-migration of young residents to attend higher-educational institutions or find employment. Many of these residents do not return to the region. Despite the out-migration trends, the region features an abundance of natural resources. Many economic development opportunities within the region are centered on these resources. In order to address these concerns and community priorities, the steering committee identified the following economic development objectives:

- **Support existing businesses and encourage their expansion.**
- **Attract new industries to diversify employment opportunities available to residents within the region.**
- **Promote workforce development, education and training opportunities to ensure that citizens are prepared for jobs and growth.**
- **Encourage entrepreneurship within the region.**
- **Provide access to assistance programs for agricultural and silvicultural businesses.**
- **Market the region to perspective employers by highlighting the region’s transportation and infrastructure assets and human capital.**

Economic development opportunities abound in the region. The I-80 corridor passes directly through six of the seven communities in the region offering development opportunities associated with this highly traveled route. The concentration of natural resources including State Forests, State Game Lands, and the Allegheny River offers opportunities for eco-tourism. Several sites within the region are primed for redevelopment of uses that provide high-quality jobs such as the Barkeyville Industrial Park, the former Emlenton Wax Plant site, and the Scrubgrass Power Plant Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ). Actions associated with economic development focus on taking advantage of these assets within the region in order to create jobs and retain and attract residents.

Past efforts have been successful in partnering with economic development agencies including the Oil Region Alliance (ORA). It is recommended that partnerships continue with the ORA to capitalize on economic development and heritage tourism projects.

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
Immediate Priority Actions				
1	Further develop and attract tenants/owners to existing industrial parks and KOZ sites. Utilize conceptual/model site plans as guides for industrial/flex space development at these sites. Meet quarterly with the Oil Region Alliance to discuss progress, new leads, etc. Participate in marketing programs developed by ORA, NWC, etc.	Barkeyville, Clintonville, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, Oil Region Alliance, VCRPC	DCED - Business in Our Sites
2	Evaluate zoning ordinances (where applicable) to ensure that industrial and manufacturing land uses are allowed in the planning area. Promote development standards that encourage aesthetically pleasing and well-designed business and industrial parks.	Barkeyville, Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED-LUPTAP
Short-Term Actions				
3	Identify and promote financial and technical assistance for small business start-ups.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Oil Region Alliance, VCRPC	ORA, USDA, DCED
4	Focus on retaining and attracting small to medium-sized locally owned businesses by removing regulatory barriers to businesses locating within the region and working with state and county agencies to streamline the permitting process.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Venango County, ORA
5	Identify infrastructure improvements that are necessary to support downtown revitalization and economic development efforts in redevelopment areas.	Barkeyville, Clintonville, Emlenton	Water and Sewer Authorities, Local Utility Companies	PennWORKS, PennVEST, Community Development Block Grants, and Housing and Urban Development 108 program
6	Identify potential grants and loans for local businesses to utilize to make improvements to their buildings and facades.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - Main Street Program,



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Short-Term Actions (continued)			
7	Promote agri-business as an economic contributor by identifying new market opportunities for agriculture products, including farmer's markets, local grocery outlets, and farm retail outlets.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC
8	Promote businesses that deal with alternative fuels within the region in order to attract these types of businesses and reduce fuel costs.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Oil Region Alliance, VCRPC ORA, USDA, DCED
On-Going Actions			
9	Leverage the region's natural setting and abundance of public lands as an economic development tool.	All Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC
10	Support research and development efforts at local colleges and universities in order to advance workforce development, and the development of technology-oriented businesses.	All Communities	Clarion University, Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, DuBois Business College DCED - Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority
11	Continue to collaborate with education, business, arts and historic groups to promote the development of Emlenton as an entertainment district with a mix of performing arts centers, theaters, restaurants, cafes, arts venues, events, and specialty retail shops.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, Business Owners, Oil Region Alliance, Arts and Cultural Organizations Local Arts and Cultural Organizations, Local Foundations, Local Businesses

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES - “MAINTAINING OUR RURAL AND NATURAL SETTING”

Undeveloped land in its natural state is a key resource throughout the region. Large portions of the region’s township’s are made up of State Forests, State Game Land, and undisturbed rural and forest land. The committee expressed a strong desire to preserve these areas of the environment for current and future generations. Therefore, the following objective was developed during the planning process:

- **Protect natural areas and areas with environmentally sensitive features such as steep slopes and wetlands.**

Strategies focus on preserving the region’s unique landscapes and protecting sensitive environmental features that are constraints to development. Limiting development on floodplains, steep slopes, and wetlands through ordinances is important from both a public safety stand point, but also to ensure a healthy environment. Ordinances can also be used to establish and preserve riparian buffers along streams to prevent erosion, channelization, and flooding.

The plan also recommends strategies to promote outreach and education on infill development, environmentally-sensitive design, and energy conservation. Organizations such as the Venango Conservation District can be an invaluable partner in providing the outreach and education described in the action plan.

A riparian buffer is a streamside area of trees and vegetation that intercept stormwater runoff for the purpose of removing or buffering nutrients, pesticides, and other chemicals entering the watershed. Riparian buffers help control both the quantity and quality of stormwater run-off entering streams.

Some strategies discussed in previous sections will have a positive impact on the region’s environmental assets. For example, incorporation of innovative land use tools such as Conservation Subdivision Design can preserve large portions of open space in the parcel to be developed.



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
Immediate Priority Actions				
1	Recognize the presence of the Natural Resource Protection Areas identified on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map. Include references to these areas within the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and any other applicable ordinances that may be developed within the region.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, County Commissioners	Local/County Resources
2	Recognize the presence of the Rural Resource Areas identified on the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map. Include references to these areas within the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and any other applicable ordinances that may be developed within the region.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, County Commissioners	Local/County Resources
Short-Term Actions				
3	Evaluate and update municipal ordinances for consistency in protecting steep slopes, floodplains, and wetlands in the region. Ensure that ordinances adequately protect sensitive environmental features through area assessments and mapping.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA Floodplain Land Use Assistance Program, PA DEP, PA DCNR, PEMA, FEMA
4	Develop and implement a riparian buffer ordinance to protect stream corridors and retain vegetative cover along stream banks. Efforts should be made to preserve native plant species along stream banks and prevent invasive plant growth. The buffer ordinance should include all areas in the 100-year floodplain and a recommended base width on both sides of the stream (100 feet on each side of the waterway is a general standard).	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Venango Conservation District, landowners	PA DEP, PA DCNR
5	Develop grading ordinances to limit disturbance of steep slopes. The amount of disturbance is based on the degree of the slope and the soil type. Sites with greater than 40% slopes or highly slide-prone soils should not be disturbed.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA DEP, PA DCNR

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Immediate Priority Actions				
6	Ensure that storm water management and erosion and sedimentation controls are properly addressed during the site review process for all developments.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA DCED, PA DEP
7	Provide oversight of coal stripping in the region	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA DEP
Long-Term Actions				
8	Effectively manage stormwater in all developments through the implementation of stormwater best management practices and low impact development standards. Provide educational workshops for developers on planning and implementation of stormwater best management practices.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA DEP
On-Going Actions				
9	Support environmental education and awareness raising efforts regarding the benefits of environmentally sensitive design, brownfield and infill development, green buildings, and energy conservation practices.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Venango Conservation District	PA DEP, PA DCNR
10	Continue to preserve the rural and natural setting of the region and promoting outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. Capitalize on the many natural amenities within the region that cater to these outdoor activities in a sustainable manner.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, ORA (Oil Heritage Region Tourist Promotion Agency)	PA DEP, PA DCNR



CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES - “A GATEWAY TO THE OIL HERITAGE REGION”

The region features a strong historic and cultural significance. In 2004, Venango County and some neighboring areas was designated the Oil Region National Heritage Area. The region’s significance in the history of oil production is reflected throughout the seven communities. Facilities such as the Pumping Jack Museum & Emlenton Visitor Orientation Center provide a glimpse into this history. As the southern communities in the county, each situated along the I-80 corridor and featuring four interstate interchanges, the southern Venango Region is truly a gateway to the Oil Heritage Region. In addition to oil heritage, the region features many architecturally significant structures. The importance of culture and history to the region, the following objective was identified in the planning process:

- **Continue to develop heritage tourism initiatives to promote cultural and historic assets and bring tourism dollars into the community.**

A key component of the historic and cultural resources action plan is continued support of the Oil Region National Heritage Area. As part of promoting and marketing this asset, partnerships should continue to be fostered with organizations such as the Oil Region Alliance (ORA), who is the official tourist promotion agency and the administrator for the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

OIL REGION ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to increase the prosperity and population of the Oil Region through the preservation, promotion, development and support of destinations within the Oil Region. Whether they are historical, educational, natural, recreational, residential, commercial or industrial destinations, we must entice people to live, work, learn and play in “The Valley That Changed the World”.
<http://www.oilregion.org>

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Immediate Priority Actions				
1	Continue to partner with the Oil Region Alliance to implement the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan.		Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	PA DCED Cultural and Heritage Tourism Program, PA DCNR Heritage Parks Program, NPS
2	Partner with ORA to realize the development of Oil Heritage Region gateway signage along I-80	Barkeyville	Borough Council, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	
Short-Term Actions				
3	Support heritage tourism efforts that promote historic sites and events as area attractions, such as the Oil Heritage Museum.	All Southern Venango Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	PA DCED Cultural and Heritage Tourism Program, PA DCNR Heritage Parks Program
4	Implement the recommendations of the Renaissance Group including completion of the rail-trail corridor, formation of a local arts council and supporting riverfront projects within the borough.	Emlenton	ORA, AVTA	
Long-Term Actions				
5	Utilize the natural heritage inventory conducted for Venango County to track historic properties recognized under the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Utilize GIS to link data for historic sites to mapping.	All Southern Venango Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance, property owners	PA Historical and Museum Commission
6	Encourage owners of historic homes or commercial buildings identified after completion of the County's Historical Site Survey to pursue listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Listed and eligible structures may be eligible for Historic Tax Credits for restoration projects.	All Southern Venango Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	PA Historical and Museum Commission



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>On-Going Actions</i>				
7	Continue to market Emlenton as a cultural destination. Develop a marketing plan for the arts and cultural resources in the community.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	PA Cultural and Heritage Tourism Program
8	Encourage the preservation and enhancement of unique areas throughout the planning area, including downtown Emlenton, older neighborhoods in Clintonville and Barkeyville, and rural neighborhoods in Victory, Scrubgrass, Clinton and Richland such as the riverfront towns.	All Southern Venango Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, Oil Region Alliance	PA DCED

PARKS AND RECREATION - “A RECREATIONAL DESTINATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION”

The region features many large recreational facilities that vary in their intended use. These include State Game Lands, State Forests, rail-trails and water trails. Much of the recreational development recently has focused on trail development. Facilities identified in previous planning efforts such as the Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan include additional trails. Therefore, the following park and recreation objectives were identified during the planning process:

- **Maintain and enhance existing community parks to provide additional active and passive recreational opportunities.**
- **Establish new recreation facilities in areas of residential growth.**
- **Develop trails to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and other leisure activities.**
- **Maximize the use of frontage of the Allegheny River for recreational opportunities.**
- **Work towards enhancing regional parks and recreational facilities located within the planning area.**

Many strategies within the action plan focus on development of a regional trail network. Many of these proposed trails are identified within previous plans within the region. However, several trails are unique to the Southern Venango Regional Comprehensive Plan. Many recommendations include the extension of existing trails within the network. Future trail development should consider the recommendations currently being developed as part of the Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan. This plan is being conducted for seven counties in the northwest portion of the commonwealth.



Some strategies discussed in previous sections will have a positive impact on the region’s recreational assets. For example, incorporation of innovative land use tools such as Conservation Subdivision Design can encourage developers to include recreational components within future developments.

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Immediate Priority Actions			
1	Construct a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including the Extension of the Allegheny River Trail through Emlenton.		
a. Conduct a trail feasibility study to create a trail network that includes an extension of the Allegheny River Trail through Emlenton. Ensure that an evaluation of potential trailheads (access points to the trail) is included in all trail feasibility studies, including parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
b. Position a spur of the Allegheny River Trail's extension through Emlenton that accesses the Oil Heritage Museum on Hill St. This will promote visibility and awareness of the museum within the region.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program
c. Ensure that trail design is conducive to trail use and promotes a positive experience through buffering of the trail from unattractive land uses, provision of way-finding and interpretive signage at appropriate areas, and trail amenities.	Emlenton	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program
2	Construct a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including the Extension of the Sandy Creek Trail through Victory.		
a. Conduct a trail feasibility study to create a trail network that includes an extension of the Sandy Creek Trail. Ensure that an evaluation of potential trailheads (access points to the trail) is included in all trail feasibility studies, including parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
b. Ensure that trail design is conducive to trail use and promotes a positive experience through buffering of the trail from unattractive land uses, provision of way-finding and interpretive signage at appropriate areas, and trail amenities.	Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
Short-Term Actions				
3	Identify linkages with the Northwest PA Greenways Plan (currently being completed). Consider recommendations of the Northwest PA Greenways Plan and their potential for implementation given the context of projects proposed in this Regional Comprehensive Plan.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	PA DCNR Recreational Trails Program
4	Construct a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including a wetlands interpretive trail in the Barkeyville Industrial Park.			
	a. Ensure that trail design is conducive to trail use as well as conservation of sensitive natural resources. Trail design should promote a positive experience by buffering the trail from unattractive land uses, providing way-finding and interpretive signage at appropriate areas, and including trail amenities.	Barkeyville	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program
5	Provide needed maintenance and upkeep to Mineral Springs Park, as well as other recreational facilities. Facilities include: tennis courts, swimming pools, etc.	Emlenton	Borough Council	PA DCNR
Long-Term Actions				
6	Further develop the Oil Heritage Segment of the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail			
	a. Conduct a feasibility study to create formal water trail put-ins along the Allegheny River throughout the region. Ensure that an evaluation of potential trailheads (access points to the trail) is included in all trail feasibility studies, including parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Emlenton, Richland, Scrubgrass, Clinton, Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PA DCNR Rivers Conservation Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
	b. Establish river put-ins for the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail at various locations along the River including: near Fuchs Lubricant in Emlenton, near Fisherman's Cove in Victory, within Clear Creek State Forest opposite Kennerdell in Clinton, near Rodgers Riviera and Big Bend Acres in Scrubgrass, and near the Power Plant in Scrubgrass.	Emlenton, Scrubgrass, Clinton, Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PA DCNR Rivers Conservation Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>Long-Term Actions (continued)</i>			
7	Construct a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including the Old Route 8 Multi-Purpose Trail and the Game Land to Forest Trail in Victory		
a. Conduct a trail feasibility study to create a trail network that includes construction of the Game Land to Forest Trail and Old Route 8 Multi-Purpose Trail. Ensure that an evaluation of potential trailheads (access points to the trail) is included in all trail feasibility studies, including parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
8	Create a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including the designation of the scenic Oil Country Trail.		
a. Conduct a trail feasibility study to create a trail network that includes designation of the Oil Country Trail. Ensure that the feasibility study includes an evaluation of multi-modal facilities for the trail. If the trail is feasible as multi-modal, evaluate potential trailheads (access points to the trail), parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Clinton, Clintonville, Scrubgrass, Emlenton, Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
9	Construct a multi-purpose trail network throughout the region including the Kahle Lake Connector in Richland.		
a. Conduct a trail feasibility study to create a trail network that includes construction of the Kahle Lake Connector Trail. Ensure that an evaluation of potential trailheads (access points to the trail) is included in all trail feasibility studies, including parking needs and vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access to trailheads.	Richland	Municipal Governing Bodies, AVTA, ORA	PA DCNR - Recreational Trails Program, PennDOT Transportation Enhancements Program
10	Evaluate how the region can provide oversight of ATV usage within the region.		
	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources, PA DEP, PA DCNR

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>On-Going Actions</i>				
11	Market the parks and recreational assets to make residents aware of the recreational opportunities in the region.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources
12	Partner with churches and civic institutions to develop and implement recreation programs for adults and senior citizens.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Local Churches	Local Resources



TRANSPORTATION - “EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS”

A major transportation thoroughfare, the I-80 corridor, links the Southern Venango County communities together. Other roads within the region are maintained by the state and localities. The topography of the region has necessitated the construction of many bridges along these roadways. Due to their age, many of these roadways and bridges have gone into disrepair. As a result, the municipalities identified the following objectives for transportation planning:

- **Plan regionally for transportation system linkages throughout the planning area utilizing vehicular and other transit modes.**
- **Develop the arterial and collector street system in accordance with the road classification map in this plan.**
- **Provide collector and arterial roads in the region which can move large volumes of traffic from within and outside the planning area while minimizing impacts on residential areas.**
- **Serve residential neighborhoods with adequate collector roads and commercial areas with adequate collector and arterial roads into which local roads connect, so that local roads do not serve collector needs.**
- **Maintain the public road system in a cost effective manner to extend roadway surface life, and allow for the safe use by the traveling public in all seasons and weather conditions.**
- **Share responsibility of transportation related impacts and improvements with other governmental sources and private developers.**

Transportation strategies focus on three main areas – 1) roadway and bridge upgrades and improvements; 2) improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and 3) parking needs. The strategies are organized with the intention that the projects identified as a high priority should be given precedence for inclusion on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the mechanism for allocating financial resources to the Northwestern Pennsylvania region’s prioritized list of federally and state funded transportation improvement projects. It identifies the roadway, bridge, trail, and transit projects recommended for advancement during a four-year period. It is updated every 2 years. To receive federal funding, a project must be included in the TIP. As priorities or project readiness change, the TIP is amended between the regular update cycles. The TIP must be fiscally constrained to the amount of resources that will be allocated to the Northwestern Pennsylvania Region. Most projects are funded with 80% federal dollars and require a local match to cover the remaining 20% of project costs. The local match is usually from the project sponsor but can come from a variety of sources.

Northwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (NWC) is the 8-county Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that develops the TIP. The three major project sponsors that can advance the planned projects via the TIP are PennDOT District 1 and Venango County. The TIP development process involves extensive inter-agency coordination and public outreach. Public meetings are held before the development and adoption where the general public and public officials can give their testimony as to the preferred projects of the region. Though most of the projects in the TIP are the traditional highway, bridge and public transit projects, it also includes bicycle and pedestrian projects, freight-related projects, and innovative air quality projects.

The Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) program is a federally funded program and enables the region to target funding to innovative programs that help manage congestion as we work to meet the national air quality standards.

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program funds “non-traditional” projects that enhance the transportation experience, mitigate the impacts of transportation facilities on communities and the environment, and enhance community character through transportation-related improvements. Federal law (ISTEA and TEA-21) requires states to set aside 10% of their federal Surface Transportation Program funds to the TE Program.

The Home Town Streets (HS) Program is a PennDOT program that recognizes the importance of streets that run through the centers of the state’s villages and cities. HS projects include a variety of streetscape improvements that are vital to reestablishing our downtown and commercial centers. These will include activities undertaken within a defined “downtown” area that collectively enhance that environment and promote positive interactions with people in the area. Projects may include sidewalk improvements, planters, benches, street lighting, pedestrian crossings, transit bus shelters, traffic calming, bicycle amenities, kiosks, community “gateway” plantings, signage and other visual elements.

The Safe Routes to School (SRS) Program is a PennDOT program that contributes to the safety of our children by making improvements to the routes children take to school. SRS projects for bicyclists and pedestrians that permit safe passage for children to walk or bike to school. This includes activities that enhance the transportation system through the construction of new facilities or the improvement of existing facilities to make them more usable for pedestrians and bicyclists. Some examples of eligible activities include: sidewalk improvements, pedestrian/bicycle crossing improvements, bike lanes, traffic diversion improvements, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In addition, this program may fund traffic calming measures to slow the speed of cars.

Funds cannot be used to fund bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are solely for recreational use. Projects will be principally for transportation purposes. Examples of eligible projects include: acquisition, development, and construction of separate bicycle and pedestrian facilities on or off road rights-of-way or in relation to transit facilities, widening curb lanes or re-striping to create wider curb lanes, paving shoulders, or pedestrian paths which separate these modes of travel from the motorized transportation system, or the provision of pedestrian phases in traffic signals along walking routes to school. This could include provision of sidewalks and required curb ramps.

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Immediate Priority Actions			
1	The following projects should be placed on the Northwest Commission's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). If already on the TIP, the projects should continue to be implemented or increased in priority.		
· Repair the disintegrating Route 38 (Emlenton Hill Road), a key bus route.	Emlenton, Scrubgrass	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Improve Donaldson Road	Clinton	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Replace the bridge over Scrubgrass Creek along Phipps Road (T-380)	Clinton	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Replace the bridge over Pine Run along Valley Church Road (T-377)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Replace the bridge over Pine Run along Starr Road (T-381)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Replace the bridge over Mill Creek along Geiring Road (T-552)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Replace the bridge over Victory Run along Fisherman's Cove Road (T-380)	Victory	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
2	Create capital improvements plans to establish timelines when roadway and other infrastructure maintenance, reconstruction, or enhancements will be made.		
	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Support
Short-Term Actions			
3	The following projects should be placed on the Northwest Commission's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). If already on the TIP, the projects should continue to be implemented or increased in priority.		
· Repair or replace the bridge over Mill Creek along Porterfield Road (T-357)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Repair or replace the bridge over Pine Run along McFreeters Road (T-590)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Repair or replace the bridge over Pine Run along Center Road (T-592)	Richland	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Repair and improve transportation corridors around I-80 including Route 208 and Route 8.	Barkeyville, Clinton, Clintonville, Scrubgrass	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Improve Dennison Run Road	Victory	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
· Improve Twin Oaks Road	Victory	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
Short-Term Actions (continued)				
4	Identify transportation projects that coincide with bicycle and pedestrian connections and identify corresponding agencies that should be involved.	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies, NWC	PennDOT Enhancement Program, Safe Routes to School Program
5	Contact and discuss the strategies in this plan with PennDOT District 1-0 Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator.	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies, NWC	N/A
6	Coordinate with PennDOT and NWC to include bicycle and pedestrian facilities projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies, NWC	N/A
7	Conduct a Parking Study of the Emlenton business district and identify alternatives to surface parking and on-street parking.	Emlenton	Borough Council, NWC, PennDOT	Congestion Management/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
Long-Term Actions				
8	The following projects should be placed on the Northwest Commission's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). If already on the TIP, the projects should continue to be implemented or increased in priority.			
	· Provide an eastward route out of Emlenton alternate to Main St. Explore the possibility of using River Ave as a secondary eastward route.	Emlenton	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
	· Create access to Twin Oaks Road from Route 8	Victory	PennDOT, NWC, VCRPC	Local Sources, PennDOT, USDA
9	Meet with Venango County officials to discuss the expansion of the VenanGO bus service into the southern region's communities. Work with the county to educate citizens regarding the VenanGO bus service.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, VenanGO	
On-going Actions				
10	Upgrade roadway conditions to current PennDOT design standards with construction projects and new development.	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies	



Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>On-going Actions (continued)</i>				
11	Incorporate ADA standards into all transportation improvement projects to accommodate the handicapped and elderly population.	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies	PennDOT Enhancement Program
12	Promote streetscape enhancements , where appropriate, to improve the visual aesthetics and safety of transportation corridors.	All Municipalities	PennDOT, Venango County, Municipal Governing Bodies	DCED - Main Street & Elm Street Program

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Local governments are tasked with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of their residents. Providing public services that accomplish this without straining municipal budgets and overburdening taxpayers is a major challenge for local governments. Joint planning provides an opportunity to explore additional areas for municipal cooperation in public service delivery with potential cost savings, without compromising on quality. Infrastructure improvements were generally the highest priority issues that emerged from the planning process. Each of the Southern Venango County municipalities had desires to either improve existing systems or, expand existing systems, or create new systems in order to improve quality of life within the region and to promote economic development. To that end, the following public service objectives were identified:

- **Address the region's current infrastructure needs and plan for meeting future needs in order to maintain a high level of community services.**
- **Promote public/private partnerships to provide accessible community facilities and services which meet residents' and visitors' needs.**
- **Provide facilities and services to meet all needs in the region, protect the environment and public health, and support development consistent with the future land use patterns.**
- **Coordinate infrastructure plans with land use planning.**

The strategies developed for improving public services focused on planning and implementation for capital improvements. Specifically, these capital improvements included sanitary sewer and potable water systems. The communities recognized through the process that gathering regional support for these projects would increase their likelihood of implementation. Consequently, the communities prioritized infrastructure projects within the region in order to support implementation of each project.

Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>Immediate Priority Actions</i>				
1	Construct a sanitary sewer system throughout the Borough	Barkeyville		PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
2	Repair the Clintonville Water Treatment Plant and replace filters. In order to meet the PA DEP's requirements, iron removal filters are needed.	Clintonville		PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
3	Explore extending sewer and water infrastructure from Clintonville to the I-80 Interchange in Clinton Township.	Clinton, Clintonville		PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
4	Implement the Act 537 Plan at the Scrubgrass interchange	Scrubgrass		PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
	a. The Act 537 Plan identifies the preferred alternative of constructing a new treatment plant and lines to service the interchange and uses within an approximately half mile radius.			
5	Develop a plan of action to secure continued stability of the Emlenton water distribution system through repairs and support of the owner/operator of the system. Identify and evaluate current weaknesses and options for improvements and upgrades.	Emlenton		PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
6	Conduct a phased extension of Emlenton sewer and water service infrastructure within Richland Township.			
	a. Extend phase I to the I-80 interchange.	Richland, Emlenton	Emlenton Authority	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
	b. Extend phase II to the former Emlenton Airport site. Opportunities to provide service to the Whitehall Campground should be explored during this phase of the service extension.	Richland, Emlenton	Emlenton Authority	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
7	Each community should have a recently adopted Act 537 Plan. The communities should consider conducting/participating in a regional Act 537 Plan.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Sewer Authorities, VCRPC	PA DEP Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Grants

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
Immediate Priority Actions (continued)				
8	Coordinate implementation of the regional comprehensive plan and Act 537 planning to ensure that land use and infrastructure projects are mutually supportive of the community's development goals and objectives. Establish a planning and infrastructure task force, to include representatives from the municipal authorities, municipal leadership, and Venango County Regional Planning Commission, to increase communication between the three groups.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Sewer Authorities, VCRPC	PA DEP Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Grants
Short-Term Actions				
9	Extend natural gas service to Barkeyville and the Barkeyville Industrial Park. Conduct talks with the natural gas provider in Grove City regarding the extension. Coordinate with neighboring municipalities between Barkeyville and Grove City. Study the implications, costs and benefits of this extension considering necessary rights-of-way, etc.	Barkeyville, Pine, Grove City	Gas Company, Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	
10	Conduct necessary upgrades to Emlenton's water delivery system. Conduct a cost of service allocation study to determine efficiency of portions of the system. Focus on replacing the cast iron piping within the system and replace the aged brick reservoir.	Emlenton	Borough Council, Water Authority, VCRPC	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
11	Evaluate the costs and benefits of joint purchasing and contracting for public works functions among the seven municipalities within the region.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Public Works Departments, VCRPC	DCED - Shared Municipal Services Grant Program
12	Encourage increased multi-municipal cooperation and coordination among the two volunteer fire departments in the municipalities through quarterly joint meetings. Pursue joint purchasing and joint grant-writing arrangements among the Volunteer Fire Departments.	All Southern Venango Communities	Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department, Emlenton Volunteer Fire Department	DCED - Emergency Responder Resource and Training Program, Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program



Action/Strategy		Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>Long-Term Actions</i>				
13	Provide infrastructure to the I-80 “Emlenton” interchange. Conduct a feasibility study for creating new treatment and handling facilities within and around the interchange.	Scrubgrass	Township Supervisors, Water and Sewer Authorities	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
14	Extend Barkeyville Municipal Authority’s water lines to Irwin Township.	Barkeyville, Irwin	Municipal Governing Bodies, Water Authority	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
15	Explore the expansion of the Emlenton Water Company. Study the impacts of providing water service to areas of Scrubgrass Township adjacent to Emlenton. Continue to investigate the feasibility of becoming the regional water provider.	Emlenton, Neighboring Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Water Authority	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA
16	Bury or relocate the electric lines along Main St. Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of the project to determine its feasibility.	Emlenton	Borough Council, Electric Company	
17	Provide new lighting along Main St.	Emlenton	Borough Council	
18	Provide natural gas service to the Power Plant site.	Scrubgrass	Municipal Governing Bodies, Gas Company	
19	Extend natural gas service to Victory Township.	Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, Gas Company	
20	Work with the municipal sewer authorities to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).	Clintonville	Clintonville Water and Sewer Authority	PennVEST, PennWORKS, USDA, PA DOA, PA DEP, US EPA
<i>On-Going Actions</i>				
21	Purchase/explore sharing necessary municipal equipment within the region to address municipal equipment needs.	All Southern Venango Communities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - SMS
22	Coordinate broadband service projects with the Broadband Study and Action Plan for CONNECT NW PA	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Broadband Providers	USDA
23	Regularly meet with Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission and the County to update the Infrastructure Needs Inventory	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC, NWC	Local Sources

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION - “COORDINATION TO ACHIEVE THE REGION’S VISION”

The Southern Venango County Regional Comprehensive Plan is a demonstration of the seven Southern Venango County municipalities’ ability to work together to outline a blueprint for their future. To that end, the municipalities should continue to work together to implement the plan. This involves pursuing projects in which coordination and cooperation is mutually beneficial to all municipalities involved. Therefore, the following objectives were identified:

- **Continue the coordinated efforts in multi-municipal planning through joint implementation of the comprehensive plan.**
- **Identify opportunities for future cooperative endeavors.**

Coordinated implementation of the comprehensive plan is extremely important in ensuring the success of the plan. To that end, the first step is entering into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement. A major component of the agreement is intended to ensure that the seven municipalities coordinate in capital improvements planning that identifies funding and project schedules for implementation projects. Additionally, the agreement can formalize the desired capital improvements outlined in the comprehensive plan and capital improvements planning and establish a system for review and evaluation of future infrastructure projects with the goals and objectives of the multi-municipal plan.

Intergovernmental cooperation strategies also focus on increasing coordination between the municipalities in the areas of public services, namely infrastructure services and parks and recreation. There is a need for increased cooperation between the local government and municipal authorities to ensure that actions taken with respect to land use and public infrastructure support the overall goals of the plan. This is particularly important as municipal authorities consider service area upgrades and extensions. The municipalities and municipal authorities should be closely coordinating in plan and ordinance updates and reviews, review of land development plans, and identifying infrastructure needs for future growth areas. To that end, the municipal authorities can be partners in the Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement.

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance	
<i>Intergovernmental Cooperation - DRAFT</i>				
1	Establish an intergovernmental advisory committee that will oversee implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and ensure that municipal actions are consistent with the plan and Comprehensive Future Land Use Map. The committee should be made up of members of each community as well as the VCRPC.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources
2	Develop and adopt an Intergovernmental Implementation Agreement to identify roles and responsibilities of each municipality in the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. (see Land Use and Planning)	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	DCED - LUPTAP
3	Participate in the Venango County Regional Planning Commission.	Clinton, Victory	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources
<i>Short-Term Actions</i>				
4	Annually review and update the goals and strategies in the Regional Comprehensive Plan to identify and coordinate priority projects.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources
5	Institute sound fiscal planning and a capital improvements plan that identifies funding and project schedules for implementation projects.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	Local Resources
<i>Long-Term Actions</i>				
6	Participate in drafting a regional Act 537 Plan update.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC	
<i>On-Going Actions</i>				
7	Continue to participate in the Venango County Regional Planning Commission.	Barkeyville, Clintonville, Emlenton, Richland, Scrubgrass		

Action/Strategy	Municipalities Involved	Responsible and Participating Parties	Potential Funding Sources or Technical Assistance
<i>On-Going Actions (continued)</i>			
8	Coordinate joint purchasing and contracting for public works functions among the seven municipalities within the region. Explore sharing municipal services and equipment within the region. Partner with the County's Shared Municipal Services Planner.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, Public Works Departments, VCRPC
9	Coordinate future planning efforts with surrounding/neighboring municipalities.	All Municipalities	Municipal Governing Bodies, VCRPC

